

Peer Review Plan for the Ione Buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* var. *apricum*), Irish Hill Buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* var. *prostratum*), and Ione Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*) Species Status Assessment Report

About the Document

Title: Species status assessment for the Ione buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* var. *apricum*), Irish Hill buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* var. *prostratum*), and Ione manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*)

Purpose: The Species Status Assessment (SSA) report will inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's preparation of a recovery plan for the Ione buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* var. *apricum*), Irish Hill buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* var. *prostratum*), and Ione manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*). The information in the SSA report is likely to be influential scientific information.

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Peer Review Timeline: October 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 the Ione buckwheat, Irish Hill buckwheat, or Ione manzanita 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 the listing 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 recovery plan available to the public in the fall of 2025 at <https://www.fws.gov/program/recovery/recovery-plans>. At that time, we will also make the peer

review comments on the draft SSA report publicly available at [\[https://www.fws.gov/library/categories/peer-review-plans\]](https://www.fws.gov/library/categories/peer-review-plans) and we will also provide an opportunity for public comment on the recovery plan.

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.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?scode=K004>

Contact

Donelle Robinson, Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Headquarters Office, at donelle_robinson@fws.gov.

Also, for more information on the species, see:

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8301>

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1806>