

ACTION: Reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: This document reopens the public comment period for above-named notice of proposed rulemaking, published Wednesday, September 20, 2000, at 65 FR 56844–56856. The deadline for public comments is being reopened from the original deadline for public comments of October 20, 2000, to November 13, 2000. This reopening is in response to a request received prior to the close of the original comment period.

DATES: Written comments must be received no later than November 13, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may submit written comments (in duplicate if possible) to Public Docket No. A–2000–16. It is requested that a duplicate copy be submitted to David Sosnowski at the address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section below. The docket is located at the Air Docket, Room M–1500 (6102), Waterside Mall S.W., Washington, DC 20460. The docket may be inspected between 8:30 a.m. and 12 noon and between 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. on weekdays. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying docket material.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Sosnowski, Office of Mobile Sources, Regional and State Programs Division, 2000 Traverwood, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48105. Telephone (734) 214–4823.

List of Subjects

40 CFR Part 51

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Intergovernmental relations, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

40 CFR Part 85

Environmental protection, Confidential business information, Imports, Labeling, Motor vehicle pollution, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Research, Warranties.

Dated: October 19, 2000.

Robert D. Brenner,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 00–27404 Filed 10–27–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018–AG09

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Comment Period on the Proposed Endangered Status for Three Plants From the Mariana Islands and Guam

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period and notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) gives notice of a public hearing on the proposed endangered status for three plants, *Nesogenes rotensis*, *Osmoxylon marianense*, and *Tabernaemontana rotensis* from the Mariana Islands and Guam. In addition, the comment period which originally closed on July 17, 2000, will be reopened. The new comment period and hearing will allow all interested parties to submit oral or written comments on the proposal. 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 comment period for this proposal now closes on November 29, 2000. Any comments received by the closing date will be considered in the final decision on this proposal. The public hearing will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2000, on the island of Rota (Luta), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Prior to the public hearing, the Service will be available from 5 to 6 p.m. to provide information and to answer questions.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the Rota Resort and Country Club, Rota, CNMI. Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Ecoregion Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, room 3–122, P.O. Box 50088, 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: Paul Henson, at the above address, phone 808–541–3441, facsimile 808–541–3470.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On June 1, 2000, the Service published a proposed rule to list three plants from the Mariana Islands and Guam as endangered species, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 35025). The original comment period closed on July 17, 2000. The comment period now closes on November 29, 2000. Written comments should be submitted to the Service (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Nesogenes rotensis and *Osmoxylon marianense* are found only on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Tabernaemontana rotensis occurs on both Rota and the United States Territory of Guam. The three plant species and their habitats have been affected or are now threatened by fire, development/road work, typhoons/storms, nonnative plants, and collecting/trampling by humans. This proposal, if made final, would implement the Federal protection and recovery provisions of the Act.

Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that a public hearing be held if it is requested within 45 days of the publication of a proposed rule. In response to a request from a government agency of the CNMI, the Service will hold a public hearing on the date and at the address described in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections above.

Anyone wishing to make an oral statement for the record is encouraged to provide a written copy of their statement and present it to the Service at the hearing. In the event there is a large attendance, the time allotted for oral statements may be limited. Oral and written statements receive equal consideration. There are no limits to the length of written comments presented at the hearing or mailed to the Service. Legal notices announcing the date, time, and location of the hearing will be published in newspapers concurrently with the **Federal Register** notice.

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 these species;

(2) The location of any additional populations of these species and reasons why any habitat should or should not be designated as critical habitat;

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

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

Reopening of the comment period will enable the Service to respond to the request for a public hearing on the proposed action. The comment period on this proposal now closes on November 29, 2000. Written comments should be submitted to the Service office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Author:

The primary authors of this notice Benton Pang and 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: September 22, 2000.

Rowan W. Gould,

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

[FR Doc. 00-25907 Filed 10-27-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 20

RIN: 1018-AH64

Migratory Bird Hunting; Approval of Tungsten-Nickel-Iron Shot as Nontoxic for Hunting Waterfowl and Coots

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We propose to approve shot formulated of tungsten, nickel, and iron as nontoxic for hunting waterfowl and coots. We assessed possible effects of the tungsten-nickel-iron (t-n-i) shot, and have made a preliminary determination that it is not a significant threat to wildlife or their habitats and that further testing of t-n-i shot is not necessary. In addition, approval of t-n-i shot may induce more waterfowl hunters to switch away from lead shot, reducing lead risks to species and habitats.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule must be received no later than November 29, 2000.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments about this proposal to the Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 634, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1610. You may inspect comments during normal business hours at the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jon Andrew, Chief, or Dr. George T. Allen,

Division of Migratory Bird Management, 703-358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (Act) (16 U.S.C. 703-712 and 16 U.S.C. 742 a-j) implements migratory bird treaties between the United States and Great Britain for Canada (1916 and 1996 as amended), Mexico (1936 and 1972 as amended), Japan (1972 and 1974 as amended), and Russia (then the Soviet Union, 1978). These treaties protect certain migratory birds from take, except as permitted under the Act. The Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to regulate take of migratory birds in the United States. Under this authority, the Fish and Wildlife Service controls the hunting of migratory game birds through regulations in 50 CFR part 20.

