

1988 requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. Information presented during the public comment period has been considered in the preparation of the final recovery plan, and is summarized in the appendix to the recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

All 13 plant taxa covered in this recovery plan are endemic to the northern Channel Islands (Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel), with the exception of a few populations of island rush-rose that occur on the more southerly island of Santa Catalina. These plants occur in a variety of habitats: coastal terrace, coastal bluff scrub, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral. All 13 plant taxa and their habitats have been variously affected or are currently threatened by one or more of the following: soil loss; historic and continuing habitat alteration by mammals alien to the Channel Islands (pigs, goats, sheep, donkeys, cattle, deer, elk, horses, bison); direct predation by these same alien mammals; habitat alteration by native seabirds; competition with alien plant taxa; and increased vulnerability to extinction due to reduced genetic viability, depressed reproductive vigor, and the chance of extinction from random naturally occurring events because of small numbers of individuals and isolated populations.

The objective of this plan is to conserve the plants so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. Actions necessary to accomplish this objective include active control programs for introduced animals, implementation of an interagency Conservation Strategy, habitat restoration and weed control, surveys, conservation research, seed storage in cooperating facilities, and development of techniques for germination, propagation, and outplanting.

Authority

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

Dated: February 15, 2001.

Michael J. Spear,

Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 01-4365 Filed 2-21-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Mitten Crab Control Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Mitten Crab Control Committee. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The Mitten Crab Control Committee will meet from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 6, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The Mitten Crab Control Committee Meeting will be held in the Pavilion Room at the Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Gross, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, at 703-358-2308 or by e-mail at sharon_gross@fws.gov or Kim Webb, Mitten Crab Control Committee Chair, at 209-946-6400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Mitten Crab Control Committee. The ANS Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics to be covered during the Mitten Crab Control Committee meeting include: a review of the life history of the mitten crab, a description of the California invasion, a review of the draft management plan, an update of the current status, and a discussion of Committee actions to further develop a comprehensive management plan.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 810, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: February 14, 2001.

Cathleen I. Short,

Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistance Director—Fisheries and Habitat Restoration.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Addition to Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the 114 acre expansion of the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge.

DATES: This action was effective on February 9, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew French, Chief, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2nd Floor, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts. Telephone 413-253-8590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This property has been identified as the preferred site for the proposed Rhode Island National Wildlife Complex visitor center. The property is also within the boundary of all the proposed alternatives of the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan currently proposed for the Rhode Island Complex.

Based on the information contained in the decision document, a categorical exclusion was signed on December 20, 2000, by the Regional Director.

Dated: February 9, 2001.

Marshall P. Jones, Jr.,

Acting Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Notice of Proposed Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) Negotiations Under the Technology Transfer Act of 1986

SUMMARY: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is contemplating entering into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation to seek U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of the antibacterial florfenicol for use in public and private aquaculture.

Inquiries: If any other parties are interested in similar activities with the USGS, please contact: William H. Gingerich, 2630 Fanta Reed Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603; Telephone 608-783-6451; Internet "bill_gingerich@usgs.gov".