

Peer Review Plan for 30 Recovery Plan Amendments and Revisions

About the Document

The Fish and Wildlife Service intends to amend or revise the recovery plans for the below species. We will be seeking peer review on the substantive new science information that is informing these recovery plans.

Darter, amber
Logperch, Conasauga
Pigtoe, southern
Pocketbook, finelined
Pigtoe, heavy
Moccasinshell, Alabama
Pigtoe, dark
Clubshell, ovate
Sturgeon, Alabama
Hornsnail, rough
Pocketbook, speckled
Crayfish, cave
Shiner, palezone
Cavefish, Alabama
Shiner, Cahaba
Frog, dusky gopher
Pocketbook, fat
Combshell, southern
Clubshell, black
Pitcher-plant, Alabama canebrake
Leather flower, Morefield's
Slabshell, Chipola
Pigtoe, oval
Mouse, Choctawhatchee beach
Bankclimber, purple (mussel)
Threeridge, fat (mussel)
Moccasinshell, Ochlockonee
Crocodile, American
Gourd, Okeechobee
Marstonia, royal (snail)

Estimated Timeline of Peer Review: October 2018-July 2019

About the Peer Review Process

In accordance with our July 1, 1994 peer review policy (59 FR 34270), the Service's August 22, 2016 Director's Memo on the Peer Review Process, and the Office of Management and Budget's December 16, 2004 Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will solicit independent scientific reviews. The purpose of seeking

independent peer review is to ensure use of the best scientific and commercial information available and to ensure and to maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information upon which the recovery plan is based.

The Service will request peer review from three or more independent experts. We will consider the following criteria.

- **Expertise:** The reviewer should have knowledge of or experience with the species, a similar species, or process other expertise that is relevant to the recovery of the species.
- **Independence:** The reviewer should not be employed by the Service. Academic, consulting, or government scientists should have sufficient independence from the Service if the government supports their work.
- **Objectivity:** The reviewer should be recognized by his or her peers as being objective, open-minded, and thoughtful. In addition, the reviewer should be comfortable sharing his or her knowledge and perspectives and openly identifying his or her knowledge gaps.
- **Conflict of Interest:** The reviewer should not have any financial or other interest that conflicts or that could impair his or her objectivity or create an unfair competitive advantage. If an otherwise qualified reviewer has an unavoidable conflict of interest, the Service may publicly disclose the conflict.

The Service will provide each peer reviewer with information explaining their role and instructions for fulfilling that role, the document to be reviewed, and a conflict of interest form. Peer reviewers will be asked to comment specifically on the quality of the scientific information and analyses and whether the best available information was used or relied on in the document; identify oversights, omissions, and inconsistencies; provide advice on reasonableness of judgments made from the scientific evidence; help ensure that scientific uncertainties are identified and characterized; provide advice on the overall strengths and limitations of the scientific data used in the document; and inform us of any scientific information that we did not use. Peer reviewers will be advised that they are not to provide advice on policy.

Peer reviewers will provide individual, written responses to the Service. Peer reviewers will be advised that their reviews, including their names and affiliations, will: (1) be included in the decisional record, and (2) be available to the public upon request once all reviews are completed. We will summarize and respond to the issues raised by the peer reviewers in the record.

About Public Participation

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. The recovery plan revision or amendment will be made available to the public through a news release, direct mail to interested parties, and posts on Service websites. Draft plans will be available for public comment in the federal register as well.

Contact

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