Proposed rules issued to protect endangered sea turtles: Proposed rules were issued that would require U.S. shrimping boats to insert metal grates into nets to allow sea turtles to escape. These devices would allow 800-2,500 turtles to be saved per year.

Colorado to kill mountain lions and bear to increase deer population: Starting in the spring of 2017, Colorado state wildlife crews will capture and kill up to 15 mountain lions and 25 black bears each year in the Piceance Basin in order to increase mule deer populations. Although biologists question the reasoning behind this action, the state’s wildlife commission argues predation, rather than habitat changes or energy development, has impacted the population.

Army Corps of Engineers sued over sucker fish: The Center for Biological Diversity and Endangered Habitats League filed a complaint in federal court, Monday, Dec. 12, alleging that the Army Corps, while operating the Seven Oaks Dam in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, violated the federal Endangered Species Act by failing to consult with federal wildlife officials to avoid harm to the Santa Ana sucker, a small fish that lives below the dam in the Santa Ana River.

NOAA Fisheries announces final rule on offshore protected area for deep sea corals: NOAA Fisheries announced its final rule for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s action to designate the Frank R. Lautenberg Deep Sea Coral Protection Area, a large offshore protected area for deep sea corals in the Mid-Atlantic. The action will protect deep sea corals, which are slow-growing, fragile, and vulnerable to damage from certain types of fishing gear, from the impacts of bottom-tending fishing gear.

China sets date to close legal ivory carving factories: In preparation for a domestic ivory trade ban, China has announced it will set a date when its carving factories will close. Legal ivory carvers use tusks imported through sanctioned sales from Africa. Advocates believe a complete ban will discourage demand for black market ivory and discourage attempts to launder poached tusks into legal markets.

South Korean dog market closed by city government: Seongnam city officials announced that they will permanently shutter the dog meat section of Moran Market, South Korea’s largest dog meat market. Slaughter facilities and dog cages will begin to be removed next week and should be completely gone by early May. Moran supplies a third of the dog meat consumed in Korea.

34,000 protected acres for rare salamander: A settlement between the Center for Biological Diversity and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has resulted in a final recovery plan for the endangered Santa Barbara County population of the California tiger salamander that calls for the purchase and permanent protection of 34,000 acres of the breeding ponds and adjacent uplands.

If you have information you would like included, please contact emilybergeron@mac.com.