DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 5-Year Review of 14 Southeastern Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a 5-year review of the red wolf (Canis rufus), Appalachian elktoe (Alasmidonta raveneliana), Cumberland elktoe (Alasmidonta atropurpurea), Cumberland monkeyface (Quadramira intermedia), Cumberlandian combshell (Epioblasma brevidens), green blossom (Epioblasma torulosa gubernaculum), oyster mussel (Epioblasma capsaeformis), tubercled blossom (Epioblasma torulosa torulosa), turgid blossom (Epioblasma turgidula), yellow blossom (Epioblasma florentina florentina), painted snake coiled forest snail (Anguispira picta), dwarf-flowered leafheart (Hexastylis naniflora), Schweinitz’s sunflower (Helianthus schweinitzii), and seabeach amaranth (Amaranthus pumilus) currently under active review. This notice announces our active review of the following species that are currently federally listed as endangered: Appalachian elktoe, red wolf, Cumberland monkeyface, Cumberland elktoe, Cumberlandian combshell, green blossom, oyster mussel, tubercled blossom, turgid blossom, yellow blossom, and Schweinitz’s sunflower. This notice announces our active review of the following species that are currently federally listed as threatened: painted snake coiled forest snail, dwarf-flowered leafheart and seabeach amaranth.

The List is found at 50 CFR 17.11 (wildlife) and 17.12 (plants) and is also available on our Internet site at http://endangered.fws.gov/wildlife.html#Species. Amendments to the List through final rules are published in the Federal Register.

What Information Is Considered in the Review?

A 5-year review considers all new information available at the time of the review. A 5-year review will consider the best scientific and commercial data that have become available since the current listing determination or most recent status review of each species, such as:

A. Species biology, including but not limited to population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics;
B. Habitat conditions, including but not limited to amount, distribution, and suitability;
C. Conservation measures that have been implemented to benefit the species;
D. Threat status and trends (see five factors under heading “How do we determine whether a species is endangered or threatened?”); and
E. Other new information, data, or corrections, including but not limited to taxonomic or nomenclatural changes, identification of erroneous information contained in the List, and improved analytical methods.

Specific Information Requested for the Green Blossom, Yellow Blossom, and Turgid Blossom

Because collection of live or fresh dead individuals of all three species has not been reported for more than 20 years, we are especially interested in obtaining evidence of extant populations. We specifically request information regarding recent surveys in the following streams:
Virginia (green blossom): Clinch River, Powell River, North Fork Holston River, and North Fork Clinch River.


Arkansas (turgid-blossom): Spring Creek, Black River, and White River.

Missouri (turgid-blossom): White River.

Alabama (turgid-blossom): Shoal Creek and Bear Creek.


Alabama (yellow-blossom): Flint River, Hurricane Creek, Limestone Creek, Bear Creek, and Cypress Creek.

Tennessee (yellow-blossom): Tennessee River, Elk River, Duck River, Holston River, Little Tennessee River, Citico Creek, Clinch River, and Cumberland River.

We also request information concerning changes in habitat conditions in the above-listed streams since the last reported collection of the green-blossom, yellow-blossom, and turgid-blossom. This information will enable us to determine whether or not populations of the species may still exist in one or more of those streams.

Specific Information Requested for the Cumberland Elktoe, Cumberlandian Combsnail, and Oyster Mussel

We are especially interested in information on surviving populations of the Cumberland elktoe, Cumberlandian combshell and oyster mussel. We specifically request any recent information regarding the collection of live or fresh dead shells of these species, as well as information on their location, numbers, habitats and/or threats.

Specific Information Requested for the Painted Snake Coiled Forest Snail

We are especially interested in obtaining any data pertaining to previously known or newly discovered occurrences of the painted snake coiled forest snail or biological studies related to this species. We specifically request information regarding: potential threats arising from commercial, industrial, or residential development, timber harvesting, or other land use activities; conservation activities directed towards this species; and studies related to life history, genetics, and ecology of these animals, including sensitivity to seismic disturbance or limestone dust deposition that could result from quarrying operations.

Specific Information Requested for the Seabeach Amaranth

We are especially interested in information on population trends, distribution and genetics, as well as, the effects of beach nourishment projects on seabeach amaranth individuals, populations and habitat.

Definitions Related to This Notice

The following definitions are provided to assist those persons who contemplate submitting information regarding the species being reviewed:

A. Species includes any species or subspecies of fish, wildlife, or plant, and any distinct population segment of any species of vertebrate which interbreeds when mature.

B. Endangered means any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

C. Threatened means any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

How Do We Determine Whether a Species Is Endangered or Threatened?

Section 4(a)(1) of the Act establishes that we determine whether a species is endangered or threatened based on one or more of the following five factors:

A. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;

B. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;

C. Disease or predation;

D. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or

E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

What Could Happen as a Result of This Review?

If we find that there is new information concerning any of these 14 species indicating that a change in classification may be warranted, we may propose a new rule that could do one of the following: (a) Reclassify the species from endangered to threatened (downlist); (b) reclassify the species from threatened to endangered (uplist); or (c) delist the species. If we determine that a change in classification is not warranted, then these species will remain on the List under their current status.

Public Solicitation of New Information

We request any new information concerning the status of these 14 species. See “What information is considered in the review?” heading for specific criteria. Information submitted should be supported by documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, methods used to gather and analyze the data, and/or copies of any pertinent publications, reports, or letters by knowledgeable sources. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home addresses from the supporting record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we may withhold from the supporting record a respondent’s identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will not consider anonymous comments, however. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Authority: This document is published under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).


Jeffrey Fleming,
Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Draft Safe Harbor Agreement and Receipt of an Application for an Enhancement of Survival Permit Associated With Proposed Restoration Activities for the Karner Blue Butterfly in the West Gary, Indiana Recovery Unit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Nature Conservancy (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an Enhancement of Survival Permit Associated with proposed restoration activities for the Karner blue butterfly (Lycaeides melissa samuelis) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended (Act). This permit