

one or more of the following: habitat degradation by wild, feral, or domestic animals (pigs, goats, and deer); predation by animals (rats, cats, and mongoose); avian disease (malaria and avian pox); and habitat loss due to agriculture, ranching, forest cutting, and urbanization. Threats also include the expansion of invasive non-native plant species into native-dominated plant communities. In addition, due to the small number of existing individuals and their very narrow distribution, these taxa and most of their populations are subject to an increased likelihood of extinction from naturally-occurring events such as hurricanes.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of these 21 taxa so that their protection by the Act is no longer necessary. Recovery will require protecting and managing forest bird habitat to maintain and enhance viable populations of endangered Hawaiian forest birds. Recovery actions include: measures to protect habitat where the taxa occur; restoration of degraded habitat; removal of feral ungulates from habitat areas; control of introduced rodents and feral cats that feed on forest birds; control of invasive plant species; reduction in numbers of mosquito breeding sites; captive propagation and translocation; and the development of means to address threats of avian disease. Management emphasis may differ among species, as taxa are affected differently and to varying degrees by different limiting factors. Habitat management and restoration will encourage the expansion of current populations into unoccupied habitat. However, the establishment of new populations using various translocation and/or captive propagation techniques will be needed in some cases to accelerate population expansion and to establish new populations in suitable habitat.

Recovery objectives for each taxon are to: (1) Restore populations to levels that allow the taxon to persist despite demographic and environmental chance events, and are large enough to allow natural demographic and evolutionary processes to occur; (2) to protect enough habitat to support these population levels; and (3) to identify and remove the threats responsible for a taxon's endangered status. For all taxa, stabilization is the first (interim) objective. For species that are exceedingly rare (no individuals can currently be located), an interim objective is to first locate remaining individuals. In a few cases, insufficient forest bird habitat remains within a species' historic range to establish a

second separate and distinct population, and further opportunities for habitat restoration do not exist. In these situations a species is unlikely to be delisted (by the criteria listed below), and downlisting is considered the interim recovery objective.

The draft revised recovery plan indicates that a taxon may be reclassified from endangered to threatened based on the following criteria apply: (1) The species occurs in two or more viable populations or a viable metapopulation that represent the ecological, morphological, behavioral, and genetic diversity of the species; (2) quantitative surveys show either (a) the number of individuals in each isolated population or in the metapopulation has been stable or increasing for 15 consecutive years, or (b) demographic monitoring exhibits an average intrinsic growth rate (λ , L) not less than 1.0 over a period of at least 15 consecutive years; and total population size is not expected to decline by more than 20 percent within the next 15 consecutive years for any reason; (3) sufficient habitat is protected and managed to achieve criteria 1 and 2 above; and (4) the major threats that were responsible for the species becoming endangered have been identified and controlled. The draft revised plan indicates delisting a taxon may be considered on the basis of persistence of those criteria for a period of 30 consecutive years.

Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on the draft revised recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered in developing a final revised Hawaiian forest bird recovery plan.

Authority

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

Dated: August 19, 2003.

David J. Wesley,

Deputy Regional Director, Region 1, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-04-1020-PG]

Notice of Public Meeting, New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 13-14, 2003, at the Hotel Santa Fe, 1501 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico, beginning at 8 a.m. both days. The meeting will adjourn approximately 5 p.m. on Thursday and 1 p.m. on Friday. The two established RAC subcommittees may have a late afternoon or an evening meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2003.

On Wednesday, November 12, 2003, there will be a half-day orientation for new RAC members. An optional field trip is planned for the afternoon of November 12, 2003. The public comment period is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2003, from 6-8 p.m. The public may present written comments to the RAC. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, individual oral comments may be limited.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in New Mexico. All meetings are open to the public. At this meeting, topics for discussion include:

Access, healthy forest initiative, land disposal, overview of the vegetation monitoring and analysis pilot project in New Mexico, oil and gas reclamation standards, update on Otero Mesa, BLM/ New Mexico Association of Counties liaison role, and preview of the legacy lands program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Dated: October 9, 2003.

Ron Dunton,

Acting State Director.

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