List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 401 through 453

Government contracts, Government procurement.

Ira L. Hobbs,

Director of Operations.

[FR Doc. 96–4499 Filed 2–27–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–98–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Species; Notice of Reclassification of 96 Candidate Taxa

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of candidate taxa reclassification.

SUMMARY: In this document, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides explanation for changes in the status of 96 taxa of plants and animals that are under review for possible addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (List) under the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended.

ADDRESSES: Comments and questions concerning this notice should be sent to the Chief, Division of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Mail Stop ARLSQ–452, Washington, D.C., 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E. LaVerne Smith, Chief, Division of Endangered Species, at telephone number (703/358–2171).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In December 1992, the Service reached a settlement agreement (agreement) with the plaintiffs in the Fund For Animals *et al.* v. Lujan *et al.* case (D.D.C. Civ. No. 92–800) that provides for the Service to review the listing status of species regarded as Category 1 candidates as of September 1, 1992. For any species covered by the agreement and removed from candidate (Category 1) status because listing is no longer considered to be warranted, the Service must publish a notice in the Federal Register that provides explanation for the reclassification. This notice is published to comply with the above requirement.

It is important to note that candidate assessment is an ongoing function and changes in status should be expected. Species that are removed from the candidate list may very well be restored to candidate status if additional information supporting such a change becomes available to the Service. Requests for such information were issued by the Service in the 1993 Plant Notice of Review (58 FR 51144; September 30, 1993) and the 1994 Animal Notice of Review (59 FR 58982; November 15, 1994). A combined plant and animal notice of review, requesting updated information on candidate species, is being published elsewhere in today's Federal Register.

Findings

Candidate species are those species for which the Service has on file sufficient information to support issuance of a proposed rule to list under the Act. The Service recently completed a review of all candidate species to assure that this definition is uniformly applicable. The results of this review indicate that 88 plant taxa and 8 animal taxa included in the settlement exhibits should be removed from candidate status. There are four primary explanations for these reclassifications: (1) The taxon is believed or known to be extinct; (2) the taxon is not a listable entity or is the subject of taxonomic review; (3) the taxon is more widespread than previously thought or not subject to identified threats; and (4) Service files contain insufficient information on status and threats to justify issuing a proposed rule. This notice provides specific explanations for each of the 96 reclassifications.

The Ciervo aegialian scarab beetle (*Aegialia concinna*) is a flightless, fossorial beetle that was first described in 1977: long-term information on species trends is not available. General threats from urban, suburban, and agricultural development were identified when this species was first designated as a candidate. Additional populations have been discovered in Fresno, San Joaquin, and Costa Counties. These discoveries include new habitat types and suggest that the species is not likely to become threatened or endangered in the foreseeable future. The species is removed from candidate status because of the recent discoveries and limited information on habitat requirements, life history, and status needed to prepare a proposed listing.

Allium aaseae (Aase's onion) is a small, perennial plant that is endemic to southwestern Idaho. The species occurs on relatively barren, xeric habitats with gentle to steep slopes and is usually associated with sparsely vegetated bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) or bitterbrush/sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) communities. Recent survey information indicates there are at least 66 extant populations of Aase's onion (containing approximately 400,000 individuals), with 49 of these populations having more than 1,000 individuals. Because threats from suspected hybridization with other species have been shown to be unfounded and because of the size and distribution of extant populations, *A. aaseae* is removed from candidate status.

Allium dictuon (Blue Mountain onion) is known only from the vicinity of Weller Butte in the Blue Mountains of Columbia County, Washington. Five occurrences of this plant are historically and currently known within a range of about 4 square miles. Population estimates for this species range between 1,000 and 3,000 plants. The species is removed from candidate status because it is believed to be stable and the threats associated with recreational use are uncertain. Cattle grazing does occur in the vicinity of Weller Butte, but the impact of this activity on *Allium dictuon* is uncertain and data currently available to the Service do not indicate that listing is warranted.

Allium hickmanii (Hickman's onion) occurs in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties (California) and is associated with closed-cone coniferous forests, chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Additional populations of Hickman's onion have been found in the last five years, indicating the species is more widespread than previously known. Also, information in Service files is currently insufficient to support issuance of a proposed listing, so this species is removed from candidate status.

Artemisia campestris wormskioldii (northern wormwood) was historically known from the banks of the Columbia River near the mouth of the John Day River in Wasco County, Oregon, westward to the vicinity of the Hood River. Today it is known from two widely disjunct sites along the Columbia River in Washington. Possible trampling associated with recreational activity is the only identified threat to this species. The most recent status information indicated a declining trend, but those data are from 1989. It is removed from candidate status primarily because the Service lacks sufficient information on current status to issue a proposed listing.

Aster jessicae (Jessica's aster) is endemic to mesic grasslands or steppe vegetation of the Palouse region in southeast Washington and northern Idaho. The species is currently known

from three population centers, two in Idaho and one in Washington. Review of file information indicates that the threats from grazing, non-native plants, and land use practices are not sufficiently severe to support a proposed listing. Also, additional information on the status of this species is needed. It is removed from candidate status primarily because the Service lacks current information on biological vulnerability and threats needed for preparation of a proposed listing.

