

Peer Review Plan: Listing Decision for the Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot Butterfly

About the Document

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will make a listing determination for the Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas anicia cloudcrofti*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

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 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 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 requested to review the *Draft Current Condition Assessment Report for the Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot Butterfly* that supports our listing determination or not warranted finding.
- If we proposed to list the species, the scientific peer review will be held concurrently 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 based on the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers will be experts in ecology of Arizona eryngo 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 listing 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 listing 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 Shawn Sartorius, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, at 505-761-4781. Also see the species profile for the Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot Butterfly 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.