

Proposed Critical Habitat for Lost River Sucker and Shortnose Sucker

About the Document

Title: Proposed Critical Habitat for Lost River and Shortnose Sucker

Subject and Purpose: This document is a proposal to designate critical habitat for Lost River sucker and shortnose sucker under the Endangered Species Act (Act). These fish species are found in lakes and rivers in southern Oregon and northern California. The U.S. Fish and wildlife Service (Service) is proposing this habitat because it is required under Section 4 of the Act. The objective of designating critical habitat is to protect areas that are essential to the conservation of the species or which may require special management considerations or protection. Critical habitat receives protection under section 7 of the Act through the requirement that Federal agencies ensure, through consultation with the Service, that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The designation of critical habitat does not affect land ownership or establish a conservation area.

Importance of Scientific Information: This proposal to designate critical habitat includes scientific information about the two species and specifies the criteria utilized to identify critical habitat for each species.

Estimated dissemination date of the final version of the document: November 30, 2012

About the Peer Review Process

Type of review: Letter.

Number of reviewers: Letters to three peer reviewers requesting peer review were sent at the time of publication of the Federal Register proposed rule for the designation of critical habitat (December 07, 2011). Two of the three peer reviewers responded to the request and provided information.

Reviewer Expertise: Lost River sucker and shortnose sucker ecology; Western lake-sucker biology, genetics, conservation, and ecology; Biology of other suckers (Catostomidae) and long-lived freshwater fish species; Biology and ecology of freshwater fish within arid ecosystems.

Selection of Peer Reviewer: Peer reviewers were selected by the Service based on their expertise with the subject matter and have no conflicts of interest as described in the Office of Management Peer Review Guidelines.

Management of Peer Review: The peer review was managed by the Service concurrent with the public comment period December 07, 2011 through February 06, 2012.

About Public Participation

Opportunities for the public: The public was able to submit comments on the proposal to designate critical habitat from December 7, 2011 through February 6, 2011 through the website *regulations.gov*.

Public nominations of peer reviewers: No other individuals or groups were asked to nominate peer reviewers.

Contact: Nolan Banish, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Klamath Falls Field Office, 1936 California Ave., Klamath Falls, OR, 97601, 541-885-8481