Aster puniceus ssp. *elliotti* var. *scabricaulis* (*Synphyotrichum puniceum* var. *scabricaule;* rough-stemmed aster) inhabits wetland areas in east-central Texas. Recent survey work has discovered three additional populations and extended the range to a new (Cherokee) county. A recent taxonomic study has placed this taxon in the genus *Synphyotrichum* and the validity of the taxon is being reviewed. In addition, the species' status appears to be stable, in part due to development and implementation of management plans for roadside populations by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Astragalus agnicidus (Humboldt milk-vetch) is limited to a single occurrence on an 8-acre privately-owned ranch in southern Humboldt County, California. The population is afforded protection by an agreement between the landowner and the California Nature Conservancy to reduce threats by delaying logging and excluding cattle.

Astragalus australis var. *olympicus* (Cotton's milk-vetch) is found at elevations above 5,000 feet on talus slopes in arctic-alpine habitats that are characterized by a variety of associated, low-growing cushion plants. Most of the known populations are found on federal lands managed by the National Park Service or the U.S. Forest Service. The only known threat to this species is overgrazing or trampling by non-native mountain goats (*Oreamus americanus*). The species is currently believed to be stable.

Astragalus beatleyae (Beatley's astragalus) is known only from the vicinity of Pahute Mesa, Nye County, Nevada, where it occurs on lands managed by the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense. The Department of Energy recently completed extensive studies of the distribution and life history of the species which indicate that listing is not warranted. The species is no longer regarded as a candidate because the identified threats have been resolved.

Astragalus columbianus (Columbia milk-vetch) is a short-lived perennial that occurs in sagebrush/bunchgrass shrub-steppe habitat along the Columbia River in Kittitas, Yakima, and Benton counties in Washington. Though once presumed extirpated in Washington, 29 populations have been documented in the past 15 years, four of these in 1994. Approximately 55,000 plants are known to exist and viable seeds are being produced. The recent discovery of additional populations and apparent stability justify removal from candidate status.

Astragalus mulfordiae (Mulford's milk-vetch) is endemic to the western Snake River plain in Idaho and Oregon. Removal from candidate status is justified by identification of 36 extant populations and a lack of information on threats to the species. The estimated population size is approximately 15,000 individuals in Oregon and between 3,000 and 4,000 individuals in Idaho. Because of poor documentation of threats and the existence of stable populations, the species is removed from candidate status.

Bloomeria humilis (dwarf goldenstar) is known from two populations that occur on private lands in northwestern San Luis Obispo County, California. Current land uses, which have not been shown to be detrimental, include light cattle grazing and periodic shrub removal. No imminent threats are known at this time and no population losses have been documented.

Calochortus clavatus var. *avius* (Pleasant Valley mariposa lily) was historically known from only 13 locations containing approximately 450 plants. Two of the historical occurrences were possibly extirpated. Recent surveys conducted by the Eldorado National Forest discovered additional occurrences within the original range. The variety is now known from 125 locations with an estimate of 45,000 plants. The variety is removed from candidate status.

Calochortus greenei (Greene's mariposa) generally grows in pinyon-juniper woodland or upper montane coniferous forests. It is known from southern Jackson and Klamath counties, Oregon and Siskiyou and Modoc counties, California. Estimated abundance was 1,610 individuals in Oregon and 6,840 individuals in California, but these data are from 1988 surveys. The threats posed by habitat destruction, harvest, and grazing are not severe and the species is not particularly narrow in its choice of substrate. Given the broad habitat tolerance, lack of severe threats, and lack of current status information on which to base a proposed listing, this species is removed from candidate status.

Calochortus nitidus (broad-fruit mariposa lily) is a perennial herb with large, showy flowers that is endemic to mid-elevation grassland habitats of the Palouse region in north-central Idaho. The taxon was previously known from southeast Washington but is now considered to be extirpated from the State. *C. nitidus* is currently known from more than 100 populations that range in size from a few individuals to several thousand plants. The species is believed to be stable and faces only weak threats from grazing, nonindigenous plants, logging, and agriculture. A conservation agreement was signed in 1991 to conserve *C. nitidus* on a parcel of land transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to private ownership and numerous other populations occur on BLM lands.

Calochortus westonii (Shirley Meadows mariposa lily) is a perennial found in meadows and in the understory of broadleaf upland forests and lower montane coniferous forests of the southern Sierra on lands administered by Sequoia National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service Species Management Guide allows for selective timber harvest at infrequent intervals in *C. westonii* habitat. This action helps maintain suitable habitat for the species and combined with recent population discoveries justifies removal of this species from candidate status.

Cardamine pattersonii (Saddle Mountain bittercress) is endemic to four mountaintops in the Coast Ranges of Clatsop and Yamhill counties, Oregon. The species grows on moss mats over bare rocks or on grassy balds, and in the gravel of small creeks. Total habitat for this species covers about 100 to 150 acres and there are roughly 3,000 individuals known. The only known threats are from recreational use of a trail and possible construction of a radio repeater on nearby private land. Neither of these threats are severe and inclusion as a candidate is therefore not warranted.

