



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NEWS RELEASE

SNAKE RIVER FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE

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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO CONDUCT REVIEW OF BLISS RAPIDS SNAIL AND IDAHO SPRINGSNAIL

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced today that it is conducting a 5-year review of two listed species, the Bliss Rapids snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*) and the Idaho springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis idahoensis*), as required under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

The Bliss Rapids snail was listed as threatened on December 14, 1992 (57 FR 59244). It occurs in the free-flowing waters of the Middle Snake River, as well as in several cold-water springs in the Hagerman Valley, Idaho. The Idaho springsnail was listed as endangered on December 14, 1992 (57 FR 59244). The Idaho spring-snail is distributed in random locations near the CJ Strike Reservoir upstream to Bancroft Springs, Idaho. This distribution represents an 80% reduction in its historic range.

The purpose of the 5-year review is to ensure that the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (List) accurately reflects the most current status of each listed species. The review will assess the best available information on how both snail species have fared since they were listed for protection in 1992, including analyses of population data and threats to the species.

The Service is soliciting information from all sources regarding both species for the review. All information that has become available since the original listings of these two species will be considered. Information may include, but is not limited to, species biology; population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics; habitat conditions (amount, distribution, and suitability); conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species; threat status and trends; and other new information, data, or corrections such as taxonomic or nomenclature changes, identification of erroneous information contained in the List, and improved analytical methods.

“More than ten years have passed since the original listing of the Bliss Rapids snail and the Idaho springsnail. New data regarding both species may be available to us, and we wish to use that new information to broaden the scope of scientific knowledge and evaluate it under the ESA’s review requirements. This review will provide an excellent opportunity for the Service to ensure that the species have appropriate ESA protection,” said David Allen, Regional Director of the Service’s Pacific Region. Throughout the review, both species will continue to receive full protection of the Endangered Species Act.

After assessing new information, the Service will determine if the species’ populations are increasing, declining, or stable; if existing threats are increasing, the same, reduced or eliminated; if there are any new threats; and if new information or analysis calls into question any of the conclusions in the original listing determination.

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The Service may determine, based upon the review, that a change in classification is warranted, such as removal from the List (delisting), or a change in status from endangered to threatened, or threatened to endangered (reclassification).

If the agency does propose a change, it would go through a formal rule-making process, including public review and comment, as defined in section 4(a) of the Act. No change in status would occur until the completion of that process.

The public is encouraged to submit any new scientific or commercial information concerning the status of both species. In order to allow the Service adequate time to consider information as the review is conducted, submissions must be received no later than (INSERT DATE). The Service, however, continues to accept information about any listed species at any time.

Information about the Bliss Rapids snail and the Idaho springsnail may be sent directly to: Field Office Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 368, Boise, Idaho 83709. **Do we want to add an e-mail for SRFWO also here?**

Information received in response to this notice, and review results, will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the above address.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.