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Comments on Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse Delisting Proposal

(Listed in order received. Dates are those on comments.)

Reopened Comment Period

29. 2/6/06 Mark Lusch, Cheyenne, WY
30. 2/18/06 Tom and Mary Ann Cunningham, Green Mountain Falls, CO
31. 2/18/06 Bruce Roberts, Monument CO
32. 2/20/06 Mitchell Baldwin
33. 2/21/06 Oliver A. Richardson
34. 2/22/06 Robert B. Hoff, Colorado Springs, CO (see 1 and 6 above)
35. 2/22/06 Colleen Miller
36. 2/21/06 Linda Samelson, Colorado Springs, CO
37. 2/26/06 Jennifer K. Frey, Frey Biological Research, Radium Springs, NM
38. 2/25/06 Nick Ordon, Falcon, CO
39. 3/1/06 Unsigned, Colorado Springs, CO
40. 3/9/06 Leslie Barstow, Golden, CO
41. 3/9/06 Peter Bray, Portland, OR
42. 3/9/06 Donna Miller, Golden, CO
43. 3/13/06 Daryl E. Mergen, Colorado Springs, CO
44. 3/31/06 Ronald W. Opsahl, Staff Attorney, Mountain States Legal Foundation, Lakewood, CO (See 7 above)
45. 3/31/06 C. J. Rapp, Littleton, CO
46. 4/4/06 Ken Faux, Greenwood Village, CO (see 18 above)
47. 3/31/06 Ken Hamilton, Executive Vice President, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, Laramie, WY

48. 3/31/06 Renee C. Taylor, Environmental Coordinator, True Ranches, LLC, Casper, WY (see 12 above)
49. 4/13/06 Robert E. Arlen, Science Faculty, University of Phoenix, Casper, WY
50. 4/17/06 Sandra A. Eddy, Aurora, CO
51. 4/18/06 Kent Holsinger, Hale Friesen, LLP, Denver, CO. On behalf of Colorado Water Conservation and Development
52. 4/28/06 Robert A. Schorr, Zoologist, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
53. 4/28/06 Eric Hallerman, Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
54. 5/11/06 Sacha Vignieri, Center for Study of Evolution, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK
55. 5/15/06 Jonathan Dowling, Assistant Vice President, Wyoming Contractors Association, Cheyenne, WY
56. 5/1/06 Sallie Clark, Chair, Board of County Commissioners of El Paso County, Colorado Springs, CO
57. 5/16/06 Sylvia M. Fallon, Conservation Genetics Fellow, Natural Resources Defense Council
58. 5/17/06 Don Britton, Manager, Wheatland Irrigation District, Wheatland, WY
59. 5/17/06 Dale Moore
60. 5/18/06 Carron Meaney (Meaney and Co.; Research Associate, DMNS; Curator Adjoint, University of Colorado Museum), Thomas Ryon (Wildlife Biologist and Certified Ecologist), Mark Bakeman (President, Ensign Technical Services Inc.) and Anne Ruggles (Bear Canyon Consulting), CO
61. 5/18/06 Tina Comerford, Wheaton, IL
62. 5/17/06 Niel A. "Mick" McMurry, Shareholder, Sybille Ranch LLC, Cheyenne, WY
63. 5/18/06 Rob Roy Ramey, II, Nederland, CO
64. 5/18/06 Jim Magagna, Executive Vice President, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Cheyenne, WY

65. 5/18/06 Erin Robertson, Staff Biologist, Center for Native Ecosystems, Denver CO. On behalf of: Jeremy Nichols, Conservation Director, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, Denver, CO and Nicole Rosario, Conservation Director, Forest Guardians, Santa Fe, NM (See 23 above)
66. 5/18/06 Patrick J. Crank, Attorney General, State of Wyoming, Cheyenne, WY
67. 5/19/06 Cheryl Matthews, Director, Douglas County Division of Open Space and Natural Resources, Castle Rock, CO (See 19 above)

To Whom It May Concern:

2/6/06

These are my comments regarding the Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

- I think it would be a mistake to remove the mouse from the Endangered Species List.
- I think this mouse is a distinct species and deserves protection.
- If the habitat of the mouse is saved then other species will benefit as well.
- I believe that developers have plenty of room elsewhere; the Preble's meadow jumping mouse has nowhere else to go.
- Urban sprawl, overgrazing and water depletion harm other species but are particularly hard on the jumping mouse. These practices should be better regulated and/or eliminated completely.

