

localized in relatively small portions of the southern walleye's known and potential range within the Basin. The review identified several potential threats to two spawning sites, but there was insufficient data to infer that other spawning areas are threatened.

Despite these identified threats, the Service found that an accurate assessment of the current status and population trends of the southern walleye was not possible due to a lack of recent and historic information on populations (e.g., distribution and abundance within drainages), and number, location, and condition of spawning sites. The status review identified only one comprehensive report on the walleye's status (Schultz 1971), and that report covered only a small portion of the species' range.

The Service believes that the southern walleye is still sufficiently abundant that timely management and conservation efforts can improve its status. Attempts by the State of Mississippi to enhance southern walleye populations by closing fishing and operating an experimental walleye hatchery are meritorious. Similar efforts by other states could enhance southern walleye populations throughout its range.

The Service will retain the southern walleye as a species of concern and continue to seek information on the species and monitor its status. If additional data become available, the Service may reassess the need for listing and propose listing as necessary.

Further details regarding the biological status of the species are contained in the administrative finding, which can be obtained by contacting the office indicated in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

#### References Cited

A complete list of all references cited herein, as well as others, is available upon request from the Jackson Field Office (see ADDRESSES).

#### Author

The primary author of this document is Dr. Ron Larson, Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office (see ADDRESSES section).

#### Authority

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

Dated: September 1, 1995.

#### John G. Rogers,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 95-22624 Filed 9-11-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

#### 50 CFR Part 17

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Availability of Reports and Other Data Pertaining to the Listing of the Bruneau Hot Springsnail

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability, opening of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) gives notice that reports and other data pertaining to the listing of the Bruneau hot springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*) are available to the public. Specifically, the Service is seeking public comment on a U.S. Geological Survey report and other reports and data received since the listing of the springsnail. In addition, the Service solicits any other information relevant to determining whether the springsnail should be listed as an endangered species. The Service opens the public comment period until November 13, 1995.

**DATES:** The comment period is open until November 13, 1995. Any comments and materials received by the closing date will be considered in the final determination.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and materials concerning the reports and other information pertaining to the listing of the Bruneau hot springsnail should be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Basin Office, 4696 Overland Road, Room 576, Boise, Idaho 83705. Reports and other data cited in this notice, and public comments and other materials received will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the above address.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Ruesink, Supervisor, at the address listed above (telephone 208/334-1931, facsimile 208/334-9493).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On January 25, 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a final rule in the **Federal Register** determining the Bruneau hot springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*) to be an endangered species (58 FR 5946). In its decision to list the springsnail the Service relied, in part, on a provisional draft of a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) report (Berenbrock 1992) analyzing the hydrology of the geothermal aquifer in the Bruneau Valley area. The USGS provided the Service with the draft report, but did not release it to the

public and requested that the Service not release the report to the public, pending agency review and approval.

On May 7, 1993, the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, Owyhee County Farm Bureau, Idaho Cattleman's Association, and Owyhee County Board of Supervisors challenged the listing decision on several grounds in a lawsuit filed in United States District Court for the District of Idaho. The plaintiffs argued that the Service committed a number of procedural violations during the listing process, including not allowing the public to review the draft USGS report. On December 14, 1993 the district court determined that the Service committed several procedural errors and set aside the final rule listing the springsnail as an endangered species.

The district court decision was appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit by two intervening conservation groups, the Idaho Conservation League and Committee for Idaho's High Desert. On June 29, 1995 the appellate court overturned the district court decision and reinstated the Bruneau hot springsnail to the endangered species list. However, the appellate court concluded that the Service should have made the draft USGS report (i.e., Berenbrock 1992) available for public review, as the Service relied largely on this report to support the final listing rule. The appellate court directed the Service to provide an opportunity for public comment on the USGS report and other relevant information, and to reconsider its listing decision. This notice of availability complies with the court's direction.

#### Available Reports and Data

In addition to the draft USGS report, which was finalized in August 1993 (i.e., Berenbrock 1993), the Service has additional reports and information pertinent to the listing decision received since the original listing rule was published January 25, 1993. The following information contained in

Service files is available for public review and comment:

