

From: "Lawand, David" <david_lawand@fws.gov>
Date: 4/9/15 1:55 PM
Subject: USFWS Seeks Public Comments on Petition Findings for 10
Species, 5 that are in California and Nevada
BC: Christine Ferraro

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2015 APR -9 P 2:14

Dear Agency Partners,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced the availability of 90-day findings on various petitions to list eight species, reclassify one species, and delist one species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The announcement opens a 60 day comment period to ensure the public has an opportunity to read the findings and provide information about the species.

The notice announcing these findings is on public view today at the Federal Register.

Five of the 90-day findings concern species in California and Nevada. The Service determined that the petitions presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that ESA protections may be warranted for the Mojave shoulderband snail, Clear Lake hitch, Relict dace, San Joaquin flower-loving fly, and Western pond turtle.

The findings do not mean that the Service has decided to grant federal protections to these species. Rather, the findings will trigger a more thorough review of all the biological information available for the species. To ensure the status reviews are comprehensive, the Service is looking for information from the public.

Comments on the 90-day findings and information about the species may be submitted online at the Federal eRulemaking Portal, <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public

Comments Processing, Attn: [Insert appropriate docket number]; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

The docket numbers for these species are:

Mojave shoulderband snail – FWS–R8–ES–2015–0021

Clear Lake hitch – FWS–R8–ES–2015–0017

Relict dace – FWS–R8–ES–2015–0022

San Joaquin flower-loving fly – FWS–R8–ES–2015–0023

Western pond turtle – FWS–R8–ES–2015–0024

The Service is seeking information about the species' biology, range, and population trends including habitat requirements; genetics and taxonomy; historical and current range including distribution patterns; historical and current population levels, current and projected trends; and past and ongoing conservation measures for the species, its habitat, or both.

Additionally, the Service is requesting data for the species on what may constitute physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species, where these features are currently found, and whether any of these features may require special management considerations or protection. The Service is interested in information on specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species that are essential for the conservation of the species and what critical habitat, if any, should be proposed for designation if the species is proposed for listing.

Please contact me if you have any questions. The Service thanks you for your ongoing interest in wildlife conservation issues.

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