

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Comment Period and Public Hearing on Proposed Endangered Status for the Ouachita Rock-Pocketbook (*Arkansia wheeleri*)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period and notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) gives notice that a public hearing will be held and the comment period reopened on the proposed rule to list the Ouachita rock-pocketbook (*Arkansia wheeleri*) as an endangered species. The hearing and the reopening of the comment period will allow all interested parties to submit oral or written comments on the proposal.

DATES: The public hearing will be held from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on November 19, 1990, in Antlers, Oklahoma. The comment period for this proposal will be reopened on November 14, 1990, and will close on December 4, 1990. Comments must be received by the closing date. Any comments that are received after the closing date may not be considered in the final decision on this proposal.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the Antlers Community Center, 200 S. High Street, Antlers, Oklahoma. Written comments and materials should be sent to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 222 S. Houston, suite A, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Martinez, at the above address (918/581-7458 or FTS 745-7458).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Ouachita rock-pocketbook is known to occur only in an approximately 80-mile reach of the Kiamichi River upstream from Hugo Reservoir in Oklahoma and a 5-mile segment of the Little River in southwestern Arkansas. The species is threatened by reservoir construction, water quality degradation, and possibly by invasion of the exotic Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*). A proposed rule to list this species as endangered was published in the *Federal Register* (55 FR 29865) on July 23, 1990.

Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), requires that a public hearing be held if it is requested within 45 days of the publication of a proposed rule. On August 24, 1990, the Service received a written request for a public hearing from Mr. Bill Rowton, City Manager, Antlers, Oklahoma.

The Service has scheduled this public hearing for November 19, 1990, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Antlers Community Center, 200 S. High Street, Antlers, Oklahoma. Those parties wishing to make statements for the record should bring a copy of their statement to present to the Service at the start of the hearing. Oral statements may be limited in length, if the number of parties present at the hearing necessitates such a limitation. There are, however, no limits to the length of written comments or materials presented at the hearing or mailed to the Service. The comment period on the proposed rule originally closed on September 21, 1990. The Service is reopening the comment period from November 14, 1990, to December 4, 1990. Written comments should be submitted to the Service office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Sonja Jahrsdoerfer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, (505) 766-3972 or FTS 474-3972.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act (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).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and record-

keeping requirements, and
Transportation.

Dated: October 22, 1990.

James A. Young,

Acting Regional Director.

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