

THE TENNESSEAN

Turtle, frog, salamanders again get protection push



(Photo: Garry Tucker, USFWS)

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by Tony Gonzalez,

A renewed push is on to protect four amphibians found in Tennessee.

After inaction by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, about 200 scientists and the Center for Biological Diversity have taken further steps to get 53 species of amphibians and reptiles protections under the Endangered Species Act.

The environmental group has filed a notice of its intent to sue the agency, saying that 17 species should already have been considered for protections.

The Tennessee natives involved include the Weller's salamander, green salamander, Carolina gopher frog and alligator snapping turtle.

Despite its heavy armoring, the turtle in particular is nearly extinct, according to the center, which listed habitat destruction, pollution and climate change among threats.

