

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0307**

August 11, 2005

COMMITTEES:  
RESOURCES  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
APPOINTMENTS:  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS ENVIRONMENTAL  
TASK FORCE CHAIR  
DEMOCRATIC PRIVATE CALENDAR OBJECTOR

Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Arizona Ecological Services Field Office  
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103  
Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951

Dear Mr. Spangle:

The purpose of this letter is to request a public hearing on the Service's recent proposal to remove the Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl from the federal list of endangered species, and to express my disappointment with the Service's proposal overall.

The citizens of Pima County strongly support protection of endangered species and our rich natural landscape as evidenced by wide support for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. Federal protections for the pygmy-owl were the primary impetus for the creation of this plan, yet continued protections for the species will be necessary to ensure its success. My constituents in Southern Arizona deserve the right to voice their opinions regarding the proposal to delist the pygmy-owl, just as they have voiced their opinions on the SDCP, the bond measure to fund the plan, and other decisions regarding species' protection in our region.

The proposal to delist does not appear to uphold the intent of the Endangered Species Act to base listing decisions only on the best available scientific data. Indeed, a white paper by expert Service biologists in Tucson summarizes this data and strongly supports continued listing protection for the pygmy-owl, yet this information appears to have been largely disregarded in the proposed rule. I am deeply concerned that the Service is ignoring science and making its decision based on political expedience and special interests rather than the public interest it is intended to serve.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the misguided proposal to delist the Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl. In the meantime, please immediately schedule public hearings on the delisting proposal in Tucson so that my constituents may weigh on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

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