

Wildlife and Plants. Substantial information has been presented that a petition to list the plant *Agave murpheyi* may be warranted.

DATES: The finding announced in this notice was made in December 1988. Comments and information may be submitted until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Information, comments, or questions regarding the petition may be submitted to the Phoenix Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3616 West Thomas, Suite 6, Phoenix, Arizona 85019 (Telephone 602/261-4720, FTS 261-4720).

The petition, finding, and supporting data are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sue Rutman at the Phoenix Field Office list above (Telephone 602/261-4720, FTS 261-4720).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended in 1982 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the 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 a 90-day finding on the following petition from Dr. Gary Nabhan, Wendy Hodgson, and Rick Delamater of Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Arizona. It was dated August 30, 1988, and was received by the Service on September 9, 1988. It requested the Service to list the plant *Agave murpheyi* as an endangered species.

Information provided by the petitioners stated this agave has been found in 34 localities from central Arizona south to northern Sonora, Mexico, most of which are associated with prehistoric agricultural systems. They provided information suggesting that indigenous people valued the species for food and fiber. They cited present threats from urban development, inundation by reservoirs, and grazing.

The petition has been examined by the Service's Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Finding on Petition to List *Agave murpheyi*

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of petition finding and initiation of status review.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces a 90-day petition finding for the petition to amend the Lists of Endangered and Threatened

recommendation is that the petition has presented substantial information to indicate that listing may be warranted. However, before a final decision is made to consider listing *Agave murpheyi*, the Service will seek additional information and a peer review of all available data by plant experts throughout the U.S. and Mexico.

On the basis of the best scientific and commercial information presently available, the Service determined that this petition has presented substantial information indicating that the action requested may be warranted.

Review of the status of *Agave murpheyi* is initiated herewith. The Service would appreciate any additional data, comments, and suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any interested party concerning this species.

Author

This notice was prepared by Dr. James Tate, Jr., Division of Endangered Species and Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240 (703/235-1975 or FTS 235-1975).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended: 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; Pub. L. 100-478, 102 Stat. 2306; Pub. L. 100-653, 102 Stat. 3825 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*); 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: March 24, 1989.

Becky Norton Dunlop,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and
Parks.

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50 CFR Part 17**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Finding on Petition To Delist the Gray Wolf**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of petition finding.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a 90-day petition finding for a petition to amend the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. The Service finds the petitioner has not presented substantial information indicating that delisting the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) is warranted.

DATES: The finding announced in this notice was made in October 1988. Comments and information may be submitted until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Questions or comments concerning this finding should be submitted to the Division Chief, Endangered Species, Federal Building, Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111. The petition, finding, and supporting data are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James M. Engel (612-725-3276 or FTS 725-3276), at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), requires that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) make a finding within 90 days of the receipt of a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species as to whether the petition 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 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 and, within 12 months of receipt of the petition, find whether the petitioned action is warranted.

The Service has received and made a 90-day finding on the following petition:

A petition from Mr. Lawrence Krak was received by the Service on August 19, 1988. The petition requested the Service to delist the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) as an endangered and threatened species.

The petition stated wolves are in no danger of total extinction, with over 50,000 in Canada, 15,000 in Alaska, and 1,500 in Minnesota. The petitioner stated the classification of the wolf makes state management impossible. Concern was expressed on monies spent for wolf restoration and that wolves were starving as a result of prey depletion.

After review of the petition and other available information, the Service found the petition did not present substantial information indicating the requested delisting of the wolf may be warranted. Mr. Krak's brief petition did not present any significant information bearing on the status. Moreover, the best scientific and commercial information available to the Service indicates the goals of the gray wolf recovery plans have not been met and the present classification of the wolf is correct.

Author

This notice was prepared by James M. Engel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see **ADDRESSES** above).

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. 94-359, 90 Stat. 911; Pub. L. 95-632, 92 Stat. 3751; Pub. L. 96-159, 93 Stat. 1225; Pub. L. 97-304, 96 Stat. 1411; Pub. L. 100-478, 102 Stat. 2306; Pub. L. 100-653, 102 Stat. 3825); Pub. L. 99-625, 100 Stat. 3500; unless otherwise noted.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

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

Dated: March 24, 1989.

Becky Norton Dunlop,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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