

their views in writing to the Colorado State Director. If the authorized officer determines that a meeting should be held, the meeting will be scheduled and conducted in accordance with 43 CFR 2310.3-1(c)(2).

This application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR part 2310.

For a period of two years from the date of publication in the Federal Register, this land will be segregated from the mining laws as specified above unless the application is denied or cancelled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date. During this period the Forest Service will continue to manage these lands.

Robert S. Schmidt,

Chief, Branch of Realty Programs.

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Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Little Aguja Pondweed for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the Little Aguja pondweed (*Potamogeton clystocarpus*). Little Aguja pondweed is an aquatic plant species in the family Potamogetonaceae. This endangered species has a very limited distribution and is currently known from only a few miles of a single stream on private land in Jeff Davis County, Texas. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before February 11, 1994 to assure consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Austin Field Office, 611 E. Sixth Street, room 407, Austin, Texas 78701; (512) 482-5436. Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the State Administrator at the above address. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathryn Kennedy, Botanist (see ADDRESSES above).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals or plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe site specific management actions considered necessary for conservation and survival of the species, establish objective, measurable criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The Little Aguja pondweed (*Potamogeton clystocarpus*) was listed as endangered on November 14, 1991 (56 FR 57844). This species has never been reported to grow anywhere except in the drainage of Little Aguja Canyon, in quite pools within the streambed of Little Aguja Creek. Only one population has been documented, and it has not been observed since severe flooding occurred in the canyon in 1990 and 1991. The species is probably adapted to the periodic floods and droughts typical of the area but is vulnerable to extinction from catastrophic events; it is possible that it could have succumbed to the severe floods of 1990 and 1991. The reason for the apparent decline and presence of low plant numbers and extremely limited distribution is unclear, but may be related to changes in water quality, quantity or seasonal flow regime in the watershed. If so, these changes may have been human-related, natural, or a combination of the

two factors. Little Aguja pondweed occurs on private property, and past activities on the property appear compatible with the requirements of the species. It must be noted however, periodic droughts, scouring floods, consumption by animals such as fish and invertebrates, changes in water quality, reduced flows, or significant changes in stream configuration could harm the pondweed by destroying both plants and habitat.

The objectives of the Draft Little Aguja pondweed Recovery Plan are to prevent extinction of the species, to determine if full recovery of the species is feasible, and to develop recovery criteria as appropriate. Recommendations outlined in the draft recovery plan include an extensive search for the Little Aguja pondweed. If the species is relocated, additional efforts; site protection, habitat management, propagation, and research will be among the recovery actions pursued.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the draft recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: December 16, 1993.

John G. Rogers,

Regional Director.

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Minerals Management Service

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposal for the collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). Copies of the proposed information collection requirement and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting Jeane Kalas at (303) 231-3046. Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made directly to the Bureau Clearance Officer at the telephone number listed below, and to the OMB Paperwork Reduction Project, Washington, DC 20503, telephone (202) 395-7340.