

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

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June 21, 2013

The Honorable Daniel M. Ashe
Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Main Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Room 3331
Washington, DC 20240-0001

RE: Request for 90-Day Extension of Comment Period and Consideration of a Public Meeting Located in Mariposa County/Home of Yosemite National Park

Dear Director Ashe:

Please be advised that the recent information released concerning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to list the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad as an endangered species and critical habitat has recently received a large amount of public concern. It is imperative that a local informational meeting be scheduled in Mariposa, California and that additional time be afforded for public review and comment following said meeting.

It is equally important that the economic impacts to the identified lands be carefully assessed. Past rush to judgment actions permanently destroyed the timber industry, which resulted in negative county and state impacts with such protections of the Spotted Owl.

In many instances, the property owners can and do adequately protect varying wildlife species independent of the Fish and Wildlife Services, as responsible stewards of the land. In reading the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website, it indicates that known predators of said frog/toad include the western terrestrial garter snake, Brewer's blackbirds, Clark's nutcrackers, coyotes, rainbow trout, golden trout, brook-charr, and brown trout. Impacts to said predator species should also be reviewed prior to any significant action. Without proceeding with extreme caution, Fish and Wildlife Services will be adding the former predatory species to the protection list as well.

Historically, fishing is a main attraction in mountain lakes. Therefore, triggering unanticipated consequences in which other wildlife species may be dependent on the trout population for survival should also be reviewed. The recreational value that fishing provides to public lands should be balanced when evaluating this endangered species listing proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

JANET BIBBY
Board of Supervisor, Dist. 3
County of Mariposa

JOHN CARRIER
Board of Supervisor, Dist. 5
County of Mariposa

JB/JC:jbb

Cc: Congressman Tom McClintock