

Peer Review Plan for the Canelo Hills Ladies Tresses Species Status Assessment

About the Document

Title: Draft Species Status Assessment Report for Canelo Hills ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes delitescens*)

Dissemination Date: June 2021

Purpose: The draft species status assessment for Canelo Hills ladies tresses is a summary of information assembled and reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Arizona Ecological Field Services Office and incorporates the best scientific and commercial data available. The species was listed as endangered on January 6, 1997 (62 FR 665). The framework of a species status assessment provides an in-depth review of species biology and threats, an evaluation of their biological status, and an assessment of the resources and conditions needed to maintain long-term viability. This document describes the needs of Canelo Hills ladies tresses at the individual, population, and species levels. Once finalized, this species status assessment will inform development of a recovery plan for this species.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Influential

Date of Peer Review: The peer review will be conducted in June 2021.

Reviewers: The Service will solicit external peer review of the scientific background information used in the draft species status assessment from at least three or more independent scientific reviewers with expertise in ecology of *Spiranthes* sp., cienega function or management, or a field related to wetland orchid conservation.

Criteria for Reviewer Selection: Peer reviewers will be selected based on the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers will be experts in ecology of orchids, cienegas, or a field related to wetland orchid conservation and should have knowledge in one or more of the following areas: biology, ecology, demography, management and conservation of native orchid species, or wetland hydrology, ecology, or management.
- **Independence:** Reviewers should not be employed by the Service. Academic and consulting scientists should have sufficient independence from the Service or the Department if the government supports their work.

- Objectivity: Reviewers should be recognized by their peers as being objective, open-minded, and thoughtful. Reviewers should be comfortable sharing their knowledge and identifying their knowledge gaps.
- Advocacy: Reviewers should not be known or recognized for an affiliation with an advocacy position regarding the protection of Canelo Hills ladies tresses under the Endangered Species Act.
- Conflict of Interest: Reviewers should not have any financial or other interest that conflicts with or that could impair their objectivity.

The final SSA report will be made available via the Service's Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) species' profile page:

[Species Profile for Canelo Hills ladies-tresses \(*Spiranthes delitescens*\) \(fws.gov\)](#)

This peer review plan is made available on this website to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.

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