

Peer Review Plan: Proposed Critical Habitat Designation for ‘I‘iwi

About the Document

The Service is proposing to designate critical habitat for the ‘i‘iwi (*Drepanis coccinea*). The ‘i‘iwi was listed as threatened in 2017 on the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). If we determine that critical habitat should be designated, we will publish a final rule designating critical habitat for this species.

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Peer Review Timeline: January 2023 – February 2023

Peer review process:

- We, the Service, will choose three or more independent peer reviewers and invite comment letters from the peer reviewers.
- 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.

Peer reviewers will be selected based on the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers will be experts in ‘i‘iwi ecology or related species, threats to the species, or a related field.
- **Independence:** Reviewers will not be employed by the Service. Academic and consulting scientists should have sufficient independence from the Service, if the government supports their work.
- **Objectivity:** Reviewers will be recognized by their peers as being objective, open-minded, and thoughtful. The reviewers should be comfortable sharing their knowledge and identifying their knowledge gaps.
- **Advocacy:** Reviewers will not be known or recognized for an affiliation with an advocacy position regarding the protection of this species.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Reviewers will not have any financial or other interest that conflicts with or that could impair their objectivity.

About public participation

Our decision document will be made available to the public through news releases, direct mailings, and posting on Service websites. If appropriate, the Service will publish a final rule following consideration of all comments received from the public and peer reviewers.

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.

Contact

For more information, contact Earl Campbell, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, at telephone 808-792-9400. Refer also to the species profile for the 'i'iwi via the Service's Endangered Species website, at: <https://ecos.fws.gov/>