available for review by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111–4056. Telephone: (612/725–3536, x 250); FAX: (612/725–3526).

John A. Blankenship,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological
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Dated: September 22, 1995.

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for the Molokai Plant Cluster for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft Molokai Plant Cluster Recovery Plan. There are 16 taxa of plants included in this plan. Fourteen of the 16 taxa are known to be extant only on the island of Molokai, Hawaii; one species also is found on the islands of Hawaii and Oahu, the other is also on the island of Lanai

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before November 27, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following locations: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, room 6307, P.O. Box 50167, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850 (phone 808/ 541-2749); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, Ecological Services, 911 N.E. 11th Ave., Eastside Federal Complex, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (phone 503/231-6131); and Molokai Public Library, 15 Ala Malama Street, Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748 (phone 808/553-5483). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Brooks Harper, Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, at the above Honolulu address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Rowland, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Honolulu address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in 1988 requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised Recovery Plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plans. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

The 16 taxa being considered in this recovery plan are: Bidens wiebkei (ko'oko'olau), Brighamia rockii (pua 'ala), Canavalia molokaiensis ('awikiwiki). Clermontia oblongifolia ssp. brevipes ('oha wai), Cyanea mannii (haha), Cyanea procera (haha), Hedyotis mannii (pilo), Hibiscus arnottianus ssp. immaculatus (koki'o ke'oke'o), Melicope reflexa (alani), Phyllostegia mannii (no common name (NCN)), Pritchardia munroi (loulu), Schiedea lydgatei (NCN), Silene alexandri (NCN), Silene lanceolata (NCN), Stenogyne bifida (NCN), and Tetramolopium rockii (NCN).

Tetramolopium rockii is listed as threatened, while the remaining 15 taxa are listed as endangered. Fourteen of the 16 taxa are known to be extant only on the island of Molokai, Hawaii; one species also is found on the islands of Oahua and Hawaii, the other is also on Lanai. The 16 plant taxa and their

habitats have been variously affected and are threatened by 1 or more of the following: habitat degradation and/or predation by wild, feral, or domestic animals (axis deer, goats, pigs, sheep, and cattle); competition for space, light, water, and nutrients by naturalized, alien vegetation; habitat loss from fires; predation by rats; human recreational activities; and military training exercises. Because of the depauperate number of extant individuals and their severely restricted distributions, populations of these taxa are subject to an increased likelihood of extinction from stochastic events.

Fifteen of these taxa are known from East Molokai and one is also known from West Molokai. The 16 taxa included in this plan grow in a variety of vegetation communities (grassland, shrubland, and forests), elevational zones (coastal to montane), and moisture regimes (dry to wet).

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of these 16 taxa so that their protection by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is no longer necessary. Immediate actions necessary for the prevention of extinction of these taxa include fencing for exclusion of ungulates, alien plant control, protection from fire, population and plant community monitoring and management, ex situ propagation, and augmentation of populations, as appropriate. Long-term activities necessary for the perpetuation of these taxa in their natural habitats additionally include baseline and longterm research, public education, maintenance of fenced areas, long-term monitoring and management of populations and communities, and reestablishment of populations within the historic ranges of some taxa. Further research regarding current range, reproduction and reproductive status, pollinators, life history, limiting factors, habitat requirements, and minimum viable population sizes is needed to facilitate appropriate management decisions regarding the long-term perpetuation of each of these taxa.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of these plans.

Authority

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