



# News Bulletin

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**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)** [www.fws.gov/southwest/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/)

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## **Service Reopens Comment Period on the Designation of Critical Habitat for the Acuña Cactus and the Fickeisen Plains Cactus**

The Service is announcing the reopening of the public comment period on the October 3, 2012, [proposed listing and designation](#) of critical habitat for *Echinomastus erectocentrus* var. *acunensis* (acuña cactus) and *Pediocactus peeblesianus* var. *fickeiseniae* (Fickeisen plains cactus) under the Endangered Species Act. We are reopening the comment period for 15 days to allow all interested parties an opportunity to comment on revisions to the proposed critical habitat designations; the associated draft economic analysis (DEA) for the proposed critical habitat designations; and the amended required determinations. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted, as they will be fully considered in preparation of the final decision. Additional comments must be received by July 23.

Based on information the Service received during the comment periods, the Service is revising the proposed critical habitat for both cacti species. The new information resulted in revisions to most of the acuña cactus critical habitat units. For the Fickeisen plains cactus, the Service is proposing to remove Unit 4, Snake Gulch, and add a new unit on U.S. Forest Service land. For the acuña cactus, the Service proposes to designate approximately 18,921 acres as critical habitat in Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal counties, Arizona. For the Fickeisen plains cactus, the Service proposes to designate approximately 47,123 acres as critical habitat in Coconino and Mohave counties, Arizona. Therefore, acuña cactus proposed critical habitat is reduced by 34,799 acres, and Fickeisen plains cactus proposed critical habitat is reduced by 2,063 ac.

To learn about how to comment, or what the Service is seeking comments on, you may obtain copies of the proposed rule and the DEA on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket Number FWS-R2-ES-2013-0025, or by mail from the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, 2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021, telephone (602) 242-0210.

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