

2. Available test data.
  - a. IRS Injury Risk
  - b. IRS Effectiveness
3. Child and adult injury criteria for the skull/brain, neck, torso, upper and lower extremities, and auditory system.
4. New technologies applicable to side IRS design and performance (e.g., sensing and suppression).
5. Proposals for test conditions and procedures.

The discussion of each issue will be structured as follows: (1) A short presentation by NHTSA, (2) Presentations by persons and organizations who have indicated the desire to present data or share other information, (3) Presentations of any new or unconsidered data by interested persons, (4) An open discussion by meeting participants of the technical merits of the presentations and of potential test procedures, and (5) A summary statement.

### 3. Meeting Participation

This is a public meeting and attendance is open to all members of the public. You may attend as a participant (a presenter or a discussant) or an observer.

### C. Written Comments

To ensure that the agency is fully cognizant of the issues and positions taken at this meeting, you are encouraged to submit written comments on the issues related to or discussed at this meeting. Two copies should be submitted to DOT's Docket Management Office at the address given at the beginning of this document.

In addition, if your comments are four or more pages in length, we request, but do not require, that you send 10 additional copies, as well as one copy on computer disc, to: Randa Radwan Samaha, Office of Vehicle Safety Research, NRD-11, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Providing these additional copies would aid the agency in expediting its review of your comments. The copy on computer disc may be in any format, although the agency would prefer that it be in WordPerfect 8.

Your comments must not exceed 15 pages in length (49 CFR 553.21). You may append necessary supplemental material to your comments without regard to the 15-page limit. This limitation is intended to encourage you to detail your primary arguments in a concise fashion. This will aid the agency in understanding your comments.

If you wish to submit certain information under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of the complete submission, including purportedly confidential business information, to the Chief Counsel, NHTSA, at the street address given above. In addition, you should submit two copies from which the purportedly confidential information has been deleted to Docket Management. Your request for confidentiality should be accompanied by a cover letter setting forth the information specified in the agency's confidential business information regulation. 49 CFR Part 512.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 322, 30111, 30115, 30117, and 30166; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

Issued on: March 17, 1999.

#### L. Robert Shelton,

*Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.*

#### Raymond P. Owings,

*Associate Administrator for Research and Development.*

[FR Doc. 99-7172 Filed 3-23-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Reopening of Comment Period on Our Re-evaluation of Whether Designation of Critical Habitat Is Prudent for 245 Hawaiian Plants

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

**ACTION:** Notice of reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, provide notice of reopening the public comment period on our re-evaluation of whether designation of critical habitat is prudent for 245 Hawaiian plants. Our original notice was published in the **Federal Register** on November 30, 1998 (63 FR 65805) and the original public comment period was opened from November 30, 1998, to March 1, 1999. This notice reopens the comment period to May 24, 1999.

**DATES:** Comments from all interested parties must be received by May 24, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and materials concerning the notice should be sent to Robert P. Smith, Pacific Islands Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard,

Room 3-122, Box 50088, Honolulu, HI 96850 (telephone: 808/541-2749; facsimile: 808/541-2756).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Rosa, Assistant Field Supervisor, Ecological Services (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone: 808/541-3441; facsimile: 808/541-3470).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

On January 29, 1997, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund) filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Conservation Council for Hawaii, the Sierra Club, and the Hawaiian Botanical Society in U.S. District Court in Honolulu, Hawaii, for the Service's failure to designate critical habitat for 278 endangered or threatened Hawaiian plant taxa. Because the statute of limitations had elapsed for many of the plants, this list of plants was later reduced to 245 taxa.

The 245 plant species that are the subject of our November 30, 1998, notice were listed by the Service over a period of several years, between 1990 and 1996, at which time the Service determined that designation of critical habitat was not prudent for one or more of the following three reasons: designation of critical habitat would increase the likelihood of illegal taking or vandalism; designation of critical habitat would not be beneficial for plant species located on private property; and, designation of critical habitat for plant species located on Federal lands provides little or no additional benefit beyond the existing precautions the Federal government must take under section 7 of the Act.

