



Peer Review Plan for the Listing Decision for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*)

Lesser prairie-chicken in early light.
Photo credit: Kathy Granillo, USFWS

About the Document

The Service will remove the Lesser Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) 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

Draft document disseminated: September 2012 – November 2012

Peer review initiated: September 2012

Peer review to be completed by: November 2012

Process:

- The Service will conduct a peer review of the listing decision that includes a discussion of the scientific information reviewed and our analysis (but not our conclusion regarding the species listing classification).
- The Service will conduct external peer review of this document through letters to three or more independent scientific reviewers with expertise in prairie grouse ecology or conservation biology.
- Peer reviewers will not be asked to provide recommendations on the classification of the species. Peer reviewers may be asked to: comment specifically on the quality of any information and analyses used on or relied on in the review; identify oversights, omission, 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 or uncertainties for the technical conclusions drawn are clear; and provide advice on the strengths and limitation of the overall product.

- The Service will use the information received from the peer review in the final listing document.
- The estimated start date of the peer review will be September 2012.

About Public Participation

- If appropriate, public comments on the listing decision for this species will be sought concurrently with publication of the document 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 to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.
- If the Service moves forward with a final listing rule, we will post a notice on our website of the final rule, which will include a summary of the results of the peer review process.

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