

Department of the Interior in the performance of discretionary functions of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended, including all aspects of leasing, exploration, development, and protection of the resources of the OCS. It also allows the Board to advise the Department on discretionary functions under the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982, the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act, the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, and the mineral leasing laws for coal and other solid mineral leases.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Further information regarding the Board may be obtained from the Office of Policy and Management Improvement, Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, 1849 C Street, NW., MS 4230, Washington, DC 20240-0001.

Certification

I hereby certify that the renewal of the Minerals Management Advisory Board Charter is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of the Interior by 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*, 30 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*, and 30 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*

Dated: September 15, 2000.

Bruce Babbitt,

Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 00-24348 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Expansion of Chickasaw and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are expanding the acquisition boundary of the Chickasaw and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges by approximately 43,532 acres, primarily located in Lauderdale and Tipton Counties, Tennessee.

DATES: This would be effective on September 15, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles R. Danner with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Atlanta, 1-800-419-9582.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-754j-2) allows the Secretary of Interior to acquire refuge lands for all wildlife. The Migratory Bird

Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715d) established authority to acquire migratory bird habitat. National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668 dd-ee) consolidated all of the different refuge areas into a single refuge "System" with all units of the System now administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service and restrictions placed on the transfer, exchange or other disposal of lands within the System.

We are expanding the Chickasaw and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge acquisition boundaries by 43,532 acres (17,616.85 ha). This area is located in western Tennessee and is comprised primarily of bottomland hardwoods. These refuges lie within 10 miles (16 km) of each other in Lauderdale and Tipton Counties, Tennessee. The acquisition boundaries of both refuges contain approximately 223 private landowners. The tracts within this expanded boundary range from less than one acre (.4047 ha) to approximately 6,000 acres (2,428.12 ha). The lands within the expanded boundary will be acquired from willing sellers and may include full fee or less than fee title. Less than fee title can include easements, leases, and cooperative agreements that maintain some ownership rights with a private landowner. The lands consist of forested wetlands interspersed with agricultural lands and open water. These lands are home to many species of fish and wildlife, including migratory birds and waterfowl.

We notified the public of the proposed refuge expansion and the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan for public review through a mass mailing, to approximately 200 affected landowners, on or about November 15, 1999. Copies of the document were provided to representatives of Federal, State and county governments, other Federal and State agencies, interested groups, affected landowners, and the general public. Written comments were accepted through December 15, 1999.

Only four written comments on the proposal were received. Comments supporting the project were received from the State of Tennessee's Wildlife Resource Agency and two individuals. Only one written comment expressed opposition to the project. Several landowners expressed their concerns by telephone and were generally supportive of the project, but had some questions and concerns regarding the land acquisition process. These concerns were answered either by telephone or in written responses explaining our acquisition program.

Concerns were expressed by constituents of Tennessee Representative Ed Bryant and Missouri Representative Jo Ann Emerson relating to funding of the project and our land acquisition program. Written responses addressing these concerns were made to the respective congressional delegations, explaining the sources of funding and our land acquisition program. The State of Tennessee concurs with the proposal.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we prepared an environmental assessment that evaluates two alternatives and their potential impacts on the project areas. Based on the documentation contained in the environmental assessment, we signed a Finding of No Significant Impact on July 6, 2000, for the expansion of Chickasaw and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges. We have completed an interim compatibility determination, and a conceptual management plan. Comprehensive planning is on the eve of completion to satisfy the requirements under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

Chickasaw and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges are administered as part of a much larger refuge complex with the main office located in Dyersburg, Tennessee. There is adequate funding to allow for administration of the expansion areas.

Primary Author

Leslie Marler, Management Analyst, Branch of Planning and Policy, Division of Refuges, National Wildlife Refuge System.

Dated: September 15, 2000.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 00-24365 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 5-Year Review of Foreign Listed Psittacine Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of review.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a review of all endangered and threatened foreign species in the Order Psittaciformes (parrots, parakeets, macaws, cockatoos, etc.; also known as

psittacine birds) listed under the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended. This first announcement of review of species' status will be followed by additional announcements of review for other groups of endangered and threatened foreign species. The Act requires such a review at least once every 5 years. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants accurately reflect the most current status information for each listed species. We request comments and the most current scientific or commercial information available on these species, as well as species that may warrant future consideration for listing. If the present classification of species is not consistent with the best scientific and commercial information available at the conclusion of this review, we may propose changes to the list accordingly.

