



News Release

Arizona Ecological Services Field Office
2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021
602/242-0210
602/242-2513 (Fax)

Arizona Ecological Services Field Office

www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/

For Release: March 27, 2013

Contacts: Jeff Humphrey (602) 242-0210 x222
Mike Martinez (602) 242-0210 x224

SERVICE DETERMINES ROSEMONT TALUSSNAIL DOES NOT WARRANT PROTECTION UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT -Original Species Identification Was In Error-

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today it has completed a status review of the Rosemont talussnail and concluded it is not a valid species and therefore does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. It is being removed from the list of candidate species.

In 2012, scientists demonstrated that the Rosemont talussnail (*Sonorella rosemontensis*) was described in error and is actually the same species as the Santa Rita talussnail (*Sonorella walkeri*). The Santa Rita talussnail is a widespread and common species whose distribution extends across southern Arizona from the Santa Rita and Atascosa mountain ranges in Santa Cruz County; the Whetstone Mountains of Cochise County; and south into Sonora, Mexico.

The status review was undertaken following the Service's internal candidate assessment process and a subsequent 2010 Center for Biological Diversity petition to list the species resulted in the Rosemont talussnail being added to the list of candidate species.

Talussnails are terrestrial snails with a half-inch shell height. Individual species can be limited to small geographical areas – relics of wetter or cooler era. Talussnails occurs in talus slopes (volcanic rock and limestone), typically deep, free of excess sedimentation, and exhibiting stable moisture conditions. Positive identification of species depends on examination of soft body parts, usually genitalia.

Today's 12-month finding and other information about the species formerly described as the Rosemont talussnail are available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/rosemont.htm>, or at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket Number FWS-R2-ES-2013-0058.

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>.

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/>