

consultation under section 7 of the Act with regards to actions carried out, funded, or authorized by a Federal agency. Section 4(b)(2) of the Act requires that the Secretary of the Interior shall designate or revise critical habitat based upon the best scientific and commercial data available, after taking into consideration the economic impact of specifying any particular area as critical habitat.

The public comment period for the September 24, 2002, proposal originally closed on November 25, 2002. We have prepared a draft economic analysis on the effects of the proposed critical habitat designation, and are now announcing its availability for review. The draft analysis estimates the foreseeable economic impacts of the critical habitat designation on government agencies and private businesses and individuals. The economic analysis identifies potential costs between \$6 and \$7 million per year as a result of the designation of critical habitat, including those costs coextensive with listing. At this time the Service has not identified any areas to exclude under Section 4(b)(2) or 3(5)(A) of the Act. The Service will consider excluding areas if they do not require special management or if the benefits of excluding them from the critical habitat designation outweigh the benefits of including them. The economic analysis presents the Service's tentative conclusions with respect to the economic effects of the proposed critical habitat designation. The Service will not make any final decisions about exclusions, however until it has obtained public comment on the economic analysis and produced an addendum to the economic analysis containing its final conclusions. The Service is interested in comments from the public on the economic analysis, on whether any of the areas identified in the economic analysis as having economic effects should be excluded for economic reasons, and whether those or any other areas should be excluded for other reasons. Extension of the comment period will provide the public an opportunity to evaluate and comment on both the proposed rule and the draft economic analysis. Comments already submitted on the proposed designation of critical habitat for four vernal pool crustaceans and eleven vernal pool plants do not need to be resubmitted as they will be fully considered in the final determination.

Public Comment Solicited

The final economic analysis concerning the designation of critical habitat for four vernal pool crustaceans

and eleven vernal pool plants will consider information and recommendations from all interested parties. We particularly seek comments concerning:

(1) Assumptions reflected in the economic analysis regarding land use practices and current, planned, or reasonably foreseeable activities in the subject areas, including comments or information relating to the potential effects that the designation could have on private landowners as a result of actual or foreseeable State and local government responses due to the California Environmental Quality Act;

(2) Land use practices and current, planned, or foreseeable activities in the subject areas and their possible impacts on proposed critical habitats;

(3) Any foreseeable economic or other impacts resulting from the proposed designation of these critical habitats, including impacts that may not have been addressed in the draft economic analysis and, in particular, any impacts on small entities or families;

(4) Economic and other values associated with designating critical habitat for these species; and

(5) Whether our approach to critical habitat designation could be improved or modified in any way to provide for greater public participation and understanding, or to assist us in accommodating public concern and comments.

We will accept written comments and information during this reopened comment period. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning this proposal by any of several methods:

You may mail or hand-deliver written comments and information to the Field Supervisor, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, at the above address. Hand deliveries must be made during normal business hours.

You may also send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to fw1_vernalpool@fws.gov. If you submit comments by e-mail, please submit them as an ASCII file and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include a return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly by calling our Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office at telephone number 916/414-6600, during normal business hours.

Comments and materials received, as well as supporting documentation used in preparation of the proposal to designate critical habitat, will be available for inspection, by

appointment, during normal business hours at our office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Copies of the draft economic analysis are available on the Internet at <http://www.r1.fws.gov> or by writing or calling Arnold Roessler, at the address or telephone number listed above.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Susan Moore (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: November 7, 2002.

Paul Hoffman,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AI46

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Comment Period and Announcement of Public Hearings on Designation of Critical Habitat for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Reopening of public comment period and announcement of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is reopening the comment period on the Service's proposal to designate critical habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) (67 FR 47154, July 17, 2002). The comment period will remain open for 60 days. In addition, the Service will host two public hearings on the proposal on November 21, 2002, at the Jefferson County Courts and Administrative Building in Golden, Colorado.

DATES: The public comment period for the proposed rule is reopened for a period of 60 days, beginning November 21, 2002 and ending January 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments and information to Preble's Mouse Comments, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 755 Parfet Street, Suite

361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, or by facsimile to 303-275-2371. You may hand deliver written comments to our Colorado Ecological Services Field Office at the address given above. You may send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to fw6_pmjm@fws.gov. See the "Public Comments Solicited" section below for file format and other information on electronic filing. You may review comments and materials received, as well as supporting documentation used in preparation of this proposed rule, by appointment, during normal business hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Colorado Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LeRoy Carlson, Colorado Field Supervisor, at the above address or telephone 303-275-2370.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Preble's meadow jumping mouse, a small rodent in the family Zapodidae, is known to occur only in eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. It lives primarily in heavily vegetated riparian habitats and immediately adjacent upland habitats. Habitat loss and degradation caused by agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial development resulted in the Preble's meadow jumping mouse being listed as a threatened species throughout its range on May 13, 1998 (62 FR 26517).

On July 17, 2000, the Service proposed to designate critical habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (67 FR 47154). The proposed designation includes 19 habitat units totaling approximately 23,248 hectares (57,446 acres) found along 1,058.1 kilometers (657.5 miles) of rivers and streams in Colorado and Wyoming.

Critical habitat identifies specific areas, both occupied and unoccupied, that are essential to the conservation of a listed species and that may require special management considerations or protection. If the proposed rule is made final, section 7 of the Endangered Species Act will prohibit destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat by any activity funded, authorized, or carried out by any Federal agency; and Federal agencies proposing actions affecting areas designated as critical habitat must consult with us on the effects of their proposed actions, pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act.

Public Comments Solicited

We intend any final action resulting from the proposal to be as accurate and

as effective as possible. Therefore, we solicit comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning the proposed rule.

If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning the proposal by any one of several methods (*see ADDRESSES*). If you would like to submit comments by electronic format, please submit them in ASCII file format and avoid the use of special characters and encryption. Please include your name and return e-mail address in your e-mail message. Please note that the e-mail address will be closed out at the termination of the public comment period. If you do not receive confirmation from the system that we have received your message, contact us directly by calling our Colorado Ecological Services Field Office at 303-275-2370.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name or address, you must state this request prominently at the beginning of your comments. 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, during normal business hours at the address listed under **ADDRESSES**.

Public Hearings

The Service will host two public hearings on the proposal on November 21, 2002, at the Jefferson County Courts and Administrative Building at 100 Jefferson County Parkway in Golden, Colorado. The hearings will be held in the First Floor Hearing Room. Information sessions followed by an opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposal will begin at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. and formal hearings, providing an opportunity to present comments on the proposal, will begin at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Author

The author of this notice is Peter Plage, Colorado Field Office (*see*

ADDRESSES above), telephone 303-275-2370.

Authority

Authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: October 31, 2002.

Steve Williams,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 02-29618 Filed 11-19-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AI47

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Nine Bexar County, TX, Invertebrate Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of availability of draft economic analysis; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the draft economic analysis for the proposed designation of critical habitat for nine endangered karst-dwelling invertebrate species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** on August 17, 2002 (67 FR 55064) and the current comment period is open until November 25, 2002. We are extending the comment period for the proposal to designate critical habitat for these species to allow all interested parties to comment simultaneously on the proposed rule and the associated draft economic analysis. The draft economic analysis shows a range of likely costs from the designation of the proposed critical habitat, including those costs attributable coextensively to listing, of between \$17.8 to \$22.1 million over a 10-year period. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted as they will be incorporated into the public record as part of this extended comment period, and will be fully considered in the final rule.

DATES: We will accept comments on both the draft economic analysis and the proposed critical habitat designation until December 23, 2002.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments and materials concerning the