Castilleja salsuginosa (Monte Neva paintbrush) is known only from a 15-acre area of private land in White Pine County, Nevada. However, information in Service files cast considerable doubt on the distinctiveness of this taxon. Botanist Mark Egger (in litt.) has concluded that material identified as *C. salsuginosa* is probably at best a variety of the widespread species *C. nana* and other botanists question even the varietal distinctiveness of the Monte Neva paintbrush. *C. salsuginosa* is removed from candidate status while its taxonomic status is under review.

Caulanthus amplexicaulis var. *barbarae* (Santa Barbara jewelflower) is

a serpentinite endemic, known from five occurrences in Santa Barbara County, California. It inhabits bluffs, dry disturbed slopes, openings in chaparral, under ghost pines, and Sargent cypress forest. The species is believed to be stable and the only potential threats are from grazing and road grazing. Since serpentinite supports limited forage, threats from grazing are unlikely. The species is removed from candidate status.

Chamaesyce remyi var. *hanaleiensis* (no common name) was endemic to the island of Kauai. The plant has not been observed or collected in this Century and is believed to be extinct. It is therefore removed from candidate status.

The greenest tiger beetle (*Cicindela tranquebarica viridissima*) was recently rediscovered and returned to candidate status (see 60 FR 34226, June 30, 1995). However, experts for the family Cicindelidae acknowledge that the taxonomy of *C. tranquebarica* is in need of serious revision. Recent studies indicate that *C. t. viridissima* is in fact synonymous with *C. t. vibex*, so candidate status for *C. t. viridissima* is no longer appropriate.

Claytonia lanceolata var. *peirsonii* (Peirson's spring beauty) occurs on scree slopes in subalpine forests. The variety is known from five populations in the eastern San Gabriel Mountains of Los Angeles County, California. In 1980, the number of individuals was estimated at about 3,300 but a major fire severely depressed the population later that year. By 1987 the estimated number of individuals had risen to about 1,400. Its current status is unknown. In the most recent taxonomic treatment of the genus, this variety was not recognized as distinct from the parent species *C. lanceolata*, so the variety is removed from candidate status. This treatment has been challenged by the California Native Plant Society so the Service will follow the resolution of the taxonomic issues.

The San Joaquin dune beetle (*Coelus gracilis*) is a flightless, fossorial beetle restricted to dunes of fine-grained sand. It was described from the Antioch dunes (Contra Costa County, California) in 1939 but has not been found there recently despite searches. Current information on the status of the species is lacking and the known threats from habitat alteration caused by nonindigenous tumbleweeds (*Salsola kali*) or off-road vehicle use are believed to be slight. The species is removed from candidate status primarily because the Service lacks current status information needed for preparation of a proposed listing.

Collomia rawsoniana (Rawson's flaming trumpet) was first described in 1888 from specimens collected in the higher valleys of the Sierra Nevada. The species is found within riparian zones of the upper watershed of the San Joaquin River and the Fresno River at elevations between 3,500 and 6,300 feet. The species is removed from candidate status because it is believed to be stable. Threats associated with logging have been alleviated by restricting logging in habitat areas as part of an interagency agreement between the Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

Cordylanthus nidularius (Mt. Diablo bird's-beak) is found in a single population on Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County, California on serpentine soils of Mt. Diablo State Park. The species is believed to be stable and protected from threats by Park guidance.

Cordylanthus rigidus ssp. *littoralis* (seaside bird's-beak) is an annual member of the snapdragon family that flowers in mid-summer. Habitat occurs in limited areas of loose sandy soils of stabilized dunes in openings in maritime chaparral, oak woodland, and closed cone pine forest communities. Seventeen extant populations have been identified and threats to these populations are believed to be few. Recent discoveries on Fort Ord property indicate that this species is more widespread than previously known. Protections afforded for six of the 17 extant occurrences, including the Fort Ord population, justify removal from candidate status.

Coryphantha recurvata (Santa Cruz cactus) occurs at elevations of 4,000–6,000 feet in grassland and oak woodland in the rolling hills of the Atascosa Mountains in south-central Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Survey work conducted in 1994 identified previously unknown sites, suggesting the species is more widespread than previously thought. The species is removed from candidate status primarily because of recently discovered populations. Preparation of a proposed listing would only be possible with additional status information that contradicts the known data.

Cupressus stephensonii (Cuyamaca cypress) is a small tree or shrub that grows in clay soils in closed conifer forest, chaparral, and along riparian drainages. It is known from two small populations in San Diego County, California. This species has received considerable taxonomic revision and was recently deemed synonymous with *C. arizonica*. Based on these changes, *C. stephensonii* does not meet the Act's definition of species and is therefore removed from candidate status.

Cymopterus deserticola (desert cymopterus) is a perennial herb that grows on loose sandy soils in the western Mojave Desert at about 45 feet in elevation. The species is restricted to about 10 occurrences over a 30 mile range. The plant occurs within the area being addressed by the West Mojave Coordinated Management Plan, which will function as a multi-species habitat conservation plan and this action will alleviate many of the threats to the species.

