

Peer Review Plan
For the
Kuenzler's hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri* var. *kuenzleri*) Species Status
Assessment Report

About the Document

Title: Draft Species Status Assessment Report for the Kuenzler's hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri* var. *kuenzleri*)

Dissemination Date: August, 2017

Purpose: This Species Status Assessment (SSA) reports the results of the comprehensive status review for the Kuenzler's hedgehog cactus and provides an evaluation of the biological status of the species and its overall viability. The SSA considers the species needs, causes and effects to its biological status, the current conditions of the species, and forecasts future conditions.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Influential

Date of Peer Review: Peer review is expected to be completed by October, 2017.

Reviewers: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will conduct external peer review of the scientific background information used in the SSA report with at least three independent scientific reviewers with expertise in botany and conservation biology, with emphasis on plant 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: botany, plant demography, plant ecology, conservation biology, invasive species, and land management activities and their effects on rare plants.
- **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.

For more information, contact Susan Millsap, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, at (505) 346-2525. Also see species profiles for Kuenzler's hedgehog cactus via the Service's Endangered Species website, at:

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=Q1VW>

A copy of the determination will be posted on this website upon completion.