

*Welcome! The virtual public hearing will begin momentarily. Thank you for your patience as we wait for others to join.*

*\*Please join using computer audio*

*\*Closed captioning is available by selecting the Closed Caption icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen*

# Fish Lake Valley Tui Chub Proposed Listing

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – February 19, 2026

Reno Fish and Wildlife Office, 1340 Financial Blvd, Reno, Nevada



# Public Hearing Agenda

- Public Hearing Ground Rules
- Welcome and Introductions
- USFWS Presentation
- Public Hearing Portion
- Closing Remarks

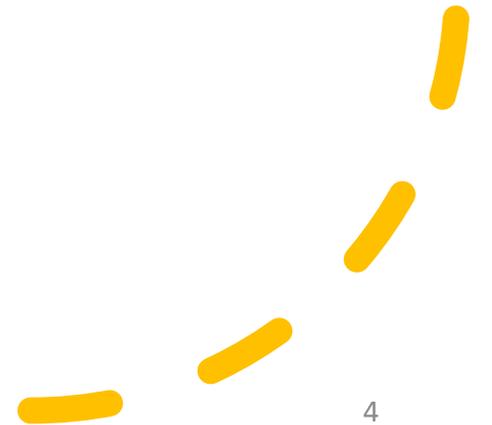
# Public Hearing Ground Rules

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- Closed captioning is available by selecting the Closed Caption icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen
- The hearing is being recorded and transcribed. Following the hearing, a transcript and copy of the presentation will be made available at: <https://www.fws.gov/office/reno-fish-and-wildlife>
- Microphones and videos of participants will be automatically muted for the duration of the hearing unless the moderator unmutes you during the verbal public comment portion.
- Verbal public comments can be provided after the Presentation. We will accept comments received on or before March 6, 2026. Written comments can also be submitted via the following methods:
  - Submit at <http://www.regulations.gov> (In the Search box, enter FWS-R8-ES-2024-0207.
  - Submit by U.S. mail to Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R8-ES-2024-0207, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803



# Welcome and Introductions



# INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

- What action is the USFWS taking?
- Classification process timeline to date
- Tui chub biology
- Status and classification evaluation
- Public participation and next steps