Delphinium pavonaceum (peacock larkspur) is endemic to the central portion of the Willamette Valley, Oregon and to Benton, Clackamus, Marion, and Polk counties. There are 53 reported occurrences, but only 31 of these have been confirmed since 1985. A status report prepared in 1980 does not provide site specific threats, population size, or population trends. Candidate status is not justified based on the lack of specific information on threats and population status.

Delphinium variegatum ssp. *thornei* (Thorne's royal larkspur) is a perennial herb restricted to southern San Clemente Island. Roughly 13,000 individuals are known from 13 populations. The recent removal of goats from the island has removed the only known threat to this species.

Delphinium viridescens (Wenatchee larkspur) is found in moist meadows at mid-elevation of the Wenatchee Mountains of Washington. Roughly 5,000 stems of the species are known from 20 populations in Chelan and Kittitas counties. Conservation efforts by the U.S. Forest Service and the Washington Department of Natural Resources have reduced threats to the species and warrant its removal from candidate status.

Dudleya cymosa ssp. *costafolia* (Pierpoint Springs dudleya) is known only from its type locality. The only known threats are associated with use or construction of summer homes. Significant threats are lacking and it is removed from candidate status.

Dudleya viscida (sticky dudleya) is a perennial succulent that occurs on steep rocky cliffs and outcrops in chaparral and coastal sage scrub. The species is estimated to number between 100,000 and 250,000 individuals and appears to be stable. It is more abundant than previously thought and is being removed from candidate status for that reason.

The spring pygmy sunfish (*Elassoma alabamae, formerly known as Elassoma* sp.) was discovered in 1938 in a spring in Lauderdale County, Alabama near the Tennessee River. The species was thought extinct until 1973 when it was

found in part of Beaverdam Creek in Limestone County. The species has been successfully introduced into other waters and its distribution has increased outside the range of introduction. Tennessee Valley Authority biologists recently discovered additional populations, including one on Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. The known populations, each exceeding 1,000 individuals, are increasing. This species is removed from candidate status.

Eriogonum brandegei (Brandegee wild-buckwheat) is a long-lived perennial plant found in sagebrush stands or in pinyon-juniper woodlands between 5,700 and 7,500 feet in elevation. Prior to the late 1980s the total known population was 700 individuals. However, inventories conducted in 1989, 1992, and 1993 resulted in population estimates between 100,000 and several million individuals. The species is removed from candidate status.

Eriogonum breedlovei var. *breedlovei* (Piute buckwheat) is restricted to dolomite and limestone substrates within the Piute Mountains in the southern Sierra Mountains of California. Previously identified threats associated with gold mining were overstated and the species is being removed from candidate status due to lack of known threats to the species.

Eriogonum chrysops (golden buckwheat) is a perennial herb limited to the Dry Creek drainage in central Malheur County, Oregon. Roughly 9,500 individuals were known from five sites in 1988 but current status information is lacking. Former threats from herbicide use, grazing, off-road vehicles, and nonindigenous plants are now regarded as inconsequential, justifying removal from candidate status.

Eriogonum ericifolium var. *thornei* (Thorne's buckwheat) is restricted to two populations in the New York Mountains of San Bernardino County, California. When elevated to candidate status, threats from mining and grazing were identified but it is uncertain whether these activities still threaten the species' existence due to the transfer of management of the areas occupied by this plant to the National Park Service.

Eriophyllum lanatum var. *hallii* (Fort Tejon woolly-sunflower) is currently known from three populations in eastern Santa Barbara and western Kern counties, California. The two Santa Barbara populations were estimated to contain 800 and 12 individuals respectively and the Kern County population has an estimated 500 individuals. Development on private lands appears unlikely and hypothesized threats from erosion and road grading on Forest Service lands are questionable. Similarly, potential threats by cattle grazing and insects do not appear to be problematic. In addition, current status information needed to support a proposed listing is not available, so this species is being removed from candidate status.

Erythrina eggersii (Piñon Espinoso Cock's spur) is a spiny tree known only from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. On the island of St. John it is known from four sites within the National Park; threats to the St. John population are not known. In Puerto Rico it is known primarily from the northern limestone hills, but its distribution and abundance within this habitat type is poorly known. Given secure status on St. John and the lack of status information that would be needed for preparation of a proposed listing in Puerto Rico, it is removed from candidate status.

The Florida mastiff bat (*Eumops glaucinus floridanus*) is known from Florida, Cuba, Jamaica, Central America, and South America. The studies upon which the original candidate classification was based were seriously flawed in that they used a technique with low likelihood of detecting mastiff bats. While native habitat appears to be declining, the species also appears to have adapted to human presence by using Spanish tile roofs. The current or historic number of mastiff bats in Florida is unknown. This species is being removed from candidate status because current status information is not available to prepare a proposed listing, recent surveys indicate that mastiff bats in south Florida may be more abundant than previously known, and adaptation to human presence suggests that the species is unlikely to become threatened or endangered in the foreseeable future.

