



# News Release

Public Affairs Office  
PO Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
505/248-6911  
505/248-6915 (Fax)

**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)** [www.fws.gov/southwest/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/)

**For Release: February 5, 2013**

**Contacts:** Adam Zerrenner, (512) 490-0057  
Tom Buckley, (505) 248-6455  
Lesli Gray, (972) 569-8588

## **SERVICE ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FOR SIX WEST TEXAS AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is publishing the Notice of Availability of the draft economic analysis for the proposed critical habitat for the Phantom Cave snail, Phantom springsnail, diminutive amphipod, Diamond Y Spring snail, Gonzales springsnail and Pecos amphipod. The draft economic analysis provides estimated costs of the foreseeable potential economic impacts of the proposed critical habitat designation for the six west Texas invertebrates over the next 20 years.

In releasing the draft economic analysis, the Service is also reopening the comment period for 45 days to allow the public an opportunity to comment simultaneously on the August 16, 2012, proposed rules to list the six west Texas invertebrates as endangered and designate critical habitat, and the associated draft economic analysis. As part of the public comment period, on February 21, 2013, the Service will hold a public informational session and a public hearing. The informational session and public hearing will be held in the conference room at Balmorhea State Park, State Highway 17, Toyahvale, Texas. The public information session will begin at 5:00 p.m. CT and the public hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. CT.

When specifying an area as critical habitat, the Endangered Species Act requires the Service to consider economic and other relevant impacts of the designation. If the benefits of excluding an area outweigh the benefits of designating it, the Secretary of the Interior may exclude an area from critical habitat, unless that would jeopardize the existence of a threatened or endangered species. Designation of critical habitat does not affect land ownership, establish a refuge or preserve and has no impact on private landowners taking actions on their land that do not require federal funding or permits.

The draft economic analysis quantifies economic impacts of the six west Texas invertebrates conservation efforts associated with the following categories of activity: water withdrawals for agricultural and municipal uses, oil and gas development and recreation and species management. Total present value impacts anticipated to result from the critical habitat designation of all units for the six west Texas invertebrates is \$40,000 over a 20-year period (2013-2032). The anticipated incremental costs are relatively low given that the proposed critical habitat is occupied by the species, the species' survival is closely linked to the quality of

their habitat, few actions being carried out in the area are subject to a Federal nexus, and much of the proposed critical habitat is already being managed for conservation.

The Service will accept public comments received or postmarked on or before March 22, 2013. For more information on this proposal, what to comment on, or how to submit comments, see the *Federal Register* notice on our web site at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest>.

For further information contact Adam Zerrenner, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758; by telephone at 512-490-0057 x248; or by facsimile at 512-490-0974. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339.

America's fish, wildlife and plant resources belong to all of us, and ensuring the health of imperiled species is a shared responsibility. We're working to actively engage conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species. To learn more about the Endangered Species program, go to <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>.

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](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfws](http://www.facebook.com/usfws), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfws](http://www.twitter.com/usfws), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws>.

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