

PART 17—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201–4245; Pub. L. 99–625, 100 Stat. 3500; unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 17.12(h) is amended by adding the following, in alphabetical order under FLOWERING PLANTS, to

the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants to read as follows:

§ 17.12 Endangered and threatened plants.
 * * * * *
 (h) * * *

Species		Historic range	Family name	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Scientific name	Common name						
FLOWERING PLANTS							
<i>Achyranthes mutica</i>	None	U.S.A. (HI)	Amaranthaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Cenchrus agrimonoides</i>	Kamanomano	U.S.A. (HI)	Poaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Cyanea grimesiana</i> ssp. <i>grimesiana</i> .	Haha	U.S.A. (HI)	Campanulaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Cyperus trachysanthos</i>	Pu'uka'a	U.S.A. (HI)	Cyperaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Euphorbia haeleeeleana</i>	'Akoko	U.S.A. (HI)	Euphorbiaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Isodendrion laurifolium</i>	Aupaka	U.S.A. (HI)	Violaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Isodendrion longifolium</i>	Aupaka	U.S.A. (HI)	Violaceae	T		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Panicum niihauense</i>	Lau 'ehu	U.S.A. (HI)	Poaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Phyllostegia parviflora</i>	None	U.S.A. (HI)	Lamiaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Platanthera holochila</i>	None	U.S.A. (HI)	Orchidaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Sanicula purpurea</i>	None	U.S.A. (HI)	Apiaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Schiedea hookeri</i>	None	U.S.A. (HI)	Caryophyllaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Schiedea kauaiensis</i>	None	U.S.A. (HI)	Caryophyllaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*
<i>Schiedea nuttallii</i>	None	U.S.A. (HI)	Caryophyllaceae	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*			*

Dated: September 20, 1995.
 John G. Rogers,
 Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.
 [FR Doc. 95–24337 Filed 9–29–95; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

50 CFR Part 17
RIN 1018–AD52
Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Threatened Status for the Guajón

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.
ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to determine the guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*) to be a threatened species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973,

as amended. The guajón is endemic to Puerto Rico and is restricted to the Pandura mountain range in the southeastern part of the island. It is threatened in this area by agricultural, rural, and industrial development and the associated infrastructure. This proposal, if made final, will implement the Federal protection and recovery provisions afforded by the Act for *E. cooki*.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties must be received by December 1, 1995. Public hearing requests must be received by November 16, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to the Field Supervisor, Caribbean Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 491, Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at this office, and at the Service's Southeast Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan Silander at the Caribbean Field Office address (809/851-7297) or Mr. William C. Hunter at the Atlanta, Georgia, Regional Office address (404/331-3580).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

With over 400 described species, *Eleutherodactylus* is the largest vertebrate genus. Two major centers of species diversity occur: northwestern South America and the West Indies. Almost all species possess "t-shaped" terminal phalanges, probably an adaptation for climbing and reproductively, these frogs have direct development, allowing for reproduction away from water. In the West Indies, *Eleutherodactylus* species are a dominant amphibian group. No single species is naturally found on more than one of the four Greater Antilles, and most are restricted to small areas within an island (Hedges 1989). Seventeen species of this genus are known from Puerto Rico and collectively, they are commonly known as "coquis" (Rivero 1978, Moreno 1991).

The guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*), also known commonly as "demon of Puerto Rico" or "demonio de Puerto Rico," is a relatively large frog, approximately 8.5 centimeters (3.3 inches) in length. It is solid brown in color, although males and some females may have a yellow throat. In both sexes, the frogs have large, white-rimmed eyes, giving the species a specter or phantom-like appearance. It is characterized by having large truncate discs and by a peculiar, melodious and low voice which is completely different from any other species of *Eleutherodactylus* in Puerto Rico (Rivero 1978). Rivero (1978) states that its peculiar calling and phantom-like appearance made many local people fearful of the species, believing that the mere sight of an animal would be fatal.

The guajón, first collected in 1932, is known only from the Pandura range in southeastern Puerto Rico and west to Patillas/San Lorenzo where it lives in crevices and grottoes in and among

boulders. Such grottoes are commonly referred to as guajonales. It is from the grottoes or guajonales that the frog derives its name, the guajón. The species is apparently limited in distribution by the rock formation where it occurs (Rivero 1978, Joglar 1992). Joglar (1992) documented population fluctuations, apparently related to precipitation and temperature. Numbers are lowest during the winter months, during the period of least rainfall and lowest temperatures. The number of egg clutches and juveniles was greatest during the months of October and September. Eggs are laid on the humid faces of boulders within the grottoes and the clutches of up to 59 eggs are apparently guarded by the males (Rivero 1978).

