



California Program Office

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November 9, 2023

Charlton H. Bonham
Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email to: Director@wildlife.ca.gov

Re: Petition to List the Mohave Ground Squirrel under the Endangered Species Act

Dear Director Bonham:

Defenders of Wildlife will be submitting a petition to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to list the Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) as threatened under provisions of the Endangered Species Act (16 United States Code [USC] § 1531 et seq.) and to concurrently designate its critical habitat per the requirements under 16 USC § 1553(b)(6)(C).

This notice letter is required by revisions to the rules governing the petition process (50 Code of Federal Regulations 424) effective October 27, 2016. The revised rule requires that anyone submitting a petition to list a species or designate its critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act must notify the appropriate state agency having jurisdiction over fish and wildlife resources at least 30 days in advance of submitting the petition.

The purpose of the notification is to allow the California Department of Fish and Wildlife sufficient time and opportunity to provide relevant information on the Mohave ground squirrel directly to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, which will ultimately act upon this petition.

Once our petition is submitted, please let me know if you would like us to provide you with a copy. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our petition, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Pamela Flick
California Program Director
pflick@defenders.org