

## Peer Review Plan for the Draft Recovery Plan for Franciscan Manzanita

### *About the Documents*

#### **Titles:**

- 1) Draft Recovery Plan for Franciscan Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos franciscana*)
- 2) Species Biological Report for Franciscan Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos franciscana*)
- 3) Recovery Implementation Strategy for Franciscan Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos franciscana*)

#### **Description of Documents:**

- Franciscan manzanita was federally-listed as endangered in 2012. The species was considered extirpated from the wild until 2009, when a single plant was discovered. The species occurs on the San Francisco peninsula in areas with serpentine soils, bedrock outcrops, greenstone, and mixed Franciscan rock. In total, all extant Franciscan manzanita in the wild and in cultivation represent between one and six genetically distinct plants. The most significant threat to Franciscan manzanita is habitat loss from urbanization, but other threats include competition, potential infestation by *Phytophthora* species, damage from herbivores, climate change, visitor use, vandalism, stochastic events and the effects of small population size, potential loss of pollinators, water stress, and hybridization. The Draft Recovery Plan is our strategy for the conservation of the Franciscan manzanita and the Draft Biological Report is intended to be an in-depth review of the species' biology and threats, which is used to inform the Draft Recovery Plan. The Recovery Implantation Strategy specifies the activities necessary to fully implement the recovery actions described in the Draft Recovery Plan.

### *About the Peer Review Process*

**Type of Review:** Individual emails requesting peer review

**Number of reviewers:** The peer review process include emailed requests for peer review from five 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 requested species; conservation biology; conservation genetics; or familiarity with similar species.

**Estimated start date of peer review:** March 15, 2019

### *About Public Participation*

**Opportunities for the Public:** The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft Recovery Plan was published on December 26, 2018, and the comment period ended on February 25, 2019 (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-12-26/pdf/2018-27825.pdf>). Due to the 2018/2019 government shutdown peer review was not completed during the public comment period; therefore, we are completing it now. The December 26, 2018, NOA provided a website

address to the Draft Recovery Plan and requested review and comments from the public. The NOA directed public comments be submitted to the field office mailing address, which was included in the NOA.

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