

**Peer Review Plan for the
Draft Amendments to the Siler Pinchusion Cactus (*Pediocactus sileri*)
and Brady Pincushion Cactus (*Pediocactus bradyi*) Recovery Plans**

About the Documents

Titles: Siler Pinchusion Cactus Recovery Plan, Draft Amendment 1
Brady Pincushion Cactus, Draft Amendment 1

Estimated Dissemination Date: December, 2018

Purpose: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified best available information that indicates the need to amend recovery criteria for the *Erigeron rhizomatus* (Zuni Fleabane). In this proposed modification, we synthesize the adequacy of the existing recovery criteria, show amended recovery criteria, and provide the rationale supporting the proposed recovery plan modification. Once finalized, the modification will be an addendum that supplements the recovery plan, superseding only the affected recovery criteria from the previous recovery plan version.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Influential

Date of Peer Review: Peer review of the draft amendment will be concurrent with the public comment period (60 days) that is identified in a Federal Register Notice of Availability.

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 ecology, management, and conservation of invertebrates associated with spring systems.

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, ecology, demography, management, and/or conservation of plants associated with the Mojave Desert.
- **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 draft amendment will begin when the Notice of Availability publishes in the Federal Register. During this period, the public will have the opportunity to review and provide input to the draft recovery plan amendment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also implement an outreach plan to provide ample opportunity for public involvement in the review process, and the draft amendment will be posted on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service websites with solicitations for public comment.

The draft recovery plan amendments will be available at:

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?sPCODE=Q200>

and

<https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/>

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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