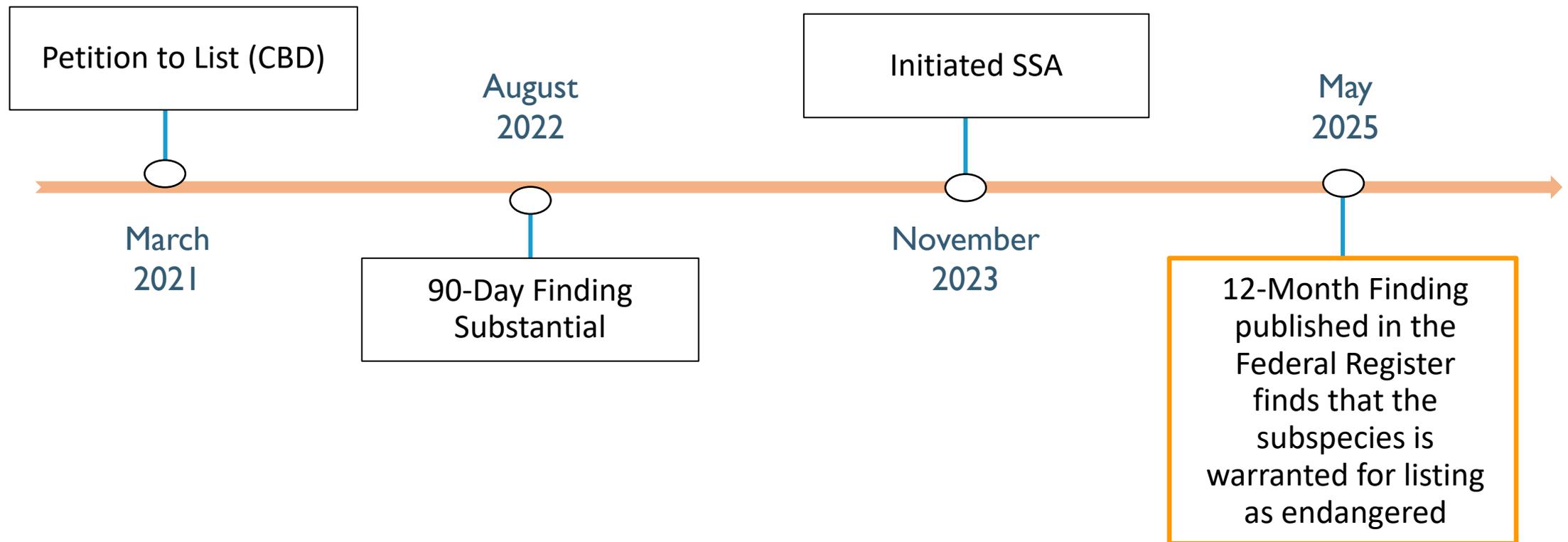


Fish Lake tui chub (photo: USFWS)

## WHAT ACTION IS THE USFWS TAKING?

- We proposed to list the Fish Lake Valley tui chub as an endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); designation of critical habitat is not determinable at this time due to a lack of sufficient data to perform the required analyses.
- We collected comments from the public during a 60-day comment period (May – July 2025)
- We reopened the comment period for an additional 30 days (February/March 2026)
- This public hearing is being held during the reopened 30-day comment period