Thank you for the opportunity
to comment on this creature
that depends on your decision
for its existence.

Mark Lusch
3518 Dey Ave
Cheyenne, WY
82001



tcunnin131@adelphia.net

02/18/2006 09:03 AM

To FW6_PMJM@fws.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Preble Mouse

Field Supervisor,

We would like to support your decision to withdraw the Preble Mouse from the Endangered Species Act. We are inclined to accept the Denver Museum findings. Considering the proximity of the subspecies of mice involved, it is hard to believe that the Preble is a completely separate subspecies. Thanks for the opportunity to contact you.

Regards,
Tom & Mary Ann Cunningham
Green Mtn. Falls, CO



"Bruce Roberts"
<bruceroberts@adelphia.net>
02/18/2006 10:54 AM

To <FW6_PMJM@fws.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject Preble County Mouse

Field Supervisor
Colorado Field Office
Ecological Services
P.O. Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

Subspecies Endangered

The notion of a "species" has captured our minds and become an icon of our understanding of our world.

We engage in conflicts to protect endangered species and subspecies. By definition we should be able to tell "what is a subspecies" and "what is not a subspecies".

DNA data has become the holy grail of discrimination. As analytical methods advance, we find more and more differences. But, do these differences constitute subspecies differences?

Simply being able to detect differences does not constitute judgment on a definition that is out of date.

If we gather a collection of scientists this year, will they come up with a DNA based definition of species and subspecies? So far, such attempts at agreement in the scientific community have failed. The very definition of "subspecies" is endangered.

Even if they eventually carve out a definition that works for this generation, how many sub-subspecies of jumping mice are enough? Blasphemy?

Forgive me, but you can't answer this question by showing analytical differences, only by political process. And, political process needs to address the common good, not simply the intensity of minority passion.

Given that fossil evidence shows vast numbers of species existed and have ceased to exist, even before man came on the scene, the mandate to save species must be guided by more principles than simply that another subspecies exists.

If we are simply trying to save threatened genetic material in case it might turn out to be valuable in the future, there are easier, cheaper, and surer ways than preserving habitat

and hoping the mouse survives into the future... store it cryogenically. With the progress of bio-engineering, new "species" are coming out of the lab, patented, even now. We are engineering valuable genetic material even now.

I believe species stewardship should not be blind, or focused by ego, but politically appropriate. The \$25 million that went for Preble County Mouse habit conservation in Monument could have had a powerful impact for destitute homosapiens in El Paso County.

What is the political consensus? My vote is to settle for the predominate species of jumping mice. Let the idea of the "Preble County Mouse" answer to "survival of the fittest" not coddling.

Thank you,
Bruce Roberts
729 Bowstring Way
Monument, CO 80132-8513
Email: bruceroberts@adelphia.net



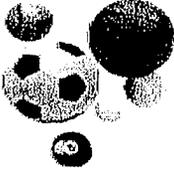
"Mitchell Baldwin"
<mbaldwin@pcisys.net>
02/20/2006 10:42 AM

To <fw6_pmjm@fws.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject P J Mouse

When will common sense rule? DROP the Prebles Jumping Mouse from the endangered species list. This mouse is no more endangered than I am. If one gets caught in my mouse trap, I will not try to revive it.

Thank You.

Mitchell Baldwin



Jean Clemens/R6/FWS/DOI
02/22/2006 07:44 AM

To: FW6_PMJM@fws.gov
cc
bcc
Subject: Fw: Preble's Jumping Mouse

Jean Clemens

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Region 6 * External Affairs
(303)236-7905



----- Forwarded by Jean Clemens/R6/FWS/DOI on 02/22/2006 07:47 AM -----



"Oliver Richardson"
<o_a_richard_7@msn.com>
02/21/2006 01:27 PM

To: "Region 6 FWS" <mountainprairie@fws.gov>
cc:
Subject: Fw: Preble's Jumping Mouse

Sirs: I tried to send the enclosed message to another FWS address concerning the Preble's jumping mouse.

Thank you,
Oliver A. Richardeson

----- Original Message -----

From: Oliver Richardson
To: Oliver Richardson
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2006 1:06 PM
Subject: Fw: Preble's Jumping Mouse

----- Original Message -----

From: Oliver Richardson
To: fw6permitsr6es@fws.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2006 12:54 PM
Subject: Preble's Jumping Mouse

Sirs: I have been following with great interest the saga of the Preble's jumping mouse. It seems to me that spending \$7.9 million to \$17 million a year to protect a mouse is "insane" at best.

