

Peer Review of Scientific Information

Proposed rule to Reclassify the Hawaiian Goose (Nene) from Endangered to Threatened, and a proposed 4(d) Rule

About the Document

Title: Proposed rule to Reclassify the Hawaiian Goose (Nene) from Endangered to Threatened, and a proposed 4(d) Rule

Estimated Dissemination Date of the Proposed Rule: February 2018

Estimated Peer Review Timeframe: February - March 2018

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 Hawaiian goose (nene) from Endangered to Threatened, and proposed special regulations under section 4(d) for the conservation of the nene.

The Service will solicit comments from at least three independent scientific reviewers who will submit individual comments in written form. Peer reviewers will be selected by the Service. The scientific peer review will run concurrently with public review. We will solicit reviews from experts who are willing to commit to providing an objective review within the needed time frame. Reviewers will be selected by the Service from specialists in the relevant areas of expertise. We will strive to strike a balance between reviewers on one side of the decision with those on the other side and will avoid selecting peer reviewers who are likely to experience personal gain or loss as a result of the Service's decision. Service employees will not be used for this peer review. Peer reviewers will not be compensated for their review.

The primary disciplines or expertise that are needed for this peer review are:

- 1- Knowledge of biological information concerning the nene, including life history information, threats, habitat requirements, distribution, population status, and recovery actions;
- 2- Knowledge of relevant data concerning presence or absence of current or future threats to nene and its habitat; and
- 3- Knowledge of information regarding management plans or other mechanisms that provide protection to nene and its habitat.

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 determine whether the relevant data were considered and whether they were considered appropriately. We will also ask them to evaluate uncertainty and the strength of the data and conclusions. 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-2017-0050.

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: February 2018

About Public Participation

The public is invited to comment on the proposed rule during the public comment period. We expect the public comment period to be open from February - March 2018, 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-2017-0050.

Contact

Call Mary Abrams, Field Supervisor (phone 808-792-9400). Direct all questions or requests for additional information to: HAWAIIAN GOOSE (NENE) QUESTIONS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-122, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850. 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.