

**Peer Review Plan  
For the  
Lesser Long-Nosed Bat  
(*Leptonycteris yerbabuenae*)**



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**About the Document**

**Title:** 12-month petition finding and proposed rule to remove the lesser-long nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae*) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife

**Dissemination Date:** January 6, 2017

**Purpose:** The Service has drafted a 12-month petition finding and proposed rule to remove the lesser-long nosed bat from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. This determination is based on a thorough review of the best available scientific and commercial information, which indicates that the threats to this species have been eliminated or reduced to the point that the species has recovered and no longer meets the definition of endangered or threatened under the Act.

**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 proposed rule from January 6, 2017 through March 7, 2017.

**Reviewers:** The Service will solicit external peer review of the scientific background information used in the analyses from at least three or more independent scientific reviewers with expertise in ecology and conservation biology, with emphasis in the genus *Leptonycteris*.

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: biology and ecology of the lesser long-nosed bat, conservation biology, food plant phenology, and land management activities and their effects on the bat.
- **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 60 day public comment period for the 12-month finding and proposed rule will begin January 6, 2017, during which time the public will have the opportunity to review and provide input to the proposed rule and Species Status Assessment (SSA). The availability of the proposed rule and SSA 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>

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.

**Contact:** Scott Richardson (520) 670-6150, ext. 242 or [Scott\\_Richardson@fws.gov](mailto:Scott_Richardson@fws.gov)