# FISH LAKE VALLEY TUI CHUB, CLASSIFICATION TIMELINE TO DATE



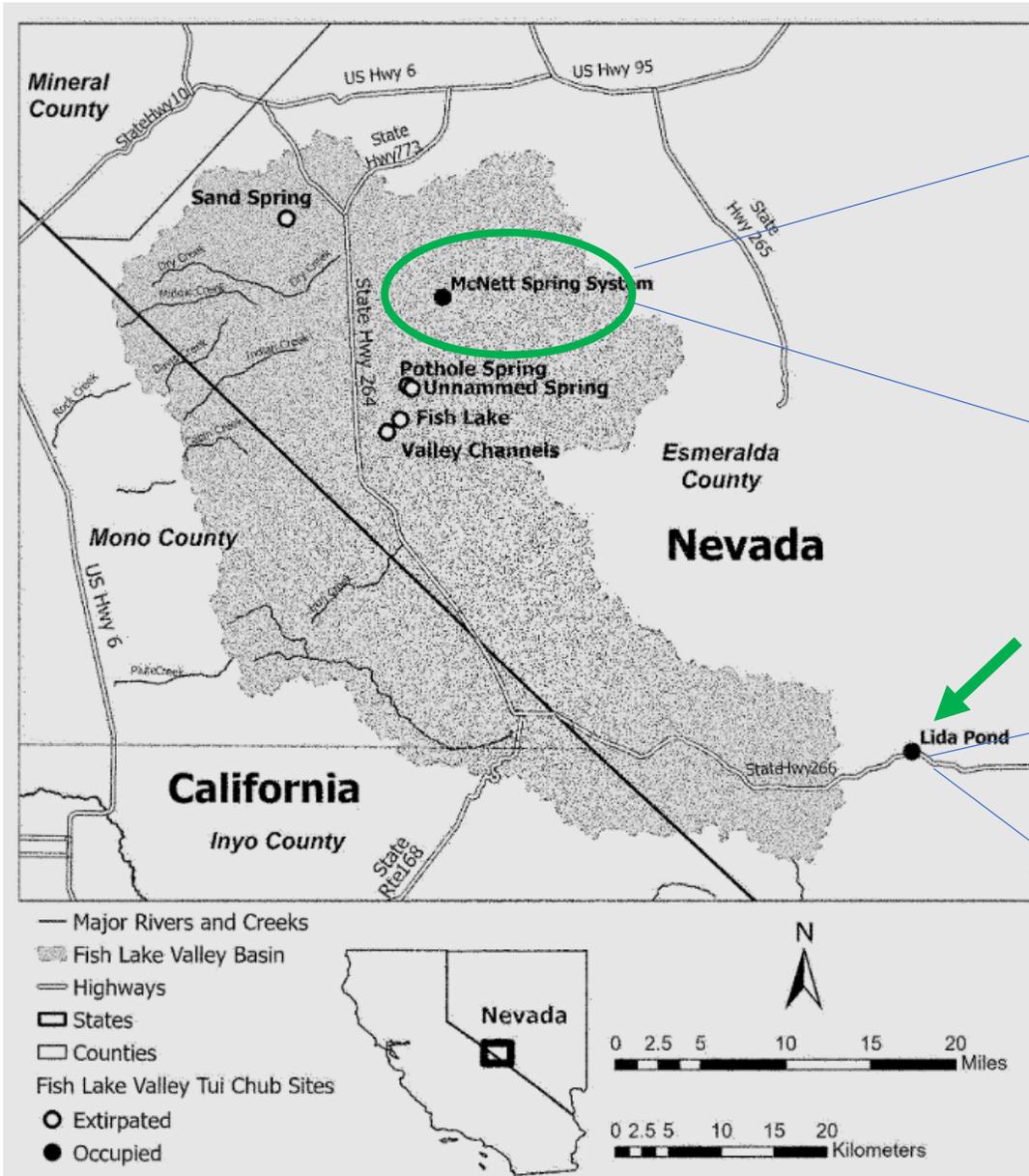
# TUI CHUB BIOLOGY



Fish Lake Valley tui chub (photo: USFWS)

Fish Lake Valley tui chub – *Siphateles obesus* ssp.

# BIOLOGY: HISTORICAL & CURRENT DISTRIBUTION



# BIOLOGY: LIFE HISTORY & NEEDS

- Average size: 4-5 inches in springs, up to 8 inches in historical Fish Lake
- Lifespan:
  - In small ponds/springs, 7 years
  - In large lakes, up to 35 years
- Diet: Algae, detritus, zooplankton, aquatic invertebrates
- Habitat:
  - Adequate water flows
  - Alkaline water ( $7.6 < \text{pH} < 9.6$ )
  - Temps for spawning ( $55\text{--}72^\circ \text{F}$ )
  - Suitable water quality
  - Aquatic vegetation, gravel substrate



**Fish Lake Valley tui chub (photo: NDOW)**

## STATUS AND CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION: REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, 5 FACTORS

- A.) Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- B.) Over-use for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- C.) Disease or predation;
- D.) Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
- E.) Other natural or man-made factors affecting the continued existence of the species.

# STATUS AND CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION: ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK, 3 Rs

- In assessing viability, we use:
- **Resiliency** - the ability of the subspecies to withstand environmental and demographic stochasticity (for example wet or dry, warm or cold years)
- **Redundancy** - the ability of the subspecies to withstand catastrophic events (such as extended drought, large pollution event)
- **Representation** - the ability of the subspecies to adapt to both near-term and long-term changes in its environment (for example climate conditions, pathogens)

# STATUS AND CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION: PRIMARY THREATS

## A.) **Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;**

- Diversion of surface water and groundwater declines, driven by
  - Agricultural production or other land management practices (lithium mining, geothermal production)
  - Effects of climate change
  - Changes in habitat management

## B.) Over-use for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;

## C.) **Disease or predation;**

- Predation by, competition with, invasive species

## D.) Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or

## E.) **Other natural or man-made factors affecting the continued existence of the species.**

- Predation by, competition with, invasive species

# FACTOR A: LOSS OF AQUATIC HABITAT, DIVERSION OF SURFACE WATER & GROUNDWATER DECLINES





Lida Pond (photo: USFWS)



