

Peer Review of Scientific Information

Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramum maritimus mirabilis*)

About the Document

Title: Proposed Revisions to the Designation of Critical Habitat for the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow in south Florida

Summary: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to revise critical habitat for the Cape Sable seaside sparrow designated in 1977 (42 FR 40685) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. In total, approximately 156,350 acres (63,273 hectares) fall within the boundaries of the proposed critical habitat designation. The proposed critical habitat is located in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, Florida.

Document to be Finalized: November 01, 2007

Type of Review: Influential

Timeline of the Peer Review

Draft Document Disseminated: November 2, 2006

Peer Review Initiated: November 2, 2006

Peer Review to be Completed by: June 2007

About the Peer Review Process

The Service will request external peer review of this document from nine independent scientific reviewers with expertise in sparrow biology, conservation biology, endangered species issues, hydrology, and/or Everglades restoration. Formal request for peer review will be made by individual letters to the experts.

In addition, the Service will make formal requests for peer review from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the South Florida Water Management District, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. This review will occur concurrently with the public comment period for the proposed action. The first comment period closed on January 2, 2007. A second comment period will be open in late spring or early summer of 2007. Peer review of the scientific information used in our analysis and the validity of the data will be requested. The Service will use the information received from the peer review, as appropriate, in finalizing or withdrawing the rule to revise critical habitat for the Cape Sable seaside sparrow.

About Public Participation

Public comments on the proposed rule were sought with a *Federal Register* announcement on October 31, 2006, and the distribution by mail and press release of that announcement to interested parties. This comment period ended on January 2, 2007. A second comment period will open with the announcement in the *Federal Register* of the availability of the economic analysis. This comment period is expected in late spring or early summer of 2007 and will include the proposed rule. 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."

Contact

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