

## **Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape Scale Conservation**

### **About the Document**

**Title:** Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape Scale Conservation

**Subject and Purpose:** To address widespread threats in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century such as drought, climate change, and large-scale habitat fragmentation, conservation organizations must work together to ensure that the activities undertaken for the benefit of fish and wildlife are science-driven, have a lasting impact, and strategically support common conservation goals across broad landscapes. To ensure the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is targeting actions and resources in the right places and for the greatest conservation benefit, the Service is considering a process to establish biological conservation targets for its landscape conservation efforts. Since the sheer number of species for which the Service, states, and other partners work with makes planning landscape-scale conservation strategies impractical on a species-by-species basis, we are now developing a process to collaboratively identify a smaller number of surrogate species that represent other species or aspects of the environment. Surrogate species will be used for comprehensive conservation planning that supports multiple species and habitats within a defined landscape or geographic area. This draft document discusses the role of and process for selecting species as conservation targets for designing landscapes capable of supporting sustainable populations of fish and wildlife.

**Importance of Scientific Information:** The draft document relies heavily upon information in the published scientific literature, as well as input by subject matter experts in landscape ecology and conservation design to outline an iterative, science-driven process for selecting surrogate species.

### **About the Peer Review Process**

**Type of review:** Independent Peer Review (without attribution) (Contracted)

**Number of reviewers:** The Service will use the Science Services IDIQ contract to select 3-5 expert reviewers and conduct an independent peer review of the Interim Work Product entitled: Draft Technical Guidance on Selecting Species for Design of Landscape Scale Conservation.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Expertise in landscape ecology and/or conservation biology will be the primary consideration when selecting reviewers. However, the panel of reviewers, collectively, should have expertise in zoology, botany, community ecology, paleoecology and evolutionary biology.

**Selection of Peer Reviewer:** The Contractor will select peer reviewers based on their expertise with the subject matter, as described in the Statement of Work (SOW).

**Management and Timing of Peer Review:** The contract will be managed by the Service, and the peer review managed by Contractor. The peer review is expected to begin approximately June 2013, and a final report containing the results of the peer review will be sent by Contractor to the Fish and Wildlife Service in August 2013.

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