

issue of significance need not be addressed.

This finding announced herein is not intended to discount the importance of the coastal sage scrub ecosystem in southern California, which is the subject of intense multispecies and ecosystem planning efforts that have been undertaken and endorsed by the Service; the Secretary of Interior; the Resources Agency, State of California; the California Department of Fish and Game; numerous local governments; citizens' groups; and individual citizens. Cactus wrens living in coastal southern California have declined in numbers, and coastal sage-scrub habitats are becoming increasingly depleted. Efforts to conserve these depleted habitats will be of benefit to cactus wrens residing in coastal southern California. Federal candidate species, and other sensitive species.

In the absence of sufficient evidence to establish that a distinct entity exists, the Service concludes that it is appropriate to transfer the "coastal population of the cactus wren" from category 2 candidate status to category 3B. Category 3B species are taxa that, on the basis of current taxonomic understanding, do not represent distinct taxa, including geographically discrete populations, meeting the definition of "species." Such taxa will be reevaluated in the future on the basis of new information. In that regard, the Service will continue to gather information on the taxonomy and uniqueness of cactus wren taxa and the significance of the Pacific coast population segment.

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

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

Dated: August 29, 1994.

Mollie H. Beattie,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 424

[I.D. 082694A]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Notice of Public Hearing and Extension of Comment Period on Proposed Endangered Status for the Umpqua River Cutthroat Trout

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing on the proposed listing of Umpqua River cutthroat trout as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and extension of the public comment period.

SUMMARY: On July 8, 1994, NMFS proposed listing Umpqua River cutthroat trout as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (59 FR 35089). Department of Commerce ESA implementing regulations state that the Secretary of Commerce "shall promptly hold at least one public hearing if any person so requests within 45 days of publication of a proposed regulation to list . . . a species" (50 CFR 424.16

(c)(3)). A public hearing on the proposed listing provides the opportunity for the public to give comments and to permit an exchange of information and opinion among interested parties. In response to a request by the Douglas Timber Operators, Inc. for a public hearing, NMFS announces that a hearing on the proposed listing of the Umpqua River cutthroat trout will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Thursday, September 29, 1994, at the Timber/Indian Rooms of the Campus Center at the Umpqua Community College. The Umpqua Community College is located on College Way Road, Winchester, OR, and is approximately 7 miles north of Roseburg.

The original public comment period for the proposed listing of Umpqua River cutthroat trout was scheduled to close on September 6, 1994. To ensure that the public is provided adequate opportunity to comment on the proposed listing, and in order to accept public comment after the public hearing, NMFS is extending the ongoing public comment period for 30 additional days. The extended public comment period for the proposed rule to list Umpqua River cutthroat trout as endangered will conclude October 6, 1994. Written comments should be sent to the address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garth Griffin, Environmental and Technical Services Division, NMFS, 911 NE. 11th Ave., Rm. 620, Portland, OR (503) 230-5430.

Dated: August 26, 1994.

Herbert W. Kaufman,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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