

Copies of the materials submitted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency may be examined during normal business hours at the following location: Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Randolph O. Cano at (312) 886-6036.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For additional information see the direct final rule published in the rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 21, 1998.

**David A. Ullrich,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5.*

[FR Doc. 99-228 Filed 1-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Extension of Public Comment Period on 90-day Finding on a Petition To List the Redband Trout in the Great Basin as Threatened or Endangered and Initiation of Status Review

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

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

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, provide notice of extending the public comment period on our 90-day finding on a petition to list the redband trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* ssp.) in the Great Basin as an endangered or threatened species throughout its range. Our 90-day finding was published in the **Federal Register** on November 16, 1998 (63 FR 63657) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended (Act), and the original public comment period was opened from November 16, 1998, to January 15, 1999. This notice extends the comment period to March 16, 1999.

**DATES:** The public comment period closes on March 16, 1999. Any information or comments received by the closing date will be considered in the status review.

**ADDRESSES:** Information, written comments and materials, or questions concerning our 90-day finding and the petition should be submitted to the Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, 2600 SE 98th Avenue, Suite 100, Portland, Oregon 97266.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Antonio Bentivoglio, biologist, at the above address or telephone 503-231-6179.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

On November 16, 1998, we published a positive 90-day finding on a petition to list "Great Basin redband trout" as threatened or endangered pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act). The petition requested the listing of the indigenous redband trout in the Great Basin as endangered or threatened throughout its range in southeastern Oregon, northeastern California, and northwestern Nevada, in particular the redband trout populations in Catlow, Fort Rock (Silver Lake), Harney (Malheur Lake), Goose Lake, Warner, and Chewaucan (Lake Abert/Summer Lake) Basins (together these six closed basins make up the Great Basin as described in the petition). Our 90-day finding announced that substantial information was presented in the petition for us to begin a status review of the petitioned taxon. The original public comment period on the 90-day finding closes on January 15, 1999. We believe that up-to-date information on distribution and abundance is lacking for this taxon but is currently being gathered. Therefore, we are extending the closing date and continue to request relevant information on the Great Basin redband trout to produce as complete a status review as possible and to ensure that the status review is based on the best available scientific and commercial data.

We are soliciting information concerning:

- (1) information on historic distribution and information on current distribution in each basin;
- (2) habitat conditions in each basin;
- (3) basic biology including age-frequency distribution of the population(s) in each basin;
- (4) ongoing efforts to protect Great Basin redband trout and their habitat;
- (5) threats to the species and its habitat;
- (6) any information regarding distinct vertebrate population segment status of Great Basin redband trout as one unit or as six individual units; and
- (7) metapopulation dynamics and interactions between lake and stream morph fishes.

In addition to information pertaining to the Great Basin redband trout, we are requesting any information in categories

1-7, above, that relates to Interior redband trout. "Interior redband trout" is a common term referring to any rainbow/redband type trout found east of the crest of the Cascade Mountains.

This information should be submitted by March 16, 1999, to the Fish and Wildlife Service office in the **ADDRESSES** section.

**Author:** The primary author of this document is Antonio Bentivoglio, biologist, Oregon State Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see **ADDRESSES** section).

#### **Authority**

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

Dated: December 30, 1998.

**Cynthia V. Barry,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-253 Filed 1-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 20

RIN 1018-AF25

#### Extension of Comment Period: Migratory Bird Hunting; Regulations To Increase Harvest of Mid-Continent Light Geese

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Service is extending the comment period on the **Federal Register** rule dated November 9, 1998 (63 FR 60271). The rule invites public comments on the proposed changes to the migratory bird hunting regulations that authorize additional hunting methods (electronic callers and unplugged shotguns) during a normal open mid-continent light goose hunting season when all other migratory bird hunting seasons are closed.

**DATES:** The deadline for receipt of comments is extended from January 8, 1999 to January 15, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be mailed to Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, Ms 634-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20240. The public may inspect comments during normal business hours in room 634-Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert Blohm, Acting Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (703) 358-1714.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Mid-continent lesser snow goose and Ross' goose population has nearly quadrupled in the last 30 years. The Western Central Flyway lesser snow and Ross' goose population also has quadrupled in the last 23 years. Collectively, these central and eastern arctic and subarctic-nesting light goose populations are referred to as Mid-continent light geese (MCLG). Due to high population growth rates, a decline in adult mortality, and an increase in winter survival, MCLG are now seriously injurious to their habitat and habitat important to other migratory birds which poses a serious threat to the short and long-term health and status of migratory bird populations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or "we") believes that MCLG populations exceed long-term sustainable levels for their arctic and subarctic breeding habitats and the populations must be reduced.

