

Peer Review Plan for the
Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Gila Trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*)

About the Document

Title: Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Gila Trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*)

Estimated Dissemination Date: April 2020

Purpose: This revised recovery plan describes strategies for recovering the Gila trout throughout its range. It provides specific criteria for delisting the Gila trout from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, in accordance with section 4(f)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The draft revised recovery plan was prepared by the Gila Trout Recovery Team who provided expertise in fisheries biology, land management, captive care, and conservation biology that was used to develop strategies and actions necessary for the fish's recovery. The draft revised recovery plan contains information on the Gila trout's biology, genetics, ecology, life history, habitat requirements, along with a threats analysis and conservation strategies and actions necessary for the full recovery of these species, and objective, measurable criteria for delisting.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Influential

Timeline Peer Review: Peer review will be conducted concurrent with publication of a Notice of Availability for the draft revised recovery plan in the *Federal Register*.

Reviewers: The Service will solicit external peer review of the scientific background information used in the draft revised recovery plan analyses from at least three or more independent scientific reviewers with expertise in ecology of salmonids or a related field. Peer reviewers will be selected based on the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers will be experts in ecology of salmonids or a related field and should have knowledge in one or more of the following areas: biology, ecology, demography, management and conservation of native fish species.
- **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 the Gila trout 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 will begin when a Notice of Availability publishes in the *Federal Register*, during which time the public will have the opportunity to review and provide input on the draft. The availability of the draft revised recovery plan will also 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 revised recovery plan will be available at [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Environmental Conservation Online System: Gila Trout Species Profile Page](#)

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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