

# Peer Review Plan – Listing Decision for Six Species of Aquatic Invertebrates from West Texas

## About the Document

**Title:** The Service will remove six West Texas aquatic invertebrate species from the candidate list. These six species include Phantom Cave snail (*Pyrgulopsis texana*), Phantom springsnail (*Tryonia cheatumi*), diminutive amphipod (*Gammarus hyaloides*), Diamond Y Spring snail (*Pseudotryonia adamantina*), Gonzales springsnail (*Tryonia circumstriata*), and Pecos amphipod (*Gammarus pecos*). To remove these species from the candidate list means to propose them for listing as threatened or endangered or to prepare a not warranted finding. A listing proposal will include proposed critical habitat, if prudent and determinable. Following a listing proposal, a final listing determination will follow within the statutory timelines.

## About the Peer Review Process

**Peer review initiated:** June 2012

**Peer review to be completed by:** August 2012

### **Process:**

- If appropriate, the Service will conduct a peer review of the portion of the proposal that includes a discussion of the scientific information reviewed and our analysis (but not our conclusion regarding the status of the species or critical habitat boundaries).
- The Service will conduct external peer review of this document through letters to at least three independent scientific reviewers with expertise in invertebrate ecology, conservation biology, and/or desert spring ecology.
- Peer reviewers may be asked to: comment specifically on the quality of any information and analyses used or relied on in analysis, identify oversights, omissions, and inconsistencies, provide advice on reasonableness of judgments made from the scientific evidence, ensure that scientific uncertainties are clearly identified and characterized, and that potential implications of uncertainties for the technical conclusions drawn are clear, and provide advice on the strengths and limitation of the overall product.
- If appropriate, the Service will use the information received from the peer review in the final rule.
- The start date of the peer review is anticipated to be June 2012.

## About Public Participation

- If appropriate, public comments on the listing proposal for these species will be sought concurrently with publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register and through distribution by mail and press release of an announcement to interested parties.
- This peer review plan will be posted on the Service's website for public review and comment.
- If appropriate, the Service will post a notice on its website of the final rule, which will include a summary of the results of the peer review process.

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