

## **Peer Review Plan for the San Joaquin Giant Flower-Loving Fly (*Rhaphiomidas trochilus*)**

**Peer Review Plan:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will seek peer review for the species status assessment (SSA) for the San Joaquin giant flower-loving fly. The species status assessment will be used to inform a 12-month finding determination and any future rulemakings in the event that the 12-month finding determination is that a “listing is warranted.”

### **Timeline of the Peer review (estimated):**

**Draft document to be disseminated:** March 2017

**Peer review to be initiated:** March 2017

**Peer review to be completed by:** April 2017

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

In accordance with our July 1, 1994 peer review policy (59 FR 34270), the Service's August 22, 2016 Director's Memo on the Peer Review Process, and the Office of Management and Budget's December 16, 2004 Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review, we will solicit independent scientific reviews of the information contained in our SSA for the San Joaquin giant flower-loving fly.

The Service will request peer review from three or more independent experts. We will consider the following criteria.

- **Expertise:** The reviewer should have knowledge of or experience with San Joaquin giant flower-loving fly, or similar species biology.
- **Independence:** The reviewer should not be employed by the Service. Academic, consulting or government scientists should have sufficient independence from the Service if the government supports their work.
- **Objectivity:** The reviewer should be recognized by his or her peers as being objective, open-minded, and thoughtful. In addition, the reviewer should be comfortable sharing his or her knowledge and perspectives and openly identifying his or her knowledge gaps.
- **Conflict of Interest:** The reviewer should not have any financial or other interest that conflicts or that could impair his or her objectivity or create an unfair competitive advantage. If an otherwise qualified reviewer has an unavoidable conflict of interest, the Service may publicly disclose the conflict.

While expertise is the primary consideration, the Service will select peer reviewers (considering, but not limited to, these selections) that add to a diversity of scientific perspectives relevant to the SSA for the San Joaquin giant flower-loving fly.

The Service will provide each peer reviewer with information explaining their role and instructions for fulfilling that role, the SSA, and a list of citations as necessary. The purpose of seeking independent peer review is to ensure use of the best scientific and commercial information available and to ensure and to maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information within the SSA, as well as to ensure that reviews by recognized experts are incorporated into the any

potential rulemaking process. Peer reviewers will be advised that they are not to provide advice on policy. Rather, they should focus their review on identifying and characterizing scientific uncertainties. Peer reviewers will be asked to answer questions pertaining to the logic of our assumptions, arguments, and conclusions and to provide any other relevant comments, criticisms, or thoughts. Specific questions put to the reviewers may include but aren't limited to the following:

1. Is our description and analysis of the biology, habitat, population trends, and historic and current distribution of the species accurate?
2. Are our assumptions and definitions of suitable habitat logical and adequate?
3. Are the conclusions we reach logical and supported by the evidence we provide?
4. Did we include all the necessary and pertinent literature to support our assumptions/arguments/conclusions?

Peer reviewers will provide individual, written responses to the Service. Peer reviewers will be advised that their reviews, including their names and affiliations, will: (1) be included in the decisional record of our final determinations; and, (2) be available to the public upon request once all reviews are completed. We will summarize and respond to the issues raised by the peer reviewers in the supporting record.

#### **About Public Participation**

The peer review process will be initiated shortly. We strongly encourage that public comments on the approach of this peer review be submitted by March 15, 2017 in order to allow enough time for processing and consideration. You may submit comments by one of two ways below:

- Email: [Glen\\_Tarr@fws.gov](mailto:Glen_Tarr@fws.gov)
- Mail: Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, Listing and Recovery Division, Attention Glen Tarr, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825

#### **Contact**

For more information contact: Glen Tarr or Josh Hull, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, [glen\\_tarr@fws.gov](mailto:glen_tarr@fws.gov) or [josh\\_hull@fws.gov](mailto:josh_hull@fws.gov) or 916-414-6600.