

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office
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News Release



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Service Extends Public Comment Period for Bliss Rapids Snail 5-year Review

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today it is extending the deadline for the public to comment on the agency's five-year review of the Bliss Rapids snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*) to June 1, 2006.

The extension does not apply to the comment period for five-year reviews of the Utah (Desert) Valvata (*Valvata utahensis*), and the Banbury Springs lanx (*Lanx* sp). That deadline remains February 27, 2006.

For all three species, the Service is asking the public to submit new scientific or commercial information that has become available since the 1992 listing of the snails. The Service began five-year reviews of the three species on January 4, 2006.

The public comment deadline for the Bliss Rapids snail five-year review is being extended in response to a request by the State of Idaho, Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

"The State's request for an extension of the public comment period for the Bliss Rapid snail five-year review will allow for the completion of a report that contains substantial data regarding the snail," said Jeff Foss, Field Supervisor of the Service's Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office in Boise. "The Service looks forward to receiving the new information and encourages the public to submit any new scientific or commercial information that will assist our agency with its review of all three of these snail species."

A five-year review is a periodic process conducted by the Service to ensure that the listing classification of a threatened or endangered species is accurate. Five-year reviews are based upon the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review.

After the Service assesses all new and existing information for the species under review, the agency makes a determination of the species' status under consideration. If new information is submitted that the Service considers substantial, the agency may determine that a change in listing classification is warranted. Changes may include removal from the Threatened and Endangered Species List (delisting) or a change in status from threatened to endangered or endangered to threatened (reclassification). Any change in classification of a

species would require a separate rulemaking process, including public review and comment. No change in status would occur until the completion of the rulemaking process.

Please submit scientific or commercial information in writing to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 368, Boise, Idaho 83709. Comments may also be faxed to 208-378-5262, or e-mailed to fw1srbocomment@fws.gov. Please include "5-Yr Review" along with the appropriate species name in the title line for faxes and e-mails. Please submit electronic comments in an ASCII file format, and avoid the use of special characters and encryption. If our internet connection is disrupted, please submit your comments by mail or fax to the contact office above. Information received in response to this notice, and review results, will be available for public inspection by appointment during business hours at the above address.

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 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 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 and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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