

ACTION: Notice of findings on petitions.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces two 90-day petition findings for petitions to amend the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Petitioners have presented substantial information that petitions to list the Mono Lake brine shrimp and the Edgewood blind harvestman may be warranted. Formal review of the status of the Edgewood blind harvestman is initiated herewith.

DATES: The findings announced in this notice were made in October 1987 and March 1988. Comments and information may be submitted until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Information, comments, or questions regarding either of these two petitions may be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1823, Sacramento, California 95825. The petitions, findings, supporting data, and comments are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gail C. Kobetich, Field Supervisor, at the above address (telephone 916/978-4866 or FTS 460-4866).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended in 1982 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days of the receipt of the petition, and the finding is to be published promptly in the **Federal Register**. If the finding is positive, the Service is also required to promptly commence a review of the status of the involved species.

The Service has received and made 90-day findings on the following two petitions:

A petition from Dr. Dennis Murphy was dated June 23, 1987, and received by the Service on June 19, 1987. The petition requested the Service to list the Mono Lake brine shrimp, *Artemia monica*, as an endangered species. Status review for the Mono Lake brine shrimp was initiated by a notice of review published May 22, 1984 (49 FR 21664).

The petition stated that the Mono Lake brine shrimp is restricted in

distribution to Mono Lake in Mono County, California. The petition and accompanying documentation indicated that the survival of the species is threatened by increased salinity due to the lowering of the lake surface level. After a review of the petition, accompanying documentation and references cited therein, the Service found that the petition presented substantial information that the action may be warranted. Within one year from the date the petition was received, a finding as to whether the petitioned action is warranted is required by section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act.

A partial petition from Thomas S. Briggs of California Academy of Sciences was received by the Service October 16, 1987, and completed with additional information on December 21, 1987. The petition requested the Service to list the Edgewood blind harvestman, *Sitalcina minor*, as a threatened or endangered species.

The petition stated that the Edgewood blind harvestman is restricted in distribution to two known populations. One is in Edgewood County Park and the other has probably been eliminated. The petition and accompanying documentation stated that the survival of the species is threatened at Edgewood County Park by habitat modification that will result if a proposed large golf course that is being planned is developed. The other population was probably eliminated due to the construction of an eight-lane freeway near the place where it was last seen in 1966.

After a review of the petition, accompanying documentation, and references cited therein, the Service found that the petition presented substantial information that the action requested may be warranted. Status review of the species is required to determine whether listing the Edgewood blind harvestman is actually warranted. A formal status review of the Edgewood blind harvestman is initiated herewith. Within one year from the date the completed petition was received, a finding as to whether the petitioned action is warranted is required by section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act.

The Service would appreciate any additional data, comments and suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning the status of the Edgewood blind harvestman, *Sitalcina minor*.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17****Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Findings on Petitions To List Mono Lake Brine Shrimp and Edgewood Blind Harvestman**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

Author

This notice was prepared by Ms. Robyn Thorson and Dr. Andrew F. Robinson, Jr., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 NE. Multnomah Street, Suite 1692, Portland, Oregon 97232 (503/231-6150 or FTS 429-6150).

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 93-205, 87 Stat. 884; Pub. L. 94-350, 90 Stat. 911; Pub. L. 95-632, 92 Stat. 3751; Pub. L. 96-150, 93 Stat. 1225; Pub. L. 97-304, 96 Stat. 1411); Pub. L. 99-625, 100 Stat. 3500 (1986), unless otherwise noted.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

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

Dated: August 11, 1988.

Susan Rocca,

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and
Wildlife and Parks.*

[FR Doc. 88-18882 Filed 8-18-88; 8:45 am]

SALE CODE 4950-02-01