

mussel inhabits medium-sized creeks and rivers with cool, well-oxygenated, and moderate- to fast-flowing water. The Appalachian elktoe currently has a very fragmented, relict distribution but historically had a fairly wide distribution throughout the Upper Tennessee River system in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. Only two populations of the species are known to survive. One population occurs in the main stem of the Little Tennessee River in Swain and Macon Counties, North Carolina. The second population occurs in the Nolichucky River system. This population is restricted to scattered locations along a very short reach of the Toe River and the main stem of the Nolichucky River in Yancey and Mitchell Counties, North Carolina. The population on the Nolichucky extends downriver into Unicoi County, Tennessee. A single specimen of the Appalachian elktoe was also found in the Cane River, a major tributary to the Nolichucky River, in Yancey County, North Carolina. It has been reduced to a few short reaches of each of these streams, primarily as a result of impoundments and the general deterioration of water quality resulting from siltation and other pollutants contributed by poor land use practices. The Service solicits review and comments from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before December 13, 1995, to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the agency draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Asheville Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 (Telephone 704/258-3939). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Fridell at the address and telephone number shown above (Ext. 225).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help

guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, to establish criteria for recognizing the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and to estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to the approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The primary species considered in this draft recovery plan is the Appalachian elktoe (*Alasmidonta raveneliana*). The area of emphasis for recovery actions is the upper Tennessee River system in the mountains of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. Habitat protection, reintroduction, and the preservation of genetic material are the major objectives of this recovery plan.

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 the plan.

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

Dated: September 8, 1995.

Robert R. Currie,

Acting Field Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 95-22935 Filed 9-13-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Notice of Availability of the Technical/ Agency Draft Recovery Plan for Cumberland Rosemary for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the

availability for public review of a technical/agency draft recovery plan for Cumberland rosemary (*Conradina verticillata*). This threatened species is presently known from only three populations: two of these are located in Tennessee and a third occurs in both Tennessee and Kentucky. Cumberland rosemary grows on sandy or gravelly stream banks, sandbars, and gravel/ boulder bars associated with floodplains or islands. There are 91 known colonies of the species; however, most colonies are small and are threatened by stream alternations that would change normal flooding patterns; activities that degrade water quality; and habitat destruction by campers, hikers, white-water enthusiasts, and off-road vehicles. The Service solicits review and comments from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the technical/ agency draft recovery plan must be received on or before December 13, 1995, to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the technical/agency draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Asheville Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 (Telephone 704/258-3939). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on requests for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Currie at the address and telephone number shown above (Ext. 224).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, to establish criteria for recognizing the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and to estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of

recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to the approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

Th primary species considered in this draft recovery plan is Cumberland rosemary (*Conradina verticillata*). It is a small shrub in the mint family (Lamiaceae), known only from the banks of short reaches of three river systems in north-central Tennessee and adjacent Kentucky. The species is found within small areas of the following counties: Cumberland, Fentress, Morgan, Scott, and White Counties, Tennessee, and McCreary County, Kentucky. It is always found growing in close association with the floodplain of watercourses. Specific areas supporting the species include boulder bars, sand bars, gravel bars, terraces of sand on gradually sloping riverbanks and islands, and pockets of sand between large boulders on islands and stream banks. This species' distribution has probably been reduced by such factors as dam construction and the general deterioration of water quality resulting from silt and other pollutants contributed by coal mining, poor land use practices, and waste discharges. Many of these factors continue to impact the species and its habitat. Because the colonies inhabit only short river reaches, they are vulnerable to extirpation from accidental toxic chemical spills. Direct habitat destruction by recreational visitors to the species' habitat is a significant threat to its survival. Hikers, campers, white-water enthusiasts, and off-road-vehicle users all impact the species and its habitat. Habitat protection, searches for new populations, the implementation of appropriate management actions, the completion of biological and genetic studies, and the preservation of genetic material are the major objectives of this recovery plan.

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 the plan.

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

Dated: September 8, 1995.

Robert R. Currie,

Acting Field Supervisor.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Notice of Availability of the Agency Draft Recovery Plan for Cumberland Sandwort for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of an agency draft recovery plan for Cumberland sandwort (*Arenaria cumberlandensis*). This endangered species is known from five populations in Tennessee and Kentucky. It is restricted to sandstone ledges and rock houses in the Cumberland Plateau Province of south-central Kentucky and north-central Tennessee. Specialized habitat requirements, in combination with habitat alteration, are the primary limiting factors for the species. Threats to its continued existence include trampling of its habitat by recreational users and habitat alteration caused by timber harvesting on adjacent lands. The Service solicits review and comments from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the agency draft recovery plan must be received on or before December 13, 1995, to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the agency draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Asheville Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 (Telephone 704/258-3939). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Currie at the address and telephone number shown above (Ext. 224).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, to establish criteria for recognizing the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and to estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to the approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The primary species considered in this draft recovery plan is Cumberland sandwort (*Arenaria cumberlandensis*). The area of emphasis for recovery actions is the Cumberland Plateau Province of south-central Kentucky and north-central Tennessee. The species is currently known from four counties in Tennessee (Pickett, Scott, Fentress, and Morgan) and one county in Kentucky (McCreary). A majority of the sites are found in sandstone rock houses or on ledges or solution pockets on sandstone rock faces. All known sites are within the Big South Fork watershed of the Cumberland River. Habitat requirements include shade, moisture, relatively constant cool temperatures, and high humidity. *Arenaria cumberlandensis* is endangered directly and indirectly by human activities in and adjacent to its unique habitat. Significant threats include trampling by hikers, campers, picnickers, individuals rappelling down the sandstone cliffs, and "pot hunters" digging within rock houses for Native American artifacts. Some sites are potentially threatened by timber removal in or adjacent to the areas supporting the species. Increased sunlight on the plants and the