

American Malacological Society (AMS) Conservation Committee Imperiled Species News
July 2013

Hello American Malacological Society (AMS) members and non-members. Since 2010, I have served as the AMS Conservation Committee chair. In this capacity, I am submitting quarterly reports on mollusk conservation to various listservs with potential interest in mollusks. The American Malacological Society's Policy on Biological Conservation can be found at <http://www.malacological.org/conservation/index.php>. This is the latest listserv update on current and proposed U.S. federal legislation regulations regarding mollusks. The purpose of these postings is to encourage AMS members and others to play an active role in conservation of mollusks directly, either as a society, or individually. This update covers April, May, and June of 2013. Similar postings will be updated members at the beginning of each annual quarter dealing with such issues. I will post the same announcement on other relevant listservs.



Photo Credit: Trey Reid, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

This posting celebrates an extraordinary and unprecedented achievement in conservation under the Endangered Species Act! In May, the first invertebrate was removed from listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Magazine Mountain shagreen snail (*Inflectarius magazinensis*) is known only from the north and west slopes Magazine Mountain above 2200 feet altitude in Logan County, Arkansas. Of the 340 listed invertebrates in the American southeast, more than 100 species are invertebrates; including the Magazine Mountain shagreen and 38 other species of terrestrial snails. This species was initially listed in 1989 due, like most endangered mollusks in the region, to habitat loss. Proposed military troop movements and artillery operations in the area coupled with impacts of the development of a new state park at the summit (somewhat ironic) were thought to negatively impact the population with associated road and trail additions and building construction.

Protection of the species was afforded by inclusion of the entire range within U.S. Forest Service property with portions of the area designated a Special Interest Area specifically to protect the snail and its habitat. This high level of protection and associated new research on the snail's life

history contributed directly to expansion to 27 locations on Magazine Mountain; comprising some 22 acres of occupied habitat. The species is now considered secure and the conditions under which it was listed removed and goals of the listing achieved. Future management and protection fall jointly under the U.S. Forest Service and Arkansas Department of Parks and Recreation. The species now holds a unique place in Endangered Species history as the first invertebrate species fully recovered and removed from listing under the Endangered Species Act; an honor shared by 26 other animal and plant species including bald eagle, American alligator, Virginia northern flying squirrel, and Eggert's sunflower.

Lastly, in the latest recovery news, one of the rarest freshwater mussels in North America, the purple cat's paw (*Epioblasma obliquata obliquata*), was given a renewed opportunity for recovery. The species was listed as Endangered in 1990 and today, Killbuck Creek in Ohio may possibly hold the last remaining population. When a new viable population discovered in 2012 in Killbuck Creek was placed in holding cages, the species was given a fighting chance. The few individuals found were placed in holding cages and collected a year later early this year and transported to the Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Research Center at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Six individuals were found with glochidia or larval offspring. The mussels are now held in three separate propagation facilities to minimize potential for loss. With success, these juveniles will be introduced to potential host fish to eventually develop into juvenile individuals.

Other administrative decisions include reopening of comment periods and eventual listing for three species of Lanai treesnails, reopening of comment period on proposed listing of four freshwater mussel species, and the listing as Endangered of four species of springsnails

SUMMARIES

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Releases Annual List of Candidates for Endangered Species Act Protection

***Newcombia cumingi* (Newcomb's treesnail), *Partulina semicarinata* (Lanai tree snail), *Partulina variabilis* (Lanai treesnail)**

- POSTED: January 31, 2013
- SUMMARY: Proposed Rule to list 38 species of plants and animal species [including 3 mollusks: *Newcombia cumingi* (Newcomb's Treesnail), *Partulina semicarinata* (Lanai tree snail), *Partulina variabilis* (Lanai tree snail)] as Endangered; reaffirm listing of 2 endemic Hawaiian plant species currently listed as Endangered; designate Critical Habitat for 39 of these plant and animal species [including 3 mollusks: *Newcombia cumingi* (Newcomb's treesnail), *Partulina semicarinata* (Lanai tree snail), *Partulina variabilis* (Lanai tree snail)] on the Hawaiian Islands of Molokai, Lanai, and Maui; designate Critical Habitat for 11 plant and animal species [no mollusks] already listed as Endangered; and revise Critical Habitat for 85

plant and animal species already listed as Endangered or Threatened on the Hawaiian Islands of Molokai, Lanai, Maui, and Kahoolawe = **comment period reopened**

- JUSTIFICATION: To be determined. Also 85 plant species
- RESULTS: Original proposal June 11, 2012 and Draft Economic Analysis (DEA) produced. Public comments solicited (submission deadline March 4, 2013).
- LINK: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/2013/2013-02002.pdf>

***Ptychobranchnus subtentum* (fluted kidneyshell) and *Pleuironaia dolabelloides* (slabside pearlymussel)**

- POSTED: April 29, 2013
- SUMMARY: **Proposed Rule** to list *Ptychobranchnus subtentum* (fluted kidneyshell) and *Pleuironaia dolabelloides* (slabside pearlymussel) as Endangered and designate Critical Habitat = **comment period reopened**
- JUSTIFICATION: To be determined.
- RESULTS: Original proposal October 16, 2012. Comments solicited (submission deadline May 29, 2013).
- LINK: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/2013/2013-09975.pdf>

***Lampsilis rafinesqueana* (Neosho mucket), *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica* (rabbitsfoot)**

- POSTED: May 9, 2013
- SUMMARY: **Proposed Rule** to list *Lampsilis rafinesqueana* (Neosho mucket) as Endangered and *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica* (rabbitsfoot) as Threatened and designate Critical Habitat for both = **comment period reopened**
- JUSTIFICATION: To be determined.
- RESULTS: Original proposal Comments solicited (submission deadline June 10, 2013)
- LINK: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/2013/2013-10990.pdf>

