

Peer Review of Scientific Information

Proposed Listing Rule for Elfin-woods Warbler

Species: Elfin-woods warbler (*Setophaga angelae*)

About the Document

Title: Proposed Threatened Species Status for the Elfin-woods warbler with 4(d) Rule

Summary: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to list the elfin-woods warbler (*Setophaga angelae*) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (Act) throughout its range in Puerto Rico with a 4(d) rule excepting specific activities related to sustainable agroforestry practices (e.g., shade-grown coffee plantations), native riparian buffer establishment, reforestation with native trees, and forested habitat enhancement projects from take prohibitions.

Type of Review: Influential

Timeline of the Peer Review

Date of Peer Review: September 30, 2015, through November 30, 2015

Date Document will be finalized: September 2016

About the Peer Review Process

The Service will solicit written comments from six independent scientific reviewers (see list below). Formal request for peer review is made by individual letters to experts from various backgrounds at several institutions, and agencies. These reviewers were selected by the Service for their recognized expertise with ecology and conservation on tropical birds, and work experience with the proposed species. We are following our national policy on peer review and our regional approach for peer review for rulemakings. In selecting peer reviewers, we consider four key factors: expertise, balance, independence, and avoidance of conflict of interest.

This review occurs during the public comment period for the proposed actions. The public comment period will close on November 30, 2015. We have provided each peer reviewer with information necessary to complete the peer review. We will request that reviewers use the Southeast Region's guidance to ensure that reviews comply with the 1994 policy statement for listing and critical habitat designation under the Act. Peer reviewers are expected to: (1) review all material provided; (2) identify, review, and provide other relevant data; and, (3) provide written comments on relevance and soundness of data, analysis or assumptions of data, and whether we have used the best available science in making the proposed determinations. Peer review comments will be public documents.

The Service will use the information received from the peer review process, as appropriate, to develop the final listing and critical habitat rules for the elfin-woods warbler.

Peer Reviewers

The Service will request peer review from the following individuals:

- Veronica Anadón, Caribbean Program Manager
Birdlife International Inc.
- Wayne J. Arendt, Supervisory Research Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry
- Pedro Ríos, Ecosystem Management and Planning Team Leader
U.S. Forest Service, El Yunque National Forest
- Joseph M. Wunderle, Research and Development
U.S. Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry
- José A. Salguero-Farías, Federal Funds Coordinator
Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, Fisheries and Wildlife Bureau,
- Dr. Carlos Delannoy, Species Expert
Former professor at University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Campus

About Public Participation

Public comments on the proposed listing will be sought with a **Federal Register** announcement on September 30, 2015 (80 FR 58674). This comment period ends on November 30, 2015. Information regarding submission of comments is included in the **Federal Register** notice. The Service will consider all comments received prior to publishing a final determination.

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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