

is subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.

#### 6. PHS Non-Use of Tobacco Policy Statement

The PHS strongly encourages all grant and contract recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the non-use of all tobacco products. In addition, Public Law 103-227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities (or in some cases, any portion of a facility) in which regular or routine education, library, day care, health care, or early childhood development services are provided to children. This is consistent with the PHS mission to protect and advance the physical and mental health of the American people.

#### 7. Executive Order 12372

Applications submitted in response to the FY 2000 activity listed above are subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12372, as implemented through DHHS regulations at 45 CFR Part 100. E.O. 12372 sets up a system for State and local government review of applications for Federal financial assistance. Applicants (other than Federally recognized Indian tribal governments) should contact the State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) as early as possible to alert them to the prospective application(s) and to receive any necessary instructions on the State's review process. For proposed projects serving more than one State, the applicant is advised to contact the SPOC of each affected State. A current listing of SPOCs is included in the application guidance materials. The SPOC should send any State review process recommendations directly to: Division of Extramural Activities, Policy, and Review, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Parklawn Building, Room 17-89, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

The due date for State review process recommendations is no later than 60 days after the specified deadline date for the receipt of applications. SAMHSA does not guarantee to accommodate or explain SPOC comments that are received after the 60-day cut-off.

Dated: February 13, 2000.

**Richard Kopanda,**

*Executive Officer, SAMHSA.*

[FR Doc. 00-3863 Filed 2-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4162-20-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of a Recommended Year 2000 Survey Protocol for the Endangered Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*)

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; survey protocol.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of its recommended survey protocol for the 2000 field season for determining the presence/absence of the endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly. Using information gathered during 1999, we revised the "Survey Protocol for the Endangered Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) for the 1999 Field Season" dated January 25, 1999. The current recommended protocol entitled "Year 2000 Survey Protocol for the Endangered Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*)" incorporates those modifications found to be appropriate, and replaces the 1999 protocol. We will annually review and modify this survey protocol as needed to ensure that the best scientific information is incorporated into the prescribed methodology.

**DATES:** Data and comments on the year 2000 survey protocol received by August 4, 2000, will be considered in the development of the 2001 survey protocol.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of this protocol may be obtained from the Service's Region 1 World Wide Web Home Page at <http://www.r1.fws.gov/text/quino.html> or from the Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008. Comments and materials concerning the survey protocol should be sent to the Field Supervisor at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Kehoe at the above address (telephone 760-431-9440, fax 760-431-9618).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The quino checkerspot butterfly was listed as an endangered species on January 16, 1997 (62 FR 2313) as result of loss and degradation of habitat, invasion by alien species, overgrazing, fires, poorly planned fire management practices, and off-road vehicle use. The historic range of the quino checkerspot

butterfly extended from the Santa Monica Mountains east and south along the foothills of the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges in California, and south into Baja California, Mexico. Adults have been found from sea level to approximately 1,500 meters (5,000 feet) and populations can be found today in southern San Diego and southwestern Riverside Counties, California. Quino checkerspot butterflies can be observed from mid-February to mid-May, depending on weather. Quino checkerspot butterflies are generally associated with sage scrub, open chaparral, grasslands, and vernal pools; especially open or sparsely vegetated areas, hilltops and ridgelines, rocky outcrops, trails, and dirt roads.

We are seeking additional information to increase our understanding of Quino checkerspot butterfly ecology and biology throughout the species' range. We intend to annually review and modify as necessary the recommended survey protocol to ensure that the best scientific information is incorporated into the prescribed methodology. Therefore, data and comments on the year 2000 survey protocol that we receive by August 4, 2000, will be considered in the development of the 2001 quino survey protocol.

Dated: February 10, 2000.

**Elizabeth H. Stevens,**

*Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.*

[FR Doc. 00-3789 Filed 2-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of scoping Meeting on Intent To Prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement in Anticipation of Receiving an Endangered Species Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit Application to Incidentally Take Listed Species From the San Marcos and Comal Springs Ecosystems by the Edwards Aquifer Authority in Their Efforts to Manage Underground Water Withdrawals From the Southern Edwards Aquifer

**AGENCY:** Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office Complex, Austin, Texas.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to conduct scoping meetings and prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** This notice advised the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information

necessary to prepare an EIS for an anticipated incidental take permit applications, including a required HCP by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (Authority) of San Antonio, Texas. The application is for the Authority's management of the water withdrawals from the Edwards Aquifer, which directly affects the flow of two south central Texas springs: Comal and San Marcos Springs. The Authority is requesting a Permit for seven endangered and one threatened species. The endangered species include the Texas blind salamander (*Typhlomolge rathbuni*), fountain darter (*Etheostoma fonticola*), San Marcos gambusia (*Gambusia georgei*), Texas wild-rice (*Zizania texana*), Comal Springs riffle beetle (*Heterelmis comalensis*), Comal Springs dyopid beetle (*Stygoparnus comalensis*), and Peck's cave amphipod (*Stygobromus pecki*). The threatened species is the San Marcos salamander (*Eurycea nana*). The Authority also plans to seek coverage for Cagle's map turtle (*Graptemys caglei*) not currently listed, but occurring in the Guadalupe River upstream and downstream of Comal Springs. Based on the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Authority will prepare a HCP that includes measure to minimize and mitigate any taking of species that may occur incidental to the permitted withdrawal of groundwater from the Edwards Aquifer.

