

## 50 CFR Part 17

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of 90-Day Finding on a Petition To List Cagle's Map Turtle**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of petition finding; 90-Day petition finding for the Cagle's map turtle.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a 90-day finding for a petition to add the Cagle's map turtle (*Graptemys caglei*) in Texas to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. The petition has been found to present substantial information indicating that listing of Cagle's map turtle (*Graptemys caglei*) as threatened or endangered may be warranted.

**DATES:** The finding announced in this notice was made on November 12, 1991. Comments and information should be submitted by January 15, 1992.

**ADDRESSES:** Information, comments, or questions should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, c/o Corpus Christi, Texas, 78412. The petition, findings, supporting data, and comments are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carol Beardmore, Endangered Species Biologist, at the above address (512/888-3346 or FTS 529-3346).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the Service make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days of receipt of the petition, and the finding is to be published promptly in the **Federal Register**. If the finding is positive, the Service is also required to promptly commence a status review of the species.

Dr. Flavius C. Killebrew, Department of Biology and Geosciences, West Texas State University, Canyon, Texas, submitted a petition to the Service to list Cagle's map turtle at least as a threatened species. The petition was dated April 16, 1991, and received by the Service on April 26, 1991.

This turtle is restricted to the Guadalupe-San Antonio river system of Texas (Behler 1979) and is highly aquatic. Cagle's map turtle requires a diverse riverine habitat of riffle and pool areas. Males feed extensively on trichopteran larvae, which are abundant on rocks above gravel bars, whereas females feed mainly on clams, which are abundant in pool areas. The species appears to avoid deeper, silted, or heavily impacted portions of the river system.

The petition states the only healthy population of Cagle's map turtle occurs in the Guadalupe River between Cuero and Sequin, Texas. Populations in other portions of the Guadalupe River display a patchy distribution. The species appears to have disappeared from the San Antonio River, and its status in the Blanco and San Marcos Rivers is unclear. No evidence of the turtle's presence was found in major impoundments in the Guadalupe River system.

The Animal Notice of Review (January 6, 1989) classifies Cagle's map turtle as 3C. However, the petition states that the status is based on the belief that Cagle's map turtle inhabits reservoirs. The petitioner found no evidence of the turtle's existence in major impoundments and believes reports of the turtle in reservoirs (and possibly reports from other locations) may have been Texas river cooter (*Pseudemys texana*), a similar species and largely inseparable visually from a distance. The upcoming Animal Notice of Review will restore Cagle's map turtle to Category 2, taxa for which there is some evidence of vulnerability, but for which there are not enough data to support listing proposals at this time.

This species may be threatened by the construction of five additional dams on the Guadalupe River system. The greatest impact to the species may be from two reservoirs planned for the Guadalupe River near Cuero, Texas. Preliminary results indicate 56 percent of the turtle's habitat will be covered by the reservoirs near Cuero. Cagle's map turtle may also be threatened by over-collecting for the pet trade or scientific collections.

After a review of the petition, and information otherwise available to the Service, the Service has found that the petition presented substantial information that listing Cagle's map turtle (*Graptemys caglei*) as threatened or endangered may be warranted. This finding initiates a status review for Cagle's map turtle as required under section 4(b)(3)(A) of this Act. Within 1 year from the Date the petition was received, the Service is required under

section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act to make a finding as to whether the petitioned action is warranted.

The Service would appreciate any additional data, information, or comments from the public, government agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning the status of Cagle's map turtle.

**References Cited**

Behler, J.L. 1979. The Audubon Society field guide to North American reptiles and amphibians. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, pp 459-460.

**Author**

This notice was prepared by Lorena Wada, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. (505/766-2914 or FTS 474-2914).

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544).

**List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17**

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Transportation.

Dated: December 5, 1991.

**Richard N. Smith,**  
*Acting Director Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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