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News Release



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Fish and Wildlife Service Soliciting Public Feedback on Draft Santa Ana Sucker Recovery Plan

A draft plan to help guide recovery efforts for the Santa Ana sucker is now available for public review.

The draft recovery plan lays out a strategy to recover the fish that includes restoring habitat; augmenting or reintroducing the fish into more portions of its historic range; and removing, reducing, or managing threats such as nonnative fish, and artificial barriers that prevent genetic exchange.

“This draft recovery plan is a blueprint for ensuring a healthy future for the fish,” said Ren Lohofener, the Service’s Pacific Southwest Regional Director. “We have an active group of stakeholders involved with developing recovery strategies for the Santa Ana sucker, and we expect to continue our joint efforts to recover the species.”

Santa Ana suckers were listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 2000, due primarily to the loss, alteration, and degradation of its habitat from altered stream hydrology, introduction of nonnative species that predate the sucker, and operations of dams and installation of barriers that modify the species habitat or prevent genetic exchange.

Currently, Santa Ana suckers are found in portions of the San Gabriel, Los Angeles, and Santa Ana River watersheds in southern California. The draft recovery plan identifies each of these watersheds as a Recovery Unit. Within the Recovery Units are smaller Management Units that are the focus of recovery activities.

Recovery Plans are not regulatory documents, and do not require any agency or landowner to implement specific recovery actions. However, recovery of the Santa Ana sucker will require a coordinated effort among many stakeholders.

The draft Recovery Plan indicates the Santa Ana sucker could be considered successfully recovered if adequate amounts of suitable habitat are restored, protected, and managed within each Recovery Unit to support all life stages of the species and provide protection against catastrophic events; and population trends are demonstrated over 15 consecutive years to be stable or increasing, with adult and juvenile fish

in all Recovery Units.

The notice announcing the availability of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Santa Ana Sucker will publish in the Federal Register on Nov. 24, 2014. Comments and information will be accepted from until January 23, 2015. All relevant information received from the public, government agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested parties will be considered.

To receive a copy of the draft recovery plan, please contact Bradd Bridges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250, Carlsbad, CA, 92008; telephone (760) 431-9440; or download a copy of the draft plan from the Service's Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office website at <http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad>.

Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

1. Submit written comments and materials to Bradd Bridges, at the above address;
2. Hand-deliver written comments to our Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, at the above address, or fax them to (760) 431-9624; or
3. Send comments by e-mail fw8cfwocomments@fws.gov. Please include "Santa Ana Sucker Draft Recovery Plan" in the subject line.

[Click this link for photos of the Santa Ana sucker](#)

Additional information about the Santa Ana sucker is available on our [ECOS website](#).

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