

from trampling by dune visitors is also a concern (R. Beymer, pers. comm. 1996; B. Pavlik, *in litt.* 1996). The road leading out of the north end of Death Valley National Park, past the Eureka Dunes access road, has been improved in the last 2 years, and additional portions of it have been paved (R. Beymer, pers. comm. 1996). Although NPS has neither publicized nor planned any improvements in facilities at the Eureka Dunes, the area is likely to attract more visitors due to its recent inclusion within a National Park. The Service acknowledges the potential for trampling by visitors to affect *A. lentiginosus* var. *micans*, but concludes that evidence is insufficient to conclude that the Park cannot adequately manage visitor use to effectively protect this taxon and promote the recovery of the co-occurring listed taxa on the dunes.

The naturally limited global distribution and abundance of *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *micans* and *A. lentiginosus* var. *sesquimetalis* increase their vulnerability to extirpation or extinction by unforeseen catastrophic events, either natural (e.g., prolonged drought combined with disease outbreak) or human-caused. Proactive recovery efforts to lessen the threat of such random events typically involves the establishment of additional populations. However, the Service has no evidence to suggest that these taxa have ever been found beyond the areas they currently occupy. Therefore, their conservation would not include increasing the number or distribution of populations beyond the dunes which they currently inhabit. Because of the low probability of an unforeseen catastrophic event(s), either natural (e.g., prolonged drought combined with disease outbreak) or human-caused, taking place and affecting entire populations or colonies of these taxa, the significance of threat from such an event is insufficient to warrant listing at this time.

The Service has carefully assessed the best scientific and commercial information available in the development of this withdrawal notice. After review and consideration of all information available regarding the past, present, and future threats, and past and current conservation efforts by BLM and NPS, the Service has determined that insufficient evidence of threat exists at this time to warrant listing of *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *micans* and *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *sesquimetalis* as threatened under the Act. The Service will continue to monitor data involving population status, visitor use, vehicle trespass, the presence of nonnative species (including livestock and feral

burros) or other activities or habitat changes affecting these two taxa.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited herein is available upon request from the Ventura Field Office (see ADDRESSES section).

Authors: The primary authors of this withdrawal notice are Diane Steeck, Ventura Field Office and Christine Mullen, Nevada State Office (see ADDRESSES section).

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(b)(6)(B)(ii) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Dated: September 29, 1998.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 20

RIN 1018-AD74

Extension of Comment Period: Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations Regarding Baiting and Baited Areas

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Service is extending the comment period on the **Federal Register** proposed rule published March 25, 1998 (63 FR 14415) and extended on May 22, 1998 (63 FR 28343) that invites public comments on proposed changes to the migratory bird hunting regulations regarding baiting and baited areas.

DATES: The deadline for postmark on comments will be extended from October 1, 1998, to October 22, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding this proposed rulemaking should be addressed to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Post Office Box 3247, Arlington, Virginia 22203-3247, or sent via electronic mail to: R9LE_WWW@FWS.GOV. Comments may be hand-delivered to 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22203. The public may inspect comments upon appointment during

normal business hours at 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Adams, Chief, Office of Law Enforcement, telephone 703/358-1949.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has authority (16 U.S.C. 712 and 16 U.S.C. 742a-j) to regulate activities involving the hunting and other taking of migratory game birds. The Service has promulgated regulations (50 CFR part 20) for the hunting of migratory game birds that includes sections for *Methods of Take* and *Definitions of Terms*.

In a **Federal Register** notice dated March 25, 1998, the Service proposed new regulatory language for: accidental scattering of agricultural crops or natural vegetation incidental to hunting, normal agricultural and soil stabilization practices, baited areas, baiting, manipulation, natural vegetation, and top-sowing of seeds. Proposed changes also included new guidance with respect to hunting over natural vegetation that has been manipulated. However, no change was proposed regarding application of strict liability to the migratory game bird baiting regulations.

At the request of a number of organizations, in a **Federal Register** notice dated May 22, 1998, the Service extended the comment period to October 1, 1998. In response to requests to again extend the comment period, and to invite careful consideration by all parties and facilitate substantive public review, the Service is extending the comment period through October 31, 1998.

Dated: October 1, 1998.

Jamie R. Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 222 and 227

[I.D. 081098D]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Petition to Delist Pacific Salmon

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.