

**Peer Review Plan  
for the  
Jaguar Draft Recovery Plan (*Panthera onca*)**



Photo courtesy of U.S Fish and Wildlife Service

**About the Document**

**Title:** Jaguar Draft Recovery Plan (*Panthera onca*)

**Dissemination Date:** December 20, 2016

**Purpose:** This draft recovery plan describes strategies for recovering the jaguar throughout its range, but more specifically within the Northwestern Recovery Unit (including portions of the U.S. and Mexico). It provides specific criteria for downlisting and delisting from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, in accordance with section 4(f)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). This draft recovery plan was prepared by the Service and the Jaguar Recovery Team. The draft recovery plan contains information on the species' life history, threats, current conservation, and the strategies and actions necessary for the full recovery of the jaguar.

## **About the Peer Review Process**

**Type of Review:** Influential

**Date of Peer Review:** The peer review will be conducted during the public review period for the draft recovery plan from December 20, 2016, through March 20, 2017.

**Reviewers:** The Service will solicit external peer review of the scientific background information used in the draft recovery analyses from at least three or more independent scientific reviewers with expertise in jaguar or large carnivore ecology, management, and conservation.

**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: jaguar or large carnivore biology, ecology, demography, management, and/or conservation.
- **Independence:** Reviewers should not be employed by the Service. Academic and consulting scientists should have sufficient independence from the Service or the Department 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:** A 90-day public comment period for the draft recovery plan will begin December 21, 2016, during which time the public will have the opportunity to review and provide input to the draft plan. The availability of the plan will be made public through news releases, newspaper articles, and mailings, and will be posted on Service websites with solicitations for public comment.

Both the draft and final plan will be available at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Jaguar.htm>.

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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