

## **Peer Review Plan for the Species Status Assessment for San Francisco Gartersnake**

### ***About the Document***

**Title:** Draft Species Status Assessment for San Francisco Gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*)

**Description:** All functions of the Endangered Species Program from Section 7 consultation to recovery planning will rely on this document as a basis for synthesizing the status of the species in a rigorous, scientific manner. As such, the Species Status Assessment (SSA) report will be a living document upon which many other documents will be based. This version of the SSA for the San Francisco gartersnake evaluates the condition of the species as part of a 5-year status review.

**Estimate Date of the Final Document:** February 2019

### ***About the Peer Review Process***

**Type of Review:** Individual emails requesting peer review

**Anticipated Number of reviewers:** Responses are anticipated from three peer reviewers.

**Selection of Peer Reviewers:** Service staff not responsible for developing the SSA selected peer reviewers based on their expertise with the subject matter. Peer reviewers will not be compensated for their time, and Service employees will not be used for this peer review.

**Reviewer expertise:** The Service will solicit reviews and comments from subject area experts who are willing to commit to providing an objective written scientific review of the draft SSA report within the needed time frame. Expertise sought for the review includes familiarity of the species and its habitat, including life history, threats, habitat requirements, conservation, and genetics.

**Estimated start and end dates for peer review:** November 2019 – December 2019

### ***About Public Participation***

**Opportunities for the Public:** 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. The final SSA Report is not a decision document requiring public review. However, the final version will be made available to the public through the Service website. The public and/or scientific or professional societies will not be asked to nominate peer reviewers.

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