



News Release

Public Affairs Office
PO Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103
505/248-6911
505/248-6915 (Fax)

Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) <http://southwest.fws.gov>

For Release: December 15, 2009

Contacts: Stephen D. Parris, 281-286-8282
Tom Buckley, 505-248-6455

Nine Species of Texas Mussels May Warrant Federal Protection

Nine species of mussels occurring in the United States – Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico, and in Mexico, may warrant federal protection as threatened or endangered, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today, following an initial review of petitions seeking to protect the nine mussels under the Endangered Species Act. The Service will now undertake a more thorough status review of these species. At the conclusion of this review, the Service will determine if the petitioned action is warranted.

To ensure this status review is comprehensive, the Service is soliciting scientific and commercial information regarding these species: Texas fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*), Texas heelsplitter (*Potamilus amphichaenus*), Salina mucket (*Potamilus salinasensis*), golden orb (*Quadrula aurea*), smooth pimpleback (*Quadrula houstonensis*), Texas pimpleback (*Quadrula petrina*), false spike (*Quincuncina mitchelli*), Mexican fawnsfoot (*Truncilla cognata*), and Texas fawnsfoot (*Truncilla macrodon*).

All of the nine species are freshwater mussels in the family Unionidae, and are found primarily in Texas, with some found in Louisiana and New Mexico, and across the border into Mexico.

A 60 day public comment period begins today. For information on how to provide comments, and to read the Federal Register notice, go to the Southwest Region website, <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>. To allow adequate time to conduct this review, information must be received on or before February 16, 2010.

For further information contact Stephen D. Parris, Field Supervisor, Clear Lake Ecological Services Field Office, 17629 El Camino Real, Ste. 211, Houston, TX 77058; telephone 281-286-8282, extension 230. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339.

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.