



**Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office  
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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

***Q. Where can I find more information about the pygmy rabbit and the 90-Day Finding?***

The pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*) is a member of the family Leporidae, which includes hares and rabbits. It is the smallest Leporid in North America. Adults weigh approximately one pound and are about one foot in length.

Copies of the 90-Day Finding are available on the Internet at <http://nevada.fws.gov>. You can also call or write to us to request hard copies of this document.

***Q. What is the pygmy rabbit habitat?***

Pygmy rabbits are typically found in areas of tall, dense sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*) cover, and are highly dependent on sagebrush to provide both food and shelter throughout the year. Their diet in the winter consists of up to 99 percent sagebrush.

It is believed to be one of only two Leporids in Northern America that digs its own burrows. Pygmy rabbit burrows are typically found in relatively deep, loose soils of wind-borne or water-born origin. Pygmy rabbits occasionally make use of burrows abandoned by other species and as a result may occur in areas of shallower or more compact soils that support sufficient shrub cover.

***Q. Where have pygmy rabbits been found historically?***

The pygmy rabbit historic range includes portions of eight states: Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah.

***Q. Why did the Service complete a 90-Day Finding under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for pygmy rabbit?***

A formal listing petition was received from environmental groups in April, 2003 that required the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to make a determination on whether there was substantial information to initiate a status review of the pygmy rabbit. This decision is called a 90-Day finding and is based on scientific information provided in the petition. The Service agreed to complete the 90-Day Finding by May 20, 2005 as a result of a lawsuit filed against the Service by Western Watersheds Project, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, Center for Native Ecosystems, and Oregon Natural Desert Association.

***Q. What were the results of the pygmy rabbit 90-Day Finding?***

The Service completed its evaluation and has determined that the petition does not contain substantial biological information to warrant a more in-depth examination of its status. More research would be needed to determine the distribution and abundance of the species range-wide before a decision could be made on whether to propose listing the species.

***Q. Were all eight states included in the 90-Day Finding?***

No, although the pygmy rabbit occurs in Washington, that state was not included in this review. The Columbia Basin Distinct Population Segment of the pygmy rabbit was listed in the State of Washington as endangered on March 5, 2003.

For more information about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, visit us on the Internet at [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)