- Berenbrock, C. 1992. Effects of well discharges on hydraulic heads in and spring discharges from the geothermal aquifer system in the Bruneau area, Owyhee County, southwestern Idaho. U.S. Geological Survey, Water-Resources Investigations, Boise, Idaho. Preliminary report.
- Berenbrock, C. 1993. Effects of well discharges on hydraulic heads in and spring discharges from the geothermal aquifer system in the Bruneau area, Owyhee County, southwestern Idaho. U.S. Geological Survey, Water-Resources Investigations Report 93-4001, Boise, Idaho.
- Bruneau Valley Coalition, Inc. 1995. Habitat maintenance and conservation plan for the Bruneau hot springsnail, January, 1995. Unpublished plan.
- Bruneau Valley Coalition, Inc. 1995. Proposed amendment to the "Threatened and Endangered Species" section of the Interim Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the federally and state managed lands in Owyhee County. Unpublished amendment.
- Idaho Water Resources Research Institute. 1994. Bruneau hot springs aquifer restoration report: a preproposal. Unpublished report, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.
- Lee, J. A. 1994. Summary report for the control survey of the Bruneau hot springsnail. Unpublished report, Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office, Boise, Idaho.
- Mladenka, G. C. 1993. Report on the 1993 Bruneau hot springsnail site survey. Unpublished report.
- Mladenka, G. C. 1995. Bruneau Hot Springs invertebrate survey. Unpublished report, Stream Ecology Center, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho.
- Royer, T. V. and G. W. Minshall. 1993. 1993 Annual Monitoring Report: Bruneau hot springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*). Unpublished report, Stream Ecology Center, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho.
- U.S. Geological Survey. 1995a. Unpublished letter summarizing results of Bruneau-area ground water-level and spring discharge monitoring data through December 1994. Boise, Idaho.
- U.S. Geological Survey. 1995b. Unpublished letter commenting on Idaho Water Resources Research Institute's report and summarizing provisional, spring discharge data collected from June 1994 through July 1995 from three hot springs above Hot Creek, Idaho.
- Varricchio, J. T. and G. W. Minshall. 1995. 1994 Monitoring Report: Bruneau hot springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*). Technical Bulletin No. 95-14, Idaho Bureau of Land Management.
- Varricchio, J. T. and G. W. Minshall. 1995. Gut content analysis of wild *Gambusia* and *Tilapia* in Hot Creek, Bruneau, Idaho. Unpublished report, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho.

#### Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544.)

#### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Dated: September 1, 1995.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

[RIN 1018-AD11]

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Comment Period and Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Endangered Status for Three Wetland Species in Southern Arizona and Northern Sonora

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period and notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) gives notice that a public hearing will be held and the comment period reopened on the proposed rule to list two plants, Canelo Hills ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes delitescens*) and Huachuca water umbel (*Lilaeopsis schaffneriana* spp. *recurva*), and one amphibian, the Sonora tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi*) as endangered. The hearing and the reopening of the comment period will allow all interested parties to submit oral or written comments on the proposal.

DATES: The public hearing will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on September 27, 1995, in Sierra Vista, Arizona. The comment period for this proposal will be reopened on September 11, 1995 and will close on October 27, 1995. Comments must be received by the closing date. Any comments that are received after the closing date may not be considered in the final decision on the proposal.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the Buena Performing Arts Center, Buena High School, 5225 Buena School Boulevard, Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Written comments should be sent to the State Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 W. Royal Palm Road, suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona 85021.

Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above Service address.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeffrey A. Humphrey, at the above address, 602/640-2720.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

Canelo Hills ladies'-tresses, Huachuca water umbel, and the Sonora tiger salamander occur in a limited number of wetland habitats in southern Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico. They are threatened by one or more of the following—collecting, disease, predation, competition with nonnative species, catastrophic floods, drought, and degradation and destruction of habitat resulting from livestock overgrazing, water diversions, dredging, and groundwater pumping. All three taxa are also threatened with stochastic extirpations or extinction due to small numbers of populations or individuals. A proposed rule to list these species as endangered was published in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 16836) on April 3, 1995.

Pursuant to 50 CFR 424.16(c)(2), the Service may extend or reopen a comment period upon finding that there is good cause to do so. Full participation of the affected public in the species listing process, allowing the Service to consider the best scientific and commercial data available in making a final determination on the proposed action, is deemed as sufficient cause.

Anyone wishing to make an oral statement for the record is encouraged to provide a written copy of their statement and present it to the Service at the start of the hearing. In the event there is a large attendance, the time allotted for oral statements may have to be limited. Oral and written statements receive equal consideration. There are no limits to the length of written comments presented at the hearings or mailed to the Service. Legal notices announcing the dates, times, and locations of the hearings will be published in newspapers concurrently with the **Federal Register** notice.

Previous comment periods on this proposal closed on June 2, 1995 and July 24, 1995. In order to accommodate this additional hearing, the Service reopens the public comment period. Written comments may now be submitted until October 27, 1995, to the Service office in the ADDRESSES section.