

Internet and from the mailing address in the Public Comments Solicited section below.

Public Comments Solicited

We are now announcing the reopening of the comment period for the proposed designation of critical habitat for the Mariana fruit bat and the Guam Micronesian kingfisher on Guam, and the Mariana crow on Guam and Rota and associated draft economic analysis. On December 8, 2002, Guam and Rota sustained extensive damage from Super Typhoon Pongsona and were declared Federal disaster areas. We are reopening the comment period until the date specified in **DATES**. The reopening of the comment period gives additional time for all interested parties to consider the information and submit written comments on the proposal and the associated draft economic analysis.

We will accept written comments and information during this reopened comment period. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning this proposal by any of several methods:

(1) You may submit written comments and information to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., PO Box 50088, Honolulu, HI 96850-0001.

(2) You may send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to: Guam_crithab@r1.fws.gov. If you submit comments by e-mail, please submit them as an ASCII file and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: RIN 1018-AI25" and your name and return address in your e-mail message.

(3) You may hand-deliver comments to our Honolulu Fish and Wildlife Office at the address given above.

Comments and materials received, as well as supporting documentation used in preparation of the proposal to designate critical habitat, will be available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address under (1) above. Copies of the draft economic analysis are available on the Internet at <http://pacificislands.fws.gov> or by request from the Field Supervisor at the address under **ADDRESSES** and phone number under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above.

Author(s)

The primary author of this notice is Fred Amidon (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: January 15, 2003.

Paul Hoffman,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AI46

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of public comment period and notice of availability of draft economic analysis and draft environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the draft economic analysis and draft environmental assessment for the proposal to designate critical habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. We also are providing notice of the final planned extension of the public comment period for the proposal to designate critical habitat for this species to allow all interested parties to comment on and request changes to the proposed critical habitat designation, as well as the associated draft economic analysis and environmental assessment. Over a 10-year time period, the total section 7-related direct costs associated with the Preble's meadow jumping mouse listing and critical habitat are estimated at \$74 million to \$172 million. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted as they have been incorporated into the public record as part of this extended comment period and will be fully considered in preparation of the final rule.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before February 27, 2003. Any comments that we receive after the closing date may not be considered in the final decision on this proposal.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments and information to Preble's

Meadow Jumping Mouse Comments, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, CO 80215, or by facsimile to 303-275-2371. You may hand deliver written comments to our Colorado Ecological Services Field Office at the address given above. You may send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to fw6_pmjm@fws.gov. See the "Public Comments Solicited" section below for file format and other information on electronic filing.

You may obtain copies of the draft economic analysis and draft environmental assessment, review comments and materials received, and review supporting documentation used in preparation of this proposed rule, by appointment, during normal business hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Colorado Field Office. The documents also are available on the Internet at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/preble>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

LeRoy Carlson, Colorado Field Supervisor, at the above address or telephone 303-275-2370.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Preble's meadow jumping mouse (Preble's), a small rodent in the family Zapodidae, is known to occur only in eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. It lives primarily in heavily vegetated riparian habitats and immediately adjacent upland habitats. Habitat loss and degradation caused by agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial development resulted in the Preble's being listed as a threatened species throughout its range on May 13, 1998 (62 FR 26517).

On July 17, 2002 (67 FR 47153), we proposed to designate critical habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The proposed designation includes 19 habitat units totaling approximately 23,248 hectares (57,446 acres) found along 1,058.1 kilometers (657.5 miles) of rivers and streams in the States of Colorado and Wyoming.

Critical habitat identifies specific areas, both occupied and unoccupied, that are essential to the conservation of a listed species and that may require special management considerations or protection. If the proposed rule is made final, section 7 of the Act will prohibit destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat by any activity funded, authorized, or carried out by any Federal agency, and Federal agencies