



## U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

*Conserving the Biological Diversity of the Great Basin, Eastern Sierra, and Mojave Desert*

#### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 90-Day Finding for Six Nevada Sand Dune Beetles

August 4, 2011

**Q. What six Nevada sand dune beetles are included in the 90-day finding?**

A. The six Nevada sand dune beetles included in the 90-day finding are: Crescent Dune aegialian scarab (*Aegialia crescenta*), Large aegialian scarab (*A. magnifica*), Crescent Dunes serican scarab (*Serica ammomenisco*), and Giuliani's dune scarab (*Pseudocotalpa giuliani*)

**Q. Why did the Service complete a 90-day finding for the Nevada sand dune beetles?**

A. On February 2, 2010, the Service received a petition from WildEarth Guardians requesting that six species of sand dune beetles in Nevada be listed as threatened or endangered and critical habitat be designated under the Endangered Species Act (Act). The petition identified habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation from off-road vehicle recreation as the most important threat to all six species. Other threats identified in the petition included solar energy development, a lack of existing federal or state regulatory protection, and isolated populations with limited habitat.

**Q. What is the result of the sand dune beetle 90-day finding?**

A. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined there is substantial information to warrant an in-depth status review of four of the six Nevada sand dune beetles included in a petition received from WildEarth Guardians. These four sand dune beetles include the: Crescent Dunes aegialian scarab (*Aegialia crescenta*), large aegialian scarab (*A. magnifica*), Crescent Dune serican scarab (*Serica ammomenisco*), and Giuliani's dune scarab (*Pseudocotalpa giuliani*). The Service has also determined that the petition does not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that listing the remaining two sand dune beetles, the Hardy's aegialian scarab (*Aegialia hardyi*) and Sand Mountain serican scarab (*Serica psammobunus*), may be warranted.

**Q. Does the substantial 90-day finding mean the Service will list the four beetles under the Endangered Species Act?**

A. No. The substantial 90-day finding pertains to the results of our initial screening of scientific information provided by the petitioner and information contained in our own files. Today's announcement is the first step in a process that triggers a more thorough

review of all available biological information and solicits new information about a species that may assist us in our evaluation.

**Q. Where do the four Nevada sand dune beetles occur?**

**A.** All four of the species warranting further review are known to occur only on public lands in Nye County, Nevada, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Crescent Dunes aegialian scarab and Crescent Dunes serican scarab occur only at Crescent Dunes, designated as an off-road vehicle recreation area. The large aegialian scarab and Giuliani's dune scarab occur only at Big Dune and the nearby Lava Dune. Big Dune is a designated off-road vehicle recreation area, a small portion of which has been designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect the habitat of the two petitioned sand dune beetles and other endemic fauna. A small portion of the ACEC is closed to motorized recreation. Lava Dune has no special designation. Damage to vegetation is prohibited at both Crescent Dunes and Big Dune.

**Q. Where can I find more information about the sand dune beetle and the 90-day finding?**

**A.** For further information about the sand dune beetles and this finding contact: Jill Ralston, Acting State Supervisor, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office by mail at 1340 Financial Blvd., Suite 234, Reno, NV, 89502; by telephone (775-861-6300); or by facsimile (775-861-6301). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339, or visit the Service's web site at <http://www.fws.gov/nevada>

**Q. Can I provide information on the four sand dune beetles?**

**A.** Anyone wishing to submit information regarding the sand dune beetles may do so by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: *Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2011-0041*; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222; Arlington, VA 22203.

We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us. Comments must be received by October 4, 2011.