Since the mid-1970s, we have sought to identify shot that does not pose a significant toxicity hazard to migratory birds or other wildlife. Compliance with the use of nontoxic shot has increased over the last few years (Anderson *et al.* 2000). We believe that it will continue to increase with the approval and availability of other nontoxic shot types. Currently, steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, and tungsten-matrix shot are approved as nontoxic. On September 25, 2000 (65 FR 57586-57588), we published a proposed rule to grant temporary approval to tin shot. The purpose of this proposed rule is to approve the use of t-n-i shot in the tested formulation (50% tungsten, 35% nickel, and 15% iron by weight) for waterfowl and coot hunting. We propose to amend 50 CFR 20.21 (j), which describes prohibited types of shot for waterfowl and coot hunting.

On April 9, 1999 (64 FR 17308-17309), we announced receipt of an application from Standard Resources Corporation (Standard) of Cherry Hill, New Jersey for nontoxic approval of HEVI-METAL shot in the 50% tungsten, 35% nickel, 15% iron formulation. The density of the shot in that formulation is 11.0 grams/cm³. The manufacturer believes that the shot does not need a coating because it is sufficiently noncorrosive under neutral pH. It is not chemically or physically altered by firing from a shotgun.

On April 19, 1999 (64 FR 19191), we announced that Standard's application did not provide sufficient information for us to conclude that the candidate shot is not a significant danger to migratory birds. We advised Standard to proceed with additional testing of the candidate shot. Subsequently, development of HEVI-METAL was transferred to ENVIRON-Metal, Inc., of

Albany, Oregon (Environ-metal), and the shot was re-named HEVI-SHOT™.

On August 10, 2000, Environ-metal submitted an application for permanent approval of the t-n-i shot as nontoxic for hunting waterfowl and coots. The application included a description of the shot, results and a toxicological report of a preliminary 30-day dosing study of the toxicity of the shot in game-farm mallards (Ecological Planning and Toxicology, Inc. [EPT] 1999), and results of a more comprehensive 30-day acute toxicity study (Brewer and Fairbrother 2000).

Toxicity Information. Tungsten may be substituted for molybdenum in enzymes in mammals. Ingested tungsten salts reduce growth, and can cause diarrhea, coma, and death in mammals (*e.g.* Bursian *et al.* 1996, Cohen *et al.* 1973, Karantassis 1924, Kinard and Van de Erve 1941, National Research Council 1980, Pham-Huu-Chanh 1965), but elemental tungsten is virtually insoluble and therefore essentially nontoxic. In rats, a dietary concentration of 94 parts-per-million (ppm) did not reduce weight gain in growing rats (Wei *et al.* 1987). Lifetime exposure to 5 ppm tungsten as sodium tungstate in drinking water produced no discernible adverse effects in rats (Schroeder and Mitchener 1975). At 100 ppm tungsten as sodium tungstate in drinking water, rats had decreased enzyme activity after 21 days (Cohen *et al.* 1973). These studies indicate that tungsten salts are very toxic to mammals.

Chickens given a complete diet showed no adverse effects of 250 ppm sodium tungstate administered for 10 days in the diet. However, 500 ppm in the diet had detrimental effects on day-old chicks (Teekell and Watts 1959). Adult hens had reduced egg production and egg weight on a diet containing 1,000 ppm tungsten (Nell *et al.* 1981a). EPT (1999) concluded that 250 ppm in the diet would produce no observable adverse effects. Kelly *et al.* (1998) demonstrated no adverse effects on mallards dosed with tungsten-iron or tungsten-polymer shot according to nontoxic shot test protocols.

Most toxicity tests reviewed were based on soluble tungsten compounds rather than elemental tungsten. As we found in our reviews of other tungsten shot types, we believe that there is no basis for concern about the toxicity of the tungsten in t-n-i shot to fish, mammals, or birds.

Nickel is a dietary requirement of mammals, with necessary consumption set at 50 to 80 parts per billion for the rat and chick (Nielsen and Sandstead 1974). Though it is necessary for some enzymes, nickel can compete with