

**Peer Review Plan**  
for the  
Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*) Post-delisting Monitoring Plan

**About the Document**

**Title:** Draft Post-Delisting Monitoring Plan for the Black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*)

**Dissemination Date:** May 2017

**Purpose:** The draft post-delisting monitoring (PDM) plan describes the methods we propose to monitor the status of the vireo and its habitat, in cooperation with the States of Texas and Oklahoma and other conservation partners, for a 12-year period if we remove this species from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife under the proposed rule published on December 15, 2016. The draft PDM plan also provides a strategy for identifying and responding to any future population declines or habitat loss.

**About the Peer Review Process**

**Type of Review:** Influential

**Date of Peer Review:** Peer review is expected to be completed by July 31, 2017.

**Reviewers:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will conduct external peer review of the scientific background information used in the PDM plan with at least three independent scientific reviewers with expertise in ornithology and conservation biology, with emphasis on passerine 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: ornithology, avian ecology, conservation biology, and land management activities and their effects on breeding birds.
- **Independence:** Reviewers should not be employed by the Service. Academic and consulting scientists should have sufficient independence from the Service and the Department of the Interior 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:**

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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