

# **Proposed Listing and Designation of Critical Habitat for Neosho mucket (*Lampsilis rafinesqueana*) and Rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*)**

## **About the Document**

**Title:** Proposed Listing and Designation of Critical Habitat for the Neosho mucket and Rabbitsfoot

**Purpose:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is preparing a proposal to list the Neosho mucket as endangered and rabbitsfoot as threatened and designate approximately 2,138 river miles of public and private land as critical habitat. Critical habitat for the Neosho mucket would be designated in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma (Benton and Washington Counties, Arkansas; Jasper, Lawrence, Newton, and McDonald Counties, Missouri; Allen, Chase, Cherokee, Coffey, Elk, Greenwood, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodson Counties, Kansas; and Adair, Delaware, and Cherokee Counties, Oklahoma. Critical habitat would be designated in Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee (Colbert, Jackson, Madison, and Marshall Counties, Alabama; Ashley, Arkansas, Bradley, Clark, Cleveland, Dallas, Drew, Fulton, Grant, Hot Spring, Independence, IZard, Jackson, Lawrence, Little River, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Newton, Ouachita, Randolph, Saline, Searcy, Sevier, Sharp, Van Buren, White, and Woodruff Counties, Arkansas; Allen and Cherokee Counties, Kansas; Carroll, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, and White Counties, Indiana; Massac, Pulaski, and Vermilion Counties, Illinois; Ballard, Green, Hart, Livingston, Logan, Marshall, and McCracken Counties, Kentucky; Hinds, Sunflower, Toshimingo, and Warren Counties, Mississippi; Jasper, Madison, and Wayne Counties, Missouri; Coshocton, Madison, Union, and Williams Counties, Ohio; McCurtain and Rogers Counties, Oklahoma; Crawford, Erie, Mercer, and Venango Counties, Pennsylvania; and Hardin, Hickman, Marshall, Maury, and Robertson Counties, Tennessee). A proposed regulation was published in the Federal Register on October 16, 2012 requesting public review and comment.

## **About the Peer Review Process**

**Type of Review:** Influential

**Date of Peer Review:** Peer review will occur between October 16, 2012 and December 17, 2012.

**Estimated Dissemination Date of the Final Rulemaking Document:** October 2013.

**Process:** The Service will conduct external peer review of this document through formal requests for peer review from three independent scientific reviewers experienced with the biology and ecology of this species or one of its close relatives. These reviewers are located at Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, University of Oklahoma - Oklahoma Biological Survey,

and North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences. Peer review of the scientific information used in our analysis of the status of both species and the validity of the data will be requested, but peer reviewers will not be asked to provide recommendations on the proposed legal status of the species. The Service will use the information received from the peer review, as appropriate, in the final determination of listing and critical habitat designation for the Neosho mucket and rabbitsfoot.

## **About Public Participation**

Public comments on the proposed critical habitat designation will be sought with a proposed rule published in the Federal Register and by mail to interested parties, a press release of the availability of the proposal to interested parties, and a public hearing if requested. The Service will consider all comments received prior to publishing a final determination.

The Service published a notice in the Federal Register of the proposed endangered status for Neosho mucket and threatened status for the rabbitsfoot and designation of critical habitat for both species. Once a final determination is made the Service will published a notice in the Federal Register on the status of both species including a summary of the results of the peer review. This peer review plan is made available on this website to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.

## **Contact:**

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