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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pam Blumenthal, Media Bureau, (202) 418-1600.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MB Docket No. 03-234, adopted November 6, 2003, and released November 14, 2003. The full text of this document is available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. This document may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail [qualexint@aol.com](mailto:qualexint@aol.com).

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in

Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

#### List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Digital television broadcasting, Television.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to amend 47 CFR part 73 as follows:

#### PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 47 U.S.C. 154, 303, 334 and 336.

##### § 73.622 [Amended]

2. Section 73.622(b), the Table of Digital Television Allotments under North Dakota is amended by removing DTV channel 58 and adding DTV channel 44 at Fargo.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Barbara A. Kreisman,**

*Chief, Video Division, Media Bureau.*

[FR Doc. 03-29467 Filed 11-25-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6712-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1080-A182

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for Scimitar-Horned Oryx, Addax, and Dama Gazelle

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), provide notice of the reopening of the comment period for the proposed rule to list three species of antelope: scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*), addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*), and dama gazelle (*Gazella dama*), as endangered. The comment period is reopened to accommodate requests by two non-government organizations for additional time to provide information. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted because they will be incorporated into the public record as

part of this comment period and will be fully considered in the final determination.

**DATES:** The most recent comment period for the proposed rule closed October 22, 2003. With this reopening notification, written comments may now be submitted until January 12, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit any comments, information, and questions by mail to the Chief, Division of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 750, Arlington, VA 22203; or by fax to 703-358-2276; or by e-mail to [ScientificAuthority@fws.gov](mailto:ScientificAuthority@fws.gov). Comments and supporting information will be available for public inspection, by appointment, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the above address. You may also obtain copies of the November 5, 1991, proposed rule, and the July 24, 2003, notice to reopen the comment period from the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eleanora Babij at the above address, or by phone, 703-358-1708; fax, 703-358-2276; or e-mail, [ScientificAuthority@fws.gov](mailto:ScientificAuthority@fws.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*), addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*), and dama gazelle (*Gazella dama*) originally occupied the same general region of North Africa. The reasons for the decline of all three antelope species are similar. Desertification, coupled with severe droughts, has dramatically reduced available habitat. The growth of permanent farming has brought additional pressures, such as human habitat disturbance and competition from domestic livestock, which have restricted these antelopes to marginal habitat. Additional pressures from the civil wars in Chad and the Sudan have resulted in increased military activity, construction, and uncontrolled hunting.

For further information regarding background biological information, factors affecting the species, and conservation measures available to scimitar-horned oryx, addax, and dama gazelle, please refer to the proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** on November 5, 1991 (56 FR 56491), and the notice to reopen the comment period published on July 24, 2003 (68 FR 43706).

##### Public Comments Solicited

We will accept written comments and information during this reopened comment period from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the

scientific community, industry, or any other interested party. Comments particularly are sought concerning;

(1) Biological, commercial trade, or other relevant data concerning any threat (or lack thereof) to the scimitar-horned oryx, addax, and dama gazelle;

(2) Additional information concerning the range, distribution, and population size of the scimitar-horned oryx, addax, and dama gazelle;

(3) Current planned activities in the species' range and their possible impacts on the scimitar-horned oryx, addax, and dama gazelle;

(4) Information on the validity of *G. d. lozanoi* as a subspecies;

(5) Alternatives to the treatment of captive and non-native free-ranging populations of scimitar-horned oryx, addax, and dama gazelle; and

(6) Information on the genetic integrity of captive and non-native free-ranging populations of scimitar-horned

oryx, addax, and dama gazelle, and particularly whether any captive or non-native free ranging populations are likely to have been hybridized.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Any person commenting may request that we withhold their home address, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. In some circumstances, we may also withhold a commenter's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name or address, you must state this request prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. To the extent consistent with applicable law, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as

representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Division of Scientific Authority (*see ADDRESSES* section).

#### **Author**

The primary author of this notice is Eleanora Babij, Division of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (*see ADDRESSES* section).

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201–4245; Pub. L. 99–625, 100 Stat. 3500; unless otherwise noted.

Dated: November 14, 2003.

#### **Steve Williams,**

*Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 03–29533 Filed 11–25–03; 8:45 am]

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