2020 Addendum – Changes to Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Summary of 2020 changes to Utah SGCN list

Remove these four SGCNs from 2015-2025 Utah Wildlife Action Plan:

Justification 1: published taxonomic revisions:

- **Utah banded gecko**. A taxonomic revision of the parent species (banded gecko) resulted in this subspecies being no longer recognized as a valid taxon.
- **California floater**. A taxonomic revision of the parent genus (*Anodonta*) resulted in this species being no longer recognized as part of Utah's native fauna.
- **Ninemile pyrg**. A taxonomic revision of several species resulted in this erstwhile species being subsumed into the former narrowly-endemic Bear Lake springsnail, and no longer recognized as a valid taxon.
- **Southern Bonneville pyrg**. The same taxonomic revision noted above for Ninemile pyrg resulted in this erstwhile species also being subsumed into Bear Lake springsnail, and no longer recognized as a valid taxon.

Add these six SGCNs to 2015-2025 Utah Wildlife Action Plan:

Justification 1: published taxonomic revisions:

- **Lindahl's pyrg**, **Nuwuvi pyrg**, **Santa Clara pyrg**. Taxonomic revisions of Toquerville pyrg resulted in these three newly recognized species, which all meet the criteria of our established SGCN screening process.
- **Pine Grove pyrg**. The same taxonomic revision noted above resulted in this former synonym for Toquerville pyrg being resurrected as a distinct taxon.
- **Winged floater**. The same taxonomic revision noted above for California floater resulted in this species being newly recognized as part of Utah's native fauna. It meets the criteria of our established SGCN screening process.

Justification 2: emerging issues with demographic trends for the species, and crucial data gaps for threats it faces:

- **Pinyon jay**. Recent status and trends assessment work in various parts of this species' distribution suggest the need for more local inventory and monitoring, with an eye to diagnosing local threats. We began these ongoing studies in close partnership with Colorado last spring. The species now meets the criteria of our established SGCN screening process.

Locations of these changes in the Plan:

Pyrgs and floaters are mollusks. All mollusk changes will modify:

- Table 2, Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need, on SWAP page 16, and also
- Appendix – Species Accounts (Mollusks) on or around SWAP page 286.

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Geckos are reptiles. Reptile changes will modify:

- Table 2, Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need, on SWAP page 17, and also
- Table 1, Appendix – SGCNs Methods on or around SWAP page 241, as well as
- Appendix – Species Accounts (Reptiles) on or around SWAP page 295.

Jays are birds. Bird changes will modify:

- Table 2, Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need on SWAP page 14, and also
- Appendix – Species Accounts (Birds) on or around SWAP page 255.

Species accounts for new Utah SGCNs

Lindahl's Pyrg (*Pyrgulopsis lindahlae*)

Description

- A medium-sized springsnail formerly included in the Toquerville springsnail complex. Originally discovered in 1976.

Abundance and Distribution

- Presumptive NatureServe ranking; S1/N1
- Found only in two closely-proximate springs (the Grapevine Springs complex). The entire known distribution is within within Zion National Park.
- Surveys have been recently conducted, and the population was still extant.

Nuwuvi Pyrg (*Pyrgulopsis nuwuvi*)

Description

- A medium-sized springsnail formerly included in the Toquerville springsnail complex. Originally discovered in 1987.

Abundance and Distribution

- Presumptive NatureServe ranking; S1/N1
- Found only in one spring complex within the Quail Creek drainage, in the Pine Valley Mountains of Washington County, Utah. The entire known distribution is within Dixie National Forest.
- Surveys have been recently conducted, and the population was still extant.

Pine Grove Pyrg (*Pyrgulopsis pinetorum*)

Description

- A medium-sized springsnail, first described as Pine Grove pyrg in 1987. Subsequently subsumed into the more broadly distributed Toquerville springsnail, only to be returned as a distinct species in 2017.

Abundance and Distribution

- Presumptive NatureServe ranking; S1/N1
- Found in a series of springs feeding into Leeds Creek, in the Pine Valley Mountains of Washington County, Utah. The entire known distribution is within Dixie National Forest.
- Surveys have been recently conducted, and the population was still extant.

Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*)

Description

- Sizeable bluish-grey bird with black bill and legs; often social and noisy outside of breeding colonies.
- Closely associated with pinyon-juniper woodlands and low elevation ponderosa pine forests.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2017; S4/N3
- Utah is the only state this species occupies in its entirety. Still widespread and abundant but undergoing significant rangewide declines, the reasons for which require diagnosis.

Santa Clara Pyrg (*Pyrgulopsis santaclarensis*)

Description

- A medium-sized springsnail formerly included in the Toquerville springsnail complex. Originally discovered in 1980.

Abundance and Distribution

- Presumptive NatureServe ranking; S1/N1
- The currently understood distribution is a spring-fed ditch adjacent to the Left Fork of the Santa Clara River, in the Pine Valley Mountains of Washington County, Utah. The entire known distribution is within Dixie National Forest.
- Surveys have not been recently conducted to determine if the population remains extant.

Winged Floater (*Anodonta nutalliana*)

Description

- Freshwater mussel. Greater than 70 mm in diameter. Larvae require gravel and rocky substrate in fast flowing water. Adults require mud, silt, or fine sand substrates in quiet areas.
- Limited mobility and thin shells result in sensitivity to habitat changes.

- Fish are needed as a host during a portion of the life cycle; however, the degree of host specificity is unknown.

Abundance and Distribution

- NatureServe 2018; S2/N3-N4
- Surveys in the last 10 years have documented additional floater populations in Utah, and no new losses of populations.