

Peer Review Plan for Ozark Endemic Crayfish Species Status Assessment Draft Reports

About the Documents

Titles: Coldwater Crayfish (*Faxonius eupunctus*) Species Status Assessment Draft Report, Big Creek Crayfish (*Faxonius peruncus*) Species Status Assessment Draft Report, and St. Francis River Crayfish (*Faxonius quadruncus*) Species Status Assessment Draft Report

Purpose: These Species Status Assessment (SSA) reports will aid the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in determining whether the Coldwater Crayfish, Big Creek Crayfish, or St. Francis River Crayfish warrant listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Estimated Dissemination Date of SSA Reports: March 2018

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Timing of Peer Review: March 2018 – April 2018

Type of Peer Review: The Service will solicit comments from independent scientific reviewers who will submit individual comments in written form.

Anticipated Number of Reviewers: For each SSA, the Service will request review by at least three but not more than ten independent subject matter experts.

Reviewer Selection Method: The peer reviewers will be selected by the Service. In selecting peer reviewers, we will consider four key factors: expertise, balance, independence, and avoidance of conflict of interest. In accordance with the Service's 2016 Director's memorandum on the peer review process, a Service office not associated with development of the SSA report will select peer reviewers and coordinate the process. We will not seek nominations for peer reviewers from the public.

Necessary Expertise: Peer reviewers should have knowledge of crayfish 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 any of the species warrant 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

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