

NH Voice

Mojave Shoulderband snail may Win Protection under Endangered Species Act



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The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced that a snail restricted to the western Mojave may win protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The Mojave shoulderband snail is found at a proposed gold and silver mine in the Antelope Valley.

Therefore, there are chances that opening of the mine gets slowed. The agency made its decision owing to a petition filed last year by the Center for Biological Diversity.

The petition asked for urgent protection of the snail, which has a range of less than eight square miles. It is almost the range that Golden Queen Mining Co. Ltd. is planning to have its Soledad Mountain Project. Tierra Curry, a senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity, said that the service is not making an attempt to close the project, but just making an attempt to keep the snail from going extinct.

“Condemning this snail to extinction would be an unnecessary tragedy because the species can be saved if the mining company sets aside and buffers some of the snail’s known habitat on Soledad Mountain”, said Curry.

The FWS will carry out one year review of the snail and should issue a listing of proposal in April next year.