



# News Bulletin

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Arizona Ecological Services Field Office

[www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/)

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## Re-opening of the Comment Period for the Proposal to Protect Two Arizona Springsnails

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is re-opening the comment period for its April 11, 2011, [proposal to list](#) the Three Forks and San Bernardino springsnails as endangered and to designate critical habitat for both species, under the Endangered Species Act. The proposed critical habitat designation for the Three Forks springsnail is being revised. The Service has also completed and is seeking comments on a draft economic analysis of the critical habitat proposal. Comments are due by Dec. 19.

The Three Forks springsnail faces threats primarily from wildfire, exposure to wildfire suppression chemicals, predation by nonnative crayfish, and habitat alterations from elk grazing. The Three Forks springsnail was historically distributed in three separate spring complexes; Three Forks Springs, Boneyard Bog Springs, and Boneyard Creek Spring, in the North Fork East Fork Black River Watershed of the White Mountains in Apache County, east-central Arizona. Critical habitat designation was initially proposed for 11.1 acres encompassing Three Forks Springs and Boneyard Bog Spring. However, as a result of information received since the proposal was published, the Service is proposing to revise the critical habitat designation by increasing the size of Boneyard Bog Springs Unit to 5.3 acres and adding the Boneyard Creek Unit for a grand total of 17.1 acres.

The San Bernardino springsnail faces threats primarily from water depletion and introduction of pesticides into its habitats. The historical range of the San Bernardino springsnail in the U.S. may have included several springs along the headwaters of the Rio Yaqui, but has only been confirmed from Snail Spring, Goat Tank Spring, and Horse Spring on the John Slaughter Ranch, Cochise County, Arizona. Critical habitat designation is proposed for 0.8 acres on San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge and 1.2 acres on the John Slaughter Ranch, for a grand total of 2.0 acres. New information received since the proposal was published shows that springsnail populations in Sonora, Mexico, are San Bernardino springsnails, indicating the species is more widely distributed than previously believed.

The proposal, revision, and draft economic analysis are available on the Service's web site at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/>, or by writing to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951 (602-242-0210). Comments can be submitted electronically to via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: at <http://www.regulations.gov/>, or can be mailed or hand delivered to Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R2-ES-2009-0083; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222; Arlington, VA 22203. Comments must be submitted by Dec. 19, 2011.

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/>