



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## NEWS RELEASE

SNAKE RIVER BASIN OFFICE

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368 • Boise, Idaho 83709

(208) 378-5243 • FAX (208) 378-5262

January 9, 2001

#01-02

Contact: Jeri Wood or Meggan Laxalt, 208-378-5243

### PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE DRAFT RECOVERY PLAN FOR ENDANGERED BRUNEAU HOT SPRINGSNAIL

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has released a draft recovery plan for the Bruneau hot springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*). The snail, listed as endangered in June 1998 under the Endangered Species Act, is native to thermal spring habitats along a four-mile reach of the Bruneau River and its tributary, Hot Creek, in southwestern Idaho. The principal threat to the Bruneau hot springsnail is the reduction and/or elimination of its habitat as a result of agricultural-related groundwater withdrawal.

The Service is seeking review of the plan, including comments on recovery objectives, strategy and criteria; programs available to promote recovery; and estimated costs of tasks defined in the recovery plan. The objective of the recovery plan is to provide a framework for species recovery in its natural habitat so that protection of the Act is no longer necessary. It identifies species and habitat factors of concern for those considering activities that may affect the species. The plan also describes tasks that when accomplished, should ensure the species survival, and would thereby justify its removal from the endangered and threatened species list.

"We encourage review of the recovery plan by the public, especially with regard to existing programs that may help lead to the recovery of the species," said Bob Ruesink, supervisor of the Snake River Basin Office.

The draft recovery plan is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Snake River Basin Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709. Information and comments are invited, and may be submitted directly to the Service at the above address; by fax at (208) 378-5262; or by electronic submission at the following e-mail address: [FW1SRBOComment@fws.gov](mailto:FW1SRBOComment@fws.gov). The subject line must state "BHSS Comments," with the name and address of person submitting comments included in the message. The public comment period ends 60 days after publication of the notice in the *Federal Register*. Please submit all comments by March 12, 2001.

If you have any questions regarding the draft recovery plan or are in need of more information, please contact Jeri Wood, Snake River Basin Office biologist, at (208) 378-5243.

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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 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 530 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 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.