



*Questions and Answers
About the Proposal to List the Streaked
Horned Lark and the Taylor's Checkerspot
Butterfly Under the ESA*

1) Why are these subspecies being listed under the ESA?

The subspecies have both declined from historic population levels and are all facing imminent threats such that they are in danger either of extinction (endangered) or with becoming in danger of extinction in the foreseeable future (threatened) throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

2) What are the primary threats to the existence of the subspecies?

The primary threat continues to be the loss or degradation of prairie ecosystem, sandy islands and coastal habitats due to conversion to agriculture, commercial and residential development, dominance by invasive species, and forest encroachment resulting from a variety of causes, such as lack of periodic fire.

3) What is the USFWS doing to work with local interests to reduce impacts from the proposed listing?

We are coordinating closely with the Department of Defense (DOD) to minimize impacts to training from the presence of ESA-listed species. We have also collaborated with DOD to implement on the ground conservation measures to benefit the subspecies and their habitat on DOD lands, and for activities such as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging on the Columbia River. We are working with local tribes to ensure the continued presence of these subspecies on tribal lands. We have also proposed a special rule that would exempt otherwise prohibited incidental take (i.e., harm or harassment) of the streaked horned lark resulting from specific activities on certain lands to help minimize impacts to local communities.

4) What is the Special Rule and how would it work?

The Endangered Species Act contains a provision allowing for special rules to be written that allow limited incidental take of listed species under specified conditions. These are known as 4(d) rules for the section of the Act that allows them.

In the case of the streaked horned lark, the proposed special rule would allow limited incidental take of individual animals during the course of maintenance activities at civilian airports, and specified types of agricultural management in the Willamette Valley.

5) What is the likely affect to Joint Base Lewis-McChord?

Like all Federal agencies managing habitat for federally-listed species, the Department of Defense will be required to consult with the FWS on planned actions that may impact the species or their habitat. In most cases, such consultation allows continuation of planned activities through implementation of conservation measures to minimize impacts to listed species and their habitat.