
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service**50 CFR Part 17****Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Findings on Five Petitions, and of Review of Five Species**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of petition findings and review.

SUMMARY: The Service announces findings that four petitions to add five species to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife have presented substantial information indicating that such listings may be warranted, and announced reviews of the status of these species. The Service also gives notice of a finding that one petition to add one species to the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants has not presented substantial information.

DATE: Relevant information or comments may be submitted until further notice.

ADDRESS: Information, comments, or questions should be submitted to the Associate Director—Federal Assistance (OES), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240. The petitions, supporting data, and comments are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Service's Office of Endangered Species, Suite 500, 1000 Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John L. Spinks, Jr., Chief, Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240 (703/235-2771 or FTS 235-2771).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended in 1982, requires the Service to make a finding on whether a petition to add a species to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, or to remove or reclassify a species, presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, such a finding is to be made within 90 days of receipt of the petition, and the finding is then to be promptly published in the *Federal Register*. If the

finding is positive, the Service is also required to promptly commence a review of the status of the involved species. Recently, the Service received and made findings on the following five petitions.

1. A petition from Mr. Douglas H. Chadwick, dated June 17, 1984, and received by the Service on July 2, 1984, requested extension of endangered status to the woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Montana. At present, such status is restricted to the southern Selkirk Mountain herd of caribou, which is found only in Idaho, Washington, and British Columbia. Mr. Chadwick provided evidence that caribou, probably members of another herd, also occur, at least on occasion, in northwestern Montana. It is likely that any caribou that are present in the latter area would be confronted by the same problems jeopardizing the southern Selkirk population. The Service therefore made the finding that this petition does present substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted.

2. A petition from Mr. Thomas P. Koenigs, dated July 5, 1984, and received by the Service on July 17, 1984, requested determination of endangered status for the Coeur d'Alene salamander (*Plethodon vandykei idahoensis*) of Idaho and Montana. Mr. Koenigs' data suggest a severe recent decline in numbers and distribution, resulting mainly from human habitat disruption. The Service therefore found that this petition does present substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted.

3. A petition from Dr. Ren Lohofener and Dr. Lynne Lohmeier, dated July 15, 1984, and received by the Service on July 17, 1984, requested determination of endangered status for those populations of the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) occurring west of the Tombigbee River in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The petitioners provided extensive evidence that the tortoise populations are declining drastically because of killing and habitat destruction by people. The Service therefore found that this petition does present substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted.

4. A petition from W. D. Sumlin, III and Christopher D. Nagano, dated July 23, 1984, and received by the Service on July 24, 1984, requested determination of endangered status for Barbara Anne's tiger beetle (*Cicindela politula barbaraannae*) and the Guadalupe Mountains tiger beetle (*Cicindela politula* ssp.) of Texas. The petitioners

furnished commercial trade information suggesting that over-collecting is jeopardizing these beetles. Moreover, the apparent small natural distribution and numbers of these beetles make them especially vulnerable. The Service therefore found that this petition does present substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted.

5. A petition from Dr. B. T. Burns, Dr. C. P. Nabhan, Mahina Drees, and Karan Reichhardt, dated July 23, 1984, and received by the Service on July 30, 1984, requested determination of endangered status for the plant *Panicum sonorum* (Sonoran panic grass), which originally occurred in Arizona, Mexico, and Central America. The petitioners submitted data showing that this plant has become very rare in Arizona, but provided insufficient data to ascertain its status in Mexico and Central America. The Service therefore made the finding that this petition does not present substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted.

As required in the case of positive findings, the Service hereby initiates reviews of the status of the woodland caribou population that occurs in Montana, the Coeur d'Alene salamander, Barbara Anne's tiger beetle, and the Guadalupe Mountains tiger beetle. A status review of the gopher tortoise is already in progress, as that species was covered by the Service's Review of Vertebrate Wildlife in the *Federal Register* of December 30, 1982 (47 FR 58454-58460). The Service continues to seek data on the gopher tortoise, especially those populations west of the Tombigbee River. With respect to all five species being reviewed, there is a particular need for information on distribution, numbers, systematics, recommended critical habitat, and threats.

Section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act requires that within 12 months of receipt of a petition to present substantial information, a finding be made as to whether the petitioned action is not warranted, warranted, or warranted but precluded by other listing activity. All comments and information received in response to the status reviews hereby announced will be considered in making such findings regarding the five involved species.

The authors of this notice are C. Kenneth Dodd, George E. Drewry, Linda M. Hurley, Ronald M. Nowak, and LaVerne Smith, Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington D.C. 20240 (703/235-1975 or FTS 235-1975).

Authority: Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 93-205, 87 Stat. 884; Pub. L. 94-359, 90 Stat. 911; Pub. L. 95-632, 92 Stat. 3751; Pub. L. 96-159, 93 Stat. 1225; Pub. L. 97-304, 96 Stat. 1411).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened wildlife,
Fish, Marine mammals, Plants
(agriculture).

Dated: December 11, 1984.

G. Ray Arnett,

*Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and
Parks.*

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