

## Peer Review of Scientific Information

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Proposed Rule to List Oregon Spotted Frog as Threatened and Proposed Rule to Designate Critical Habitat

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### About the Documents

**Titles:** Proposed Threatened Status for Oregon Spotted Frog and Designation of Critical Habitat for the Oregon Spotted Frog

**Estimated Dissemination Date of the Proposed Rule:** August 29, 2013

**Estimated Peer Review Timeframe:** August 29 to October 28, 2013

**Type of review:** Influential

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### 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 Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service's interagency peer review policy, we will initiate peer review of the science relevant to the proposed rule to list the Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Concurrent with the listing, we are also proposing to designate critical habitat for this species throughout its range in Washington and Oregon.

The Service will solicit comments from at least three (and up to six) 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 and the open comment period. 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.

The primary disciplines or expertise needed in the peer review include expertise and knowledge of the biology and habitat needs of the species including amphibian conservation, wetland and river ecosystems, and conservation biology. We anticipate soliciting comments from 4-10 peer reviewers for this review.

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. Deadline for receipt of reviews will be clearly stated. Peer review comments will be public documents.

**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:** August 29, 2013

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### **About Public Participation**

The public is invited to comment on this plan and on the proposed rules during the public comment period on the proposed rules. We expect the public comment period to be open from August 29 to October 28, 2013, however these dates are subject to change and are dependent upon publication of the proposed rules.

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### **Contact**

Call Brad Thompson at 360.753.6046 for additional information regarding this peer review plan.

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