

Advocacy Comments on the Proposed Critical Habitat for the Chupadera Springsnail

On September 27, 2011 the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed public comments with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding its proposed rule Proposed Endangered Status for the Chupadera Springsnail and Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat. A copy of Advocacy's comments may be viewed at www.sba.gov/advocacy.

- On August 2, 2011, FWS published a proposed rule designating critical habitat for the Riverside Chupadera Springsnail. Approximately two acres are being proposed as critical habitat in Socorro County, New Mexico.
- Advocacy is concerned that FWS has not published an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) nor certified that the proposed rule is not expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. As a result of this failure, Advocacy believes that FWS has not complied with its obligations as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act.
- Advocacy strongly urges FWS to publish an IRFA or certification and allow sufficient time for public comment on such IRFA or certification.

For more information, visit Advocacy's website at <http://www.sba.gov/advocacy> or contact Kia Dennis at 202-205-6936.