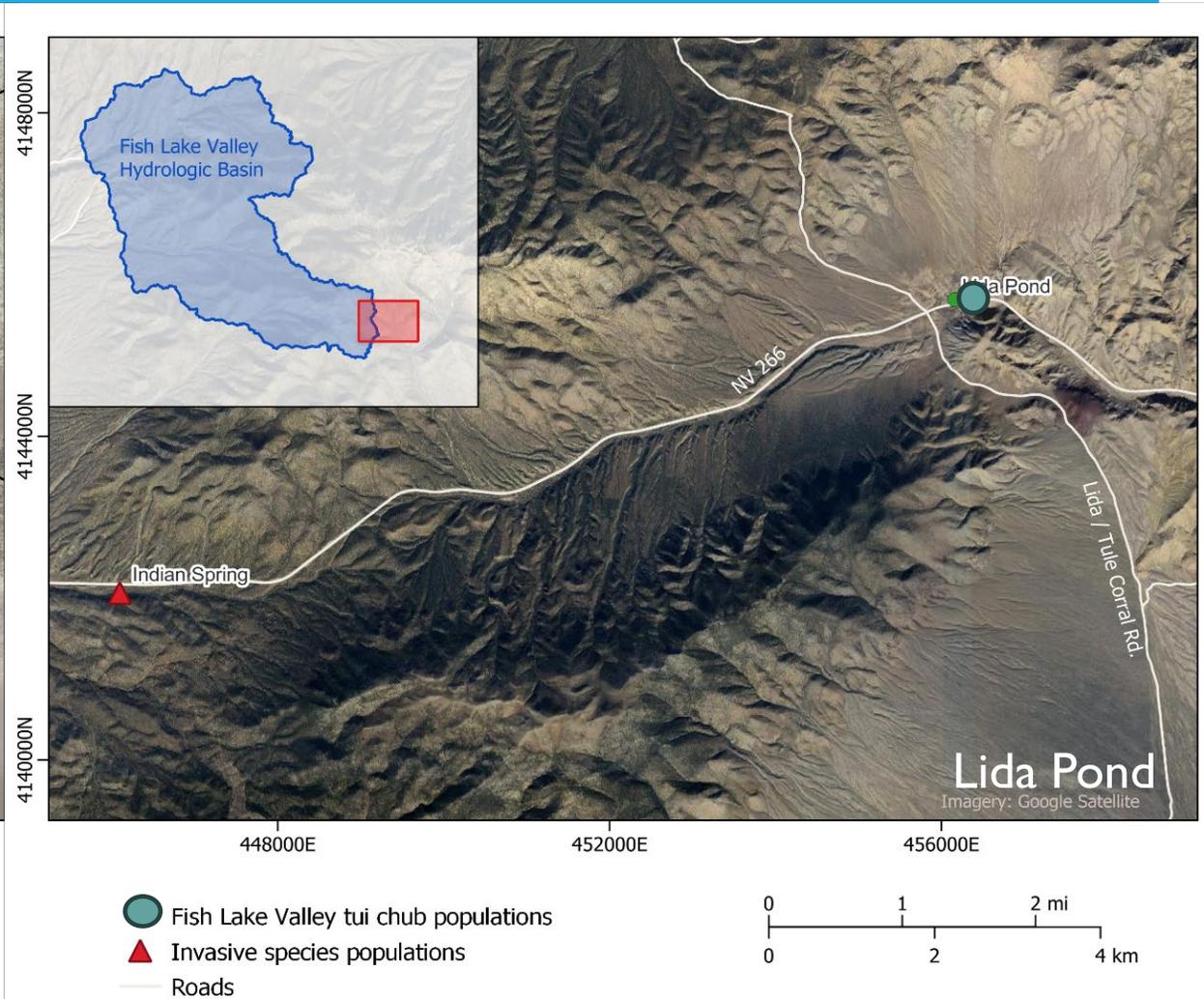
