

Peer Review Plan for the Species Status Assessment for the relictual slender salamander (*Batrachoseps relictus*), Kern Canyon slender salamander (*Batrachoseps simatus*), and the Kern Plateau salamander (*Batrachoseps robustus*)

About the Document

Title: Species Status Assessment Report for the relictual slender salamander (*Batrachoseps relictus*), Kern Canyon slender salamander (*Batrachoseps simatus*), and the Kern Plateau salamander (*Batrachoseps robustus*)

Description: This document summarizes the results of the Species Status Assessment (SSA) for the relictual slender salamander, Kern Canyon slender salamander, and the Kern Plateau salamander. The SSA assessed the three species at an individual, population, and species level in order to determine whether they can maintain their persistence into the future. This report includes information about relictual slender salamander, Kern Canyon slender salamander, and the Kern Plateau salamander ecology, and evaluates the current condition of each species, including the significant past, current, and future influences that are affecting their viability. The document also includes an assessment of the changes in species' viability that might occur under two probable future scenarios. The SSA report is intended to be a living document upon which other documents, such as recovery plans and 5-year reviews, will be based. This SSA report was developed to inform a 12-month finding.

Estimate Date of the Final Document: June 2021

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Peer review requests will be sent individually to potential peer reviewers, via email.

Anticipated number of reviewers: Responses are anticipated from at least three peer reviewers.

Selection of Peer Reviewers: Service staff not responsible for developing the SSA will select peer reviewers based on their expertise with the subject matter. Peer reviewers will not be compensated for their time. Current Service employees will not be peer reviewers.

Reviewer expertise: Expertise sought for the review includes familiarity with the life history, threats, and habitat requirements for the requested species; conservation biology; conservation genetics; or familiarity with similar species.

Estimated start and end dates for peer review: April – May 2021

Will the public and/or scientific or professional societies be asked to nominate peer reviewers? No

Are waivers or deferrals being invoked? No

Estimated Start Date of Peer Review: April 2021

About Public Participation

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 on the Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) website ([Link to ECOS species profile: relictual slender salamander](#); [Link to ECOS species profile: Kern Canyon slender salamander](#); and [Link to ECOS species profile: Kern Plateau salamander](#)).

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