

**Recovery Plan for the Morro Shoulderband Snail and Four Plants from Western San Luis Obispo County, California**

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**Original Approved: September 29, 1998**

**Original Prepared by: USFWS, Portland, OR**

**Recovery Criteria Clarification**

Section 4(f)(1)(B)(ii) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) requires that each recovery plan developed for a listed species incorporates, to the maximum extent practicable, “objective, measurable criteria which, when met, would result in a determination...that the species be removed from the list.” Recovery criteria therefore serve as guidelines to assist in determining when a species has recovery to the point that it may be downlisted to threatened or that the protections afforded by the Act are no longer necessary and the species may be delisted.

The Service published the Recovery Plan for the Morro Shoulderband Snail and Four Plants from Western San Luis Obispo County, California in 1998. For Morro shoulderband snail, the Recovery Plan identified four Conservation Planning Areas (Morro Spit, West Pecho, South Los Osos, and Northeast Los Osos), with the recovery strategy focused on securing habitat and sufficient populations in each of those four geographic areas. The plan provides both downlisting and delisting criteria for Morro shoulderband snail.

In addressing delisting criteria, the original recovery plan’s Executive Summary (p. iii-iv) states:

Sufficient populations and suitable habitats (as shown by life history studies) from each of the four Conservation Planning Areas (and, if necessary, any newly located populations) must be secured from the known threats, including exotic pest plants. Possible threats, including competition from non-native snails, predation by non-native snails, and use of pesticides, must have been assessed and effectively controlled or removed. The sites must be under permanent management to maintain the desired vegetation structure and control pests and human incursions.

In the Objectives and Criteria section (p. 40), the plan states:

Delisting can be considered for the Morro shoulderband snail when habitats from all Conservation Planning Areas (and, if necessary, any newly located populations) are successfully managed to maintain the desired community structure and secured from threats of development, invasion of non-native plants, structural changes due to senescence of dune vegetation, recreational use, pesticides (including slug and snail baits), parasites, and competition or predation

from non-native snail species. Results of recovery tasks must continue to a low medium-to-long term risk of extinction from any of the four Conservation Planning Areas.

In the interest of ensuring these delisting criteria are articulated clearly and consistently, we are amending the following clarification to the existing recovery plan. This amendment does not represent a revision of the delisting criteria, it simply provides more consistent, specific terminology.

The Morro shoulderband snail may be considered for delisting when the downlisting criteria have been met and:

1. Sufficient populations and suitable habitats (as shown by life history studies) to ensure long-term persistence in each of the four Conservation Planning Areas must be secured from the threat of development.
2. These sites must be under permanent management to maintain the desired vegetation structure and to ameliorate negative impacts of structural changes due to senescence of dune vegetation.
3. Other threats, including invasion of non-native plants, competition or predation from non-native snails, impacts from recreational use and the use of pesticides, have been assessed and effectively controlled or removed.

These criteria ensure that the underlying causes of decline are addressed. We will continue to update or revise these criteria as new information becomes available or if new threats to the species become apparent. When delisting or downlisting a species, we first propose the action in the *Federal Register* and seek both public comment and peer review. Our final decision is announced in the *Federal Register*.

Approved:  \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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