

Peer Review Plan
Draft Recovery Plan for Kuenzler Hedgehog Cactus
(*Echinocereus fendleri* var. *kuenzleri*)
First Revision

About the Document

Title: Draft Recovery Plan for Kuenzler Hedgehog Cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri* var. *kuenzleri*), First Revision

Dissemination Date: May 10, 2021

Purpose: This draft recovery plan describes strategies for the recovery of Kuenzler hedgehog cactus throughout its range and provides specific criteria for delisting from the list of Endangered Species, in accordance with section 4(f)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). This draft recovery plan was prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The plan contains information on the biology and status of the species, recovery goals, recovery actions, time and cost estimates, and objective and measurable criteria necessary for the full recovery of the plant.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Influential

Date of Peer Review: The peer review will be conducted during the public review period for the draft recovery plan from May 10 through July 9, 2021.

Reviewers: The Service will solicit external peer review of the scientific background information used in the draft recovery analyses from at least three or more independent scientific reviewers with expertise in botany and conservation biology, with emphasis in the Kuenzler hedgehog cactus, and plant demography and ecology.

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

- **Expertise:** Reviewers should have knowledge in one or more of the following areas: botany, plant demography, plant ecology, conservation biology, invasive species, and land management activities and their effects on rare plants.
- **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 this species 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.

About Public Participation: A 60 day public comment period for the draft recovery plan will begin May 10, 2021, during which time the public will have the opportunity to review and provide input to the draft plan. The availability of the plan will be made public through news releases, newspaper articles, and mailings, and will be posted on Service websites with solicitations for public comment.

Both the draft and final plan will be available at [The New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office website](#) or [the Service's ECOS species profile page](#).

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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