

# News Release

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## Draft Economic Analysis Available on Proposed Critical Habitat Rule for Webber's Ivesia *Public Comment Period Opens*

*Reno*--The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) today announced the availability of a draft economic analysis on the proposal to designate 2,170 acres of critical habitat in California for Webber's ivesia in Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra Counties in northeastern California, and Washoe and Douglas Counties in northwestern Nevada.

On August 2, 2013, the Service published proposals in *Federal Register* to list Webber's ivesia as a threatened species and a proposal to designate critical habitat. At that time, the Service proposed 16 units of critical habitat (two with subunits), consisting of approximately 2,011 acres. The Service is proposing to correct the boundaries in five of those units based on new information received from the U.S. Forest Service, better defining the physical and biological features along the boundaries. This boundary correction will increase the proposed designation of critical habitat by 159 acres bringing the total number of acres of proposed as critical habitat from 2,011 to 2,170 acres.

The release of the draft economic analysis opens a new 30-day comment period that will close March 17, 2014. The public is invited to submit information on the draft economic analysis as well as the proposal to designate critical habitat.

"Comments from the public help the Service make a final decision that reflects the best information available," said Ted Koch, State Supervisor for the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office. "We especially want to invite businesses and economic stakeholders who operate in and around proposed critical habitat areas to carefully review and submit comments on the draft economic analysis."

Comments may be submitted online at the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The Docket Number for the proposed rule is FWS-R8-ES-2013-0080. Comments can also be sent by U.S. mail to:

Public Comments Processing

Attn: FWS-R8-ES-2013-0080

Division of Policy and Directives Management

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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