DATES: Your comments on the notice of review must be received by December 21, 2000 to receive consideration from the Service.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments, information, and questions to the Chief, Division of Scientific Authority; Mail Stop: Room 750, Arlington Square, U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240 (Fax number: 703-358-2276; E-mail address: r9osa@fws.gov). Address express and messenger-delivered mail to the Division of Scientific Authority; Room 750, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection by appointment, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Arlington, Virginia, address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael D. Kreger, Division of Scientific Authority (See **ADDRESSES** section) (phone: 703-358-1708, fax: 703-358-2276, E-mail: r9osa@fws.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Where can the lists of endangered and threatened species be found?

The Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants are found in 50 CFR 17.11 (wildlife) and 17.12 (plants). The most recent lists were published in the Code of Federal Regulations on October 1, 1999; however, we have amended the list since then through final rules published in the **Federal Register**. The lists are

also available on the World Wide Web at http://ecos.fws.gov/webpage/webpage_foreign.html. These lists contain the names of all species of U.S. and foreign wildlife and plants that have been determined by both the Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to be endangered or threatened. The lists also contain the names of species of wildlife that are treated as endangered or threatened because of a similarity of appearance to endangered or threatened species.

Why is this review being conducted?

The procedural rules for listing, reclassifying, or removing species from the lists can be found in 50 CFR Part 424. The Act, as amended, and 50 CFR 424.21 require that the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce conduct a review of each listed species at least once every 5 years. This review will consider all foreign psittacine birds listed as endangered or threatened by the United States. The following table lists the species under review.

Foreign Species in the Order Psittaciformes Listed Under the Endangered Species Act.

Note: All of the following are listed as endangered.

| Common name | Scientific name | Historic range | Year listed |
|--|--|--|-------------|
| Kakapo (owl parrot) | <i>Strigops habroptilus</i> | New Zealand | 1970 |
| Macaw, glaucous | <i>Anodorhynchus glaucus</i> | Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil | 1976 |
| Macaw, indigo | <i>Anodorhynchus leari</i> | Brazil | 1976 |
| Macaw, little blue | <i>Cyanopsitta spixii</i> | Brazil | 1976 |
| Parakeet, blue-throated (ochre-marked) | <i>Pyrrhura cruentata</i> | Brazil | 1970 |
| Parakeet, Forbes' | <i>Cyanoramphus auriceps forbesi</i> | New Zealand | 1970 |
| Parakeet, golden | <i>Aratinga guarouba</i> | Brazil | 1976 |
| Parakeet, golden-shouldered (hooded) | <i>Psephotus chrysopterygius</i> | Australia | 1970 |
| Parakeet, Mauritius | <i>Psittacula echo</i> | Indian Ocean—Mauritius | 1970 |
| Parakeet, Norfolk Island | <i>Cyanoramphus cookii (novaezelandiae c.)</i> | Australia (Norfolk Island) | 1990 |
| Parakeet, orange-bellied | <i>Neophema chrysogaster</i> | Australia | 1970 |
| Parakeet, paradise (beautiful) | <i>Psephotus pulcherrimus</i> | Australia | 1970 |
| Parakeet, scarlet-chested (splendid) | <i>Neophema splendida</i> | Australia | 1970 |
| Parakeet, turquoise | <i>Neophema pulchella</i> | Australia | 1970 |
| Parrot, Bahamian or Cuban | <i>Amazona leucocephala</i> | West Indies—Cuba, Bahamas, Caymans | 1970 |
| Parrot, ground | <i>Pezoporus wallicrus</i> | Australia | 1973 |
| Parrot, imperial | <i>Amazona imperialis</i> | West Indies—Dominica | 1970 |
| Parrot, night (Australian) | <i>Geopsittacus occidentalis</i> | Australia | 1970 |
| Parrot, red-browed | <i>Amazona rhodocorytha</i> | Brazil | 1970 |
| Parrot, red-capped | <i>Pionopsitta pileata</i> | Brazil | 1976 |
| Parrot, red-necked | <i>Amazona arausiaca</i> | West Indies—Dominica | 1979 |
| Parrot, red-spectacled | <i>Amazona pretrei pretrei</i> | Brazil, Argentina | 1976 |
| Parrot, red-tailed | <i>Amazona brasiliensis</i> | Brazil | 1990 |
| Parrot, Seychelles lesser vasa | <i>Coracopsis nigra barklyi</i> | Indian Ocean—Seychelles (Praslin Island) | 1995 |
| Parrot, St. Lucia | <i>Amazona versicolor</i> | West Indies—St. Lucia | 1970 |
| Parrot, St. Vincent | <i>Amazona guildingii</i> | West Indies—St. Vincent | 1970 |
| Parrot, vinaceous-breasted | <i>Amazona vinacea</i> | Brazil | 1976 |

Why start the review process with psittacine birds?

