

Peer Review Plan: Delisting Decision for the Braken Bat Cave Meshweaver

About the Document

The Service is proposing to delist or remove the Braken Bat Cave meshweaver (*Cicurina venii*) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). *Cicurina venii* has been synonymized with *C. madla*, the Madla Cave meshweaver.

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Peer Review Timeline: October 2021 – November 2021

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 not be asked to provide recommendations on the delisting determination. 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 ecology of Braken Bat Cave meshweaver 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 delisting decision document will be made available to the public through news releases, direct mailings, and posting on Service websites (with solicitations for public comment if we prepare a proposed rule to list the species as threatened or endangered). If appropriate, the Service will implement an outreach plan to provide ample opportunity for public involvement in the review process. If appropriate, the Service will publish a final delisting 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 Adam Zerrenner, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, at 512-490-0057. Also see the species profile for the Braken Bat Cave meshweaver via the Service's Endangered Species website, at: <https://ecos.fws.gov/>

A copy of the determination will be posted on this website upon completion.