

Draft Texas Coastal Bend Shortgrass Prairie Multi-species Recovery Plan

About the Document

Title: Draft Texas Coastal Bend Shortgrass Prairie Multi-species Recovery Plan: Including Slender Rush-Pea (*Hoffmannseggia tenella*) and South Texas Ambrosia (*Ambrosia cheiranthifolia*)

Purpose: The purpose of the recovery plan is to provide a strategy that when implemented will lead to the downlisting and recovery (delisting) of the South Texas ambrosia and slender rush-pea in accordance with section 4(f)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The plan contains information on these species' life histories, threats faced, current conservation efforts, and a recovery strategy with recommended recovery actions.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Influential

Peer Review initiated: May 2017

Peer Review to be completed: July 2017

Process:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will solicit comments from at least three independent peer reviewers on the draft Texas Coastal Bend Shortgrass Prairie Multi-species Recovery Plan: Including Slender Rush-Pea (*Hoffmannseggia tenella*) and South Texas Ambrosia (*Ambrosia cheiranthifolia*).
- The Service will ask members of the technical subcommittee of the recovery team to recommend independent peer reviewers and in our official selection we will use our knowledge of who meets the following criteria:
 - *Expertise:* Including but not limited to plant conservation biology, botany, genetics, land use or management relative to shortgrass prairies, threats facing this ecosystem, and propagation/reintroduction methods.
 - *Independence:* Reviewers should not be employed by the Service. Academic and consulting scientists should have sufficient independence from the Service, if the government supports their work.
 - *Objectivity:* Reviewers should 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 should not be known or recognized for an affiliation with an advocacy position regarding the protection of these species under the Endangered Species Act.

- *Conflict of Interest:* Reviewers should not have any financial or other interest that conflicts or that could impair their objectivity.

About Public Participation

- A 60 day public comment period for the draft recovery plan is anticipated to be held in 2017. The plan will be made available to the public through news releases and will be posted on Service websites with solicitations for public comment.
- The Service will implement an outreach plan to provide ample opportunity for public involvement in the review process.
- Both the draft and final plans will be available at:
<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q1SS> or
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=Q1XI>
- The Service will publish a final recovery plan following consideration of all comments received from the public and peer reviewers. 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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