The 245 plant taxa are: *Abutilon eremitopetalum*, *Abutilon sandwicense*, *Acaena exigua*, *Achyranthes mutica*, *Adenophorus periens*, *Alectryon macrococcus*, *Alsinidendron lychnoides*, *Alsinidendron obovatum*, *Alsinidendron trinerve*, *Alsinidendron viscosum*, *Amaranthus brownii*, *Argyroxiphium kauense*, *Argyroxiphium sandwicense* ssp. *macrocephalum*, *Adenophorus periens*, *Asplenium fragile* var. *insulare*, *Bidens micrantha* ssp. *kalealaha*, *Bidens wiebkei*, *Bonamia menziesii*, *Brighamia insignis*, *Brighamia rockii*, *Canavalia molokaiensis*, *Cenchrus agrimonioides*, *Centaurium sebaeoides*, *Chamaesyce celastroides* var. *kaenana*, *Chamaesyce deppeana*, *Chamaesyce halemanui*, *Chamaesyce herbstii*, *Chamaesyce kuwaleana*, *Chamaesyce rockii*, *Clermontia drepanomorpha*, *Clermontia lindseyana*, *Clermontia oblongifolia* ssp. *brevipes*, *Clermontia oblongifolia* ssp. *mauiensis*, *Clermontia peleana*,

*Clermontia pyrularia*, *Colubrina oppositifolia*, *Ctenitis squamigera*, *Cyanea asarifolia*, *Cyanea acuminata*, *Cyanea copelandii* ssp. *copelandii*, *Cyanea dunbarii*, *Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *grimesiana*, *Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *obatae*, *Cyanea hamatiflora* ssp. *carlsonii*, *Cyanea humboldtiana*, *Cyanea koolauensis*, *Cyanea lobata*, *Cyanea longiflora*, *Cyanea macrostegia* ssp. *gibsonii*, *Cyanea mannii*, *Cyanea mceldowneyi*, *Cyanea pinnatifida*, *Cyanea platyphylla*, *Cyanea procera*, *Cyanea recta*, *Cyanea remyi*, *Cyanea st.-johnii*, *Cyanea shipmanii*, *Cyanea stictophylla*, *Cyanea superba*, *Cyanea truncata*, *Cyanea undulata*, *Cyperus trachysanthos*, *Cyrtandra crenata*, *Cyrtandra cyaneoides*, *Cyrtandra dentata*, *Cyrtandra giffardii*, *Cyrtandra limahuliensis*, *Cyrtandra munroi*, *Cyrtandra polyantha*, *Cyrtandra subumbellata*, *Cyrtandra tintinnabula*, *Cyrtandra viridiflora*, *Delissea rhytidosperra*, *Delissea rivularis*, *Delissea subcordata*, *Delissea undulata*, *Diellia erecta*, *Diellia falcata*, *Diellia pallida*, *Diellia unisora*, *Diplazium molokaiense*, *Dubautia herbastobatae*, *Dubautia latifolia*, *Dubautia pauciflorula*, *Eragrostis fosbergii*, *Eugenia koolauensis*, *Euphorbia haeleleana*, *Exocarpos luteolus*, *Flueggea neowawraea*, *Gahnia lanaiensis*, *Gardenia mannii*, *Geranium arboreum*, *Geranium multiflorum*, *Gouania meyenii*, *Gouania vitifolia*, *Hedyotis cookiana*, *Hedyotis coriacea*, *Hedyotis degeneri*, *Hedyotis mannii*, *Hedyotis parvula*, *Hedyotis st.-johnii*, *Hesperomannia arborescens*, *Hesperomannia arbuscula*, *Hesperomannia lydgatei*, *Hibiscadelphus giffardianus*, *Hibiscadelphus hualalaiensis*, *Hibiscadelphus woodii*, *Hibiscus arnotianus* ssp. *immaculatus*, *Hibiscus brackenridgei*, *Hibiscus clayi*, *Hibiscus waimeae* ssp. *hanneriae*, *Huperzia mannii*, *Ischaemum byrone*, *Isodendron hosakae*, *Isodendron laurifolium*, *Isodendron longifolium*, *Isodendron pyrifolium*, *Kokia kauaiensis*, *Labordia cyrtandrae*, *Labordia lydgatei*, *Labordia tinifolia* var. *wahiawaensis*, *Lepidium arbuscula*, *Lipochaeta fauriei*, *Lipochaeta kamolensis*, *Lipochaeta lobata* var. *leptophylla*, *Lipochaeta micrantha*, *Lipochaeta tenuifolia*, *Lipochaeta waimeae* ssp. *lobata*, *Lobelia gaudichaudii* ssp. *koolauensis*, *Lobelia monostachya*, *Lobelia niuhauensis*, *Lobelia oahuensis*, *Lycopodium nutans*, *Lysimachia filifolia*, *Lysimachia lydgatei*, *Lysimachia maxima*, *Mariscus fauriei*, *Mariscus pennatiflorus*, *Marsilea villosa*, *Melicope adscendens*, *Melicope*

