



## ***Questions and Answers About the 90-day Finding on Petitions to List Desert Cymopterus***

### ***What is desert cymopterus?***

Desert cymopterus (*Cymopterus deserticola*) belongs to the carrot family (Apiaceae). It is about six inches in height, and has tiny purple flowers. It is found in California's desert areas in Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino counties.

### ***What is the result of the 90-day Finding to add desert cymopterus to the list of threatened and endangered species?***

The Service found it has sufficient information to justify further review of a proposal to list California's desert cymopterus (*Cymopterus deserticola*) under the Endangered Species Act.

### ***What is a 90-day finding on a petition to add a species to the list?***

Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act requires that the Fish and Wildlife Service make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist or reclassify a species contains substantial information to indicate that the requested action may be warranted. The initial finding is to be made within 90 days, to the maximum extent practicable, after receipt of the petition and is to be published in the *Federal Register*. The Service's findings are based on information contained in the petition and other information that is readily available at the time.

### ***What is meant by substantial information?***

When the Service evaluates a petition for substantiality, it considers the adequacy and reliability of the information supporting the action advocated by the petition. When a finding is "substantial," the Service has determined that adequate and reliable information was presented or is available that would lead a reasonable person to believe the petitioned action may be warranted.

### ***What kinds of information are considered reliable?***

Among the most reliable and credible sources are papers published in peer-reviewed scientific literature. Information provided by individuals with demonstrated expertise in the relevant subject area is also generally considered reliable. Anecdotal information or information from sources without established records of subject matter experience and expertise must be strongly corroborated to be considered substantial.



***What does the petition say?***

The petition says desert cymopterus is threatened with extinction because of military activities, at Edwards Air Force Base, disease, grazing by sheep and other mammals; trampling by livestock; and lack of conservation measures.

***When may the Service list a species?***

According to the Endangered Species Act, the Service may list a species only when the best scientific and commercial data available substantiate that it is either endangered or threatened.

***What happens now?***

The Service will do an in-depth review of information on the plant over the next nine months to determine if it listing the plant is warranted.