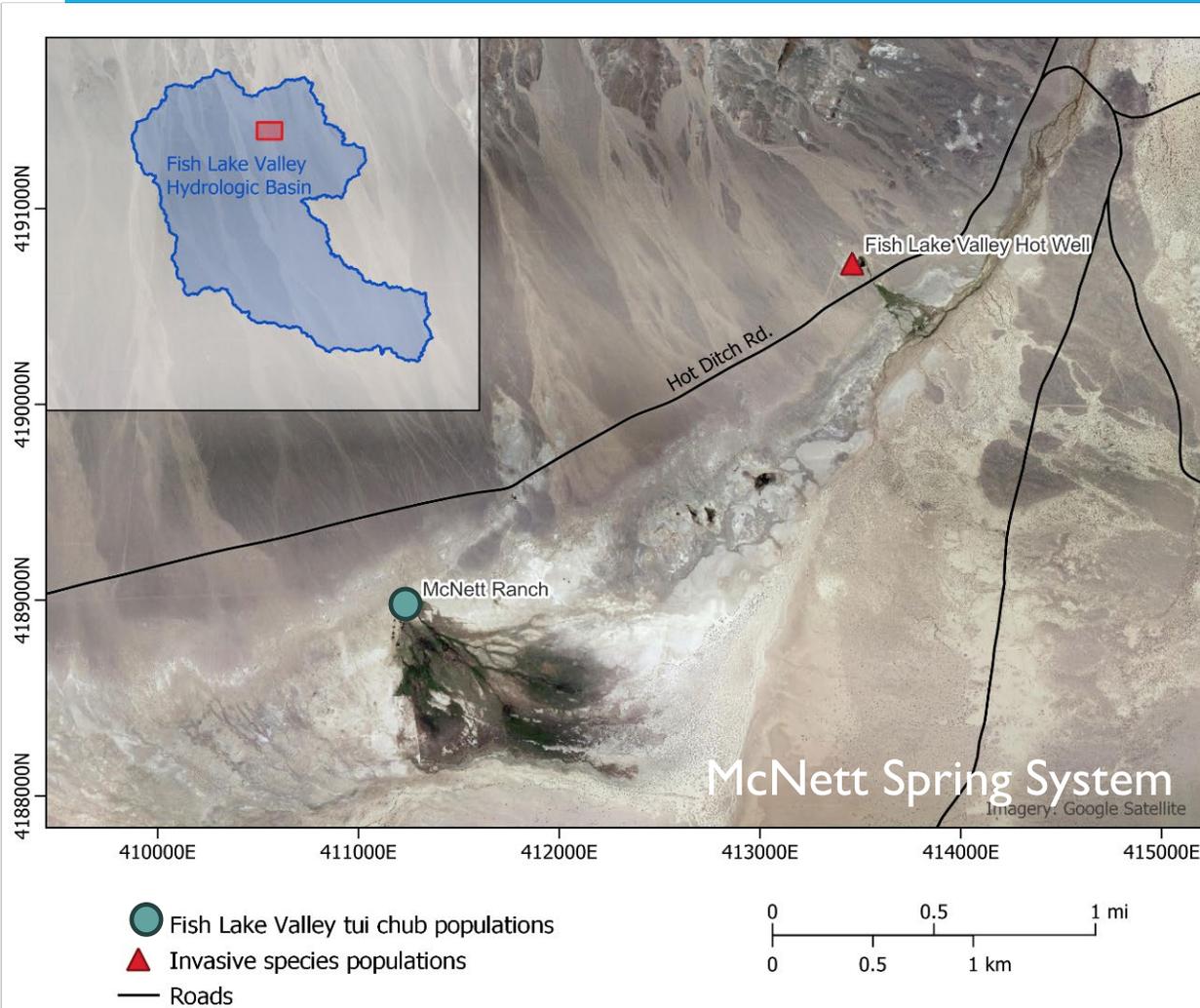
Lida Pond (photo: USFWS)



