

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Participation in Peer Review of the Proposed Rule to Delist
Water Howellia (Howellia aquatilis)*

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION
AND
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

NAME: Peter Lesica TELEPHONE: 406-728-8740

ADDRESS: 929 Locust, Missoula, MT 59802

EMAIL ADDRESS: lesica.peter@gmail.com

CURRENT EMPLOYER: self

This form has two (2) parts:

- Part I – Background Information, and;
- Part II – Conflict of Interest Disclosure.

Please complete both parts, **sign** and **date** the form on the last page, and **return the form by email to:** alexandra_kasdin@fws.gov. **Please retain a copy for your records.**

**PART I
BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

INSTRUCTIONS

Please provide the information requested below regarding **relevant** organizational affiliations, government service, public statements and positions, research support, and additional information (if any). Information is “relevant” if it is related to -- and might reasonably be of interest to others concerning -- your knowledge, experience, and personal perspectives regarding the subject matter for which this form is being completed. If some or all of the requested information is contained in your curriculum vitae (CV), you may prefer to simply attach your CV to this form, supplemented by additional responses or comments below as necessary.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS. Report your relevant business relationships (as an employee, owner, officer, director, consultant, etc.) and your relevant remunerated or volunteer non-business relationships (e.g., professional organizations, trade associations, public interest or civic groups, etc.).

I am a self-employed biological consultant. I am president of the non-profit Conservation Biology Research. I volunteer for the Friends of the University of Montana Herbarium, the Montana Native Plant Society, Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council. I am an affiliate faculty at the University of Montana.

II. GOVERNMENT SERVICE. Report your relevant service (full-time or part-time) with federal, state, or local government in the United States (including elected or appointed positions, employment, advisory board memberships, military service, etc.).

I was a seasonal employee for BLM in Oregon in 1975 and for BLM in Montana in 1981.

III. RESEARCH SUPPORT. Report relevant information regarding both public and private sources of research support (other than your present employer), including sources of funding, equipment, facilities, etc.

I have worked for The Nature Conservancy, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Montana

IV. PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS. List your relevant articles, testimony, speeches, etc., by date, title, and publication (if any) in which they appeared, or provide relevant representative examples if numerous. Provide a brief description of relevant positions of any organizations or groups with which you are closely identified or associated.

Lesica, P. 1997. Spread of *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canarygrass) adversely impacts the endangered plant *Howellia aquatilis*. *Great Basin Naturalist* 57: 366-368.

Lesica, P. 1992. Autecology of the endangered plant, *Howellia aquatilis*; implications for management and reserve design. *Ecological Applications* 2: 411-421.

Lesica, P., R. F. Leary, F. W. Allendorf and D. W. Bilderback. 1988. Lack of genic diversity within and among populations of an endangered plant, *Howellia aquatilis*. *Conservation Biology* 2: 275-282.

I am conservation chair for the Montana Native Plant Society. I am president of Conservation Biology Research. I am newsletter for Friends of the UM Herbarium.

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. If there are relevant aspects of your background or present circumstances not addressed above that might reasonably be construed by others as affecting your judgment in matters within the topics addressed in the Species Status Assessment Report, and therefore might constitute an actual or potential source of bias, please describe them briefly.

PART II CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

1. **EMPLOYMENT.** (a) If the information received by the Service through the peer review process were to provide the basis for government regulatory action or inaction with respect to **the razorback sucker – water howellia**

(i) If you are employed or self-employed, could your current employment or self-employment (or your spouse's current employment or self-employment) be directly affected?

(ii) To the best of your knowledge, could any financial interests of your (or your spouse's) employer or, if self-employed, your (or your spouse's) clients and/or business partners be directly affected?

(iii) If you are an officer, director or trustee of any corporation or other legal entity, could the financial interests of that corporation or legal entity be directly affected?

(iv) If you are a consultant (whether full-time or part-time), could there be a direct effect on any of your current consulting relationships?

(v) Regardless of the potential effect on the consulting relationship, do you have any current or continuing consulting relationships (including, for example, commercial and professional consulting and service arrangements, scientific and technical advisory board memberships, serving as an expert witness in litigation, or providing services in exchange for honorariums and travel expense reimbursements) that are directly related to the subject matter of the possible government regulatory action or inaction?