We have chosen to begin the review process with psittacine birds due to the high level of public interest in these species. We receive frequent

communications from the avicultural community and others regarding the status of these birds. Of more than 350 species of psittacine birds, 27 foreign species are listed under the Act. All except four species were listed in the

1970s, and each species was classified as endangered. Since listing, however, national legislation in range countries, international treaties such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild and Fauna

and Flora (CITES), and additional U.S. legislation such as the Wild Bird Conservation Act (P.L. 102-440) have been enacted to control trade in wild birds and encourage species' conservation. New technologies such as the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and advances in telemetry have improved monitoring of wild populations. Habitat protection, captive breeding, and other activities may also affect the biological sustainability of these species. We intend to examine the effectiveness of relevant regulatory and scientific programs to determine the current status of the species listed, to determine whether they should be reclassified or removed from the list, and perhaps to recommend additional species for listing if warranted.

Definitions

What definitions would be helpful in reviewing this list?

The following definitions are provided to assist anyone considering submitting information for this review.

(a) *Psittacine bird* means any member of the Order Psittaciformes, which includes parrots, macaws, budgerigars, parakeets, lovebirds, cockatoos, and similar species.

(b) *Species* includes any species or subspecies of fish or wildlife or plant, and any distinct population segment of any species or subspecies of a vertebrate, that is capable of interbreeding when mature.

(c) *Endangered* means any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

(d) *Threatened* means any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

How do we determine whether a species is endangered or threatened?

A species is determined, or reclassified, to be endangered or threatened because of any of the following factors:

(a) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;

(b) Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;

(c) Disease or predation;

(d) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or

(e) Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

How does a species get removed from the list?

These same five factors must be considered before removing a species from the list. The regulations (50 CFR

424.11(d)) state that the data to support a removal must be the best scientific and commercial information available to the Service to substantiate that the species is neither endangered nor threatened for one or more of the following reasons:

(a) *Extinction*. Unless all individuals of a listed species had been previously identified and located and later found to be extirpated from their previous range, a sufficient period of time must be allowed before delisting to indicate clearly that the species is in fact extinct.

(b) *Recovery of the species*. Our principal goal is to improve the status of listed species to a point where protection under the Act is no longer required. A species may be delisted on the basis that it has recovered only if the best scientific and commercial information available indicate that it is no longer threatened or endangered.

(c) *Original data for classification was in error*. Additional investigations may show that the best scientific or commercial information available when a species was listed, or the interpretation of the data, was in error.

What could happen as a result of this review?

If anyone provides us with substantial new information for one or more species in the table above, we may propose new rules that could do any of the following:

(a) reclassify a species from endangered to threatened; or

(b) consider removal of a species from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

Distinct geographic populations of vertebrate species, as well as subspecies of all listed species, may be proposed for separate reclassification or for removal from the list. New species may also be proposed for addition to the list.

What will happen if no new information is submitted on any of the listed species?

No changes will be made to the classification of any of the species as a result of this review unless substantial information is received. The next formal status review for psittacine species in the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife will occur approximately 5 years after the completion of this review. However, within existing resource capabilities, we will continue to review the status of other listed species and try to initiate reclassification or delisting whenever substantial new information indicates that doing so would be appropriate.

Request for Information

We request comments on this Notice of Review from any foreign government or agency, the public, other Federal,

State, and local governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party. We will provide this Notice to all countries where these species are known to occur in the wild. The comments should provide as much scientific information as possible (e.g., literature citations). Submissions with detailed information are much more helpful than those that advocate or state a position, but contain no biological information. In particular, we are seeking information:

(1) That indicates a need for a change in the status of any of the listed or unlisted psittacine species;

(2) Regarding past and present numbers and distribution of the involved species, subspecies, or distinct vertebrate populations and particular factors currently threatening or no longer threatening the species;

(3) Pointing out taxonomic or nomenclatural changes for any of the taxa;

(4) Suggesting appropriate common names; and

(5) Noting any mistakes, such as errors in the indicated historical ranges.

If possible, this information should be supported by documentation such as maps, a list of bibliographic references, or copies of any pertinent publications, reports, or letters by knowledgeable sources.

What if we receive extensive substantive information on a large number of species?

We will evaluate information received and information in our files and determine: (1) Whether or not any currently listed species should be evaluated; and (2) whether or not the listing of any currently unlisted species should be considered. Due to limited resources available for this effort, our highest priority will be for those species whose conservation status in the wild would most benefit from a change in their listing status under the Act.

Authority: This document is published under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: September 13, 2000.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director.

[FR Doc. 00-24423 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P