

Peer Review of Scientific Information

Proposed rule to list the iiwi as a threatened species

About the Document

Title: Proposed threatened status for the iiwi (*Drepanis coccinea*)

Estimated Dissemination Date of the Proposed Rule: September 20, 2016

Estimated Peer Review Timeframe: September – November 2016

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 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 iiwi as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

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.

The primary disciplines or expertise that are needed for this peer review include but are not limited to: knowledge of the ecology and biology of the iiwi; familiarity with avian malaria and avian pox, especially transmission and effects on iiwi; iiwi genetics; climate change modeling specific to the Hawaiian islands; ecology of ohia forest; and knowledge of diseases that affect ohia, including rapid ohia death. We anticipate soliciting comments from at least three 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: September 20, 2016

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 September 20 – November 21, 2016; 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-2016-0057.

Contact

Call Lorena Wada or Mike Richardson at 808-792-9400 for additional information regarding this peer review plan.