During surveys conducted by Drewry (1986) and Joglar (1992), the guajón was found at its historical localities, all of which occur within the municipalities of Yabucoa and San Lorenzo. Little historical data are available on abundance, therefore, reductions in populations are difficult to document. Nevertheless, *E. cooki* is endemic to Puerto Rico, extremely restricted in geographical distribution and occurs only on privately-owned lands. Threats include fire, deforestation and earth movement for agricultural activities and rural development, road construction, including the construction of a major four lane highway, and the construction of a reservoir.

Previous Federal Action

In the Service's notices of review for vertebrate candidates published in the Federal Register of December 30, 1982 (47 FR 58454), September 18, 1985 (50 FR 37958), January 6, 1989 (55 FR 17475) and November 21, 1991 (56 FR 58804), *Eleutherodactylus cooki* was included as a category 2 species. Category 2 species (now recognized as species of concern to the Service) are taxa for which there is information to indicate that listing may be appropriate, but for which there is insufficient data to support a listing proposal.

During a symposium/workshop on Puerto Rican reptiles and amphibians held in Puerto Rico in April of 1990, Moreno (1991) believed that the guajón was declining and in urgent need of a status survey. Status surveys conducted in 1991 and 1992 indicated that the guajón is extremely restricted in distribution and currently faces significant threats (Joglar 1992). The Service recently elevated the guajón to candidate status and is proposing it for threatened status.

Summary of Factors Affecting the Species

Section 4(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and regulations (50 CFR part 424) promulgated to implement the listing provisions of the Act set forth the procedures for adding species to the Federal lists. A species may be determined to be endangered or threatened due to one or more of the five factors described in section 4(a)(1). These factors and their application to the guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*) are as follows:

A. The Present or Threatened Destruction, Modification, or Curtailment of Its Habitat or Range

The guajón is only known from the municipalities of Yabucoa and San Lorenzo in the Pandura mountain range in the extreme southeastern corner of Puerto Rico. Deforestation and earth movement for agricultural and rural development have encroached upon known habitat of the species. Road construction and the associated cut and fill has eliminated habitat (Drewry 1986). A major four lane highway is currently proposed through the area, as is the construction of a major reservoir.

B. Overutilization for Commercial, Recreational, Scientific, or Educational Purposes

Although not previously identified as a determinant factor in the decline of the guajón specifically, scientific collecting of related species of coqui in Puerto Rico has contributed to declines. In a survey of only seven museums in both Puerto Rico and the United States, numerous specimens of the web-footed coqui (*E. karlschmidti*) and the mottled coqui (*E. eneidae*) were located, with a total of 473 preserved individuals of the former and 325 of the latter species (Joglar 1992). Both of these related species' status are under evaluation by the Service because of their extreme rarity. Collection of *Eleutherodactylus* sp. for use in local art has also been documented, and such activities are currently being evaluated by the Commonwealth government for possible regulation.

C. Disease or Predation

Disease has not been documented as a factor in the decline of this species. However, examination of both preserved and live specimens of the guajón revealed that the species is parasitized by the tick *Ornithodoros talaje*. Nevertheless, the effect of this parasite on the guajón has yet to be studied (Joglar 1992). Introduced species such as cats, rats and mongoose, active at night,

may adversely affect densities of this species by feeding on the frogs and their eggs.

D. The Inadequacy of Existing Regulatory Mechanisms

The guajón is not currently protected by Commonwealth regulations. Federal listing will provide immediate protection for the species and enhance its protection and possibilities for funding needed research.

E. Other Natural or Manmade Factors Affecting Its Continued Existence

The decline in populations of amphibians has become apparent globally. Factors which may be responsible for the decline of amphibians include: habitat destruction and modification, acid rain, pesticide contamination, introduction of non-native predators and competitors, agriculture, mining and logging, increased levels of ultraviolet radiation, collection, and global climatic change (Wake and Morowitz 1991).

Flash floods, droughts, and catastrophic storms, such as Hurricane Hugo which occurred in 1989, may have caused localized extirpations of other species of *Eleutherodactylus* in specific areas in Puerto Rico (Burrowes and Joglar 1991, Joglar 1992). Hurricane Hugo negatively affected the abundance of *E. portoricensis*, a species which is not abundant and is restricted in distribution (Joglar and Burrowes 1991). The guajón is endemic to Puerto Rico and extremely restricted in distribution, it is known only from the southeastern part of the island.

