

three song sparrow subspecies of the San Francisco Bay Estuary (*Melospiza melodia* spp.), saltmarsh common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*), old man tiger beetle (*Cicindela senilis senilis*), *Lathyrus jepsonii* ssp. *jepsonii* (delta tule pea), and *Spartina foliosa* (Pacific cordgrass).

Species included in this draft recovery plan occur in a variety of tidal marsh habitats, where they are limited by the requirements of moisture, salinity, topography, soil types, and climatic conditions. Adjacent uplands and ecotone areas are also crucial habitats for many of these species. Primary threats to all the listed species include:

- (1) Historical and current habitat loss and fragmentation due to urban development, agriculture, and diking related to duck hunting;
- (2) Altered hydrology and salinity;
- (3) Nonnative invasive species;
- (4) Inadequate regulatory mechanisms;
- (5) Disturbance;
- (6) Contamination;
- (7) Sea-level rise due to climate change; and
- (8) Risk of extinction due to vulnerability of small populations in the face of random naturally occurring events.

We expect that the following species recovery objectives will be met:

- (1) Secure self-sustaining wild populations of each covered species throughout their full ecological, geographical, and genetic ranges;
- (2) Ameliorate or eliminate the threats, to the extent possible, that caused the species to be listed or of concern and any future threats; and
- (3) Restore and conserve a healthy ecosystem function supportive of tidal marsh species.

These objectives will be accomplished through implementation of a variety of recovery measures, including habitat acquisition, protection, management and restoration; species status surveys/monitoring; research; and stakeholder coordination, public participation, and outreach.

Request for Public Comments

We request written comments on the draft recovery plan. All comments received by the date specified in **DATES** will be considered prior to approval of this plan. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning this recovery plan by one of these methods:

1. You may submit written comments and information by mail or facsimile or in person to the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office at the above address (see **ADDRESSES**).

2. You may send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to: R8TM_RP_CA@fws.gov. If you submit comments by e-mail, please submit them as an ASCII file and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your e-mail message.

Comments and materials received, as well as supporting documentation used in preparation of the recovery plan, will be available for inspection, during normal business hours at the above Sacramento address (see **ADDRESSES**).

We specifically seek comments on the following:

- (1) Biological, commercial trade, or other relevant data concerning any threat (or lack thereof) to the species;
- (2) Feedback on the durability of the science regarding climate change and its treatment presented in the draft recovery plan and comments on how best to ameliorate threats to the species in that regard;
- (3) Additional information concerning the range, distribution, and population size of these species, including the location of any additional populations;
- (4) Current or planned activities in the subject area and their possible impacts on these species; and
- (5) The suitability and feasibility of the recovery criteria, strategies, or actions described in the Draft Plan.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Alexandra Pitts,

Regional Director, Region 8, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-ES-2009-N273; 20124-1113-0000-C2]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Draft Yuma Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) Recovery Plan, First Revision

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability for public review: draft revised recovery plan.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the Draft Yuma Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) Recovery Plan, First Revision under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The species currently inhabits the mainstem Colorado River in Arizona, California, and Nevada; the Virgin River in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah; the Gila River in Arizona; and the Salton Sea in California. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft revised recovery plan. The Service will also accept any new information on the status of the Yuma clapper rail throughout its range to assist in finalizing the revised recovery plan.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive any comments no later than April 12, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft revised recovery plan can obtain a paper or electronic copy from the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021-4951; by phone at (602) 242-0210 extension 236; by e-mail at ycrrecovery@fws.gov; or on our Web site at www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/. Written comments and materials on the draft revised recovery plan may be mailed to "Field Supervisor" at the address above or e-mailed to ycrrecovery@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lesley Fitzpatrick (see **ADDRESSES**).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species, unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Recovery plans help guide the recovery effort by describing actions considered necessary for the conservation of the

species, and estimating time and costs for implementing the measures needed for recovery. A recovery plan was originally completed for Yuma clapper rail in 1983, but the recommendations contained in that plan are outdated given the species' current status.

Section 4(f) of the Act requires that we provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing recovery actions. In fulfillment of this requirement, we are making this draft first revision of the recovery plan for Yuma clapper rail available for a 60-day public comment period.

The document submitted for review is the first revision of the recovery plan for the Yuma clapper rail. It was listed as an endangered species in the United States on March 11, 1967 (32 FR 4001). It was not included on the list of foreign species established under the Endangered Species Conservation Act, so is not listed throughout its historical range in Mexico. Critical habitat has not been designated. The primary threats to the Yuma clapper rail are habitat loss and degradation due to changes in historical hydrographs, channelization, and diversion of river flows for agricultural and municipal purposes.

The draft revised recovery plan includes scientific information about the species and provides criteria and actions needed to downlist or delist the species. Downlisting of the species may be considered when annual surveys document a stable or increasing population trend over five consecutive years, habitat management plans are in place for all important Federal and state-owned habitat areas, and long-term contracts for water supplies at Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge and Imperial State Wildlife Area in California are in place. Delisting of the species may be considered when annual surveys document an additional five consecutive years of a stable or increasing population trend; the amount of habitat needed to support the desired minimum population size in the United States is established and protected, and management plans are in place for that habitat; an assessment of the risks of selenium to the species is completed and protective measures implemented if needed; and a secure water supply for the Cienega de Santa Clara in Mexico is established. Recovery actions designed

to achieve these criteria are included in the draft revised recovery plan and include population and habitat monitoring and evaluation, directed research on habitat and threats, efforts to obtain secure water supplies for important habitats, and cooperation between interested parties in the United States and Mexico.

The draft Yuma Clapper Rail Recovery Plan, First Revision, is being submitted for review to all interested parties. After consideration of comments received during the public comment period, the revised recovery plan will be submitted for final approval.

Request for Public Comments

We are accepting written comments and information during this comment period on the revised draft recovery plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the final recovery plan. Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office in Phoenix (*see ADDRESSES*).

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533 (f).

Dated: November 20, 2009.

Brian Millsap,

Acting Regional Director, Region 2.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCAD070000, L91310000.EI0000]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area, Imperial County, CA, and Possible Land Use Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA) of 1969, as amended and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office, El Centro, California, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan to identify whether lands within the West Chocolate Mountains area should be made available for geothermal, solar, or wind energy development. By this notice the BLM is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS and possible plan amendment. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until March 12, 2010. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd.html>. In order to be considered in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd.html>.
- **E-mail:** cawestchocolate@ca.blm.gov.

- **Fax:** (951) 697-5299.
- **Mail:** ATTN: John Dalton, BLM California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553-9046.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the California Desert District Office or the BLM's California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact John Dalton, telephone (951) 697-5311; address BLM California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553-9046; e-mail cawestchocolate@ca.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The focus of the EIS is to assess whether the 21,300 acres of BLM-managed lands within the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area should be made available for renewable energy development, including