

**Peer Review Plan for the Sheepnose, Spectaclecase, Snuffbox, and Rayed Bean
Species Status Assessment Report(s)**

About the Document

Title: Sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*), Spectaclecase (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), Snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), and Rayed Bean (*Villosa fabalis*) Species Status Assessment Draft Report(s)

Purpose: The sheepnose, spectaclecase, snuffbox, and rayed bean are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The Species Status Assessment (SSA) report(s) will inform the 5-year reviews and recovery planning efforts conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for these four species of freshwater mussels.

Estimated Dissemination Date of SSA Report: October 2021

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Timing of Peer Review: March – May 2021

Type of Peer Review: The Service will solicit comments from independent scientific reviewers who will submit individual comments in written form.

Anticipated Number of Reviewers: The Service will request review by at least three but not more than ten independent subject matter experts.

Reviewer Selection Method: The peer reviewers will be selected by the Service. In selecting peer reviewers, we will consider four key factors: expertise, balance, independence, and avoidance of conflict of interest. In accordance with the Service's 2016 Director's memorandum on the peer review process, a Service office not associated with development of the SSA report will select peer reviewers and coordinate the process. We will not seek nominations for peer reviewers from the public.

Necessary Expertise: Peer reviewers should have knowledge of freshwater mussel biology, distribution, and ecology, or conservation biology. Peer reviewers will be advised that they are not to provide advice on policy.

About Public Participation

Peer review comments will be publicly available. We will publish draft recovery plans for the species, with appropriate opportunities for public review and comment. The public is invited to submit comments on this peer review plan by contacting the agency person listed below.

Contact

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