

Peer Review of Scientific Information

Proposed Listing for Louisiana pinesnake

Species: Louisiana pinesnake (*Pituophis ruthveni*)

About the Document:

Title: Proposed Listing for Louisiana pinesnake

Summary: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to list the Louisiana pinesnake (*Pituophis ruthveni*) as threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Louisiana pinesnake is currently known to occur in four Parishes in Louisiana and three counties in Texas.

Type of Review: Influential

Timeline of the Peer Review:

Draft document disseminated: October 6, 2016

Peer review initiated: October 7, 2016

Peer review completed by: December 5, 2016

Date Document will be finalized: October 6, 2017

About the Peer Review Process:

The Service solicited written comments from six independent scientific reviewers. Formal request for peer review were made to experts within the current range of the species and included individuals from academia, the Southern Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. These reviewers were selected by the Service for their recognized knowledge of the biology and distribution of the Louisiana pinesnake, or other similar species. This review will occur during the public comment period for the proposed action. The comment period will close on December 5, 2016. We have provided each peer reviewer with information necessary to complete the review, and 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: review all material provided; identify, review, and provide other relevant data; and, 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 determination. Peer review comments will be public documents.

The Service will use the information received from the peer review, as appropriate, to develop the final listing determination for the Louisiana pinesnake.

Dr. Craig Rudolph, Southern Research Station, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Beau Gregory, Zoologist, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Natural Heritage Program

Dr. Steve Reichling, Louisiana Pine Snake Species Survival Plan (SSP) Species Coordinator, Curator-Central Zone, Memphis Zoo

Dr. Robert Wagner, Quantitative Ecological Services, Inc.

Dr. John Himes, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Mr. Robert Zappalorti, Herpetological Associates

About Public Participation:

Public comments on the proposed listing rule were sought with a **Federal Register** announcement on October 6, 2016, and the distribution by mail and press release of this announcement to interested parties. This comment period ends on December 5, 2016. 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."