roles of each area in providing conservation benefits to the snowy plover have been identified in preparing the proposal. An economic analysis will be completed which estimates the potential economic effects of proposing critical habitat. The steps followed by the Service in designating critical habitat and in assessing the potential economic effects associated with a designation of the proposed areas will be fully described in the final rule and in the economic analysis report.

## Public Comments Solicited

The Service intends that any final action resulting from this proposal will be as accurate and as effective as possible in the conservation of endangered or threatened species and the protection of critical habitat. Therefore, comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning this proposed rule are hereby solicited. Comments particularly are sought concerning:

- (1) Reasons why any habitat (either existing or additional areas) should or should not be determined to be critical habitat as provided by section 4 of the Act:
- (2) Current or planned activities and their possible impacts on proposed critical habitat areas;
- (3) Any foreseeable economic and other impacts resulting from the proposed designation of critical habitat;
- (4) Economic values associated with benefits of designating critical habitat for the coastal population of the western snowy plover; and
- (5) Information the Service might use, under section 4(b)(2) of the Act, in determining whether the benefits of excluding an area from critical habitat outweigh the benefits of specifying the area as critical habitat.

Any final decision on this proposal will take into consideration the comments and any additional information received by the Service during the 60-day comment period following publication of this proposed rule. The final decision on designation of critical habitat also will include any exclusion determinations.

The Endangered Species Act provides for a public hearing on this proposal, if requested. Requests must be received within 45 days of the date of publication of this proposal in the **Federal Register**. Such requests must be made in writing and should be sent to the Field Supervisor, Sacramento Field Office (see ADDRESSES section).

## National Environmental Policy Act

The Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement, as defined under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, need not be prepared in connection with regulations adopted pursuant to section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. A notice outlining the Service's reasons for this determination was published in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244).

Executive Order 12866 and Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866. Based on the information discussed in this rule concerning public projects and private activities within critical habitat areas, there are no significant economic impacts resulting from the critical habitat designation. There are a limited number of actions on private land that have Federal involvement through funds or permits that may be affected by critical habitat designation. Also, no direct costs, enforcement costs. information collection, or recordkeeping requirements are imposed on small entities by this designation. Further, the rule contains no recordkeeping requirements as defined by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1990. This rule does not require a Federalism assessment under Executive Order 12612 because it would not have any significant federalism effects as described in the order.

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