

Peer Review Plan for the Species Status Assessment for Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)

About the Document

Title: Species Status Assessment Report for Least Bell's vireo.

- Purpose: The Species Status Assessment (SSA) report is intended to be an in-depth review of the species' biology and threats, an evaluation of its biological status, and an assessment of the resources and conditions needed to maintain long-term viability. The SSA report will inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's update of a recovery plan for the Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*).

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Peer Review Timeline: March 2025 – May 2025

Type of Peer Review: The Service will solicit comments on the draft report from independent scientific reviewers via individual letters. Peer reviewers will submit comments in written form.

Anticipated Number of Reviewers: The Service will request review from at least three individuals.

Reviewer Selection Method: A Service office not associated with development of the SSA report will select peer reviewers and coordinate the process. In selecting peer reviewers, we will consider four key factors: expertise, balance, independence, and avoidance of conflict of interest. We are not seeking nominations for peer reviewers from the public.

Necessary Expertise: Peer reviewers will have expertise on Least Bell's vireo or related taxa, the ecosystems in which the species lives, the threats to or management of the species or its habitat, or the analytical methods we used.

Peer reviewers will not be asked to provide recommendations on a reclassification determination or any other associated rulemaking under the Act. Peer reviewers will be asked to comment specifically on the quality of any information and analyses used or relied on in the document; identify oversights, omissions, and inconsistencies; provide advice on reasonableness of judgments made from the scientific evidence; ensure that scientific uncertainties are clearly identified and characterized, and that potential implications of uncertainties for the technical conclusions drawn are clear; and provide advice on the overall strengths and limitations of the scientific data used in the document.

About public participation

We anticipate making the draft SSA available to the public around August 2025. At that time, we will also make the peer review comments on the draft SSA report publicly available on [ServCat](#).

This peer review plan is made available to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review. The public is invited to submit comments on this peer review plan by contacting the agency person listed below.

Contact

Susie Tharratt, Regional Recovery Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Region. For more information about the Least Bell's vireo, see the species' [profile page](#).