

NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region
134 Union Boulevard
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For Immediate Release

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces the Initiation of 5-Year Reviews for Six Species in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a notice of review in the Federal Register initiating 5-year reviews for six species as required under the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of these reviews is to ensure that the listing classifications of these species are accurate, are based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review, and whether the status of the species should be considered for change.

The species in consideration in the notice of review are the Holmgren Milkvetch listed as endangered and found in Arizona and Utah; the Maguire Daisy listed as threatened and the Shivwitz Milkvetch listed as endangered and found in Utah; the Virgin River Chub and Woundfin both listed as endangered and found in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah; and the Kanab Ambersnail listed as endangered and found in Arizona and Utah.

The Service is requesting submission of any new information that has become available since these species were listed. Based on the results of the 5-year reviews, the Service will determine if the current listing status is accurate. Any change in Federal classification would require a separate rule making process.

To ensure that the 5-year reviews are complete and based on the best available science and commercial information, the Service is soliciting new information from the public, concerned governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, industry, environmental entities, and any other interested parties concerning the status of these species.

Categories of requested information include: (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 that benefit the species; (D) threat status and trends; 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.

If you wish to provide information for these 5-year reviews, you may submit your comments and materials to the Utah Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attention 5-year Review, 2369 West Orton Circle, Suite 50, West Valley City, Utah 84119.

Under the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Service maintains a list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plant species at 50 CFR 17.11 (for animals) and 17.12 (for plants). Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the ESA requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every 5 years. Based on such reviews, under section 4(c)(2)(B), we then determine whether or not any species should be removed from the List (delisted), or reclassified from endangered to threatened or from threatened to endangered. Delisting a species must be supported by the best scientific and commercial data available and is only considered if these data substantiate that the species is neither endangered nor threatened for one or more of the following reasons--(1) the species is considered extinct; (2) the species is considered to be recovered; and/or (3) the original data available when the species was listed, or the interpretation of such data, were in error.

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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