I would like to know what dire consequences would follow if the mouse's fate was left to nature and it disappeared from the face of the earth as have hundreds if not thousands of other species of plant and animal life.

The \$7.9 million to \$17 million would go a long way in helping to solve the chronic wasting disease problem that I believe is a very real threat to the deer and elk population.....I have yet to see "Preble's Mouse" listed on any restaurant menu.

Sincerely,
Oliver A. Richardson

RECEIVED
FEB 3/2/2006

ROBERT B. HOFF
4445 NORTHPARK DRIVE
SUITE 200
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80907
719-630-2277

February 22, 2006

Ecological Officer
Preble's Meadow Mouse Comments
Colorado Ecological Services, Field Office
US Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 25486
DFC
MS 65412
Denver, Colorado 80225

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed delisting of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse.

In reviewing the run-up to, and the listing of the supposed Preble's, I count a total of 46 "scientists" who have contributed their mite to the validity of the listing. The Fish & Wildlife Service announced in January of this year a further 6 month study of the supposed Preble's, planning to seek the advice of a further 12 peer reviewers. I think we may be certain by now that we will never arrive at a unanimous "scientific" judgment on the supposed Preble's as a threatened sub-species.

But why do we need to know if it is a valid sub-species or not? We can absolutely be certain that survey after survey in Colorado have turned up many thousands and thousands of supposed Preble's. USFW's proposed critical habitat plan of July, 2002 proposed to set aside 657.5 miles of streams which harbored the supposed Preble's. USFW also estimated in that plan on Pg. 15, Para. 4, that there were 50 supposed Preble's per stream mile. If one multiplies 50 x 657.5, don't you see that you get a known population of 32,875 supposed Preble's?

Then consider that this estimate by USFW does not include the very large population of supposed Preble's that the "scientists" have estimated to exist on the grounds of the Air Force Academy in El Paso County. And then consider that the USFW has only looked for the supposed Preble's in 11 counties in Colorado. And then consider that USFW condones the use of the Sherman live-trap in conducting surveys, a trap which is admittedly inefficient. One could easily double or triple the 32,875 number if the investigation was conducted on a rational basis.

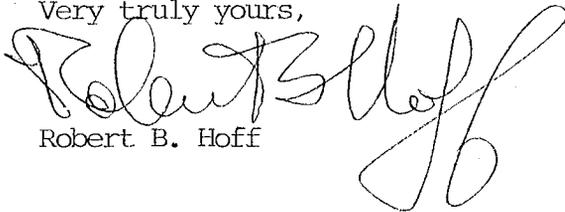
Stay with me here because I am about to delve into the realm of logic. In April of 2004, Bruce Rosenlund, the Captain of the US Fish and Wildlife Recovery Team said to the Colorado Springs Gazette, "...There may be the 20,000 adult Preble's the Recovery Team decided would assure the mouse's viability."

If we know then that we have a minimum of 32,875 supposed Preble's in the state and we know that 20,000 supposed Preble's are needed to assure recovery, cannot we logically say that the supposed Preble's population has exceeded recovery requirements and we can therefore go forward to delist the animal? You would think that a reasonable conclusion wouldn't you?

The supposed Preble's should be delisted on the evidence of abundance alone and there is no need to conduct an exercise in dueling "scientists."

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert B. Hoff". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Robert B. Hoff



"Colleen Miller" <colleen8@adelphia.net>

02/22/2006 12:28 PM

To <FW6_PMJM@fws.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Preble Mouse

Gentlemen. I strongly urge that federal protection for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse be withdrawn. The findings of experts at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science should be considered adequate and accurate. They indicate this little tiny critter is the same subspecies as a far more common mouse which is found in other locations (Wyoming & South Dakota). Discontinue this federal protection for Preble.

Thanks.

Colleen Miller

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2006

2/21/06

To whom it may concern—

I am horrified that concern over a stupid mouse would cause such a fuss that developers would actually be held up in the development of their property. This would cause our founding fathers to turn in their graves!

Please consider my comments when determining the fate of the silly mouse as I am a real estate owning member of our great country and I cherish the freedoms of our land!

Linda Samekova