

## **Listing Decision for the Texas Golden Gladecress and Neches River Rose-mallow**

### **About the Document**

The Service will remove *Leavenworthia texana* (Texas golden gladecress) and *Hibiscus dasycalyx* (Neches River rose-mallow), which occur within the central Texas area, from the candidate list. To remove these species from the candidate list means to propose them for listing as threatened or endangered or to prepare a not warranted finding. A listing proposal will include proposed critical habitat, if prudent and determinable. Following a listing proposal, a final listing determination will follow within the statutory timelines.

### **About the Peer Review Process**

Peer Review initiated: August 2012

Peer Review to be completed: October 2012

Process:

- The Service is conducting a peer review of the listing decision document that includes a discussion of the scientific information reviewed and of our analysis (but not our conclusion regarding the status of the species or critical habitat boundaries if appropriate).
- The Service will conduct external peer review of this document through letters to at least three independent scientific reviewers with expertise in conservation biology, plant ecology with an emphasis on East Texas plant communities, hydrology, and range science with a familiarity with East Texas agricultural programs.
- Peer reviewers may be asked to: comment specifically on the quality of any information and analyses used or relied on in analysis; identify oversights, omissions, and inconsistencies; provide advice on reasonableness of judgments made from the scientific evidence; ensure that scientific uncertainties are clearly identified and characterized, and that potential implications of uncertainties are clearly identified and characterized, and that potential implications of uncertainties for the technical conclusions drawn are clear; and provide advice on the on the strengths and limitations of the overall product.
- The start date of the peer review will be approximately August 2012.

### **About Public Participation**

- Public comments on the listing decision document for these species will be sought concurrently with publication of the document in the Federal Register and through distribution by mail and press release of this announcement to interested parties.
- This peer review plan will be posted on the Services' website for public review and comment.
- The Service will post a notice on its website of the final decision document, which will include a summary of the results of the peer review process.

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