

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Groups petition to protect snails in Great Basin

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LAS VEGAS—Conservation advocates are seeking protection for 42 species of spring snail found in the Great Basin in eastern Nevada and western Utah.

The Center for Biological Diversity and the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society filed a petition Tuesday asking the federal government to list the snails as endangered.

The groups contend the spring snails are threatened by plans to withdraw groundwater in southeastern Nevada.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman Steve Martarano says the service has 90 days to review the petition. It would then make a recommendation on whether to list the snails within a year.