



TUESDAY
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Environmental group files lawsuit to protect chubs

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) - The Center for Biological Diversity is suing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over its alleged failure to protect the roundtail and headwater chubs. The Tucson-based group filed the lawsuit Monday because the federal agency missed a one-year deadline to respond to a petition the center had filed to protect the fish under the Endangered Species Act.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials had not seen the suit Monday and could not comment.

The fish are minnows found in small streams in the upper Gila River watershed of New Mexico and Arizona.

The center argues that the fish face a multitude of threats, including competition with non-native fish and habitat degradation related to grazing, water withdrawal, dams and development.

"Like so many southwest native fish species, the roundtail and headwater chub are headed for extinction," said Noah Greenwald, conservation biologist with the center. "The roundtail and headwater chub need the safety net provided by the Endangered Species Act."