



AGENDA REQUEST FORM
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF INYO

For Clerk's Use Only: AGENDA NUMBER

- Consent Departmental Correspondence Action Public Hearing
 Scheduled Time for Closed Session Informational

FROM: Inyo County Planning Department

FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF: June 18, 2013

SUBJECT: Designation of Critical Habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, and the Yosemite Toad

RECOMMENDATION: Review the notices issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposing to designate critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, and the Yosemite Toad, and authorize the Chair to sign correspondence in regards thereto.

SUMMARY DISCUSSION: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued notices indicating its intent to adopt regulations to list as endangered and designate critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, and the Yosemite Toad.¹ Critical habitat for these species is proposed in Inyo County and adjacent to the County along the crest of the Sierra Nevada. Primary threats to the various species identified include habitat destruction, recreation (including trout stocking), dams and reservoir diversion, livestock use (grazing), packstock use, roads, timber harvest, fire management activities, disease, climate change, and pollution.

Comments regarding the proposed rules are due by June 24, 2013. The Board authorized correspondence to the USFWS on June 8, 2013 expressing concern about the proposals and requesting either a 60-day extension to the comment period or a public hearing. The Board also directed staff investigate the issues further and explore the potential of preparing a socioeconomic analysis. No response from USFWS has been received in response to the County's June 8 correspondence yet, but staff has discussed the overall issues with USFWS staff, which has indicated that additional opportunities for comment will be provided throughout the rule-making process over the next year or so, such as for any public meetings and/or hearings, or for the required economic analysis. Due to the impending preliminary deadline for comment, staff is working with Gruen + Gruen Associates (GGA) on a preliminary socioeconomic analysis, and is preparing draft correspondence for the Board's consideration, which will be provided under separate cover. Staff plans to continue to work with GGA regarding socioeconomic issues to prepare a more comprehensive analysis

ALTERNATIVES: The Board could direct changes to the correspondence, or not submit correspondence.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: Department of Interior, USFWS; other agencies with jurisdiction (U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, etc.)

FINANCING: General fund resources are utilized to monitor federal rule making. Other funding sources may be considered for GGA's work through the budgetary process.

¹ Refer to www.regulations.gov regarding Docket Nos. FWS-R8-ES-2012-0100 and FWS-R8-ES-2012-0074.

<u>APPROVALS</u>	
COUNTY COUNSEL:	AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS AND ORDINANCES AND CLOSED SESSION AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by county counsel prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
AUDITOR/CONTROLLER:	ACCOUNTING/FINANCE AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the auditor-controller prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR:	PERSONNEL AND RELATED ITEMS (Must be reviewed and approved by the director of personnel services prior to submission to the board clerk.)

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE:
(Not to be signed until all approvals are received)

_____ Date: _____