*balloui*, *Melicope haupuensis*, *Melicope knudsenii*, *Melicope lydgatei*, *Melicope mucronulata*, *Melicope ovalis*, *Melicope pallida*, *Melicope quadrangularis*, *Melicope reflexa*, *Melicope saint-johnii*, *Melicope zahlbruckneri*, *Munroidendron racemosum*, *Myrsine juddii*, *Myrsine linearifolia*, *Neraudia angulata*, *Neraudia ovata*, *Neraudia sericea*, *Nothoestrum breviflorum*, *Nothoestrum peltatum*, *Nototrichium humile*, *Ocrosia kilauaensis*, *Panicum niuhauense*, *Peucedanum sandwicense*, *Phyllostegia glabra* var. *lanaiensis*, *Phyllostegia hirsuta*, *Phyllostegia kaalaensis*, *Phyllostegia knudsenii*, *Phyllostegia mannii*, *Phyllostegia mollis*, *Phyllostegia parviflora*, *Phyllostegia racemosa*, *Phyllostegia velutina*, *Phyllostegia warshaueri*, *Phyllostegia waimeae*, *Phyllostegia wawrana*, *Plantago hawaiiensis*, *Plantago princeps*, *Platanthera holochila*, *Pleomele hawaiiensis*, *Poa mannii*, *Poa sandwicensis*, *Poa siphonoglossa*, *Portulaca sclerocarpa*, *Pritchardia affinis*, *Pritchardia aylmer-robinsonii*, *Pritchardia kaalae*, *Pritchardia munroi*, *Pritchardia napaliensis*, *Pritchardia remota*, *Pritchardia schattaueri*, *Pritchardia viscosa*, *Pteralyxia kauaiensis*, *Pteris lydgatei*, *Remya kauaiensis*, *Remya mauiensis*, *Remya montgomeryi*, *Rollandia crispa*, *Sanicula mariversa*, *Sanicula purpurea*, *Schiedea apokremnos*, *Schiedea haleakalensis*, *Schiedea helleri*, *Schiedea hookeri*, *Schiedea kaalae*, *Stenogyne campanulata*, *Schiedea kauaiensis*, *Stenogyne kanehoana*, *Schiedea kealiae*, *Schiedea lydgatei*, *Schiedea membranacea*, *Schiedea nuttallii*, *Schiedea sarmentosa*, *Schiedea spergulina* var. *leiopoda*, *Schiedea spergulina* var. *spergulina*, *Schiedea stellarioides*, *Schiedea verticillata*, *Sesbania tomentosa*, *Sicyos alba*, *Silene alexandri*, *Silene hawaiiensis*, *Silene lanceolata*, *Silene perlmanii*, *Solanum incompletum*, *Solanum sandwicense*, *Spermolepis hawaiiensis*, *Stenogyne bifida*, *Tetramolopium arenarium*, *Tetramolopium capillare*, *Tetramolopium filiforme*, *Tetramolopium lepidotum* ssp. *lepidotum*, *Tetramolopium remyi*, *Tetramolopium rockii*, *Tetraplasandra gymnocarpa*, *Trematolobelia singularis*, *Urera kaalae*, *Viola chamissoniana* ssp. *chamissoniana*, *Viola helena*, *Viola kauaensis* var. *wahiawaensis*, *Viola lanaiensis*, *Viola oahuensis*, *Wilkesia hobdyi*, *Xylosma crenatum*, *Zanthoxylum dipetalum* var. *tomentosum*, *Zanthoxylum hawaiiense*.

In accordance with the U.S. District Court's August 10, 1998, order (Civil

No. 97-00098ACK Conservation Council for Hawaii, *et al.* vs. Bruce Babbitt, *et al.*), the Service is reconsidering the not prudent determinations that were made for these 245 plant species. We published a notice seeking any new information that may affect whether we proceed with a proposal to designate critical habitat for these species (63 FR 65805) on November 30, 1998. The original public comment period closed on March 1, 1999. Four respondents requested that the public comment period be extended to allow all interested parties ample opportunity to respond to our request for comments. Therefore, we are reopening the public comment period and continue to request comments, suggestions, or information on our re-evaluation of whether designation of critical habitat is prudent for these 245 plant species.

We are soliciting information concerning:

(1) Biological, commercial trade, vandalism, or other relevant data concerning any threat to these species;

(2) The location of any additional populations of these species and the reasons why any habitat should or should not be determined to be critical habitat as provided by section 4 of the Act;

(3) Additional information concerning the range, distribution, and population size of these species;

(4) Current or planned activities in the subject area and their possible impacts on these species;

(5) Additional information on the principal biological or physical constituent elements that are essential to the conservation of these species. These primary constituent elements may include, but are not limited to, the following: seasonal wetland or dryland, water quality or quantity, plant pollinator, geological formation, vegetation type, and specific soil types;

(6) Information on existing management for any of these species and benefits to these species.

This information should be submitted by May 24, 1999, to the Fish and Wildlife office in the ADDRESSES section.

Author: The primary author of this document is Christa Russell (see ADDRESSES section).

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

Dated: March 17, 1999.

**Thomas J. Dwyer,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-7153 Filed 3-23-99; 8:45 am]

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