

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Notice of Adjustment of Disaster Grant Amounts

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: FEMA gives notice of an increase of the maximum amount for Small Project Grants to State and local governments and private nonprofit facilities for disasters declared on or after October 1, 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Walke, Recovery Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3834.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5206 (the Stafford Act) prescribes that FEMA must annually adjust the maximum grant amount made under section 422, Small Project Grants, Simplified Procedure, relating to the Public Assistance program, to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor.

FEMA gives notice of an increase of the maximum amount of any Small Project Grant made to the State, local government, or to the owner or operator of an eligible private nonprofit facility, under Sec. 422 of the Stafford Act, to \$54,100 for all disasters declared on or after October 1, 2003.

FEMA bases the adjustment on an increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers of 2.2 percent for the 12-month period ended in August 2003. The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor released the information on September 18, 2003.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance.)

Michael D. Brown,

Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Recovery Plan for *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* (Wenatchee Mountains Checker-mallow)

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability for review and comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("we") announces the availability of the Draft Recovery Plan for *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* (Wenatchee Mountains Checker-mallow) for public review. This endangered plant is found only in Chelan County, Washington. This draft recovery plan describes the status of the species, recovery objectives and criteria, and specific actions needed to reclassify *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* from endangered to threatened, and to ultimately delist it. We solicit review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public on this draft recovery plan.

DATE: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before December 15, 2003, to receive our consideration.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Central Washington Field Office, 215 Melody Lane, Suite 119, Wenatchee, Washington 98801 (telephone: 509-665-3508). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. An electronic copy of this recovery plan is also available at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim McCracken, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the

conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice, and an opportunity for public review and comment, be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments may result in changes to the plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individual responses to comments will not be provided.

This draft recovery plan was developed by Service biologists coordinating with botanists, plant ecologists, and planners from the Natural Heritage Program and Natural Area Program, Washington Department of Natural Resources; and the U.S. Forest Service. We also consulted with various experts from universities, agency representatives, and non-governmental organizations in the development of this plan.

Sidalcea oregana var. *calva* was listed as an endangered species on December 22, 1999 (64 FR 71680). This rare, attractive member of the mallow family (Malvaceae) is endemic to Chelan County, Washington, where it is found in wetlands and moist meadows of the Wenatchee Mountains. Just five populations are known, and four of these five number from only eight to a few hundred individuals. Populations occur on a mixture of private, State, and Federal lands. Critical habitat was designated for this species on September 6, 2001 (66 FR 46536).

The primary threats to *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* include habitat fragmentation, degradation, or loss due to conversion of native wetlands to orchards and other agricultural uses; rural residential development and associated impacts; altered hydrology; competition from native and nonnative plants; recreational impacts; woody plant encroachment; and activities associated with fire suppression. To a lesser extent the species is threatened by livestock grazing, road construction, and