

News Bulletin

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Releases 2014 List of Candidates for Endangered Species Act Protection

Twenty three new candidate species added in the Pacific Islands

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today released the Candidate Notice of Review, a yearly status appraisal of plants and animals that are candidates for Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection. Twenty-two species from Hawaii and one species of bird historically from American Samoa were added to the candidate list, one species was removed, and one has changed in priority from the last review conducted in November 2013.

There are now 146 species recognized by the Service as candidates for ESA protection. With the addition of this year's candidate species, there are now 34 candidate species in the Pacific Islands (29 for Hawaii and five for American Samoa). In addition, 7 species are currently being proposed for protection under the ESA in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Service is now soliciting additional information on these species and others that may warrant ESA protection to assist in preparing listing documents and future revisions or supplements to the Candidate Notice of Review.

Candidate species are plants and animals for which the Service has enough information on their status and the threats they face to propose as threatened or endangered, but for which a proposed listing rule is precluded by other, higher priority listing actions. The annual review and identification of candidate species helps landowners and natural resource managers understand which species need most to be conserved, allowing them to address threats and work to preclude ESA listing.

The 23 species being added to the candidate list include one bird species, 18 flowering plants and 4 fern related species:

- Native to Tutuila Island, American Samoa, and the islands of Upolu and Savaii, Independent Samoa, but now is only found in small populations on Savaii and Upolu – the ma'oma'o bird (*Gymnomyza samoensis*).
- Nine plant species are found on the island of Maui - *Cyanea kauaulaensis*, *Cyperus neokunthianus*, *Phyllostegia brevidens* (extirpated from Hawaii Island), *Schiedea diffusa* ssp.

Diffusa, *Deparia kaalaana* (extirpated from Kauai and Hawaii Island), *Hypolepis hawaiiensis* var. *mauiensis*, *Phyllostegia stachyoides*, *Sanicula sandwicensis* and *Portulaca villosa*.

- Two plant species are found on Molokai - *Cyrtandra hematos* and *Phyllostegia stachyoides*.
- Three plant species are found on the island of Hawaii - - *Exocarpos menziesii* (extirpated from Lanai), *Sanicula sandwicensis* and *Phyllostegia stachyoides*.
- Nine plant species are found on the Island of Kauai - *Kadua haupuensis*, *Labordia lorenciana*, *Lepidium orbiculare*, *Phyllostegia helleri*, *Santalum involutum*, *Wikstromoemia skottsbergiana*, *Asplenium diellaciniatum*, *Dryopteris glabra* var. *pusilla* and *Sicyos lanceoloideus*.
- Four plants are found on the island of Oahu - *Pritchardia bakeri*, *Stenogyne kaalae* ssp., *Sherffii* and *Sicyos lanceoloideus*.
- One plant is found on the island of Nihoa - *Portulaca villosa*.

Although candidate species do not receive ESA protection, the Service works to conserve them and their habitats using several tools: a [grants program](#) funds conservation projects by private landowners, states and territories; and two voluntary programs – [Candidate Conservation Agreements](#) (CCAs) and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) – engage participants to implement specific actions that remove or reduce the threats to candidate species, which helps stabilize or restore the species and can preclude ESA listing.

All candidate species are assigned a listing priority number based on the magnitude and imminence of the threats they face. When adding species to the list of threatened or endangered species, the Service addresses species with the highest listing priority first. Today’s notice announces changes in priority for one species – Sprague’s pipit – based on a reduction in the imminence of the threat from conversion of habitat on the bird’s breeding grounds.

The complete notice and list of proposed and candidate species is published in the *Federal Register* and can be found online at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/cnor.html>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov, or connect with us through any of these social media channels:

