

Peer Review Plan
Species Status Assessment for Arkansas River Shiner and Peppered Chub

About the Document

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking peer review for a second time on the Species Status Assessment (SSA) for the Arkansas River shiner (*Notropis girardi*) and the peppered chub (*Macrhybopsis tetranema*). The purpose of the is SSA is to provide support to the Service on recovery planning efforts for the Arkansas River shiner and to help inform a listing decision for the peppered chub in accordance with section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq).

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Peer Review Timeline: December 2020 – January 2021

Peer review process:

- We, the Service, will choose three or more independent peer reviewers and invite comment letters from the peer reviewers.
- Peer reviewers will not be asked to provide recommendations on the recovery planning efforts, listing determination or designation of critical habitat. Peer reviewers will be asked to comment specifically on the quality of any information and analyses used or relied on in the document; identify oversights, omissions, and inconsistencies; provide advice on reasonableness of judgments made from the scientific evidence; ensure that scientific uncertainties are clearly identified and characterized, and that potential implications of uncertainties for the technical conclusions drawn are clear; and provide advice on the overall strengths and limitations of the scientific data used in the document.
- Peer reviewers will be requested to review the *Draft Species Status Assessment Report for the Arkansas River Shiner (Notropis girardi) and Peppered Chub (Macrhybopsis tetranema)*.
- This scientific peer review is being held during the public review process of the proposal to list the peppered chub. Therefore, no public comments will be available or provided to the peer reviewers prior to requesting peer review.

Peer reviewers will be selected based on the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers will be experts in ecology of Arkansas River shiner and/or peppered chub or similar species, threats to these or similar species, or a related field.
- **Independence:** Reviewers will 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 will 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 will not be known or recognized for an affiliation with an advocacy position regarding the protection of this species.
- Conflict of Interest: Reviewers will not have any financial or other interest that conflicts with or that could impair their objectivity.

About public participation

Our recovery plan (Arkansas River shiner) and listing decision document (peppered chub) will be made available to the public through news releases, direct mailings, and posting on Service websites with solicitations for public comment if we prepare a proposed rule to list the peppered chub as threatened or endangered. If appropriate, the Service will publish a final listing and designation of critical habitat following consideration of all comments received from the public and peer reviewers.

This peer review plan is made available to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.

Contact

For more information for Arkansas River shiner, contact Jonna Polk, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office, at 918-581-7458 or for peppered chub, contact Debra Bills, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington Ecological Services Field Office, at 817-277-1100. Also see the species profile for the Arkansas River shiner or peppered chub via the Service's Endangered Species website, at:

<https://ecos.fws.gov/>

A copy of the recovery plan and the determination will be posted on this website upon completion.