

News Bulletin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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April 18, 2014

Service Reopens Comment Period for Slickspot Peppergrass Reconsideration of Listing and Revised Proposed Critical Habitat Rule

Public will have additional 45 days for review and input

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reopened the public comment period for the revised proposed rule to designate critical habitat for slickspot peppergrass (*lepidium papilliferum*) under the Endangered Species Act (Act or ESA).

The Service listed slickspot peppergrass as a threatened species on October 8, 2009. Following a court ruling that remanded the listing to more clearly define the “foreseeable future” timeframe for the determination, the Service published a reconsideration of the final rule on February 12, 2014. In that notice, the Service proposed that threatened status should be reinstated for slickspot peppergrass, based on a “foreseeable future” of at least 50 years, the time period in which the threats to the species are likely to cause it to become endangered. The Service also published a revised proposed critical habitat rule to designate a total of 61,301 acres of critical habitat in Idaho’s Ada, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee and Payette Counties. With this reopening, the Service also corrects the February 12, 2014, revised proposed critical habitat rule regarding state and private land acreages, and the inclusion of a single element occurrence in Unit 1.

The 45-day comment period will allow all interested parties additional time to comment on the two proposals. Comments previously submitted do not need to be resubmitted, as they will be fully considered in the preparation of the final rules. Please refer to today’s *Federal Register* Notice for specific information the Service is requesting from the public.

The Service requests comment submission by close of business, June 5, 2014. Comments may be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Enter docket number FWS–R1–ES–2013–0117 for reconsideration of the listing, and FWS–R1–ES–2010–0071 for critical habitat action.

For more information about slickspot peppergrass conservation, please visit the Service’s website at <http://www.fws.gov/idaho>, or call 208-378-5243

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