



News Release

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SERVICE DETERMINES THE NUECES RIVER AND PLATEAU SHINERS DO NOT WARRANT PROTECTION UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today it has completed a status review of the Nueces River shiner (*Cyprinella* sp.) and plateau shiner (*Cyprinella lepida*) and concluded that they do not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. The Service made this finding after a thorough review of all the available scientific and commercial information regarding the status of the Nueces River shiner and plateau shiner and threats to these species.

The status review was undertaken as a result of the June 25, 2007, petition from Forest Guardians (now WildEarth Guardians) requesting that 475 species in the southwestern United States be listed, including the Nueces River and plateau shiners. On December 16, 2009, the Service published a 90-day finding for 192 of the 475 species, which suggested that listing the Nueces River and plateau shiners may be warranted and initiated a status review.

Information provided by the petitioner suggested that reduced water flow, improper grazing by livestock and pollution may be threats to both species. Based on the best available information and a thorough review of all information, data and peer review comments, the Service has determined that there is no evidence to indicate the magnitude and imminence of these threats or any other factors are impacting the Nueces River or plateau shiners at a level that constitutes a threat to either species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

The historic and current range of Nueces River and plateau shiners is the uppermost headwaters of the Nueces, Frio, and Sabinal Rivers in the Edward's Plateau region of Texas. The plateau shiner is an endemic minnow that inhabits clear, spring-fed streams over gravel limestone substrates in the uppermost headwaters of the Frio and Sabinal Rivers. The Nueces River shiner is an endemic minnow that is only found in the uppermost headwaters of the Nueces River.

The Service's priority is to make implementation of the ESA less complex, less contentious and more effective. The agency seeks to address the conservation needs of imperiled species before they require the protection of the Act, while accelerating recovery of threatened and endangered species across the nation, while making it easier for people to coexist with these species.

A copy of the 12-month finding and other information about the Nueces River shiner and the plateau shiner is available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket Number [**FWS-R2-ES-2011-0057**]. Supporting documentation used in preparing this finding is available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78758.

Please submit any new information, materials, comments, or questions concerning this finding to the above address, or by contacting Adam Zerrenner, Field Supervisor, Austin Ecological Services Field Office by telephone at 512-490-0057 extension 248; or by facsimile at 512-490-0974. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), please 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. 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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