

1. You may submit written comments and information to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 446 Neal Street, Cookeville, TN 38501.

2. You may hand-deliver written comments and information to our Tennessee Field Office, at the above address, or fax your comments to (931) 528-7075.

3. You may send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to robert_tawes@fws.gov. For directions on how to submit electronic filing of comments, see the "Public Comments Solicited" section.

Comments and materials received, as well as supporting documentation used in preparation of this proposed rule, will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Tawes, at the above address (telephone (931) 528-6481, extension 213; facsimile (931) 528-7075).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

We listed the Cumberland elktoe (*Alasmidonta atropurpurea*), oyster mussel (*Epioblasma capsaeformis*), Cumberlandian combshell (*Epioblasma brevidens*), purple bean (*Villosa perpurpurea*), and rough rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica strigillata*) as endangered on January 10, 1997 (62 FR 1647).

We published a proposed critical habitat designation for these five mussels in the June 3, 2003, **Federal Register** (68 FR 33234). The proposed designation includes portions of Bear Creek (Mississippi, Alabama), the Duck River (Tennessee), Obed River (Tennessee), Powell River (Tennessee, Virginia), Clinch River and its tributaries (Copper Creek and Indian Creek) (Tennessee, Virginia), Nolichucky River (Tennessee), and Beech Creek (Tennessee) in the Tennessee River System, and portions of Rock Creek (Kentucky), the Big South

Fork and its tributaries (Bone Camp Creek, White Oak Creek, North White Oak Creek, New River, Crooked Creek, Clear Fork, and North Prong Clear Fork) (Kentucky, Tennessee), Buck Creek (Kentucky), Marsh Creek (Kentucky), Sinking Creek (Kentucky), and Laurel Fork (Kentucky) in the Cumberland River System. This proposal encompasses a total of approximately 892 rkm (544 rmi) of river and stream channels. The proposed designation and associated materials can be viewed at <http://cookeville.fws.gov/>.

Section 4(b)(2) of the Act requires that we designate critical habitat on the basis of the best scientific data available and after taking into consideration the economic impact, and any other relevant impact, of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. We may exclude an area from critical habitat if we determine that the benefits of excluding the area outweigh the benefits of including the area as critical habitat, provided that such exclusion will not result in the extinction of the species. We have prepared a draft economic analysis concerning the proposed critical habitat designation, which is available for review and comment (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Public Hearing

Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that a public hearing be held if it is requested within 45 days of the publication of the proposed rule. The Board of Supervisors of Tazewell County, Virginia, requested a public hearing within the allotted time period. Public hearings are designed to gather relevant information that the public may have that we should consider in the proposed designation of critical habitat or the draft economic analysis.

We will hold a public hearing in Tazewell County, Virginia, on October 29, 2003, from 7 to 10 p.m. The hearing location will be Southwest Virginia Community College on U.S. Highway 19, located in Tazewell, Virginia. All

comments presented at the public hearing will be recorded by a court reporter. Maps of the critical habitat units and information on the species will be available for public review prior to the public hearing (between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.).

Correction to Proposed Critical Habitat Designation (68 FR 33234)

PART 17—[CORRECTED]

In proposed rule FR Doc. 03-33234 published on June 3, 2003 (68 FR 33234), make the following corrections.

1. Amend the description of Unit 8 on page 33244, changing "Dolan" to "Dolen" in column 3.

§ 17.11 [Corrected]

2. Amend the description of Unit 8 on page 33268, changing "Sinking Creek" to "Dolen Branch" starting in column 2.

Consideration of Additional Stream Mileage in Rock Creek

Since the publication of this proposed critical habitat rule, we have been informed by the U.S. Forest Service that we did not include a reach of Rock Creek (see "Proposed Critical Habitat Designation" section, Unit 8) upstream of Dolen Branch, in which there is a 1998 record of a live Cumberland elktoe. This specimen was collected approximately 5 rkm (3 rmi) upstream of Dolen Branch, southwest of Bell Farm. We will conduct an analysis on this reach prior to making a final determination on this proposed rule. If we determine this reach to be essential, then we intend to include it in the final designation. Inclusion of this reach would add approximately 6.4 rkm (4 rmi) to the upstream terminus of Unit 8 (Rock Creek). The new upstream terminus would be a driveway crossing of Rock Creek at rkm 25.6 (rmi 15.9) (approximately 2.6 kilometers (1.6 miles) southwest of Bell Farm). The map reflecting this extended area follows:

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