



Federal Register

**Tuesday,
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Part II

Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and
Plants; Review of Plant and Animal
Species That Are Candidates or Proposed
for Listing as Endangered or Threatened,
Annual Notice of Findings on Recycled
Petitions, and Annual Description of
Progress on Listing Actions; Proposed
Rule**

Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)—As described in our February 4, 2000, 12-month finding (65 FR 5476), black-tailed prairie dog populations have been significantly reduced and are subject to many persistent threats. We believe that various threats (especially plague and pest control efforts via chemical agents) continue to cause local extirpations that could lead to the species becoming vulnerable in a significant portion of its range. Additionally, the species may have difficulty coping with challenges without the advantage of its historic abundance and wide distribution. Accordingly, the vulnerability of the species to population reductions may be related less to its absolute numbers than to the number of colonies in which it exists, their size, their geospatial relationship, existing barriers to immigration and emigration, and the number and nature of the direct threats to the species. While positive first steps to conserve and manage black-tailed prairie dogs have been made by some States and Tribes, more conservation work will be needed by all States, Tribes, and Federal agencies to sufficiently reduce threats to the species. The overall magnitude and immediacy of threats to this species remain unchanged since the 12-month finding was published with a listing priority number of 8.

TABLE 1. CANDIDATE NOTICE OF REVIEW (ANIMAL AND PLANT)

Status		Lead Region	Common name	Scientific name	Family	Historic range
Category	Priority					
Mammals						
PT	3	R1	Bat, Mariana fruit	<i>Pteropus mariannus mariannus.</i>	Pteropodidae	Western Pacific Ocean U.S.A. (GU, MP).
C*	3	R1	Bat, sheath-tailed (American Samoa, Aguijan DPS).	<i>Emballonura semicaudata.</i>	Emballonuridae	U.S.A. (AS, GU, MP), Caroline Islands .
C*	3	R1	Fox, island (Santa Catalina, Santa Cruz, San Miguel, Santa Rosa Islands).	<i>Urocyon littoralis catalinae, U. l. santacruzae, U. l. littoralis, and U. l. santarosae.</i>	Canidae	U.S.A. (California).
C*	3	R7	Otter, northern sea (Aleutian Islands DPS).	<i>Enhydra lutris kenyoni.</i>	Mustelidae	U.S.A. southwest AK).
C	6	R1	Pocket Gopher, Mazama	<i>Thomomys mazama</i>	Geomyidae	U.S.A. (Washington).
C*	8	R6	Prairie dog, black-tailed	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus.</i>	Sciuridae	U.S.A. (AZ, CO, KS, MT, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, WY), Canada, Mexico.