Peer Review Plan: Listing Decision for the Goodding's Onion

About the Document:
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will make a listing determination or not warranted finding for the Goodding's onion (*Allium gooddingii*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). If a listing decision is warranted, the Service will also propose to designate critical habitat for the species, if prudent and determinable, concurrently with the listing determination.

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Peer Review Timeline: July 2023 – August 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 not be asked to provide recommendations on the listing determination or designation of critical habitat. 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 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 requested to review the *Draft Species Status Assessment for the Goodding's onion* that supports our listing determination or not warranted finding.
- If we propose to list the species, the scientific peer review is held prior to the public review process of the proposal. Therefore, no public comments will be available or provided to the peer reviewers.

Peer Reviewers will be selected on the following criteria:

- Expertise: Reviewers will be experts in ecology of the Goodding's onion, 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 listing determination document will be made available to the public through news releases, direct mailings, and postings on the Service's 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 listing and designation of critical habitat following consideration of all comments received from the public and peer reviews.

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 Heather Whitlaw, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office at 602-242-0210. Also see the species profile for this species 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.