

Peer Review Plan for the Species Status Assessment of the Hermes copper butterfly (*Lycaena [Hermelycaena] hermes*)

About the Documents

Titles:

- 1) Species Status Assessment for the Hermes copper butterfly (*Lycaena [Hermelycaena] hermes*)

Description of Documents:

- 1) Hermes copper butterfly is a medium-sized butterfly currently found in San Diego County, California, and Baja California, Mexico. The Hermes copper butterfly has been a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), since the 12-month finding published in 2011 (Service 2011). The Species Status Assessment (SSA) is intended to be an in-depth review of the species' biology and threats, an evaluation of its biological status, and an assessment of the resources and conditions needed to maintain long-term viability.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Individual letters

Number of reviewers: The peer review process included written requests for peer review from eight peer reviewers.

Selection of Peer Reviewers: The Service selected peer reviewers based on their expertise with the subject matter.

Reviewer expertise: Expertise sought for the review includes familiarity with the life history, threats, and habitat requirements for the Hermes copper butterfly, conservation biology, entomology, population dynamics modeling, general butterfly ecology, and Southern California ecosystems

Estimated start date of peer review: March 14, 2017.

About Public Participation

Opportunities for the Public: The proposed rule has an anticipated 60 day public comment period from approximately mid-September 2017, to mid-November 2017. The proposed rule identifies specific information requested from the public. Public comments are to be submitted electronically through www.regulations.gov (Docket ID: FWS-R8-ES-2017-0053).

Contact:

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