McNett Spring System (photo: NDOW)

**FACTOR A: LOSS OF AQUATIC HABITAT,  
CHANGES IN HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

# FACTORS C & E: DISEASE/PREDATION & OTHER NATURAL OR MAN-MADE FACTORS - INVASIVE SPECIES



# CONSERVATION EFFORTS



- Continue surveys and monitoring:
  - NDOW has done 3 population estimates between 2002 and 2023 at McNett Spring system. Frequency and timing of next survey will depend on landowner access
  - No population estimates for Lida Pond; NDOW to use 2025 survey results to estimate population.
- Ongoing BLM, USFWS, and NDOW management and planning at Lida Pond

# STATUS AND CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION: SUMMARY OF CURRENT CONDITION - 3 Rs

- **Resiliency** – reduced
  - Occurring in only a single population within its historical range, and one introduced population, outside of range
- **Redundancy** – reduced
  - Through the loss of populations, leaves each remaining population vulnerable to catastrophic threats
- **Representation** – reduced
  - Through the loss of connectivity and loss of habitat types, which have reduced evolutionary potential

# STATUS AND CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION: PROPOSED LISTING OF FISH LAKE VALLEY TUI CHUB

## **FACTORS AFFECTING THE FISH LAKE VALLEY TUI CHUB:**

- A.) **Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;**
- B.) Over-use for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- C.) **Disease or predation;**
- D.) Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
- E.) **Other natural or man-made factors affecting the continued existence of the species.**

## **RESILIENCY, REDUNDANCY, AND REPRESENTATION - VIABILITY CONDITION:**

**Resiliency – reduced**

**Redundancy – reduced**

**Representation - reduced**

# STATUS AND CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION: WHAT HAPPENS IF THE SPECIES IS LISTED

- **If the Fish Lake Valley tui chub is listed as endangered:**
  - It would be afforded the full range of protections available under the ESA, including prohibitions on killing, harming or otherwise “taking” the species
  - ESA section 7 consultation may be required for federally funded, authorized or implemented, actions
  - ESA section 10 incidental take permitting may be appropriate for non-Federal actions
  - The Service would initiate the recovery planning process
    - Identify actions to halt and reverse the subspecies’ decline
    - Identify criteria for downlisting & delisting
    - Implementation generally requires voluntary participation of a broad range of partners: Federal agencies, states, tribes, NGOs, businesses, and private landowners
    - Funding for recovery actions may become available from a variety of sources

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND NEXT STEPS

The public hearing facilitator will now review how to comment

**Thank you**

# Verbal Public Hearing Guidelines

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- Participants must register to speak.
- Be mindful. Time is limited to 3 minutes to allow others the opportunity to speak.
- Be respectful of others and their view points.
- Refrain from personal comments and profanity.
  - If guidelines are not followed, you will be muted, and we will move to the next person.

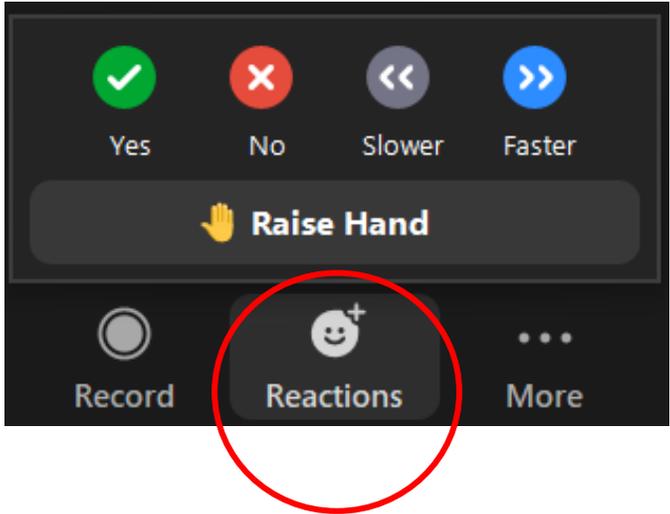
# Verbal Public Hearing: Instructions for Commenters