The Service has carefully assessed the best scientific and commercial information available regarding the past, present, and future threats faced by this species in determining to propose this rule. Based on this evaluation, the preferred action is to list *Eleutherodactylus cooki* as threatened. Since the species is extremely restricted in distribution and specialized in habitat. Activities such as dam and road construction and land conversion to agriculture threaten to significantly reduce available habitat. While not in immediate danger of extinction, the guajón is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future if present threats continue. The reasons for not proposing critical habitat for these species are discussed below in the "Critical Habitat" section.

Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is defined in section 3 of the Act as: (i) The specific areas within the geographical area occupied by a species, at the time it is listed in

accordance with the Act, on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to the conservation of the species and (II) that may require special management considerations or protection and; (ii) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by a species at the time it is listed, upon a determination that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. "Conservation" means the use of all methods and procedures needed to bring the species to the point at which listing under the Act is no longer necessary.

Section 4(a)(3) of the Act, as amended, and implementing regulations (50 CFR 424.12) require that, to the maximum extent prudent and determinable, the Secretary designate critical habitat at the time the species is determined to be endangered or threatened. The Service finds that the designation of critical habitat is not prudent for the guajón. Service regulations (50 CFR 424.12(a)(1)) state that designation of critical habitat is not prudent when one or both of the following situations exist—(1) The species is threatened by taking or other human activity, and identification of critical habitat can be expected to increase the degree of threat to the species, or (2) such designation of critical habitat would not be beneficial to the species.

While collection has not been documented as contributing to the decline of the guajón specifically, large numbers of other *Eleutherodactylus* species, including several identified as species at risk, have been documented in scientific collections. Collection of *Eleutherodactylus* sp. has been documented for use by local artisans, and such collection is currently under evaluation by the Commonwealth government for possible regulation. In addition, due to appearance of the animal, Rivero (1978) stated that local people were fearful of them. This fear could lead to killing of guajón.

The guajón is rare and restricted in range, and taking for scientific purposes and private collection would pose a serious threat to the species if specific site information were released. The publication of critical habitat maps in the Federal Register and local newspapers and other publicity accompanying critical habitat designation would likely increase the collection threat and increase the potential for vandalism if such designation were proposed. The Service believes, therefore, that the identification of critical habitat may increase the threat to the species. The locations of populations of this species

have consequently been described only in general terms in this proposed rule. Any existing precise locality data would be available to appropriate Federal, State, and local government agencies from the Service office described in the ADDRESSES section.

Regulations promulgated for implementing section 7 of the Act provide for both a jeopardy standard, based on listing alone, and for a destruction or adverse modification standard, in cases where critical habitat has been designated. The guajón occupies an extremely restricted geographic area in Puerto Rico and, once listed, the Service believes that protection of guajón habitat can be accomplished through the section 7 jeopardy standard, and through section 9 prohibitions against take.

Available Conservation Measures

Conservation measures provided to species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act include recognition, recovery actions, requirements for Federal protection, and prohibitions against certain practices. Recognition through listing results in conservation actions by Federal, Commonwealth, and private agencies, and individuals. The Act provides for possible land acquisition and cooperation with the Commonwealth and requires that recovery actions be carried out for all listed species. Such actions are initiated by the Service following listing. The protection required of Federal agencies and the prohibitions against taking and harm are discussed, in part, below.

Section 7(a) of the Act, as amended, requires Federal agencies to evaluate their actions with respect to any species that is proposed or listed as endangered or threatened and with respect to its critical habitat, if any is being designated. Regulations implementing this interagency cooperation provision of the Act are codified at 50 CFR part 402. Section 7(a)(4) requires Federal agencies to confer with the Service on any action that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a species proposed for listing or result in destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. If a species is listed subsequently, section 7(a)(2) requires Federal agencies to ensure that activities they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species or destroy or adversely modify its critical habitat. If a Federal action may affect a listed species or its critical habitat, the responsible Federal agency must enter into formal consultation with the Service.

Federal agency actions that may require conference and/or consultation as described in the preceding paragraph include: the Army Corps of Engineers and/or National Resource Conservation Service (previously Soil Conservation Service) involvement in the construction of a reservoir; Farmer's Home Administration funding of water, sewer, and power lines as well as residential developments; and the Federal Highway Administration's involvement in the construction of small roads and a major highway through the area.