Franklinia alatamaha (Franklin tree) was last seen in the wild in McIntosh County, Georgia in 1803. The type locality has been searched repeatedly over the past 200 years, but no specimens have been observed. While probably extinct in the wild, the species is extant through cultivation and widely distributed as an ornamental. It is removed from candidate status because the species is not threatened or endangered.

Gilia maculata (little San Bernardino Mountains gilia) is restricted to sandy wash terraces at the base of the Little San Bernardino Mountains in San Bernardino County, California. Recent surveys have increased the number of known locations for this species, reduced the intensity of threats to the species, and its status is believed to be stable. Therefore, it is removed from candidate status.

Hackelia cronquistii (Cronquist's stickseed) is found on sandy moist sagebrush slopes in eastern Oregon and Idaho. The species is being removed from candidate status due to stable populations in Oregon and large amounts of potential habitat that are believed to be suitable for this species.

Hackelia venusta (showy stickseed) grows in openings within the Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forests of open, steep slopes on dry, loose, granitic well-drained soils. The species appears to be restricted to a single population in Tumwater Canyon, Chelan County, Washington. Two other potential populations have been identified near the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, also in Chelan County, but the taxonomic status of these populations is uncertain. Tumwater Canyon was designated a Botanical Area by the Wenatchee National Forest and the State of Washington has developed management guidelines to protect the species. The species is being removed from candidate status due to poorly documented threats, management actions to supplement the wild population with outplantings of disease-free plantings, and an uncertain taxonomic status.

Haplopappus (=*Pyrrocoma*) *insecticruris* (bugleg goldenweed) is endemic to Camas, Elmore, and Blaine counties, Idaho. It occurs in two habitat types: the densely vegetated habitat of the Cama prairie found in mesic areas with deep soils, and less vegetated, somewhat xeric habitats of the *Artemisia arbuscula* or shrub/grassland type. The species' known distribution has increased from four populations in 1983 to more than 83 populations in 1985 surveys. It appears to occupy disturbed and undisturbed habitats. The Idaho Native Plant Society recently recommended removing this species from candidate status and the Service concurs.

Haplopappus radiatus (Snake River goldenweed) is endemic to the dry, rolling hills, ridge, and canyon slopes of the Snake River in eastern Oregon and western Idaho. The habitat is generally a grazing-modified sagebrush/grassland community. Estimated abundance in Idaho is approximately 35,000 individuals from 22 known populations. Total abundance of the 37 known Oregon populations may exceed 100,000 individuals. This species is too widely distributed and abundant to be considered a candidate species.

Hastingsia bracteosa (large-flowered rush-lily) is a lilaceous plant growing from bulbs and is found in serpentine bogs at lower elevations in Jackson and

Josephine counties, Oregon, and Siskiyou and Del Norte counties, California. The species is historically known from 43 locations in Oregon but the most recent status information on the species is from 1980. It is being removed from candidate status due to weak or unclear data on threats and due to the lack of current status information.

Hemizonia arida (Red Rock tarplant) is associated with clay soils in desert scrub. Its distribution is limited to a few square miles in the Mojave desert, Kern County, California. Threats posed by off-road vehicles have been relieved via transfer of the land to the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the species is therefore removed from candidate status.

Hesperolinon didmyocarpum (Lake County dwarf-flax) is known from six populations on a combined area of less than five acres. The current range is comparable to its known historical range and only one population is subject to threatened habitat degradation. The species is believed to be stable and is removed from candidate status due to a lack of documented threats.

Hibiscadelphus crucibracteatus (hau kuahiwi) was historically found on the island of Lanai but is now believed to be extinct. The last known specimen, discovered in 1981, died in 1985. The species is removed from candidate status.

Ivesia aperta var. *canina* (Dog Valley ivesia) is known only from Dog Valley, Sierra County, California on lands managed by the Toiyabe National Forest. The population size was estimated at 2,700 individuals in 1989, but has increased by about 33 percent since then. Potential threats from grazing, recreation, and dam construction have not materialized and the species' status is improving. The species is removed from candidate status.

Juncus leiospermus var. *ahartii* (Ahart's rush) is known from Butte, Calaveras, and Placer counties, California. Since the late 1980s, several additional populations of this plant have been discovered. Only the Oroville population in Butte County is known to face threats associated with habitat degradation. Because of insufficient information on status, distribution, and threats, the species is removed from candidate status.

Lavatera assurgentiflora ssp. *assurgentiflora* and *L. a. glabra* were combined in a 1993 taxonomic treatment to form *Lavatera assurgentiflora* (island tree mallow). The species is widespread and cultivated as an ornamental or windbreak on the mainland and it also occurs on the Santa Cruz islands, Santa Catalina Island, and San Clemente Island. Given the widespread distribution and taxonomic uncertainty, the two subspecies are removed from candidate status.

Layia leucopappa (Comanche layia) is known only from a small area of the Tejon Ranch and surrounding area in Kern County, California. Five of the six known populations occur on the privately owned ranch. Although the plant has a very limited distribution, only one population faces potential threats from grazing. The species is removed from candidate status.

