



News Release

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposes ESA Protection and Critical Habitat for the Chupadera Springsnail

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has published in the Federal register today a notice that we are proposing to protect the Chupadera springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis chupaderae*) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (Act). The Service also proposes to designate approximately 0.7 hectares (1.9 acres) as critical habitat, located in Socorro County, New Mexico. Publication of these proposals in the Federal Register will initiate a 60-day public comment period.

The Chupadera springsnail has been a candidate for listing since May 22, 1984, but its listing as endangered was precluded by other higher priority actions until now. It is a very small freshwater snail that is found only on private property in Willow Spring and, historically, in an unnamed spring of similar size in the southeastern end of the Chupadera Mountains in Socorro County, New Mexico. Scientists believe that the species is likely extirpated from the unnamed spring.

The principal threats to the habitat of Chupadera springsnail at Willow Spring include groundwater pumping and dewatering, livestock grazing in the spring, and spring modification.

Listing under the Act focuses attention on the needs of the species, encouraging conservation efforts by other agencies (federal, state and local), conservation groups and other organizations and individuals. The Act also calls for all federal agencies to minimize the impact of their activities on listed species, and directs the Service to work with federal agencies and other partners to develop and carry out recovery efforts for those species. Listing under the Act also makes it illegal to kill, harm or otherwise "take" a listed species, or to possess, import, export or engage in interstate or international commerce of a listed species without authorization in the form of a permit from the Service. Listing also

The full proposal can be viewed at www.regulations.gov, Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2011-0042. Comments from the public on this proposal are welcomed and should be submitted through this website by October 3, 2011.

The Endangered Species Act provides a critical safety net for America's native fish, wildlife and plants. This landmark conservation law has prevented the extinction of hundreds of imperiled species across the nation and promoted the recovery of many others.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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