

Peer Review Plan for Draft Amendment 1 to Socorro Isopod Recovery Plan

About the Document(s)

Title: 1982 Socorro Isopod Recovery Plan, Draft Amendment 1

Estimated Dissemination Date:

December 2018

Purpose:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has indicated a need to amend the recovery criteria for the Socorro Isopod (*Thermosphaeroma thermophilum*). In this proposed amendment, we determined quantitative criteria by which the Socorro Isopod may be downlisted to threatened status, or delisted, as well as to provide our rationale supporting these modifications. Once finalized, this amendment will supplement or supersede previous downlisting or delisting criteria in the existing recovery plan.

About the Peer Review Process

Timeline for 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 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 invertebrates associated with spring systems.
- 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 to the Socorro Isopod Recovery Plan will begin in December 2018, during which time the public will have the opportunity to review and provide input. The availability of this amendment 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 through the portal at <https://www.regulations.gov/>. 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

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