

Hirst Brothers' Panic Grass Listing Determination and Peer Review

About the Listing Decision

On October 6, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a 12-month not warranted finding on a petition to list *Dichanthelium* (= *panicum*) *hirstii* (Hirst Brothers' panic grass) as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. This 12-month finding constituted a listing determination that the Hirst Brothers' panic grass did not warrant listing because it was not a listable entity under the Act.

About the Peer Review Process

Peer Review Timeline: Not applicable.

Process:

- Per our 1994 Peer Review policy, had the 12-month finding been warranted we would have proposed the species for listing and invited review of the information in the proposed rule from independent peer reviewers.
- Our 12-month not warranted finding was based on the best available scientific and commercial information, including peer reviewed primary literature.

About Public Participation

- In 1999, the Service included the Hirst Brothers' panic grass (at that time described as *Panicum hirstii*) as a new candidate species. Hirst Brothers' panic grass was included in the subsequent annual candidate notice of reviews in 2001, 2002, and 2004 through 2015. A candidate for listing meant the Service had enough information to list the species, but was unable to promulgate a rulemaking to do so because of other higher priorities for more imperiled species.
- Annually, the Service publishes a Candidate Notice of Review notice in the Federal Register announcing the candidate species and where the public could send new information about the species, threats, or conservation actions.
- The Service published a batched 12-month not warranted finding on petitions to list multiple species, including the Hirst Brothers' panic grass, in the Federal Register on October 6, 2016.
- This listing determination and peer review process document was posted to the Northeast Region's peer review website to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.

Contact: Krishna Gifford, Northeast Region ESA Listing Coordinator, Division of Threatened and Endangered Species, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035; Krishna_Gifford@fws.gov; 413-253-8619.