

Individual responses to comments will not be provided

The Quino checkerspot is found in association with topographically diverse landscapes that contain low to moderate levels of non-native vegetation.

Vegetation types that support the Quino checkerspot are coastal sage scrub, open chaparral, juniper woodland, forblands, and native grassland. Soil and climatic conditions, as well as ecological and physical factors, affect the suitability of habitat within the species' range. Urban and agricultural development, invasion of non-native species, habitat fragmentation and degradation, increased fire frequency, and other human-caused disturbances have resulted in substantial losses of habitat throughout the species' historic range. Conservation needs include protection and management of suitable and restorable habitat; habitat restoration and enhancement; and establishment of Quino checkerspot captive breeding program. This plan identifies six Recovery Units. Recovery Units are geographically bounded areas containing extant Quino checkerspot populations that are the focus of recovery actions or tasks. Recovery Units include lands both essential and not essential to the long-term conservation of the Quino checkerspot.

The overall objective of this recovery plan is to reclassify the Quino checkerspot to threatened and ensure the species' long-term conservation. Interim goals include (1) protect habitat supporting known current population distributions (habitat complexes), and (2) stabilize populations within known population distributions (described habitat complexes), and (3) conduct research necessary to refine recovery criteria. Reclassification is appropriate when a taxon is no longer in danger throughout a significant portion of its range.

Downlisting of the Quino checkerspot butterfly in southern California is contingent upon the following criteria: (1) Permanently protect habitat patches supporting known extant population distributions (habitat complexes) and possible landscape connectivity areas among them, (2) Permanently provide for and implement management of described habitat complexes to restore habitat quality, including maintenance of hostplant populations, maintenance of diverse nectar sources and pollinators, control of non-native plant invasion, and maintenance of internal landscape connectivity, (3) Establish and maintain a captive propagation program for purposes of re-introduction and augmentation of wild populations, maintenance of refugia populations, and

research, (4) Initiate and implement a cooperative educational outreach program targeting areas where Quino checkerspot populations are most threatened, (5) Two additional populations or metapopulations must be documented or introduced in the remaining undeveloped coastal areas of the Quino checkerspot's historic range, (6) The managed, protected population or metapopulation segments within currently described habitat complexes must demonstrate stability (constancy or resilience) without augmentation, and (7) conduct research needed to refine management strategies and to develop delisting criteria.

The draft plan was developed with primary contributions from a recovery team of scientists from the University of California at Riverside, the University of California at Los Angeles, RECON Inc. (San Diego), the University of Nevada at Reno, and the University of Texas (Austin) with expertise in different aspects of *Euphydryas editha* biology.

Public Comments Solicited

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

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

Dated: January 11, 2001.

Michael J. Spear,

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

[FR Doc. 01-3370 Filed 2-6-01; 1:16 pm]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Meeting of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council has scheduled a public meeting to develop recommendations for regulations for the spring/summer migratory bird subsistence harvest for the period March 10 to September 1, 2002. In addition to developing recommended regulations, the Co-management Council will finalize by-laws which will guide future deliberations of the Council.

DATES: The Co-management Council will meet February 26-28, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be conducted at the Hawthorn Suites Hotel at 1110 W. 8th Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information call Mimi Hogan at 907/786-3673 or Bob Stevens at 907/786-3499. Individuals with a disability who may need special accommodations in order to participate in the public comment portion of the meeting should call one of the above numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formed the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, which includes Native, state, and federal representatives as equals, by means of a Notice of Decision published in the **Federal Register**, 65 FR 16405-16409, March 28, 2000. Amended migratory bird treaties with Canada and Mexico required the formation of such a management body. The Co-management Council will make recommendations for, among other things, regulations for spring/summer harvesting of migratory birds in Alaska. In addition to creation of the Co-management Council, the Notice of Decision identified seven geographic regions. Each region will submit to the Co-management Council requests for specific regulations for its area. The Co-management Council will then develop recommendations for statewide regulations and submit them to the Fish and Wildlife Service for approval.

The meeting of the Co-management Council will begin on Monday, February 26 at 1:00 p.m. Sessions on February 27 and 28 will begin at 8:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend. The Co-management Council will provide opportunities for public comment on agenda items. Agendas will be available at the door.

Dated: January 19, 2001.

David B. Allen,

Regional Director, Anchorage, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 01-2588 Filed 2-7-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

RIN 1018-AG47

Policy on Maintaining the Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health of the National Wildlife Refuge System: Delay of Effective Date

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final policy; delay of effective date.