



News Bulletin

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Findings for 17 Endangered Species Act Petitions

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed initial reviews for 17 petitions to list or delist species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We find that six petitions did not present substantial information indicating that the petitioned actions may be warranted. Therefore, we will not take further action on the petitions for these species. The six petitions include: one to delist the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear and another to uplist it from threatened to endangered; and petitions to list the Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard; Kings River slender salamander; sandstone night lizard; and the Yellowstone bison.

In response to 11 petitions, the Service is initiating 12-month status reviews on the Culebra skink, Great Basin silverspot butterfly, Greater Saint Croix skink, Greater Virgin Islands skink, lesser Saint Croix skink, Mona skink, narrow-footed diving beetle, Northern Rocky Mountain DPS of fisher, Puerto Rico skink, Scott riffle beetle and the Virgin Island bronze skink to determine whether the petitioned actions to list these species are warranted. To ensure that these status reviews are comprehensive, we request scientific and commercial data and other information regarding these species.

Specific to Arizona and New Mexico, the Great Basin silverspot is a 2 ½ to 3-inch orange-brown butterfly with black markings. It lives in permanent streamside meadows, seeps and wetlands found in high desert above 7,500 feet elevation. Larvae feed exclusively on violets and adults utilize nectar from a variety of plants including thistles and horsemint. Adults are and may live out their entire life cycle in a single riparian system. Populations occur in southwestern Colorado and on the Navajo Nation (where it is protected) in Arizona and New Mexico, with historical distribution in Mora, San Miguel and Taos counties in New Mexico and in eastern Utah. Threats identified in the petition include habitat loss and fragmentation due to development, altered hydrology, heavy grazing and mineral extraction.

A summary of all findings is included below, along with separate docket numbers:

Not-substantial petition findings – no further status review

Species	Range	Docket Number	Docket link
Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear (uplist)	ID, MT	FWS-R8-ES-2015-0082	www.regulations.gov/#!/docketDetail;D=FWS-R8-ES-2015-0082
Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear	ID,	FWS-R6-ES-	www.regulations.gov/#!/docketDetail;D=FWS-

(delist)	MT	2015-0174	R6-ES-2015-0174
Colorado desert fringe-toed lizard	CA	FWS-R8-ES-2015-0082	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R8-ES-2015-0082
Kings River slender salamander	CA	FWS-R8-ES-2015-0094	http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R8-ES-2015-0094
Sandstone night lizard	CA	FWS-R8-ES-2015-0113	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R8-ES-2015-0113
Yellowstone bison	WY	FWS-R6-ES-2015-0123	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R6-ES-2015-0123

Substantial petition findings – status review initiated

Species	Range	Docket number	Docket link
Culebra skink	Caribbean	FWS-R4-ES-2015-0085	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R4-ES-2015-0085
Great basin silverspot butterfly	CO, UT	FWS-R6-ES-2015-0089	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R6-ES-2015-0089
Greater Saint Croix skink	Caribbean	FWS-R4-ES-2015-0090	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R4-ES-2015-0090
Greater Virgin Islands skink	Caribbean	FWS-R4-ES-2015-0091	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R4-ES-2015-0091
Lesser Saint Croix Skink	Caribbean	FWS-R4-ES-2015-0096	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R4-ES-2015-0096
Mona skink	Caribbean	FWS-R4-ES-2015-0100	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R4-ES-2015-0100
Narrow-footed diving beetle	WY	FWS-R6-ES-2015-0102	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R6-ES-2015-0102
Northern Rocky Mtn. DPS of Fisher	MT, ID	FWS-R6-ES-2015-0104	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R6-ES-2015-0104
Puerto Rico skink	Caribbean	FWS-R4-ES-2015-0107	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R4-ES-2015-0107
Scott Riffle beetle	KS	FWS-R6-ES-2015-0114	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R6-ES-2015-0114
Virgin Island bronze skink	Caribbean	FWS-R4-ES-2015-0120	www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R4-ES-2015-0120

The notice for all 17 findings will publish in the *Federal Register* Reading Room on January 11, 2016, and is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection> by clicking on the 2016 Notices link under Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

The Service is opening a 60-day public comment period for each species for which a status review is being initiated. Complete instructions for submitting comments are provided in the *Federal Register* notice. Information can be submitted from the date of publication in the *Federal Register* until March 12, 2016.

The ESA provides a critical safety net for fish, wildlife and plants and has prevented the extinction of hundreds of imperiled species, as well as promoting the recovery of many others. The Service is actively engaged with conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov, or connect with us through any of these social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#).