The Act and its implementing regulations set forth a series of general trade prohibitions and exceptions that apply to all threatened wildlife. The prohibitions, codified at 50 CFR 17.21 and 17.31, in part, make it illegal for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take (includes harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, or collect; or to attempt any of these), import or export, ship in interstate commerce in the course of commercial activity, or sell or offer for sale in interstate or foreign commerce any listed species. It is also illegal to possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, or ship any such wildlife that has been taken illegally. Certain exceptions apply to agents of the Service and Commonwealth conservation agencies.

Permits may be issued to carry out otherwise prohibited activities involving threatened wildlife species under certain circumstances. Regulations governing permits are at 50 CFR 17.32. Such permits are available for scientific purposes, to enhance the propagation or survival of the species, and/or for incidental take in connection with otherwise lawful activities. For threatened species, permits are also available for zoological exhibition, educational purposes, or special purposes consistent with the purposes of the Act. Requests for copies of the regulations regarding listed wildlife and inquiries about prohibitions and permits may be addressed to the Service's Southeast Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (404/679-7110).

It is the policy of the Service (59 FR 34272) to identify to the maximum extent practicable those activities that would or would not constitute a violation of section 9 of the Act at the time of listing. The intent of this policy is to increase public awareness of the effect of listing on proposed or ongoing activities. The only known populations of guajón are located on privately-owned land. The Service believes that, based on the best available information, the following actions will not result in

a violation of section 9, provided these activities are carried out in accordance with existing regulations and permit requirements:

- (1) Momentary moving of an individual guajón out of danger (e.g., road, path);
- (2) Possession of legally acquired guajón, under Service-approved permitted conditions; and
- (3) Federally approved projects that involve activities, such as, dam and road construction, earth movement for agricultural activities and rural development, or diversion or alteration of surface or ground water flow into or out of grottoes (e.g., due to roads, impoundments, discharge pipes, storm water detention basins, etc.), when such activity is conducted in accordance with any reasonable and prudent measures given by the Service in accordance with section 7 of the Act.

Activities that the Service believes could potentially result in "take" of the guajón, include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Unauthorized collecting or capture of the species, except as noted above to momentarily move an individual out of harm's way;
- (2) Purposeful introduction of exotic species, such as cats, rats and mongoose, that may adversely affect densities of this species by feeding on adults or eggs;
- (3) Unauthorized destruction/alteration of the species' habitat (e.g., rock removal, discharge of fill materials, earth movement for agricultural activities and rural development, or diversion or alteration of surface or ground water flow into or out of grottoes) when such activity is not conducted in accordance with section 7 of the Act;
- (4) Pesticide applications in violation of label restrictions; and
- (5) Discharges or dumping of toxic chemicals, silt, or other pollutants into areas supporting this species.

Questions regarding whether specific activities will constitute a violation of section 9 should be directed to the Field Supervisor of the Service's Caribbean Field Office (see ADDRESSES section). Requests for copies of the regulations on listed species and inquiries regarding prohibitions and permits should be addressed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services (TE), 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345-3301 (404/679-7096).

Public Comments Solicited

The Service intends that any final action resulting from this proposal will be as accurate and as effective as possible. Therefore, comments or suggestions from the public, other

concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning any aspect of this proposed rule are hereby solicited. Comments particularly are sought concerning:

- (1) Biological, commercial trade, or other relevant data concerning any threat (or lack thereof) to the guajón;
- (2) The location of any additional populations of this species, and the reasons why any habitat should or should not be determined to be critical habitat pursuant to section 4 of the Act;
- (3) Additional information concerning the range, distribution and population size of this species; and
- (4) Current or planned activities in the subject areas and their possible impacts on this species.

Final promulgation of the regulation on the guajón will take into consideration the comments and any additional information received by the Service, and such communications may lead to a final regulation that differs from this proposal.

The Endangered Species Act provides for one or more public hearings on this proposal, if requested. Requests must be filed within 45 days of the publication of the proposal in the Federal Register. Such requests must be made in writing and addressed to the Field Supervisor, Caribbean Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 491, Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622.

National Environmental Policy Act

The Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment, as defined under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, need not be prepared in connection with regulations adopted pursuant to section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. A notice outlining the Service's reasons for this determination was published in the Federal Register on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244).

References Cited

- Burrowes, P.A., and R.L. Joglar. 1991. A survey of the population status and an ecological evaluation of three Puerto Rican frogs. In J.A. Moreno, ed., *Status y Distribución de los Anfibios y Reptiles de Puerto Rico*. Publ. Cien. Misc. No.1. pp. 42-46. Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Drewry, G.E. 1986. Golden coqui recovery survey and brief status evaluation of five other Puerto Rican *Eleutherodactylus* species. Trip report prepared for the Caribbean Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 49 pp.
- Hedges, S.B. 1989. Evolution and biogeography of West Indian frogs of the genus *Eleutherodactylus*: slow-evolving

loci and the major groups. *In* Biogeography of the West Indies: 305-370.

