

Peer Review Plan – Listing Decision for the Jemez Mountains Salamander (*Plethodon neomexicanus*)

About the Document

The Service will remove the Jemez Mountains Salamander (*Plethodon neomexicanus*) from the candidate list. To remove this species from the candidate list means to propose it for listing as threatened or endangered or to prepare a not warranted finding. A listing proposal will include proposed critical habitat, if prudent and determinable. Following a listing proposal, a final listing determination will follow within the statutory timelines.

About the Peer Review Process

Peer review initiated: August 2012

Peer review to be completed by: October 2012

Process:

- If appropriate, the Service will conduct a peer review of the listing proposal that includes a discussion of the scientific information reviewed and our analysis.
- The Service will conduct external peer review of this document through letters to three independent scientific reviewers with expertise in amphibian ecology, conservation biology, and/or Plethodontid ecology.
- Peer reviewers may be asked to: comment specifically on the quality of any information and analyses used or relied on in analysis, 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 strengths and limitation of the overall product.
- If appropriate, the Service will use the information received from the peer review in the final rule.
- The start date of the peer review will be July 2012.

About Public Participation

- If appropriate, public comments on the listing proposal for this species will be sought concurrently with publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register and through distribution by mail and press release of this announcement to interested parties.
- This peer review plan will be posted on the Service's website for public review and comment.
- The Service will post a notice on its website of the final rule, which will include a summary of the results of the peer review process.

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