

(See ADDRESSES section) (505/766-3972 or FTS 474-3972).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Hedeoma diffusum Withdrawal

The Service is withdrawing the proposed rule to list *Hedeoma diffusum* (Flagstaff pennyroyal) as a threatened species. A notice of review was published in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 1980 (45 FR 82480), which included *Hedeoma diffusum* as a category 1 candidate species. Category 1 consists of taxa for which the Service has sufficient information to support the biological appropriateness of their being listed as endangered or threatened. A proposed rule to list *Hedeoma diffusum* as threatened was published in the **Federal Register** on June 29, 1983 (48 FR 29929). *Hedeoma diffusum* was believed to be endemic to the Flagstaff, Arizona area and restricted to 10 known localities. As stated in the proposal, the major threat to the species was thought to be loss of habitat due to urban development.

Six written comments were received on the proposal. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the Desert Botanical Garden of Phoenix, Arizona, and the Curator of the Herbarium of the University of Arizona had no additional information on the species. Comments of non-support were received from the Arizona Commission on Agriculture and Horticulture (ACAH) and from one private individual. The ACAH expressed concern that designating the species as endangered would make it difficult to protect, and as long as the Forest Service would fence the area it did not think people would bother it. Comments from the U.S. Forest Service concurred with the listing of *Hedeoma diffusum* as then known, but also stated that additional populations were expected to be located in unsurveyed potential habitat.

The Forest Service identified a number of previously unknown sites of the Flagstaff pennyroyal during the 1983 field season and requested a six-month extension on the proposed rule on April 6, 1984. The request was granted and on June 13, 1984, a notice of the six-month extension of the deadline was published in the **Federal Register** (49 FR 24416). This extension enabled the Forest Service to substantiate its preliminary findings and to further survey potential habitat for the species.

The Forest Service contracted with Dr. B.G. Phillips, Museum of Northern Arizona, to conduct a survey in July and

respectively, to be threatened species. New data indicate *Hedeoma diffusum* is more widely distributed than known at the time of proposal, with several of the new sites located and protected in the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness Area. New data indicate *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* is more abundant in its habitat and subject to less threat than believed at the time of the proposed rule. These species are not considered likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

DATE: The withdrawal is effective March 28, 1985.

ADDRESS: The complete file for this notice is available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Regional Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 Gold Avenue, SW., Room 4000, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peggy Olwell or Charles McDonald, Endangered Species Botanists, Region 2,

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Withdrawal of Proposed Rules to List *Hedeoma diffusum* and *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa*

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Withdrawal of proposed rules.

SUMMARY: The Service is withdrawing the rules published in the **Federal Register** of June 29, 1983 (48 FR 29929), and August 29, 1983 (48 FR 39093), that proposed *Hedeoma diffusum* (Flagstaff pennyroyal) and *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* (long-haired phlox),

August 1984 to more completely delineate the species' distribution and to analyze population parameters, habitat requirements, and effects of habitat utilization. The taxon has been documented from two population areas. The discovery of the second major population area seven miles southwest of the one previously known near Flagstaff was the most significant finding of the study. The survey brought the total number of localities of *Hedeoma diffusum* over 100 sites with over 50 sites having at least 100 plants, and 5 sites having over 1000 plants (Phillips, 1984). *Hedeoma diffusum* was found to exist in rock pavement, cliff, and limestone break habitats in the ponderosa pine vegetation type (Phillips, 1984). These populations occur on public land and private inholdings in the Coconino National Forest and on University of Northern Arizona and private land outside of the Coconino National Forest. The Forest Service's regulation governing the land on which the majority of the populations occur prohibits removing, destroying, or damaging any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, rare, or unique species (36 CFR 261.9) and *Hedeoma diffusum* is on the U.S. Forest Service, Region 3, Sensitive Plant List.

The U.S. Forest Service has developed a management plan for *Hedeoma diffusum* in the Elden, Flagstaff, Mormon Lake, and Sedona Ranger Districts of the Coconino National Forest (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, 1984) that fully recognizes the significance and sensitivity of *Hedeoma diffusum* and its habitat. This management plan takes into consideration forest practices and operations that could affect the Flagstaff pannyroyal and provides management guidelines designed to mitigate potential problems. The U.S. Forest Service program will contribute significantly to the protection of vulnerable populations of this plant.

The recent study of *Hedeoma diffusum* shows an extension of the known range into fairly inaccessible and protected areas, concludes that light to moderate disturbance associated with timbering activity does not significantly affect the populations, and notes that prescribed burning may be an effective management tool for *Hedeoma diffusum* (Phillips, 1984). The Service concludes, after analyzing this new data, that *Hedeoma diffusum* does not warrant threatened status at this time. If new information becomes available to indicate that *Hedeoma diffusum* is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future, the Service will again propose to list it as threatened.

***Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* Withdrawal**

The Service is withdrawing the proposed rule to list *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* (long-haired phlox) as a threatened species. Ayensu and DeFilipps (1978) considered *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* to be an endangered species. The species was included as a category-1 (see explanation under *Hedeoma* discussion) candidate plant in a December 15, 1980 (45 FR 82480), notice of review published in the **Federal Register**. A proposed rule to list *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* as threatened was published in the **Federal Register** on August 29, 1983 (48 FR 39093). *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* is an endemic known only from the Quartz Mountain region of the Wichita Mountains of southwestern Oklahoma. The proposed rule stated that the major threats to the plant were quarrying, grazing, development, and recreation.

