

# **Peer Review Plan**

## **for the *Geocarpion minimum* Draft Post-Delisting Monitoring Plan**

### **About the Document**

Title: Draft Post-Delisting Monitoring Plan for *Geocarpion minimum*

Purpose: Post-delisting monitoring is a requirement of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Specifically, Section 4(g)(1) requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to:

“implement a system in cooperation with the States to monitor effectively for not less than five years the status of all species which have recovered to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to this Act are no longer necessary”

The purpose of this Draft Post-Delisting Monitoring (PDM) Plan (Plan) is to verify that *Geocarpion* (*Geocarpion minimum*) remains secure from risk of extinction after its removal from the protections of the Act. The primary goal of post-delisting monitoring is to monitor the delisted species to ensure the status does not deteriorate, and if a substantial decline in the species (numbers of individuals or populations) or an increase in threats is detected, to take measures to halt the decline so that re-proposing it as an endangered or threatened species is not necessary. This plan lays out the cooperators involved in monitoring, and the length, location, and types of monitoring recommended for the species.

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

**Estimated Peer Review Timeline:** March-September 2026

**Type of Peer Review:** The Service will solicit comments on the draft document 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 document 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 species 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 any listing determination or 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.

We will make the peer reviewed document available once peer review and technical review has been incorporated. The released report will be available on the species profile page:

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7699>

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.

The document being peer reviewed is available to the public for viewing at: [https://ecosphere-documents-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/sams/public\\_docs/species\\_nonpublish/33474.pdf](https://ecosphere-documents-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/sams/public_docs/species_nonpublish/33474.pdf)

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