This notice is provided as required by the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), (50 CFR 17.22) and National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.7) regulations.

**DATES:** Written comments from all interested parties must be received on or before 20 March 2000. Public scoping meetings for receipt of comments will be held on 28 February in Uvalde, 29 February in San Antonio, and 1 March 2000 in San Marcos, Texas.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and requests for information should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ATTN: Mary Orms, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78758; telephone (512) 490-0057; facsimile (512) 490-0974. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the same address. Questions regarding the HCP should be directed to Robert Hall, Edwards Aquifer Authority, 1615 N. St. Mary's St., P.O. 15830, San Antonio, TX 78212-9030.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Service is soliciting information and comments on the scope of issues to

be addressed in the EIS. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the human environment. NEPA scoping procedures are intended to insure that information on the proposed action, alternatives and impacts are solicited from the public and that all information is available to public officials and citizens before planning decisions are made. Accurate scientific analysis, expert agency comments and public scrutiny are essential to implementing NEPA. NEPA documents concentrate on the issues that are significant to the action in question. The Service invites the public to submit information and comments either in writing or at any of the three scheduled meetings. The Uvalde meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on 28 February 2000 at the Sgt. Willie DeLeon Civic Center Reading Room in Uvalde, Texas. The San Antonio meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on 29 February 2000 in the Conference Room of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, 1615 N. St. Mary's, San Antonio, Texas. The San Marcos meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on 1 March 2000 at the San Marcos Community Center in San Marcos, Texas. The service requests that comments be as specific as possible.

Major environmental and species concerns in this scoping process include the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that implementation of the proposal could have on endangered and threatened species, critical habitat and other environmental resources, and the quality of the human environment. Other relevant issues include effects of aquifer and water withdrawal levels on Comal and San Marcos spring flows, effects of various aquifer water use management options and alternative water supply options on the environments affected by those options, and effects on the downstream environment.

The Service proposes to prepare an EIS to evaluate the impacts of alternatives associated with issuing an incidental take permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. The Authority, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, is charged with the duty to manage, conserve, preserve and protect the Edwards Aquifer and have indicated an interest in pursuing incidental take authorization.

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of federally listed animal species, unless authorized under the provisions of section 7 or 10 of the ESA. The term "take" under the ESA includes actions

that may directly kill or injure listed species, actions that significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns such as feeding and breeding, and actions that detrimentally modify habitat to the extent that it harms individuals of the species.

Section 10(a)(1)(B) allows the Service to permit taking of listed species provided that taking is incidental to an otherwise legal activity and that it will not jeopardize a listed species. A HCP must be submitted as part of the incidental take permit application by the applicant.

The San Marcos and Comal Springs Ecosystems are dependent upon adequate spring flow from the San Antonio Segment of the Edwards Aquifer to support, endangered species and critical habitat, as well as several species proposed for federal listing. The Edwards Aquifer is the sole source of water for over 1.5 million people who live over the aquifer. Given the growing water use anticipated in the southern Edwards Aquifer region, an overall management plan seems necessary to assure the sustained spring flow in the two systems.

Decline of spring flow in the two systems will result in "take" of listed species and in an appreciable reduction of the value of critical habitat, and an appreciable reduction in the likelihood of survival and recovery of listed species. The Service has estimated minimum spring flow for the two systems necessary to avoid any of these conditions.

The Authority proposes to adopt a HCP consistent with objectives of the approved San Marcos and Comal Springs and Associated Aquatic Ecosystems (Revised) Recovery Plan for the spring associated ecosystems, with the Federal court ruling, and with Sections 9 and 10 of the ESA. The Authority's intention in developing the HCP is to establish a comprehensive approach to protect federally listed species and their habitats as affected by groundwater withdrawals from the aquifer. Activities proposed for coverage under the Permit may include management and permitting of certain water withdrawals from the Edwards Aquifer within the jurisdiction of the EAA, and habitat conservation measures to mitigate impacts of changes in flows of Comal Springs in New Braunfels, Texas; San Marcos Springs in San Marcos, Texas; and/or the Guadalupe River.

