

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 2, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Ashe
Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3331
Washington, DC, 20240-0001

Dear Director Ashe:

We write to request that you provide a 90 day extension to the comment period for the Proposed Rule on Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Threatened Status for Coral Pink Sand Dunes Tiger Beetle and Designation of Critical Habitat. Further we request that you extend the date by which the public can request a hearing on the proposal until 60 days into the 90 day extension.

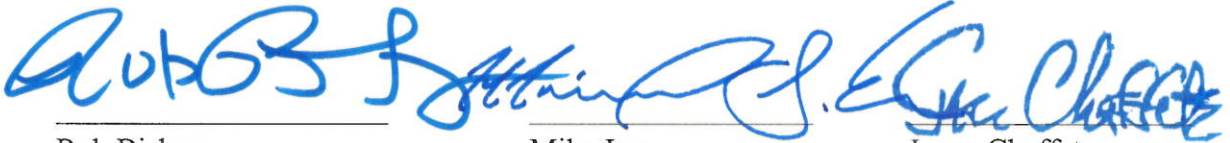
As you are well aware, the issues surrounding this proposed designation of critical habitat are highly complex. Reviewing the information contained within the proposal and the myriad cited sources, much less preparing comments, is simply not feasible within the 60 days currently allotted. This is before recognizing that many who will seek to comment on this proposal will not have a scientific background.

Information requested from commenters includes 11 specific categories, several of which have multiple subcategories, and all are technical in nature. As pointed out in the proposed rule's summary, comments simply stating support or opposition for the proposal will not be considered in making a determination and instead, only comments based on the best scientific and commercial data available will be considered. Put simply, 60 days is not enough time to meaningfully consider this data and provide comments.

In addition to the 90 day extension we ask that you make all the resources cited in the proposed rule readily available on the US Fish and Wildlife Service website. Numerous documents and studies are used as rationale to support the development of the proposed rule and those who wish to meaningfully comment should have easy access to these research materials.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures in blue ink for Rob Bishop, Mike Lee, and Jason Chaffetz. Each signature is written above a horizontal line.

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Mike Lee
U.S. Senator

Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress