



News Release

Public Affairs Office

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Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/>

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Petition Regarding Multiple Species Does Not Establish Need for Endangered Species Act Protection

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today a negative 90-day finding on a petition that would add hundreds of species to the Federal Lists of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Plants. The Service made the determination as a partial response to a petition received in June 2007 from Forest Guardians (now WildEarth Guardians) requesting 475 species be protected under the Endangered Species Act. Today's action found that the petition does not contain substantial scientific data for 270 species. The remaining 200 species will be addressed in one or more future 90-day findings. Additionally, five of the species named in the petition were not eligible to be considered in the listing process.

Petitions are formal requests to give a species Endangered Species Act protection as either threatened or endangered. The Service reviews the information contained in the petition and other scientific information in our files to determine if further analysis is needed. The information submitted for the majority of the 270 species in this petition only contained taxonomic information, including the Latin name, a physical description of the plant or animal, and known locations. Only two of the 270 species had information on threats included in this petition, and the threats cited were not significant.

The nearly 500 species listed in the petition contained plants and animals, including many invertebrates, found in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

The finding was published in the *Federal Register* on January 6, 2009, and is available at www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Library or by contacting the Service at 505/248-6920 or mailing a request to 500 Gold Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, Attn: Ecological Services.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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