(b) If you are or have ever been a U.S. Government employee (either civilian or military), to the best of your knowledge are there any federal conflict of interest restrictions that may be applicable to your service in connection with this peer review?

(c) If you are a U.S. Government employee, are you currently employed by the Service?

If the answer to all of the above questions under EMPLOYMENT is either "no" or "not applicable," check here X (NO). I am about to retire.

If the answer to any of the above questions under EMPLOYMENT is “yes,” check here ____ (YES), and briefly describe the circumstances on the last page of this form.

2. INVESTMENT INTERESTS. Taking into account stocks, bonds, and other financial instruments and investments including partnerships (but excluding broadly diversified mutual funds and any investment or financial interest valued at less than \$10,000), if the information received by the Service through the peer review process were to provide the basis for government regulatory action or inaction with respect to the razorback sucker --

(a) Do you or your spouse or minor children own directly or indirectly (e.g., through a trust or an individual account in a pension or profit-sharing plan) any stocks, bonds or other financial instruments or investments that could be affected, either directly or by a direct effect on the business enterprise or activities underlying the investments?

(b) Do you have any other significant financial investments or interests such as commercial business interests (e.g., sole proprietorships), investment interests (e.g., stock options), or personal investment relationships (e.g., involving parents or grandchildren) that could be affected, either directly or by a direct effect on the business enterprise or activities underlying the investments?

If the answer to all of the above questions under INVESTMENT INTERESTS is either “no” or “not applicable,” check here X (NO).

If the answer to any of the above questions under INVESTMENT INTERESTS is “yes,” check here ____ (YES), and briefly describe the circumstances on the last page of this form.

3. PROPERTY INTERESTS. Taking into account real estate and other tangible property interests, as well as intellectual property (patents, copyrights, etc.) interests, if the information received by the Service through the peer review process were to provide the basis for government regulatory action or inaction with respect to the razorback sucker --

(a) Do you or your spouse or minor children own directly or indirectly any such property interests that could be directly affected?

(b) To the best of your knowledge, do any others with whom you have substantial common financial interests (e.g., employer, business partners, etc.) own directly or indirectly any such property interests that could be directly affected?

If the answer to all of the above questions under PROPERTY INTERESTS is either “no” or “not applicable,” check here X (NO).

If the answer to any of the above questions under PROPERTY INTERESTS is "yes," check here ____ (YES), and briefly describe the circumstances on the last page of this form.

4. RESEARCH FUNDING AND OTHER INTERESTS. (a) Taking into account your research funding and other research support (e.g., equipment, facilities, industry partnerships, research assistants and other research personnel, etc.), if the information received by the Service through the peer review process were to provide the basis for government regulatory action or inaction with respect to the razorback sucker --

(i) Could the research funding and support for you or your close research colleagues and collaborators be directly affected, or

(ii) If you have any research agreements for current or continuing research funding or support from any party whose financial interests could be directly affected, and such funding or support is directly related to the subject matter of the regulatory process, do such agreements significantly limit your ability to independently conduct and publish the results of your research?

(b) Is the central purpose of the Species Status Assessment Report for which this disclosure form is being prepared a critical review and evaluation of your own work or that of your employer?

(c) Do you have any existing professional obligations (e.g., as an officer of a scientific or engineering society) that effectively require you to publicly defend a previously established position on an issue that is relevant to the Species Status Assessment Report?

(d) To the best of your knowledge, will your participation in this peer review process enable you to obtain access to a competitor's or potential competitor's confidential proprietary information?

(e) Could your service as a peer reviewer create a specific financial or commercial competitive advantage for you or others with whom you have substantial common financial interests?

If the answer to all of the above questions under RESEARCH FUNDING OR OTHER INTERESTS is either "no" or "not applicable," check here X (NO).

If the answer to any of the above questions under RESEARCH FUNDING OR OTHER INTERESTS is "yes," check here ____ (YES), and briefly describe the circumstances below.

EXPLANATION OF "YES" RESPONSES:

During your period of service in connection with the activity for which this form is being completed, any changes in the information reported, or any new information, which needs to be reported, should be reported promptly by written or electronic communication to the responsible staff officer.

Peter Lyca
YOUR SIGNATURE

20 Nov 2019
DATE

Received by: *Alexandra Kasdin*
Alexandra Kasdin
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain Prairie Regional Office
Ecological Services

November 25, 2019
Date