Three written comments on the proposal were received and all supported listing the plant as threatened. The Rose Garden Club of Durant, Oklahoma made only general comments and supported the plant's protection from all forms of habitat disturbance. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department stated that although the listing would directly affect its activities at the Quartz Mountain State Park, it supported the action. It provided information on facilities and management activities at the park and on potential conflict between these activities and protection of the *Phlox*. It also noted that steps were being taken to survey populations and develop a management plan for the plant in the park. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation furnished information on its proposed Safety of Dams Program, W.C. Austin Project at the Lake Altus Dam. It noted its participation in plans to survey for *Phlox* on Bureau of Reclamation lands (Quartz Mountain State Park), particularly in the vicinity of quarries that might be used in the dam modification project. It provided a report of a meeting held October 21, 1983, between the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, and Southwestern Oklahoma State University personnel, during which plans for the *Phlox* survey were discussed. Through a joint agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation, Mr. Ian H. Butler of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department was asked to develop a report on the status of *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* on Bureau of Reclamation land at Lake Altus, Oklahoma. This land, most of which is

leased to the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation for use as Quartz Mountain State Park, constitutes the principal habitat for the plant. Six localities for *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* are known, all but one being on Bureau of Reclamation land within three miles of Altus Dam. On May 5-6, 1984, a team of about 20 volunteers from Federal and State agencies and several Oklahoma academic institutions conducted an intensive survey of known *Phlox* habitat on Bureau of Reclamation land. Data from this survey and additional field studies done by Mr. Butler on May 29-31, 1984, were incorporated into a status report (Butler, 1984), the pertinent findings of which are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Phlox pilosa var. *longipilosa* is a herbaceous perennial with individual plants having 1-20 stems. Plants grow on rocky hillsides in granitic soils of varying depths and apparent organic content. Associated vegetation varies from mixed native grass prairie to post oak or live oak woodland. Plants are occasionally associated with annual grasses and mosses on xeric rock ledges. Populations in the 1984 survey appeared to be thriving with all plants showing fruit. Seedlings were seen in woodland habitat. Seedlings were probably elsewhere but were most evident in the woodland because they were easily observed protruding through the post oak leaf litter. Adult plants appear capable of growing in a variety of altered conditions. Plants in two different areas survived wildfire in 1980; plants were seen in heavily grazed private land in the Baldy Point area adjoining Federal property; and plants were seen on packed granite fill of Lugert Dike located between Mt. Lugert and Hicks Mountain. During the census taken May 5-6, 1984, more than 7,000 clumps of plants were counted. The total estimated number of plants, including seedlings and non-flowering plants is 14,000 to 20,000 on Federal land.

Present populations of *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa*, although restricted in distribution, appear to be thriving and the threats of quarrying, grazing, development, and recreation reported by Taylor and Taylor (1981) do not appear as great as believed at the time of proposal. The Bureau of Reclamation's Safety of Dam project will require intensive but very local development of quarries and dikes at the dam. The project will affect or eliminate about 100 plants (approximately 1.5 percent of those counted in the 1984 survey). It is not believed that this loss of plants or degree of habitat destruction will have a significant detrimental effect on the

long-term survival of the *Phlox*. Grazing has not been permitted at Quartz Mountain State Park since before its establishment in the 1940's and there are no current plans to change this policy. In addition, plants were found in heavily grazed areas adjacent to the park, so adult plants, at least, seem tolerant of this form of disturbance. Further development of the park is not presently planned and, because of the rugged terrain, intensive development of recreation facilities is not anticipated. Presently, most park use involves the lake, with only light use of camp sites and nature trails. No damaged plants were seen along nature trails during the 1984 survey. In part this may result from the fact that plants complete flowering prior to the period of greatest visitor use later in the season.

The recent study of the primary habitat for *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa*, on Bureau of Reclamation land in the Quartz Mountains of southwestern Oklahoma, indicates that populations are vigorous and not subject to the degree of threats previously supposed. The Service concludes, after analyzing the new data, that *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* does not warrant threatened status at this time. If new information becomes available to indicate that *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* is in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future,

the Service will again propose to list it as threatened.

Finding and Withdrawal

In compliance with sections 4(b)(6)(A)(i)(IV) and 4(b)(6)(B)(ii) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended, the Service hereby withdraws its proposed rules of June 29, 1983 (49 FR 29929), and August 29, 1983 (48 FR 39093), to list *Hedeoma diffusum* (Flagstaff pennyroyal) and *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* (long-haired phlox) as threatened. New data for *Hedeoma diffusum* indicate an increase in the number of known individuals and populations and also indicate that the threats upon which the proposal was based are not as great or as imminent as previously thought. New data for *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa* indicate that populations are vigorous and also indicate that the threats upon which the proposal was based are not as great or as imminent as previously thought.

Literature Cited

- Ayensu, E.S., and Robert A. DeFilips. 1978. *Endangered and Threatened Plants of the United States*. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 403 pp.
- Butler, I.H. 1984. Report on the status of *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa*. Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 24 pp.
- Phillips, B.G. 1984. Field survey for *Hedeoma diffusum* Greene, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff, Arizona. 22 pp.

Taylor, R.J., and C.E. Taylor. 1981. Status report: *Phlox pilosa* var. *longipilosa*. Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 18 pp.

U.S.D.A. Forest Service. 1984. Management plan for *Hedeoma diffusum* Green. Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff, Arizona. 6 pp.

Authors

The authors of this notice are Peggy Olwell and Charles McDonald, Endangered Species Botanists, Region 2 (See ADDRESS section) (505/766-3972 or FTS 474-3972).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.; Pub. L. 93-205, 87 Stat. 884; Pub. L. 94-359, 90 Stat. 911; Pub. L. 95-632, 92 Stat. 3751; Pub. L. 96-159, 93 Stat. 1225; Pub. L. 97-304, 96 Stat. 1411).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened wildlife, Fish, Marine mammals, Plants (agriculture).

Dated: March 21, 1985.

Susan Recce,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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