The Hawaiian stream goby ‘o‘opu alamo‘o (*Lentipes concolor*) occurs in freshwater streams throughout the main Hawaiian Islands. The species has an amphidromous life-history pattern that allows for transfer of genetic material among the various island populations. Although populations on the island of Oahu have declined, recent studies indicate that the species is not sufficiently threatened with extinction to be considered a candidate species.

Lilium maritimum (coast lily) grows in closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub habitats of Mendocino and Sonoma counties, California. Populations from Marin, San Mateo, and San Francisco counties may have been extirpated. Today, many populations are found in roadside ditches at elevations from 30 to 1,100 feet. Although the species faces threats associated with horticultural collecting, the Service lacks current status information needed to justify candidate status.

Limnanthes floccosa ssp. *pumila* (dwarf wooly meadow-foam) is endemic to two basalt formations in Jackson County, Oregon. The plant occurs at the edges of deep vernal pools and during most years the populations number in the thousands of individuals. While this species has a limited distribution, it faces only limited threats and is generally abundant. It is removed from candidate status.

Lomatium erythrocarpum (red-fruited desert-parsley) is a perennial herb that is restricted to western Baker County, Oregon, along the Elkhorn Ridge of the Blue Mountains. It occurs on loose gravel or talus on east- or south-facing slopes at elevations between 7,500 and 8,500 feet. Although the species has a limited distribution and is rare, it faces only minor threats associated with trampling by ungulates or humans. The species is removed from candidate status.

Lomatium greenmanii (Greenman's desert-parsley) is endemic to the summit region of Mount Howard in the Wallowa Mountains of northeast Oregon. The total population of 20,000 individuals occupies roughly 20 acres of subalpine and alpine meadows. This rare endemic has a stable population that appears to be fully using its available habitat. It is removed from candidate status.

Lotus argophyllus ssp. *adsurgens* (San Clemente Island silver hosackia) is restricted to 10 populations at the southern tip of San Clemente Island, California. Former threats posed by grazing and rooting pigs have been alleviated by removal of feral goats and pigs from the island. Therefore, candidate status is no longer justified.

Luina serpentina (colonial luina) is a stout branching plant that forms colonies or large mats which hug the ground. The species is known only from two sites and grows on steep, rocky, open serpentine slopes. There are no known threats and the last survey was conducted in 1980, so status information necessary to support listing is not available.

Lunania buchii (no common name) was originally described from specimens collected by the U.S. Forest Service from Luquillo and Maricao, Puerto Rico. This species had previously been reported from Haiti. Studies by H.O. Sleumer, conducted in 1980, placed *L. buchii* in synonymy with *L. eckmanii,* a species common to Hispaniola. More recent studies of the Puerto Rican specimens suggest that they are not fully consistent with *L. eckmanii,* further clouding the taxonomic status of the species. The species is withdrawn from candidate status.

Lupinus aridus ssp. *ashlandensis* (Mount Ashland lupine) is a perennial lupine that grows in granitic outcrops only on the summit of Mount Ashland in Jackson County, Oregon. The population was estimated at roughly 350,000 individuals in 1991 and faces no verified threats. It is believed to be stable and is therefore removed from candidate status.

Malacothamnus abbottii (Abbott's bush-mallow) is known from private lands in southern Monterey County, California. It was originally described from a single location in 1896 and was thought extinct until its rediscovery in 1990. At least five populations have been located and the species appears to persist in areas with surface disturbance. The species is more abundant than originally believed and although it is globally rare, threats are unknown. Current information on the distribution, abundance, and life history is insufficient to support candidate status.

Oenothera psammophila (St. Anthony evening primrose) is part of the early successional community dominated by *Elymus flavescens* and *Psoralea lanceolata.* In 1983, approximately 50,000 individuals were known from 298 colonies. By 1994 this number had grown to roughly 85,000 individuals in 685 colonies. Recent studies indicate that threats from trampling and off-road vehicles are less than previously believed. In light of reduced levels of threat and improving status, this species is removed from candidate status.

Oenothera wolfii (Wolf's evening primrose) is known from six sites in Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties, California and seven sites in Curry County, Oregon. The species faces limited threats from slope stabilization, road widening, and bridge replacement. Also, review of file information indicates insufficient status information to support issuance of a proposed listing for this species. The species is removed from candidate status.

Ophioglossum concinnum (pololei) was thought to be endemic to the Hawaiian Islands but taxonomic revisions have placed it within *o. polyphyllum,* a species found in Asia, South America, and Africa. This revision greatly increases the range and abundance of the species and it is removed from candidate status.

Orobanche parishii ssp. *brachyloba* (short-lobed broom-rape) occurs on the Pacific coast from San Luis Obispo south to Baja California and on the Channel Islands. It is associated with sandy soils in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Several new populations have recently been discovered on San Nicolas Island and San Miguel Island, supporting removal from candidate status.

