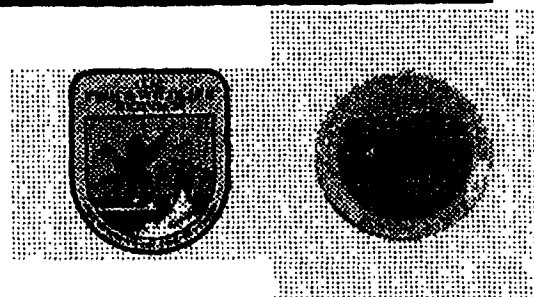


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Department of the Interior
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 California/Nevada Operations Office
 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606
 Sacramento, CA 95825
 Phone: 916/414-6464
 Fax: 916/414-6486
<http://www.fws.gov/cno/>

News Release



October 2, 2006
 For Immediate Release

Contacts:

Carlsbad -- Jane Hendron 760/431-9440
 Sacramento/Arcata -- Al Donner 916/414 6566 or Jim Nickles 916/414-6572
 Ventura -- Lois Grunwald 805/644-1766

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ANNOUNCES THE COMPLETION OF 5-YEAR REVIEWS FOR 12 SPECIES IN CALIFORNIA

Service recommends delisting for two species, downlisting for four and no change in status for six

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced the completion of 5-year reviews for 12 species in California. Of the reviews being announced today, two are recommended for delisting, four for downlisting from endangered to threatened and six for no change in status.

These 5-year reviews were undertaken as required by section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) and were noticed for review on July 7, 2005. The 5-year review constitutes a recommendation by the Service. Any change in the listing status will require a separate rulemaking process.

The species included in this announcement are the western snowy plover, Kneeland prairie pennycress, Morro shoulderband snail, Hidden Lake bluecurls, California least tern, Santa Cruz Island rock-creep, island night lizard, giant garter snake, San Francisco garter snake, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Smith's blue butterfly, and least Bell's vireo. The remainder of the 31 species noticed for review in 2005 are still undergoing review.

"Some endangered species are making significant progress toward recovery in California," said Steve Thompson, manager of California-Nevada Operations for the Service. "The hard work and effort of our partners in conservation -- a cross-section of Californians that includes many ranchers, other landowners, local governments, the State of California and the Department of Defense -- is paying off."

Recommended by the Service's 5-year review for downlisting from endangered to threatened are the Smith's blue butterfly, Morro shoulderband snail, least Bells vireo, and California least tern.

Recommended for delisting are valley elderberry longhorn beetle and island night lizard.

No status change was recommended for the western snowy plover, Kneeland prairie pennycress, Hidden Lake bluecurls, Santa Cruz Island rock-creep San Francisco garter snake and giant garter snake.

Copies of the 5-year reviews can be found at the following offices and/or websites:

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-99)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages = 3

To	General Manager	From	USFWS
Dept./Agency	OCWD	Phone #	
Fax #	714 378 3373	Fax #	

5700 104

FEDERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Field Office	Species	Current Status	Recommendation	Website
Arcata FWO	Western snowy plover	Threatened	No status change. Proposed 4(d) rule	www.fws.gov/arcata/
	Kneeland Prairie pennycress	Endangered	No status change	
Carlsbad FWO	Hidden Lake bluecurls	Threatened	No status change	www.fws.gov/carlsbad/
	California least tern	Endangered	Downlist to Threatened	
	Santa Cruz Is. Rock cress	Endangered	No status change	
	Island night lizard	Threatened	Delisting DPS on San Clemente Is. Retain as T DPSs on other islands	
	Least Bell's vireo	Endangered	Downlist to Threatened	
Sacramento FWO	Giant garter snake	Threatened	No status change	www.fws.gov/sacramento/
	San Francisco garter snake	Endangered	No status change	
	Valley elderberry longhorn beetle		Delist	
Ventura FWO	Morro shoulderband snail	Endangered	Downlist Morro shoulderband snail. Delist Chorro shoulderband snail	www.fws.gov/ventura/
	Smith's blue butterfly	Endangered	Downlist to Threatened	

Under the Act, the Service maintains a list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plant species at 50 CFR 17.11 (for animals) and 17.12 (for plants). The Act also requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every five years and on the basis of such reviews determine whether or not any species should be removed from the List (delisted), or reclassified from endangered to threatened or from threatened to endangered. Any change in federal classification requires a separate rulemaking process distinct from the 5-year review.

In July 2005, the Service announced that 31 species would undergo the 5 year status review. These included: Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Smith's blue butterfly, Delhi Sands flower-loving fly, Morro shoulderband snail, giant garter snake, San Francisco garter snake, island night lizard, California least tern, least Bell's vireo, Chinese Camp brodiaea, Mariposa pussypaws, San Clemente Island Indian paintbrush, spring-loving centaur, Springville clarkia, San Clemente Island larkspur, Santa Barbara Island dudleya, Ash meadows gumplant, San Clemente Island woodland star, San Clemente Island lotus, San Clemente Island bush mallow, Amargosa niterwort, Eureka Valley evening primrose, Yreka phlox, Hartweg's golden sunburst, San Joaquin adobe sunburst, Santa Cruz Island rock-cress, Eureka Dune grass, Kneeland Prairie pennycress, Hidden Lake bluecurls, Red Hills vervain and Keck's checkerbloom.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 544 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws,

administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to State fish and wildlife agencies.