



## News Release

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### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Seeks Public Comment on Arizona Eryngo Proposed Listing and Critical Habitat Rule**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking public comment on a proposal to list the Arizona eryngo, a wetland plant, as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Service is also requesting input on a proposal to designate 13 acres of land as critical habitat for the species in Pima and Cochise counties in Arizona.

“Critical habitat helps focus conservation efforts where they are needed most,” said Amy Lueders, Regional Director for the Service. “If finalized, this rule would help us conserve the Arizona eryngo, and the ecosystem on which it depends for future generations.”

The Arizona eryngo is a flowering plant in the carrot family that is frequented by pollinators such as butterflies and hummingbirds. It is native to Arizona and New Mexico in the U.S. and Sonora and Chihuahua in Mexico. It currently grows in four populations: two in southern Arizona and two in Mexico. Conservation efforts to establish additional populations have begun.

The Arizona eryngo grows only in cienegas, a type of wetland fed by natural springs. The groundwater that feeds the wetland is being depleted by pumping and diversion, which is damaging the species’ habitat. The species is also threatened by nonnative plants and woody vegetation that invade this habitat as a result of a warmer and drier climate due to climate change.

The proposed rule to list the Arizona eryngo as endangered under the ESA will publish in the *Federal Register* on March 4, 2021 opening a 60-day public comment period. The Service will consider comments from all interested parties received by May 3. Information on how to submit comments is available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) by searching under docket number FWS–R2–ES–2020–013. Copies of the proposed listing are available online at <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/>.

For additional information, contact Jeff Humphrey (field supervisor) by telephone at (602) 242-0210, or by mail at: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, 9828 N 31st Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85051.

*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 on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/>. Connect with our [Facebook page](#), follow our [tweets](#), watch our [YouTube Channel](#) and download photos from our [Flickr page](#).*

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Photo: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to list the Arizona eryngo as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The Arizona eryngo is a flowering plant in the carrot family that is frequented by pollinators such as butterflies and hummingbirds. Credit: Erin Fernandez / USFWS

