

Peer Review Plan for the Species Status Assessment for the Clear Lake Hitch *(Lavinia exilicauda chi)*

About the Document

Title: Species Status Assessment for the Clear Lake Hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda chi*)

Description: This document summarizes the results of the Species Status Assessment (SSA) for the Clear Lake hitch. The SSA assessed the Clear Lake hitch at an individual, population, and species level in order to determine whether the species can maintain its persistence into the future. This report includes information about Clear Lake hitch ecology and evaluates the current condition of the species, including the significant past, current, and future influences that are affecting Clear Lake hitch viability. The document also includes an assessment of the changes in species' viability that might occur in three probable future scenarios. The SSA report is intended to be a living document upon which other documents, such as recovery plans and 5-year reviews, will be based. This SSA report was developed to inform a 12-month finding.

Estimate Date of the Final Document: February 2019

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Peer review requests will be sent individually to potential peer reviewers, via email.

Anticipated number of reviewers: Responses are anticipated from three peer reviewers.

Selection of Peer Reviewers: Service staff not responsible for developing the SSA will select peer reviewers based on their expertise with the subject matter. Peer reviewers will not be compensated for their time. Current Service employees will not be peer reviewers.

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 and end dates for peer review: December 2019 – January 2019

Will the public and/or scientific or professional societies be asked to nominate peer reviewers? No

Are waivers or deferrals being invoked? No

Estimated Start Date of Peer Review: December 2019

About Public Participation

This peer review plan is made available to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review. The final SSA Report is not a decision document requiring public review. However, the final version will be made available to the public on the Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) website ([Link for ECOS species profile: Clear Lake hitch](#)).

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