

Peer Review Plan

Species Status Assessment for *Pediomelum pentaphyllum* (Chihuahua scurfpea)

About the Document

Title: Chihuahua Scurfpea (*Pediomelum pentaphyllum*) Species Status Assessment

Purpose: The purpose of the Species Status Assessment (SSA) is to provide support to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for a 12-month finding and a decision on whether to propose listing and propose critical habitat designation for the Chihuahua scurfpea, in accordance with section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The SSA provides information on the species' resource requirements, current population conditions, stressors, conservation actions, and projected future status.

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Peer Review Timeline: January – February 2018

Peer Review Process:

- The USFWS will solicit review and comments from at least three independent peer reviewers on the draft Chihuahua Scurfpea (*Pediomelum pentaphyllum*) Species Status Assessment.
- The USFWS will not ask peer reviewers to provide recommendations on the 12-month finding or on a proposed listing determination or proposed critical habitat designation. The USFWS will ask peer reviewers to comment specifically on the data and information used in the document; assess assumptions made and conclusions reached by the authors; identify any oversights, omissions, or inconsistencies in data or interpretation of the data; ensure that uncertainties are identified; and provide feedback on the overall strengths and limitations of the data and information used in the document.
- The USFWS will select peer reviewers based on the following criteria:
 - *Expertise:* Including but not limited to plant population biology, botany, land use or management relative to grasslands and shrub lands of the southwestern United States, or related fields.
 - *Independence:* Reviewers will not be employed by the USFWS. Academic and consulting scientists will have sufficient independence from the USFWS 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 under the Endangered Species Act.
 - *Conflict of Interest:* Reviewers will not have any financial or other interest that conflicts with or that could impair their objectivity.

About Public Participation

The final SSA will be made available to the public via posting on USFWS websites. A listing decision document will be made available to the public through news releases, direct mailings, and posting on USFWS websites (with solicitations for public comment if we prepare a proposed rule to list the species as threatened or endangered). If appropriate, the USFWS would implement an outreach plan to provide ample opportunity for public involvement in the review process. If appropriate, the USFWS would publish a final listing and designation of critical habitat 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, Chief, Branch of Classification, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Regional Office, at (505) 248-6419.