

**Peer Review Plan  
for  
Thick-billed Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*)  
Draft Recovery Plan Addendum**



photo by Jim Rorabaugh

**About the Document**

**Title:** Thick-billed Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) Draft Recovery Plan Addendum

**Dissemination Date:** June 19, 2012

**Purpose:** The purpose of the draft recovery plan addendum is to provide a strategy that leads to the downlisting of the thick-billed parrot throughout its range, 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) is adopting Mexico's 2009 recovery plan for the thick-billed parrot entitled "Programa de Acción para la Conservación de las Especies: Cotorras Serranas" and has completed the draft addendum to meet the requirements of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. This addendum was prepared by the Service with assistance from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and with input from Mexican biologists. The plan addendum contains information on the species' life history, threats, current conservation, and strategies and actions necessary for the bird's recovery.

**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 19 to August 20, 2012.

**Estimated Dissemination of the Final Recovery Plan Addendum:** June 30, 2013

**Type of Peer Review and Reviewer Selection Method/Expertise of Reviewers:** The Service has solicited reviews from 19 independent scientific reviewers with expertise in biology, conservation, and ecology of parrots and/or the ecosystems upon which they depend. Reviewers were selected based upon the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers should have knowledge in one or more of the following areas: conservation biology; ecology of forest parrots, land management activities in Mexico and the United States and their effects on forest parrot populations; and fire ecology.
- **Independence:** Reviewers are not employed by the Service. Academic and consulting scientists have sufficient independence from the Service or the Department of the Interior if the government supports their work.
- **Objectivity:** Reviewers are 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 are not 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 revised recovery plan addendum began June 19, 2012, 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 addendums 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.

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