

The USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service published several new policies concerning endangered and threatened species in the **July 1 edition of the *Federal Register* on pages 34270-34275.**

USFWS also proposed downlisting the bald eagle from endangered to threatened, except in certain areas of the Southwest. In the five states where it is currently listed as threatened (Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan), it would continue to be listed as threatened. Comments are being received until October 11 (**Federal Register July 12, pages 35584-35585.**)

The USFWS ruled on a petition to list 83 mollusc species, finding that, for some species, substantial information indicating that listing is warranted was not presented, or, for other species, that listing is not presently warranted. The species considered are found primarily in the states of Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho, and some are known or are believed to occur on NPS lands (**Federal Register July 11, pages 35305-35307.**)

The Soil Conservation Service published a revised listing of the soils defined as "hydric soils," which are used in delineating wetlands (**Federal Register July 13, pages 35680-35695.**)

The USFWS determined the water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*), a wetlands plant, to be a threatened species. Although extirpated from California, Oregon, and some sites in Washington and Idaho, this species continues to exist in Montana, Idaho, and Washington, primarily in consolidated clay and organic sediments that occur in wetlands associated with ephemeral glacial pothole ponds and former river oxbows. Primary threats to the species are loss of wetlands and habitat changes due to timber harvesting, livestock grazing, residential development, and competition by introduced plant species such as reed canary grass (**Federal Register July 14, pages 35860-35864.**)