

Peer Review Plan
for
Texas Ayenia (*Ayenia limitaris*)
Draft Recovery Plan



Ayenia limitaris flower, Chris Best USFWS

About the Document

Title: Texas Ayenia Draft Recovery Plan

Dissemination Date: June 16, 2014

Purpose: This draft recovery plan describes strategies for the recovery of Texas ayenia (also known as Tamaulipan kidneypetal) throughout its range and provides specific criteria for downlisting and delisting from the list of Endangered Species, in accordance with section 4(f)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) seeks to collaborate with Mexico to recover the plant. This draft recovery plan was prepared by the Service with assistance from the South Texas Plant Recovery Team, and with input from Mexican botanists. The plan contains information on the species' life history, threats, current conservation, and the strategies and actions necessary for the full recovery of the plant.

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 the draft recovery plan addendum from June 16 through August 8, 2014.

Reviewers: The Service will conduct external peer review of the scientific background information used in the draft recovery analyses with at least three or more independent

scientific reviewers with expertise in botany and conservation biology, with emphasis in the genus *Ayenia* or family Sterculiaceae, and plant demography.

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, 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 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 recovery plan will begin June 16, 2014, during which time the public will have the opportunity to review and provide input to the draft plan. The availability of the plan 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/Documents/R2ES/TexasAyenia_DraftRecoveryPlan_Final_June2014.pdf

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: Chris Best (512) 490-0057, extension 225, or Chris_Best@fws.gov