

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem 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 conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementation the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) 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 a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised Recovery Plan. The Service and other Federal Agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The desert pupfish is an endangered species which exists in Quitobaquito Springs, Arizona; Salton Sink, California; El Doctor, Laguna Salada, and Cerro Prieto in Baja California, Mexico; and Rio Sonoyta in Sonora, Mexico. The species occurs in springs, streams, marshes, and shallow margins of larger lakes and rivers. Habitat loss and degradation, competition and predation by exotic fishes, and pollution have eliminated desert pupfish throughout most of its historic range and threaten its continued existence.

The recovery goals are to secure, maintain and replicate all extant natural populations, acquire natural habitats, and to establish replicates in the most natural habitats within the probable historic range. Further objectives include determination of habitat and biological criteria, acquisition of life history information, development and implementation of genetic protocol, population monitoring, and information and education.

The desert pupfish recovery plan has already undergone technical review. The plan will be issued as final following incorporation of comments and materials received during this comment period.

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 the approval of the plan.

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

Dated: January 15, 1993.

James A. Young,

Acting Regional Director.

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Fish and Wildlife Service**Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for Desert Pupfish for Review and Comment**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*). This fish occurs in Quitobaquito Springs, Arizona; Salton Sink, California; El Doctor, Laguna Salada, and Cerro Prieto in Baja California, Mexico; and Rio Sonoyta in Sonora, Mexico. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before March 30, 1993, to receive consideration by the Service.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3616 West Thomas Rd., suite 6, Phoenix, Arizona 85019. Written comments and materials regarding the plans should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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