



June 1, 2015

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Service Issues 90-Day Finding on Bone Cave Harvestman Delisting Petition

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is announcing that a petition to delist the Bone Cave harvestman does not provide substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that delisting the Bone Cave harvestman may be warranted. The notice will publish in the *Federal Register* on June 1, 2015.

On June 2, 2014, we received a petition from John Yearwood, Kathryn Heidemann, Charles and Cheryl Shell, the Walter Sidney Shell Management Trust, the American Stewards of Liberty, and Steven W. Carothers requesting that the Bone Cave harvestman be delisted under the Endangered Species Act. The Service reviewed the petition and evaluated the information in our files and found that the petition does not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that delisting of the Bone Cave harvestman may be warranted due to recovery or error in the original scientific data.

The Service recently initiated a 5-year status review of the Bone Cave harvestman. The Endangered Species Act calls for the Service to conduct a status review of each listed species every five years to evaluate whether or not the species status has changed since it was listed or since the last 5-year review. This will provide the public an opportunity to submit new information on the status of the species. The Service is seeking new information from landowners, non-governmental organizations, academia and others on the current status of the Bone Cave harvestman. Details on information being requested as part of the 5-year review and information on how to submit comments is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-15/pdf/2015-08624.pdf>. Comments are being requested by June 15, 2015. Information gathered as part of the 5-year review will inform future conservation and recovery efforts for the species.

The Bone Cave harvestman is an eyeless spider-like species that is found in subterranean limestone caves throughout Williamson and Travis Counties in Texas. It depends on high humidity, stable temperatures, and nutrients derived from the surface. The Bone Cave harvestman was listed as endangered on September 16, 1988, due to habitat loss primarily as a result of the loss of caves due to increasing urbanization.

For more information on the ESA's petition process, visit <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/listing-petition-process.html>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov, or connect with us through any of these social media channels:



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