



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Post Office Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R2/ES-CR/061387

OCT 15 2015

RECEIVED BY:

OCT 20 2015

SWCA, Incorporated

Steven W. Carothers, Ph.D.
SWCA Environmental Consultants
4407 Monterey Oaks Blvd.
Building 1, Suite 110
Austin, Texas 78749

Dear Dr. Carothers:

This letter is in regard to your petition dated May 26, 2015, received by our office via electronic mail on the same date, requesting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) delist the federally endangered Navasota ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes parksii*) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

On June 16, 2015, we sent you a letter stating that we would not be able to address your petition to delist the federally endangered Navasota ladies'-tresses at that time because of higher workload priorities for Fiscal Year 2015. Since that time, we have completed many of our workload priorities and are currently working on a 90-day finding that will address your petition. Currently, we are analyzing the information in the petition and in our files to make a finding as to whether the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. We plan on including this 90-day finding in the quarterly batched notice that the Service will submit to the *Federal Register* for publication in February 2016.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Michelle Shaughnessy, Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, at 505-248-6671.

Sincerely,

Regional Director

Steven W. Carothers, Ph.D.

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cc: Field Supervisor, Coastal Office, Ecological Services, Clear Lake, TX
Chief, Branch of Recovery and Restoration, Albuquerque, NM
(Attention: Jennifer Smith-Castro)
Chief, Branch of Classification, Albuquerque, NM