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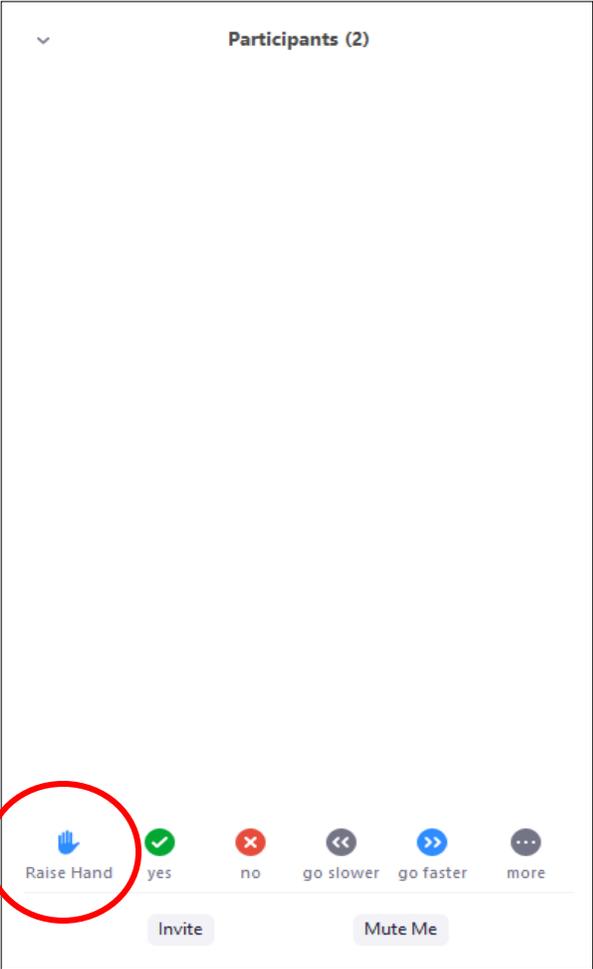
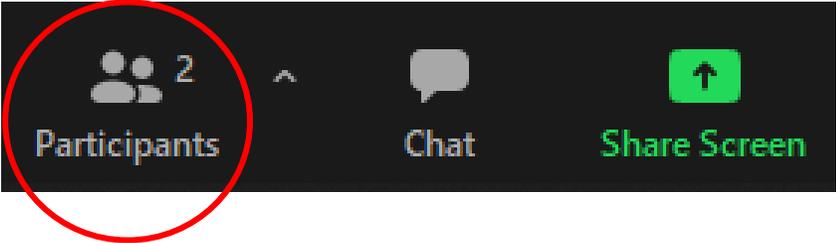
- Verbal public comments will be accepted in order of registration.
- When it is your turn, the moderator will call out your name and display your name on the screen.
- Use the “raise hand” feature in Zoom or, if you are calling in through the phone, press \*9 to “raise your hand.”
- The moderator will then unmute you.
- Please spell out your full first and last name for the record before you provide your comment.
- Your comment will be included in the project record.

# RAISE HAND FEATURE IN ZOOM

Zoom Reactions Icon



Zoom Participants Icon



To access the raise hand feature, click on either the reactions icon or participants list icon at the bottom of your zoom screen. If you are calling in using your phone, press \*9 on your keypad.

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If you are having issues with your computer microphone, please dial in to the meeting: Phone: 689 278 1000 US; Webinar ID: 881 8893 5093

Current Commenter:

Next Commenter:

**3:00**

\*If you are unable to offer or complete your verbal public comment during the hearing today, the USFWS encourages you to submit your comment in writing via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) by searching docket number FWS-R8-ES-2024-0207