

**Proposed rule to list *Trichomanes punctatum* ssp. *floridanum*  
(Florida bristle fern) as endangered**

**About the Document**

**Title:** Proposed rule to list *Trichomanes punctatum* ssp. *floridanum* as endangered

**Purpose:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared a proposal to list *Trichomanes punctatum* ssp. *floridanum* (Florida bristle fern) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The proposed listing rule published in the **Federal Register** on October 9, 2014, for review and comments. The Service is also preparing a proposal to designate critical habitat for *T. p. floridanum*. The proposed rule to designate critical habitat is expected to publish in December 2014, and will have a separate comment period.

**Comment Submittal:**

(1) *Electronically:* Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter FWS–R4–ES–2014–0044, 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–2014–0044; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

**About the Peer Review Process**

**Type of Review:** Influential

**Date of Peer Review:** Peer review for the proposed listing rule will occur between October 9, 2014, and December 8, 2014.

**Dissemination Date of the Final Rulemaking Document:** October 9, 2015

**Process:** The Service solicited written comments from five independent scientific reviewers. Formal request for peer review was made by individual letters to experts from various backgrounds at several universities, institutions, and agencies. Reviewers have been selected by the Service for their recognized expertise with *Trichomanes punctatum* ssp. *floridanum* or its habitat, as well as general expertise with plant 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 December 8, 2014.

The Service will use the information received from the peer review process, as appropriate, to develop the final listing rule for *T. p. floridanum*.

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**

Public comments on the proposed listing are being sought through the publication of the proposed rule in the **Federal Register**, a press release of the availability of the proposal 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 *Trichomanes punctatum* ssp. *floridanum* as endangered. A summary of the results of the peer review will also be published with the final rule determination 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.

Contact: Heather Tipton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, South Florida Ecological Services Office, 772-643-2903 or [Heather\\_Tipton@fws.gov](mailto:Heather_Tipton@fws.gov).