Penstemon discolor (Catalina beardtongue) is known to occur in the Santa Catalina, Dragoon, Atascosa, Winchester, and Galiuro mountains of southeastern Arizona. Since 1991, several additional populations have been discovered. These discoveries lessen the significance of threats posed to the Santa Catalina population and supports removal from candidate status because a listing proposal is no longer warranted.

Pentachaeta exilis ssp. *aeolica* (slender pentachaeta) is a small, ephemeral plant associated with dry grasslands. Based on status information from 1977, the species is restricted to three populations in Monterey and San Benito counties, California. The only potential threat is grazing by cattle. The extent of this threat is not presently sufficient to warrant a proposed listing. Given the lack of recent status information to support issuance of proposed listing, and a lack of clearly identified threats, maintaining this species in candidate status is not warranted.

Phlox idahonis (Clearwater phlox) is endemic to moist meadows and streambanks in the Clearwater Mountains of north-central Idaho. The species occurs in relatively flat grassland/shrub habitats, ranging from 2,800 to 3,275 feet in elevation and is the only phlox occurring in mountain meadows of northern Idaho. This species is known from four metapopulations (eight occurrences), all within four miles of the town of Headquarters, Idaho. Although the timing and intensity of grazing may adversely affect the species, the threat from grazing is not sufficient to warrant a proposed listing for this plant. It is therefore being removed from candidate status.

Pleuropogon oregonus (Oregon semaphore grass) grows in moist meadows and marshlands at about 2,500 to 4,000 feet in elevation with numerous aquatic and semiaquatic associates. The species is known from two widely separated regions of Oregon. There are eight known populations, four in Lake County and four in Union County. Because the species faces only minor threats from grazing and stream channelization and is believed to be stable, removal from candidate status is justified.

Polemonium pectinatum (Washington polemonium) is found primarily along the outer margins of riparian areas near the transition with xeric vegetation in Lincoln, Whitman, and Adams counties, Washington and is believed extirpated from Spokane County. Currently there are 35 extant populations with an estimated total of 15,000 to 20,000 individuals. Minor threats have been reduced by a conservation agreement aimed at reducing the populations of noxious weeds and removal from candidate status is justified.

Polyctenium williamsiae (Williams' combleaf) is presently known from five occurrences in Washoe and Nye counties, Nevada. The species occurs on sandy clay margins and bottoms of ephemeral pools in sagebrush scrub. At its spring 1995 meeting, the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society Rare Plant Committee recommended removing this species from Category 1 candidate status but retaining it in Category 2 status. A listing proposal is no longer warranted for this species in light of the potential for locating additional populations and Federal agency efforts to conserve this plant, so it is removed from candidate status.

Potentilla basaltica (Soldier Meadows cinquefoil) occupies alkali meadows, seeps, and occasionally, marshes bordering thermal springs, outflow streams, and depressions in Soldier Meadows, Humboldt County, Nevada. The total population in 1990 was estimated to be 85,000 individuals in 10 sub-populations. More recently, a small, disjunct population was discovered on private lands in Lassen County, California. The Bureau of Land Management has adopted conservation practices to protect *P. basaltica* and the threatened desert dace (*Eremichthys acros*), thereby reducing the threats from grazing, wetland alteration, and recreational use and justifying removal from candidate status.

The Pecos springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis* [=*Fontelicella*] *pecosensis*) is endemic to southeastern New Mexico, occurring on mud and pebble substrates near the margins of springs. Threats to the water quality of the spring have been alleviated by purchase of the water rights and this species' status is believed to be improving. Potential threats from oil and gas development do not appear relevant since reserves that would affect the springs have not been identified.

The dusky gopher frog (*Rana areolata sevosa*) is part of a group of frogs that is subject to considerable taxonomic debate. One treatment considers gopher frogs as conspecific with crawfish frogs under *R. areolata.* An alternate treatment splits the gopher frogs from crawfish frogs, assigning the gopher frogs to *R. capito.* Neither designation is universally accepted. The distribution of the various subspecies of gopher frogs is also problematic. This taxon is removed from candidate status, pending resolution of the taxonomic and distribution questions raised above.

Ranunculus reconditus (obscure buttercup) is a perennial forb that historically grew in Wasco County, Oregon and across the Columbia River in Klickitat County, Washington. The Oregon sites were believed extirpated until 1988, when two populations were discovered. The estimated population sizes from 1988 surveys were 7,400 plants in Washington and 250–400 plants in Oregon. Minor threats from grazing and nonindigenous plants, coupled with the need for updated status information, justify removal of this species from candidate status.

Rorippa subumbellata (Tahoe yellow cress) occurs on sandy substrates, along lake margins, near stream mouths, and in back-beach depressions. Occurrence and availability of suitable habitat for *R. subumbellata* are correlated with lake water surface elevation. A dam constructed on the Truckee River

outflow in 1871 allows lake surface elevation to fluctuate between 6,223 feet and 6,229.1 feet. Surveys of the entire lake shore conducted in 1993 counted approximately 6,500 individuals at 35 locations. The persistence of these populations over the last 15 years and recent colonization of new sites as water levels recede indicate that *R. subumbellata* should not be considered a candidate species.

