

time will be needed to complete all of the projects identified in the GLFCS.

Existing CAs have had a large influence in protecting redband trout and the habitat they require for survival. These efforts continue to improve habitat, provide for passage over barriers, screen diversions, and survey for redband trout. Cooperative efforts involving all parties are excellent avenues for restoring habitat and species.

We have carefully assessed the best available scientific and commercial information available, and we find that listing the Great Basin redband trout as a threatened or endangered species is not warranted at this time because it is not in danger of extinction or likely to become so within the foreseeable future. This conclusion is based on information on Great Basin redband trout populations within the historic range of redband trout, as reported and summarized in the Great Basin redband trout status review (Service 2000). However, in the event that conditions change and the species becomes imperiled due to the factors discussed in this finding, or other unforeseen factors, we could propose to list the species under the Act or, if circumstances warranted, invoke the emergency listing provisions of the Act.

References Cited

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- Bowers, W., B. Hosford, A. Oakley and C. Bond. 1979. Wildlife habitats in managed rangelands—the Great Basin of southeastern Oregon, Native Trout. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report PNW-84. 1979.
- Dambacher, J. 1999. Assessment of Stream Populations and Habitat of Great Basin Redband Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).
- Dambacher, J., and K. Jones. (In press). Regional and Basin-Wide Patterns of Abundance of Redband Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in Oregon Streams.
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- U.S. Forest Service. 1999. Upper Chewaucan Watershed Assessment. Prepared for the Upper Chewaucan Watershed Council, September 1999, Paisley, OR.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2000. Status Review for Great Basin Redband Trout. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon. January 2000.

Author:

The primary author of this document is Antonio Bentivoglio, Oregon Fish and

Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (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: March 13, 2000.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AE30

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Comment Period on Proposed Endangered Status for the Southern California Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), reopen the comment period on the proposed rule to list the southern California distinct population segment (DPS) of the mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*) as an endangered species. The comment period is reopened in response to requests from the public for additional time to obtain biological information regarding the frog and formulate comments on the proposed rule. In addition, reopening of the comment period will allow further opportunity for all interested parties to submit comments on the proposal, which is available (see **ADDRESSES** section). We are seeking comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested parties concerning the proposed rule. Comments already submitted on the proposed rule need not be resubmitted as they will be fully considered in the final determination.

DATES: The reopened comment period closes April 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 2730 Loker Avenue

West, Carlsbad, California, 92008.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Glen Knowles at the above address, telephone 760-431-9440; facsimile 760-431-9618.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 22, 1999, the Service published a rule proposing endangered status for the southern California DPS of the mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*) in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 71714). The original comment period closed on February 22, 2000. The comment period now closes on April 19, 2000. Written comments should be submitted to the Service (see **ADDRESSES** section).

The mountain yellow-legged frog is a true frog in the family Ranidae. The southern California mountain yellow-legged frog can still be found in four small streams in the San Gabriel mountains, San Bernardino mountains, and the San Jacinto mountains. In addition to predation from trout and other widespread factors, the few remaining frogs are threatened by recreation (i.e. suction dredging, campgrounds, day use areas), the introduction of non-native competitors and predators, and demographics associated with small populations. Comments from the public regarding the accuracy of this proposed rule are sought, especially regarding:

(1) Biological, commercial trade, or other relevant data concerning any threat (or lack thereof) to this species;

(2) The location and status of any additional occurrences 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;

(4) Current or planned activities in the subject area and their possible impacts on the mountain yellow-legged frog or its habitat.

Author:

The primary author of this notice is Glen Knowles (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 10, 2000.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

*Acting Manager, California/Nevada
Operations Office.*

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