



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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February 22, 2002

In Reply Refer To:
6840(P)
CA-930

EMS TRANSMISSION: 2/22/02
Instruction Memorandum No. CA-2002-032
Expires: 9/30/2003

To: District Manager, California Desert

From: State Director

Subject: Proposed Critical Habitat for Five Endemic Carbonate Plants

DD: 4/11/02

On February 12, 2002, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a notice (*Federal Register* 67:6578-6612; copy attached) proposing critical habitat for the following endemic carbonate plants from the San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino County, California.

Parish's daisy (*Erigeron parishii*)
Cushenbury buckwheat (*Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *vineum*)
Cushenbury oxytheca (*Oxytheca parishii* var. *goodmaniana*)
Cushenbury milk-vetch (*Astragalus albens*)
San Bernardino Mountains bladderpod (*Lesquerella kingii* ssp. *bernardina*)

For the first four of these species, there is some overlap of proposed critical habitat with BLM administered lands. Approximately 1,585 acres of the 13,180 acres of proposed critical habitat are administered by BLM. Please review the proposed rule, and associated maps, and advise CA-930 if you have comments or suggestions regarding the proposed critical habitat boundaries, or any other aspects of the proposed rule. The deadline for submitting comments to FWS is April 15, 2002. Please provide us with your comments, if any, by the close of business on April 11, 2002.

Now that critical habitat has been officially proposed for these species, the conference requirements of Section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR 402.10 are applicable to any BLM actions likely to cause the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. Additionally, the guidance in Manual Section 6840.06B1 calls for BLM to confer with FWS "... on any action that is likely to adversely affect a proposed species or proposed critical habitat." Any

outstanding requests for formal consultation with FWS on any of these carbonate plants should be amended to include conference on proposed critical habitat.

Please submit your comments, if any, on the attached proposed rule to CA-930 (Attn: Ed Lorentzen) in an electronic format by April 11, 2002. Questions regarding this proposal may be directed to Mr. Lorentzen at (916) 978-4646.

Signed by:
Mike Pool
State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management

Attachment

- 1 - Proposed Determination of Critical Habitat for Five Carbonate Plants From the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California (37 pp.)

Distribution

CA-680 (w/attachment)
CA-920 (w/attachment)
WO-230, MS 204 LS (w/ attachment)