

5-YEAR REVIEW

Short Form Summary

Species Reviewed: Utah (desert) valvata (*Utahensis valvata*)

Current Classification: endangered

FR Notice announcing initiation of this review:

April 11, 2006. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of 5-Year Review of 70 Species In Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii, and Guam. 71 FR 18345-18348.

Lead Region/Field Office:

Region 1/ Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, Boise, Idaho. Primary Contact: Susan Burch, (208) 378-5265.

Name of Reviewer(s):

Steve Duke: 208-378-5345; Susan Burch 208-378-5265

Methodology used to complete this 5-year review:

The 5-Year review of the Utah (desert) valvata was accomplished through the status review conducted for the 12-month petition finding to a delisting petition received December 26, 2006, from the Governor of Idaho and attorneys from several irrigation districts and canal districts. This petition requested that the Utah (desert) Valvata be removed from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (List). We compiled the best scientific and commercial information available regarding the past, present, and future threats faced by the species, conducted peer review on that information, and completed a structured decision analysis process.

Application of the 1996 Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Policy:

Application of the Service's 1996 DPS Policy does not apply to invertebrate species.

Review Analysis:

Please refer to the 12-month petition finding prepared by the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office and sent to the Regional Office on June 4, 2008, for a complete discussion on the species status (including biology and habitat), 5-factor threat analysis, and evaluation of ongoing management efforts.

At the time of listing in 1992, the Utah valvata snail was thought to require free-flowing cool water environments. It was also thought to be limited in distribution to a few springs and mainstem Snake River sites in south-central Idaho. Primary threats identified in our listing rule included proposed hydroelectric development, operations of existing hydroelectric dams, diversion of water for irrigation and aquaculture, deteriorating water quality in the Snake River, lack of regulatory protections for spring habitats, and the invasion of the non-native New Zealand mudsnail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*).

Data collected since 1992 show that Utah (desert) valvata snails are more widely distributed than known at the time of listing and have been found at numerous locations

in a variety of habitat types including reservoirs, and ranging over 255 river miles of the Snake River. Six hydroelectric projects that were being proposed at the time of the 1992 listing have since been abandoned, and the species has been found to persist in areas influenced by ongoing existing hydroelectric dam operations, irrigation and aquaculture diversions, and in areas with degraded water quality (e.g., reservoirs). Although cold water spring habitats, once thought to be the species primary habitat, still lack sufficient regulatory protection in the mid-Snake River, we now know that the species does not require free-flowing cool-water environments; rather it is found in a wide variety of habitat types with a wide range of temperatures. Finally, the exotic New Zealand mudsnails have invaded many Snake River reaches occupied by Utah (desert) valvata snails however; this invasion has not resulted in the loss of Utah (desert) valvata snails from any portion of their range after approximately 20 years of co-occurrence.

Based on this new information and our improved understanding of how various threat factors, affect the Utah (desert) valvata, the weight of the evidence indicates the species is not in danger of extinction, nor is it likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Therefore, we recommend a warranted 12-month finding with a concurrent proposed rule to delist the Utah (desert) valvata from the list of threatened and endangered species.

Recommendations for Future Actions:

None.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

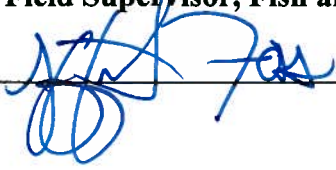
SIGNATURE PAGE for 5-YEAR REVIEW on Utah (desert) valvata (*Valvata utahensis*)

Pre-1996 DPS listing still considered a listable entity? NA

Recommendation resulting from the 5-year review:

- Delisting
- Reclassify from Endangered to Threatened status
- Reclassify from Threatened to Endangered status
- No Change in listing status

Lead Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service



Date 7/13/09

