

# Peer Review Plan for the Monarch Species Status Assessment Report

## About the Document

**Title:** Monarch Species Status Assessment Draft Report

**Purpose:** The Species Status Assessment (SSA) report will inform the 12-month finding by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) whether the Monarch (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) warrants listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

**Estimated Dissemination Date of SSA Report:** June 2019

## About the Peer Review Process

**Estimated Timing of Peer Review:** July 2018 – September 2018

**Type of Peer Review:** The Service will contract the solicitation and coordination of independent scientific reviewers. We requested that these reviewers provide individual, written responses.

**Anticipated Number of Reviewers:** The Service will request review by at least six independent subject matter experts.

**Reviewer Selection Method:** The peer reviewers will be selected by the contractor. Considerations in selecting peer reviewers include expertise, balance, independence, and avoidance of conflict of interest.

**Necessary Expertise:** Peer reviewers should have knowledge of monarch biology, distribution and ecology, or conservation biology. Peer reviewers will be advised that they are not to provide advice on policy.

## About Public Participation

Peer review comments will be publicly available. If we determine that the species warrants listing, we will publish a proposed rule to list the species, with appropriate opportunities for public review and comment. The public is invited to submit comments on this peer review plan by contacting the agency person listed below.

## Contact

For more information, contact Michelle Shaughnessy at 505-908-1151.