

1. What's the basis for your decision on this 90-day finding?

The petition does not present substantial information because it does not provide specific information on threats to the smooth-billed ani and only alludes to possible threats within Florida, which is a small portion in the north of the species' considerable range (from central Florida and the West Indies, south to Central and South America, to Ecuador, and northern Argentina, except in the Andes). Information in our files indicates that the smooth-billed ani has a large population size, uses a wide array of disturbed habitats, and occupies a considerable range. While we agree with the petitioner's general statements about possible causes for the species' recent decline in Florida, information in our files suggests that the species' current status in Florida may be the norm; the species was not known to breed in Florida prior to the late 1930s. Neither the petition nor our files contain information suggesting that threats affecting the species' continued existence occur elsewhere in its range. In short, neither information in the petition, nor information in our files suggests that listing the smooth-billed ani is warranted at this time.

2. Sometimes the Service initiates a status review of species as the result of a 90-day finding. Are you doing that in this case? Why or why not?

Based on our review, the petition didn't present -- substantial information indicating that listing this species is warranted. The Service initiates a status review if a 90-day finding is positive. Since this is a not-substantial finding, we will not be initiating a status review in response to this petition.

3. Your 90-day finding was published in the Federal Register. What's next?

We'll accept more information about this species, its habitat and threats. We greatly appreciate the public's participation in this process. The smooth-billed ani is an uncommon to rare resident of southern Florida, but it has a large population that occurs over a considerable global geographic range.

4. What criteria did you use to make the decision whether to list this species?

A species may be determined to be an endangered or threatened species due to one or more of the five factors described in the Endangered Species Act:

- The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- Disease or predation;
- The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
- Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

5. How many smooth-billed ani are there in south Florida and where are they found?

Neither the Service nor the petitioner has firm population numbers for this species in Florida. But the species appears to have a large population over a considerable range – primarily outside

of Florida. Available information in Service files suggests that the species uses Loxahatchee NWR, the Florida Keys NWR Complex, and other areas. In Florida, the species can locally be found from the Keys north to West Palm Beach on the east coast and Collier County on the west coast. Throughout its considerable global range, this species uses disturbed and human-altered rural and suburban areas, open areas with brush or scrub, plantations, gardens, farmlands, forest clearings, cow pastures, and grazing lands with human habitation.

6. Since you decided not to list this species what's likely to happen to it?

Currently, we have no information to suggest that the smooth-billed ani may become extinct now or in the foreseeable future due to existing threats. And again, we're accepting new information on the status of this species and/or its threats.