Service's Southeast Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345.

It is the policy of the Service, published in the Federal Register on July 1, 1994 (50 FR 34272), to identify to the maximum extent practicable those activities that would or would not constitute a violation of section 9 of the Act at the time of listing. The intent of this policy is to increase public awareness of the effect of listing on proposed or ongoing activities. The only known populations of Cordia bellonis are restricted to three Commonwealth forests: Maricao, Susúa and Río Abajo. Since there is no Federal ownership, and the species is not currently in trade, the only potential section 9 involvement would relate to removing or damaging the plant in knowing violation of Commonwealth criminal trespass law. Section 15.01(b) of the Commonwealth "Regulation to Govern the Management of Threatened and Endangered Species in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" states: "It is illegal to take, cut, mutilate, uproot, burn or excavate any endangered plant species or part thereof within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico." The Service is not aware of any otherwise lawful activities being conducted or proposed by the public that will be affected by this listing and result in a violation of section 9.

Questions regarding whether specific activities will constitute a violation of section 9 should be directed to the Field Supervisor of the Service's Caribbean Field Office (see ADDRESSES section). Requests for copies of the regulations on listed species and inquiries regarding prohibitions and permits should be addressed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services (TE), 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345–3301 (404/679–7096).

Public Comments Solicited

The Service intends that any final action resulting from this proposal will be as accurate and as effective as possible. Therefore, any comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning any aspect of this proposed rule are hereby solicited. Comments particularly are sought concerning: (1) Biological, commercial trade, or other relevant data concerning any threat (or lack thereof) to this species;

(2) The location of any additional populations of this plant species, and the reasons why any habitat should or should not be determined to be critical habitat as provided by section 4 of the Act;

(3) Additional information concerning the range, distribution and population size of this species;

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

Final promulgation of a regulation(s) on this species will take into consideration the comments and any additional information received by the Service, and such communications may lead to adoption of a final regulation that differs from this proposal.

The Endangered Species Act provides for one or more public hearings on this proposal, if requested. Requests must be received within 45 days of the date of publication of the proposal in the Federal Register. Such requests must be made in writing and be addressed to the Field Supervisor, Caribbean Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. P.O. Box 491, Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622.

National Environmental Policy Act

The Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statements, 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).

References Cited

- Breckon, G.J., and D.A. Kolterman. 1993. *Cordia bellonis* Urban [Boraginaceae]. Final report under cooperative agreement No. 14–16–0004–92–970 between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus. 14 pp.
- Breckon, G.J., and D.A. Kolterman. 1994. Cordia bellonis Urban [Boraginaceae]. Final report under cooperative agreement No. 14–16–0004–93–973 between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus. 4 pp.

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- Liogier, H.A., and L.F. Martorell. 1982. Flora of Puerto Rico and adjacent islands: a systematic synopsis. Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico. 342 pp.
- Proctor, G. 1991. Puerto Rican plant species of concern: Status and recommendations. Miscellaneous Scientific Publication No.2. Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, San Juan, Puerto Rico. 59–61 p.
- Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority. 1995. Report to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on plant species, Puerto Rican boa and monitoring program of the broad-winged hawk PR-10 Highway, Arecibo-Utuado. Unpublished report.
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Author

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List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

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

Proposed Regulation Promulgation

Accordingly, the Service hereby proposes to amend part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below:

PART 17—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201–4245; Pub. L. 99–625, 100 Stat. 3500; unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 17.12(h) is amended by adding the following, in alphabetical order under FLOWERING PLANTS, to the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants to read as follows:

§17.12 Endangered and threatened plants.

* * (h) * * *