

Bulletin



Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101
Carlsbad, California 92011
Phone: 760/431-9440
Fax: 760/431-9618

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CONTACT: Jane Hendron, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – 760/431-9440 ext. 205

Service Designates Final Critical Habitat for San Diego Thornmint

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a final rule in today's *Federal Register* announcing the designation of 671 acres of critical habitat for San Diego thornmint. Some of the lands designated as critical habitat are on the Cleveland National Forest or the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, or are lands owned by the County of San Diego or private owners that are not covered by long-term management plans.

The final rule identifies 1,748 acres of land in San Diego County as containing features essential to the conservation of San Diego thornmint. Of this, the Service is excluding 1,077 acres from final critical habitat that are covered under the San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan (MHCP), the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) or the Manchester Avenue Mitigation Bank because these plans provide for long-term management and conservation of San Diego thornmint.

Following new information and additional analysis, the Service made two basic changes to the March 2007 proposed rule. Besides correction of mapping errors, areas were removed because they do not contain physical or biological features essential to the conservation of San Diego thornmint.

San Diego thornmint, an annual member of the mint family, occurs in portions of San Diego County, California and south to Telmo in northern Baja California, Mexico. Copies of the final rule, draft analysis and other information about San Diego thornmint are available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. For additional questions about the rule, please contact the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office at 760-431-9440.

The mission of the Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.