Joglar, R.S., and P.A. Burrowes. 1991. El efecto del Huracán Hugo sobre una comunidad de anfibios en El Yunque, Puerto Rico y algunas recomendaciones para la protección de las especies del genero *Eleutherodactylus*. *In* J.A. Moreno, ed., Status y Distribución de los Anfibios y Reptiles de Puerto Rico. Publ. Cien. Misc. No.1. pp. 47-52. Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Joglar, R.L. 1992. Status survey of four species of *Eleutherodactylus*: Final report. Report prepared for the Caribbean Field Office, Fish and Wildlife Service. 41 pp.

Moreno, J.A. (ed.) 1991. Status y Distribución de los Anfibios y Reptiles de Puerto Rico. Publ. Cien. Misc. No. 1. Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales de Puerto Rico. San Juan, Puerto Rico 67 pp.

Rivero, J.A. 1978. Los Anfibios y Reptiles de Puerto Rico. U.P.R. Editorial Universitaria. San Juan, Puerto Rico 152 pp.

Wake, D.B., and H.J. Morowitz. 1991. Declining amphibian populations—a global phenomenon? Findings and recommendations. *Alytes* 9(2): 33-42.

Author

The primary author of this proposed rule is Ms. Susan Silander, Caribbean Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 491, Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622 (809/851-7297).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

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

Proposed Regulation Promulgation

Accordingly, the Service hereby proposes to amend part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below:

PART 17—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361-1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201-4245; Pub. L. 99-625, 100 Stat. 3500, unless otherwise noted.

2. It is proposed to amend 17.11(h) by adding the following, in alphabetical order under AMPHIBIANS, to the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife to read as follows:

§ 17.11 Endangered and threatened wildlife.

* * * * *

(h) * * *

Species		Historic range	Vertebrate population where endangered or threatened	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Common name	Scientific name						
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Amphibians							
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Guajón	<i>Eleutherodactylus cooki</i>	U.S.A. (PR)	NA	T	NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Date: September 19, 1995.
 Mollie H. Beattie,
 Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.
 [FR Doc. 95-24334 Filed 9-29-95; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

50 CFR Part 17
RIN 1018-AD49

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Endangered Status for Three Plant Species (*Cyanea dunbarii*, *Lysimachia maxima*, and *Schiedea Sarmentosa*) From the Island of Molokai, Hawaii

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.
ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to list *Cyanea dunbarii* (haha), *Lysimachia maxima* (No common name (NCN)), and *Schiedea sarmentosa* (NCN) as endangered pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). All three species are endemic to the island of Molokai, Hawaiian Islands. The three plant species and their habitats have been variously affected or

are currently threatened by one or more of the following—competition, predation, or habitat degradation from introduced species; fire; and natural disasters. This proposed rule, if made final, would implement the Federal protection and recovery provisions afforded by the Act for these three species.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties must be received by December 1, 1995. Public hearing requests must be received by November 16, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to Robert P. Smith, Pacific Islands Ecoregion Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 6307, P.O. Box 50167, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert P. Smith, Pacific Islands Ecoregion Manager (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone 808/541-2749; facsimile 808/541-2756).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Cyanea dunbarii, *Lysimachia maxima*, and *Schiedea sarmentosa* are endemic to the island of Molokai. This island, the fifth largest in the Hawaiian island chain, is approximately 61 kilometers (km) (38 miles (mi)) long, up to 16 km (10 mi) wide, and encompasses an area of about 688 square (sq) km (266 sq mi) (Foote *et al.* 1972, Plasch 1985). Three shield volcanoes make up most of the land mass of Molokai—West Molokai Mountain, East Molokai Mountain, and a volcano that formed Kalaupapa Peninsula (Department of Geography 1983). Molokai can also be divided into three major sections—the west Molokai section, comprising West Molokai Mountain; the central Molokai section or Hoolehua Plain formed between the two large mountain masses; and the east Molokai section, incorporating East Molokai Mountain and Kalaupapa Peninsula (Foote *et al.* 1972).

The taller and larger East Molokai Mountain rises 1,813 meters (m) (4,970 feet (ft)) above sea level (Walker 1990) and comprises roughly 50 percent of the island's land area. Topographically, the