

Peer Review Plan for the Species Status Assessment of the Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*)

About the Documents

Titles:

- 1) Species Status Assessment for the Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*)

Description of Documents:

- 1) The tricolored blackbird is a colonial passerine that is mostly endemic to California, primarily within the Central Valley and surrounding Sierra Nevada foothills. Small populations are also known to occur in Oregon, western Nevada, and central Washington within the United States, and Baja California in Mexico. On February 3, 2017, we received a petition to list the tricolored blackbird. The Service issued a 90-day finding on September 18, 2015 (80 FR 56423), stating the petition presented substantial information to indicate listing the tricolored blackbird may be warranted. 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 eleven 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 tricolored blackbird; conservation biology; conservation genetics; or familiarity with California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, or Baja California birds.

Estimated start date of peer review: September 25, 2017.

About Public Participation

Opportunities for the Public: The proposed rule has an anticipated 60 day public comment period from approximately mid-September 2018, to mid-November 2018. The proposed rule identifies specific information requested from the public. Public comments are to be submitted electronically through www.regulations.gov.

Contact:

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