In addition to considering impacts on listed species and their habitat, the EIS must include information on impacts from the proposal and alternatives to the proposal on other components of the

human environment. These other components include such things as air and water quality, cultural resources, other fish and wildlife species, social resources, and economic resources.

The Service is gathering information necessary for the preparation of an EIS. Information such as the following topics that would assist the Service in assessing the impacts of the issuance of an incidental take permit under the provisions of an HCP is being sought: the hydrogeology of the Edwards Aquifer and the effects of aquifer levels on spring flows at Comal and San Marcos Springs as they relate to the habitat needs of federally listed species; potential water conservation measures and strategies to reduce the withdrawal demands on the Edwards Aquifer and their effects on spring flows; alternate water supplies and their potential effect on reducing Edwards Aquifer water withdrawals and maintaining spring flows; effects of aquifer level management and spring flow changes on the quality of the issues; or suggestions that would be relevant toward the Service's review and development of alternatives.

**William Seawell,**

*Assistant Supervisor, Austin U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office Complex, Austin, Texas.*

[FR Doc. 00-3790 Filed 2-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Eleventh Regular Meeting; Draft Resolutions, Draft Decisions, Discussion Papers, Other Agenda Items, and Proposals To Amend the CITES Appendices Submitted by the United States for Consideration at the Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States, as a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), may submit draft resolutions, draft decisions, discussion papers, and other agenda items for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. The United States may also propose amendments to the CITES Appendices (species proposals) for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the

Parties. The eleventh regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP11) will be held at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters in Gigiri, Kenya, April 10-20, 2000. The deadline for the United States to submit to the CITES Secretariat its draft resolutions, draft decisions, discussion papers, species proposals, and other agenda items for consideration at COP11 was November 12, 1999.

With this notice we announce the draft resolutions, draft decisions, discussion papers, species proposals, and other agenda items submitted by the United States for consideration at COP11.

**ADDRESSES:** (1) For information pertaining to draft resolutions, draft decisions, discussion papers, and other agenda items: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, Branch of CITES Operations, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, VA 22203; or E-mail: [r9oma\\_cites@fws.gov](mailto:r9oma_cites@fws.gov). (2) For information pertaining to species proposals: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Scientific Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 750, Arlington, VA 22203; or E-mail: [r9osa@fws.gov](mailto:r9osa@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** (1) For information pertaining to draft resolutions, draft decisions, discussion documents, and other agenda items: Teiko Saito, Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, tel. 703-358-2095, fax 703-358-2298. (2) For information pertaining to species proposals: Susan Lieberman, Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Scientific Authority, tel. 703-358-1708, fax 703-358-2276.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, TIAS 8249, referred to below as CITES or the Convention, is an international treaty designed to control and regulate international trade in certain animal and plant species that are now or potentially may be threatened with extinction. These species are listed in Appendices to CITES, copies of which are available from the Office of Management Authority or the Office of Scientific Authority at the above addresses, from our World Wide Website <http://international.fws.gov>, or from the official CITES Secretariat Website at <http://www.cites.org/CITES/eng/index.shtml>. Currently, 148 countries, including the United States,

are Parties to CITES. CITES calls for biennial meetings of the Conference of the Parties, which review issues pertaining to CITES implementation, make provisions enabling the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland to carry out its functions, consider amendments to the list of species in Appendices I and II, consider reports presented by the Secretariat, and make recommendations for the improved effectiveness of CITES. Any country that is a Party to CITES may propose amendments to Appendices I and II, resolutions, decisions, discussion papers, and agenda items for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. Only Party countries may submit species proposals, draft resolutions, draft decisions, discussion papers, and agenda items for consideration at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Accredited non-governmental organizations may participate in the meeting as approved observers, and may speak during sessions, but may not vote.

This is our fifth in a series of **Federal Register** notices that, together with announced public meetings, provide you with an opportunity to participate in the development of the United States' negotiating positions for the eleventh regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP11). We published our first such **Federal Register** notice on January 30, 1998 (63 FR 4613), and with it we requested information and recommendations on potential species amendments for the United States to consider submitting for discussion at COP11. You may obtain information on that **Federal Register** notice, and on species amendment proposals, from the Office of Scientific Authority at the above address. We published our second such **Federal Register** notice on September 4, 1998 (63 FR 47316), and with it we requested information and recommendations on potential resolutions and agenda items for the United States to consider submitting for discussion at COP11. You may obtain information on that **Federal Register** notice, and on proposed resolutions and agenda items, from the Office of Management Authority at the above address. We published our third such **Federal Register** notice on February 26, 1999 (64 FR 9523), and with it we announced the time and place of COP11, announced the times and places for the next meetings of the CITES Animals and Plants Committees, and announced a public meeting to discuss issues that were to be raised at those committee meetings. We published our fourth such **Federal Register** notice on July 8, 1999 (64 FR 36893), and with it