Rubus nigerrimus (northwest raspberry) occurs primarily along the banks and channels of small streams that are tributary to the Snake River. The species is found at elevations ranging from 700 to 2,200 feet. It is known from 18 locations scattered among approximately 80 square miles in Whitman and Garfield counties, Washington. Most populations are small, consisting of 15 to 30 individuals and seedling establishment appears to be low. Removal of this species from candidate status is based primarily on a lack of current status information needed to support issuance of a proposed listing.

Scrophularia macrantha (Mimbres figwort) is a narrowly endemic herbaceous perennial found in the Mimbres Mountains and the Cooks Range in Grant and Luna counties, New Mexico. It is generally restricted to north-facing igneous cliffs and steep talus slopes from 6,500 to 8,200 feet in elevation. Status surveys conducted in 1982 and 1994 indicate the species is stable and previously identified threats from grazing and recreational use were over-emphasized since these activities did not occur in the species' habitat. It is hereby removed from candidate status.

Senecio huachucanus (Huachuca groundsel) is a herbaceous perennial that grows on steep, mesic, high elevation mountain slopes. The species is known from the Santa Rita and Huachuca Mountains in Arizona and the Sierra Azul, Sonora, Mexico. Aside from one population in the Santa Rita Mountains, populations tend to be isolated and small (less than a few hundred plants). The Santa Rita population probably contains thousands of plants on many acres in remote, wilderness lands. Since 1991, populations at two sites in the Huachuca Mountains, one site in the Sierra Azula, and the large population in the Santa Rita Mountains have been discovered, indicating the species is more widespread than previously believed and should be removed from candidate status.

Sidalcea covillei (Owens Valley checkermallow) grows in alkaline and subalkaline meadows in the Owens River drainage in California. It is restricted to 31 sites in Inyo County and occurs on habitat protected in part by conservation efforts in the eastern Mohave Desert. The primary threat to the species was believed to be hydrologic alteration and grazing, but these threats no longer exist. The species is removed from candidate status.

Sidalcea stipularis (Scadden Flat checkerbloom) is known from only two occurrences: one on private land and the second on a utility right-of-way. No threats to the species have been identified. *S. stipularis* is believed to be stable and does not warrant status as a candidate species.

Sphaeromeria compacta (Charleston tansy) is known only from the Spring Mountains, Clark County, Nevada, where it occurs at timberline and above. It occurs on talus slopes, in frost-heave broken rubble, and on gravelly slopes in limestone-derived soils. The species is known from three separate populations but individual numbers are unknown. The primary threat is trampling by hikers. In the face of limited status data and minor threats, the species is removed from candidate status.

Streptanthus albidus ssp. *peramoenus* (most beautiful jewelflower) is the subject of an ongoing taxonomic revision. New subspecies of *S. albidus* may be named and some new populations of *S. albidus* ssp. *peramoenus* may be identified. As a result, the range and current status are unknown, supporting removal from candidate status pending the results of the taxonomic revisions.

Streptanthus brachiatus ssp. *brachiatus* (Socrates Mine jewelflower), *Streptanthus brachiatus* ssp. *hoffmanii* (Freed's jewelflower), and *Streptanthus morrisonii* ssp. *hirtiflorus* are very rare and vulnerable subspecies that are the subjects of ongoing status reviews. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) protects known locations from disturbance and the potential for habitat loss from geothermal development in the Geysers Geothermal Steamfield has been reduced by BLM protection and reduced rates of geothermal exploitation. Information in Service files is currently insufficient to support issuance of proposed listings, so these subspecies are removed from candidate status.

Streptanthus morrisonii ssp. *elatus* (Three Peaks jewelflower) is known only from a few serpentine barrens in Lake County, California. Habitat for this species has been seriously impacted by mining and road-building, but recent actions by BLM will protect habitat for this species. Information in Service files is currently insufficient to support issuance of proposed listings, so this subspecies is removed from candidate status.

Synthyris ranunculina (Charleston kittentails) is found in permanently damp areas, moist meadows, along creek corridors, snow banks, on moss-covered rock, and moist cliff crevices. All known sites are on the eastern flank of the Spring Mountains Range at elevations ranging from 8,600 to 11,800 feet. The species is known only from lands within the Toiyabe National Forest's Spring Mountains Recreation Area and the Service and U.S. Forest Service are developing an ecosystem-level conservation agreement to provide for long-term conservation of this species. Minor historic threats (from trampling by horses and hikers and spring manipulation) support removal from candidate status.

Trifolium polyodon (Pacific Grove clover) was included as part of the common *Trifolium variegatum* in a recent taxonomic revision. This species is removed from candidate status because it is no longer a listable entity under the Act.

Author

This notice was compiled from materials supplied by the Service's staff biologists located throughout the country in regional and field offices. The materials were compiled by Dr. Richard E. Sayers, Jr., Division of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street, NW., Mailstop ARLSQ–452, Washington, DC 20240 (phone 703/358–2105; facsimile 703/358–1735).

Authority: The authority for this notice is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: February 16, 1996.

John G. Rogers,

Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 96–4413 Filed 2–27–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P