

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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## TEN BEETLES PROPOSED FOR ENDANGERED OR THREATENED STATUS

Ten North American species of beetles whose habitats have been modified by housing developments, roads, land clearing, fire, and urbanization have been proposed for endangered or threatened status, Keith M. Schreiner, Associate Director of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today.

The proposal, published in the August 9, 1978, Federal Register, would list two species as endangered and eight as threatened. It also proposes critical habitat for these species. Most of the species occur along the west coast, particularly in California.

All of the beetles have little or no impact on agricultural activities. The species include what would be the smallest endangered or threatened animal listed, the 1/16 inch long Sacramento anthicid beetle.

"They include the beautiful and the dull," Schreiner said, "but perhaps the most unifying characteristic of this group of potentially endangered or threatened additions is their dependence on a specific kind of habitat for their survival. And in each case man is destroying that habitat."

(over)

For example, the Andrew's dune scarab beetle exists in the troughs of loose drifting sand between dunes in southeastern California. Off-road vehicles, such as dune buggies and motorcycles, disrupt dune troughs and prevent the accumulation of dead organic matter upon which the immature stages of this beetle feed. The Delta green ground beetle, a beautiful iridescent species, now exists only on the edges of two vernal pools in Solano County, California. These pools are filled by winter rains and dry out by late summer. These pools were once widespread throughout California, but now only a few remain. Most have been lost to river channelization, dam construction, and agricultural conversion of natural habitats.

Some of the sites on which these species occur measure only a few hundred square meters and can support only a few hundred beetles each. The species could become extinct as a result of some small but adverse environmental manipulation.

The species and the States or countries where they occur are as follows:

- Beller's ground beetle - Washington and British Columbia, Canada
- Globose dune beetle - California and Baja California, Mexico
- San Joaquin dune beetle, Sacramento anthicid beetle, Mojave rabbitbrush longhorn beetle, California elderberry longhorn beetle, Delta green ground beetle, Robinson's rain scarab beetle, and Andrew's dune scarab beetle - California
- Giuliani's dune scarab beetle - Nevada

The Beller's ground beetle and the Mojave rabbitbrush longhorn beetle are proposed as endangered; the others are proposed as threatened.

Interested persons wishing to comment on this proposal should submit comments to the Director (FWS/OES), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. All comments received no later than November 7, 1978, will be considered.