



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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May 27, 2003

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

EMS TRANSMISSION: 5/27/03
Information Bulletin No. CA-2003-044

To: Field Managers, Bakersfield, Folsom, and Hollister

From: State Director

Subject: Proposed Rule to List the Central California Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the California Tiger Salamander
DD: 7/18/03

On May 23, 2003, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a proposed rule (*Federal Register* 68:28648-28670) to list the Central California DPS of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) as a threatened species. (See Attachment 1.) This Federal Register notice also examines the relationship between the Central California DPS and the previously listed Sonoma County and Santa Barbara County populations to determine whether a rangewide listing for this species may be appropriate. The proposed rulemaking therefore also includes a proposal to reclassify the Santa Barbara and Sonoma populations, which are currently listed as endangered, as threatened "species."

The distribution of the California tiger salamander is described by FWS as follows:

The range of the California tiger salamander is restricted to California. The species persists in disjunct remnant vernal pool complexes in Sonoma and Santa Barbara counties, in vernal pool complexes and isolated ponds scattered mainly along narrow strips of rangeland on each side of the Central Valley from southern Colusa County south to northern Kern County, and in sag ponds and human-maintained stock ponds in the coast ranges from Suisun Bay south to the Temblor Range.

Please review the attached Federal Register notice and provide CA-930 (Attn: Ed Lorentzen) with your comments on the proposed listing, if any, by the close of business July 18, 2003. The deadline for submitting comments to FWS is July 22, 2003. A series of public hearings has been scheduled on this proposal in the cities of Livermore, Monterey, and Merced during the period June 16-19, 2003.

Now that the Central California DPS of the California tiger salamander is officially proposed for listing, it is covered by Section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR 402.10. For any actions likely to jeopardize the continued existence of this species, BLM is required to initiate a section 7 conference with FWS. Additionally, the guidance in Manual Section 6840 calls for BLM to confer with FWS "... on any action that is likely to adversely affect a proposed species or proposed critical habitat."

Questions regarding this proposal may be directed to Ed Lorentzen at (916) 978-4646.

Signed by:
James Wesley Abbott
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management

Attachment

1 - Proposed Rule to List the Central California DPS of the Tiger Salamander (23 pp.)

Distribution

CA-190 (Attn: Project Manager, Fort Ord)
WO-230, MS 204 LS (Attn: Peggy Olwell)