

Proposed rules to list the Miami tiger beetle (*Cicindelidia floridana*) as endangered

About the Document

Title: Proposed rules to list the Miami tiger beetle as endangered.

Purpose: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is preparing a proposal to list the Miami tiger beetle (*Cicindelidia floridana*), a species endemic to South Florida, under the Endangered Species Act. A proposed regulation was published in the Federal Register on December 22, 2015, for review and comments. The Service is also preparing a proposal to designate critical habitat for the Miami tiger beetle. The proposed rule to designate critical habitat is expected to publish in 2016, and will have a separate comment period.

Proposed rules:

(1) *Electronically:* Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter FWS–R4–ES–2015–0164, which is the docket number for the proposed listing. You may submit a comment by clicking on “Comment Now!”

(2) *By hard copy:* Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–R4–ES–2015–0164; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042–PDM; Arlington, VA 22203.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Influential

Date of Peer Review: Peer review will occur between December 22, 2015, and February 22, 2016.

Estimated Dissemination Date of the Final Rulemaking Document: December 8, 2016

Process: The Service is soliciting written comments from seven independent scientific reviewers. Formal requests for peer review were made by individual letters to experts from various backgrounds at several universities, institutions, and agencies. Reviewers were selected by the Service for their recognized expertise with insects, particularly tiger beetles, as well as general expertise with tiger beetle ecology and conservation. We are following our national policy on peer review and our regional approach for peer review for rulemakings. In selecting peer reviewers, we considered four key factors – expertise, balance, independence, and avoidance of conflict of interest.

This review is occurring concurrently with the public comment period for the proposed action. The public comment period is now open and will close on February 22, 2016. The Service will use the information received from the peer review process, as appropriate, to develop the final listing rules for the species indicated above.

The Service has provided each peer reviewer with information necessary to complete the peer review. We have requested 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 determinations. Peer review comments will be public documents.

About Public Participation

In general, public comments on the proposed listing and critical habitat designation will be sought with proposed rules published in the Federal Register and by mail to interested parties, a press release of the availability of the proposals to interested parties, and a public hearing if requested. The Service will consider all comments received prior to publishing a final determination.

The Service published a notice in the Federal Register for the proposed listing of the Miami tiger beetle (*Cicindelidia floridana*) as endangered. A summary of the results of the peer review will also be published with the final rule determinations in the Federal Register.

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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