

Peer Review Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*) Species Status Assessment Version 1.1 Update

About the Document

Title: Species Status Assessment for Riparian Brush Rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*), Version 1.1

Purpose: Version 1.1 of the Riparian Brush Rabbit Species Status Assessment is an update from Version 1.0 which was published in June 2020. Version 1.1 was updated to address the threat of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus 2 (RHDV2) and associated vaccination efforts. Other updates include new survey data since 2020, habitat restoration and flood mortality mitigation efforts since 2020, and updated current and future condition analyses reflecting the various changes to threats and conservation efforts.

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Peer Review Timeline: January 2026 – March 2026

Type of Peer Review: The Service will solicit comments on the SSA from independent scientific reviewers via individual letters. Peer reviewers will submit comments in written form. Reviewers will be asked to focus their review on the updated sections of the SSA, however they may provide comments on the entirety of the document.

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

Reviewer Selection Method: 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 riparian brush rabbits, 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 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

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(s) listed below.

Contact

Summer Howland (summer_howland@fws.gov), Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office.

Dan Cox (dan_cox@fws.gov), Supervisor, Division of Recovery and Conservation Planning, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office.

For more information about riparian brush rabbit, see the species' profile page:
<https://www.fws.gov/species/riparian-brush-rabbit-sylvilagus-bachmani-riparius>