***Inflectarius magazinensis* (Magazine Mountain shagreen) [formerly *Mesodon magazinensis*]**

- POSTED: May 28, 2013
- SUMMARY: **Final Rule** to delist *Inflectarius magazinensis* (Magazine Mountain shagreen) [formerly *Mesodon magazinensis*] from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife = **species is delisted**
- JUSTIFICATION: The species is deemed recovered as all of the threats to the species have been eliminated or reduced, adequate regulatory mechanisms exist, and populations are stable so that the species is not currently, and is not likely, to again become a threatened species within the foreseeable future in all or a significant portion of its range.
- RESULTS: CLOSED
- LINK: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/2012/2012-14502.pdf>

***Newcombia cumingi* (Newcomb's treesnail), *Partulina semicarinata* (Lanai tree snail), *Partulina variabilis* (Lanai treesnail)**

- POSTED: May 28, 2013

- SUMMARY: Final Rule to list 38 species of plants and animal species [including 3 mollusks: *Newcombia cumingi* (Newcomb's Treesnail), *Partulina semicarinata* (Lenai tree snail), *Partulina variabilis* (Lanai tree snail)] as Endangered = **species listed as Endangered**; reaffirm listing of 2 endemic Hawaiian plant species currently listed as Endangered = **species listed as Endangered**; designate Critical Habitat for 39 of these plant and animal species [including 3 mollusks: *Newcombia cumingi* (Newcomb's treesnail), *Partulina semicarinata* (Lenai tree snail), *Partulina variabilis* (Lanai tree snail)] on the Hawaiian Islands of Molokai, Lanai, and Maui = **Critical Habitat designated**; designate Critical Habitat for 11 plant and animal species [no mollusks] already listed as Endangered; and revise Critical Habitat for 85 plant and animal species already listed as Endangered or Threatened on the Hawaiian Islands of Molokai, Lanai, Maui, and Kahoolawe = **species listed as Endangered and Critical Habitat designated**

- JUSTIFICATION: This finding is based on information provided under factors (A) habitat degradation and destruction by agriculture and urbanization, nonnative ungulates and plants, fire, natural disasters, and climate change, and the interaction of these threats; (G) overutilization due to collection of the three tree snail species for trade or market; (C) predation by nonnative animal species (pigs, goats, axis deer, mouflon sheep, cattle, rats, Jackson's chameleon, slugs, snails, and flatworms; (D) inadequate regulatory mechanisms to address the threats posed by nonnative species; and (E) limited numbers of populations and individuals, hybridization, lack of regeneration, and ongoing human activities (e.g., trampling and hiking).

- RESULTS: CLOSED

- LINK: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/2013/2013-12105.pdf>

***Pseudotryonia adamantina* (Diamond Y springsnail), *Pyrgulopsis texana* (Phantom Cave snail), *Tryonia circumstriata* (Gonzales springsnail), *Tryonia cheatumi* (Phantom springsnail)**

- POSTED: July 9, 2013

- SUMMARY: Final Rule to list *Pseudotryonia adamantina* (Diamond Y springsnail), *Pyrgulopsis texana* (Phantom Cave snail), *Tryonia circumstriata* (Gonzales springsnail), *Tryonia cheatumi* (Phantom springsnail) as Endangered or Threatened and designate Critical Habitat = **species listed as Endangered and Critical Habitat designated**

- JUSTIFICATION: For Diamond Y species (*Pyrgulopsis texana* (Phantom Cave snail), *Tryonia cheatumi* (Phantom springsnail)), this finding is based on information provided under factors (A) current and ongoing and future decline in spring flows, and historic modification of spring channels; particularly historic and future declines in regional groundwater levels that have caused some springs to cease flowing and threaten the remaining springs with the same fate; (D) existing regulatory mechanisms are inadequate to provide protection to the species habitat from existing and future threats through groundwater management by groundwater conservation districts; and (E) occurrence of two nonnative snails in portions of the species' range that could be another factor negatively affecting the species (Factor E). Also, small, reduced ranges of these species, when coupled with the presence of additional threats, also put them at a heightened risk of extinction.

- For San Solomon Spring species (*Pseudotryonia adamantina* (Diamond Y springsnail), *Tryonia circumstriata* (Gonzales springsnail)), this finding is based on information provided under factors (A) current and ongoing modification and destruction of their habitat and range from the

ongoing and future decline in spring flows, and historic modification of spring channels; particularly historic and future declines in regional groundwater levels that have caused some springs to cease flowing and threaten the remaining springs with the same fate; (D) existing regulatory mechanisms are inadequate to provide protection to the species habitat from existing and future threats through groundwater management by groundwater conservation districts; and (E) occurrence of two nonnative snails portions of the species' range that could be another factor negatively affecting the species.

- Also, small, reduced ranges of these species, when coupled with the presence of additional threats, also put them at a heightened risk of extinction.

- RESULTS: CLOSED

- LINK: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/2013/2013-16222.pdf> and <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/2013/2013-16230.pdf>

SUMMARIES

This summarizes the administrative actions issued during April through June of 2013. Please look for future quarterly updates. A 2013 year-end summary will be provided in January or February of 2014. Please help make a difference by commenting on proposals within the appropriate comment period and becoming involved with your local natural heritage program and state fish and wildlife office staff.

Regards,

Jay

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FYI:

Comments may be submitted via one of the following methods:

(1) Electronically

Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search field, enter Docket No. FWS-R5-ES-2012-0054, which is the docket number for this action. Then click on the Search button. You may submit a comment by clicking on "Comment Now!"

(2) By hard copy

Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R5-ES-2012-0054; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM; Arlington, VA 22203.