

Peer Review of Scientific Information

Proposed rule to Reclassify the Columbian White-tailed Deer from Endangered to Threatened, and a proposed 4(d) Rule

About the Document

Title: Proposed rule to Reclassify the Columbian White-tailed Deer from Endangered to Threatened, and a proposed 4(d) Rule

Estimated Dissemination Date of the Proposed Rule: December 2014

Estimated Peer Review Timeframe: December 2014 to January 2015

Type of review: Influential

About the Peer Review Process

In accordance with the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and National Marine Fisheries Service's interagency peer review policy, we will initiate peer review of the science used to develop the proposed rule to Reclassify the Columbian White-tailed Deer from Endangered to Threatened, and proposed special regulations under section 4(d) for the conservation of the deer.

The Service will solicit reviews and comments from at least three subject area experts who are willing to commit to providing an objective written scientific review of the proposed rule within the needed time frame. We will select reviewers who are unlikely to experience personal gain or loss as a result of the Service's decision. Peer reviewers will not be compensated for their time, and Service employees will not be used for this peer review. The scientific peer review will run concurrently with the public review.

The primary disciplines or expertise that are needed for this peer review are cervid experts and/or considerable time spent working with/on Columbian white-tailed deer.

The Service will provide each peer reviewer with information necessary to complete the peer review. Because the peer review comment period will run concurrently with the public comment period, we cannot provide them with public comments prior to their review. However, we will ask the peer reviewers to comment on the relevancy of, and the uncertainty associated with, the data used by the Service to develop the proposed rule, to review the appropriateness of the methods used to analyze the data, and to evaluate the Service's conclusion. The deadline for receipt of reviews will be clearly stated. Like public comments received on the proposed rule, peer review comments will be public documents posted and available for viewing on the website <http://www.regulations.gov>, at Docket Number FWS-R1-ES-2014-0045.

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 2014

About Public Participation

The public is invited to comment on this peer review plan and on the proposed rule during the public comment period on the proposed rule. We expect the public comment period to be open from December 2014 to January 2015, however these dates are subject to change and are dependent upon publication of the proposed rule. The proposed rule will be available for review and comment at <http://www.regulations.gov>, at Docket Number FWS-R1-ES-2014-0045.

Contact

Call Paul Henson, State Supervisor of the Service's Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office, at 503-231-6179, for additional information regarding this peer review plan. Direct all questions or requests for additional information to: COLUMBIAN WHITE-TAILED DEER QUESTIONS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office, 2600 SE 98th Avenue, Suite 100, Portland, Oregon 97266. Individuals who are hearing-impaired or speech-impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8337 for TTY assistance for additional information regarding this peer review plan.