In a **Federal Register** notice dated November 9, 1998, we proposed to amend 50 CFR Part 21 to authorize the use of additional hunting methods (electronic callers and unplugged shotguns) during a normal open light-goose hunting season when all other migratory bird hunting seasons are closed. We are concurrently proposing an additional but separate population reduction strategy. In addition to this proposed rule to amend 50 CFR Part 20, we are also proposing to amend 50 CFR Part 21 to authorize the use of a conservation order to increase take of MCLG. This proposal is also in the nature of a proposed rule and the extension of the comment period on the rule is published in this issue of the **Federal Register**. The combination of these two proposals is designed to increase MCLG harvest and to provide a biologically sound and cost effective and efficient method for the reduction and management of overabundant MCLG populations.

We have received a request to extend the comment period on this rule. The Service invites careful consideration by all parties, and welcomes serious scrutiny from those committed to the long-term conservation of migratory birds. Therefore, to facilitate substantive public review, we are extending the comment period to January 15, 1999.

Dated: December 30, 1998.

**Thomas O. Melius,**

*Acting Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-145 Filed 1-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Parts 20 and 21**

**RIN 1018-AF05**

**Extension of Comment Period:  
Migratory Bird Permits; Establishment  
of a Conservation Order for the  
Reduction of Mid-Continent Light  
Goose Populations**

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Service is extending the comment period on the **Federal Register** rule dated November 9, 1998 (63 FR 60278) that invites public comments on proposed changes to the migratory bird hunting regulations regarding implementation of a conservation order for the reduction of mid-continent light goose populations.

**DATES:** The deadline for receipt of comments is extended from January 8, 1999 to January 15, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding this proposed rulemaking should be addressed to Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, Ms 634—ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20240. The public may inspect comments during normal business hours in room 634—Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia. Comments and suggestions on the information collection requirements should be sent directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs; Office of Management and Budget; Attention: Interior Desk Officer, Washington, DC 20503; and to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ms 222—ARLSQ, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington, VA 22203.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Blohm, Acting Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (703) 358-1714.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Mid-continent lesser snow goose and Ross' goose population has nearly quadrupled in the last 30 years. The Western Central Flyway lesser snow and Ross' goose population also has quadrupled in the last 23 years. Collectively, these central and eastern arctic and subarctic-nesting light goose populations are referred to as Mid-continent light geese (MCLG). Due to high population growth rates, a decline in adult mortality, and an increase in winter survival, MCLG are

now seriously injurious to their habitat and habitat important to other migratory birds which poses a serious threat to the short and long-term health and status of migratory bird populations.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or "we") believes that MCLG populations exceed long-term sustainable levels for their arctic and subarctic breeding habitats and the populations must be reduced.

In a **Federal Register** notice dated November 9, 1998, we propose to establish a new subpart in 50 CFR Part 21 for the management of overabundant MCLG populations. In cooperation with State wildlife agencies, we propose to implement a population control program by establishing a conservation order for MCLG under the authority of the proposed subpart. This proposed rule will increase the use and availability of additional hunting methods and will authorize take of MCLG outside of the normal open light goose hunting season. In order to minimize or avoid take of non-target species, States may implement this proposed action only when all migratory bird hunting seasons are closed. Although the desired goal is to significantly reduce overabundant MCLG populations, we believe that this proposed rule will not threaten the long-term status of MCLG populations or threaten the status of other species that could be impacted through the implementation of this proposed rule.

We are concurrently proposing an additional but separate population reduction strategy. In addition to this proposed rule to amend 50 CFR Part 21, we are also proposing to amend 50 CFR Part 20 to authorize the use of new hunting methods to harvest MCLG. That proposed rule would authorize States to allow the use of new hunting methods (electronic callers and unplugged shotguns) to harvest MCLG during a light-goose only season, when all other migratory bird hunting seasons are closed. The proposal is also in the nature of a proposed rule and the extension of the comment period on the rule is published in this issue of the **Federal Register**. The combination of these two proposals is designed to increase MCLG harvest and to provide a biologically sound and cost effective and efficient method for the reduction and management of overabundant MCLG populations.

We have received a request to extend the comment period on this rule. The Service invites careful consideration by all parties, and welcomes serious scrutiny from those committed to the long-term conservation of migratory birds. Therefore, to facilitate substantive