



## Petition for 9 Texas Mussels FAQs

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

### **Q - What action is the Service taking?**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced the results of a 90-day Finding on 9 species of mussels occurring in the United States – Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico, and in Mexico. The Service found these 9 mussel species may warrant federal protection as threatened or endangered. A 60 day public comment period has begun and will end on February 16, 2010.

### **Q – Why is the Service taking this action?**

WildEarth Guardians petitioned the Service to list these species as either endangered or threatened throughout their historic ranges within the United States and Mexico and that critical habitat be designated concurrently with the listing.

### **Q – What mussel species are under review?**

Texas fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*), Texas heelsplitter (*Potamilus amphichaenus*), Salina mucket (*Potamilus salinasensis*), golden orb (*Quadrula aurea*), smooth pimpleback (*Quadrula houstonensis*), Texas pimpleback (*Quadrula petrina*), false spike (*Quincuncina mitchelli*), Mexican fawnsfoot (*Truncilla cognata*), and Texas fawnsfoot (*Truncilla macrodon*)

### **Q - What Information do you review for a 90-Day Finding?**

Information that is included in a petition, cited in a petition and in our files.

### **Q – What information is the Service looking for in the 60 day comment period?**

The Service is seeking information regarding:

- (1) The species' biology, range, and population trends, including:
  - (a) habitat requirements for feeding, breeding, and sheltering,
  - (b) genetics and taxonomy,
  - (c) historical and current range including distribution patterns,
  - (d) historical and current population levels, and current and projected trends, and
  - (e) past and ongoing conservation measures for the species and/or its habitat
- (2) The Service is also seeking information on factors that are the basis for making a listing determination:
  - (a) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of the species' habitat or range;
  - (b) Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
  - (c) Disease or predation;
  - (d) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
  - (e) Other natural or manmade factors affecting their continued existence

(3) Information about any ongoing conservation measures for, or threats to, the species' and their habitats.

**Q - What will happen next?**

The Service will now undertake a more thorough status review of these species. At the conclusion of this review, and after the Service examines all public input, a determination will be made on whether or not the petitioned action is warranted.

**Q - How can I comment and where can I find the Federal Register notice?**

Instructions on how to comment can be found in the Federal Register notice at the Southwest Region web site: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>.