

## General Notes

### 2023 T&E Petition Review Meeting

December 18, 2023  
KDWP Office - Emporia, KS  
10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Jordan Hofmeier, Mark Shaw, James Whitney, Dave Haukos, Bill Jensen, Elmer Fink, Christopher Rogers, Chris Berens, Krystal Beat

Jordan Hofmeier: Reviews and proposed changes of T&E and SINC nomenclature – species name changes according to NatureServe and possible updates to verbiage/date on item b-1 (application of affidavit). No comments or concerns from the group regarding changes.

Jordan Hofmeier: Review of KDWP actions on federal listing changes

#### Petitions Received:

##### **Shoal Chub**

-Downlist from Threatened to SINC (Submitted by Ryan Waters)

Jordan Hofmeier summarized the petition. Group discussion of the survey methods/results and water bodies surveyed.

Vote to move forward for expert review: Yes (6 Yes Votes, 1 No Vote)

Species Expert Committee Ideas: Keith Gido, Jeff Seim, Dave Herzog, Kirk Steffensen, Josh Perkin, Shannon Brewer, Tony Echelle, Mark Eberle

##### **Broad-headed Skink**

-Downlist from Threatened to SINC (Submitted by Zackary Cordes)

Group discussion regarding benefits of expanding the habitat areas that were surveyed and positive results.

Vote to move forward for expert review: Yes (unanimous)

Species Expert Committee Ideas: Allison Sowards, Andrew George, George Pisani

##### **Northern Map Turtle**

-Downlist from Threatened to Sink (Submitted by Daren Riedle)

Discussion on accuracy of spotting scope surveys and certainty of identifications. Excellent amount of information provided regarding identification techniques and characteristics.

## General Notes

Vote to move forward for expert review: **Yes** (Unanimous)

Species Expert Committee Ideas: Alexis Powell, David Edds, Thomas Luhring, George Pisani

### **Coal Skink**

-Not currently listed – Proposed SINC listing (Submitted by Daren Riedle)

Group concern regarding amount of ‘unknown’ answers/information provided in the petition, as well as survey timing (conducted in May – most historical records are from April).

Vote to move forward for expert review: **No** (1 Yes, 6 No)

### **Greater Prairie Chicken**

-Not currently listed – Proposed Threatened listing (Submitted by Andrew Townsend Peterson & Mark Robbins)

Discussion regarding statewide population overview vs. the limited area the petition is based on. Several comments from the group were made regarding the desire for additional information/resources.

Vote to move forward for expert review: **No** (Unanimous)

### **Black-tailed Prairie Dog**

-Not currently listed – Proposed SINC listing (Submitted by Nicole Brown – Grassland Groupies)

Discussion regarding lack of clarity and accuracy of information provided in the petition. General group desire for more information and reference/report clarity.

Vote to move forward for expert review: **No** (Unanimous)

Request for suggestions on review timelines for expert committee: less than a month, but 15-20 days should be enough.

Next steps: Jordan will finalize dates/times and locations for informational meetings. News release will be published with those, as well as published online.

Next T&E Review Committee Meeting: February 21, 2024 in Emporia.

**Petition Discussion Notes**  
**12/18/2023**

**Shoal Chub**

-Downlist from Threatened to SINC (Submitted by Ryan Waters)

Review comments:

- – Lack of info on Ark River, Concern of using un-published data
- – No mention of survey sampling methods, issues with info regarding Cimarron River (p7) – Is there any published data by FWS? Didn't think that unpublished data was a big deal due to the data being open to the public since it was KDWP data, and that sampling methods were mostly standard for such distributional surveys
- – Clarification of survey methods listed on pg 15 (CR: Questioning determination methods rather than survey methods – noted that there wasn't a reference for the claim for 50% of historical subunits being occupied), Didn't list dewatering as threat to species
- - Lower Smoky surveys? Still planning to conduct? (JH – unsure of immediate survey plans but there were recent records in the lower Smoky Hill River)
- - Info on Republican River and Nebraska findings
- – Impressed with increase in numbers and data provided
- – Impact of sediment release on Tuttle Creek to habitat downstream? (JH – unknown at this point, but KSU has initiated a research project looking at pre- and post-Water Injection Dredging fish communities and habitat).

VOTE: YES (6 Yes, 1 No)

**Broad-headed Skink**

-Downlist from Threatened to SINC (Submitted by Zackary Cordes)

Review Comments:

- – Pro: Published data to assist review rather than just KDWP survey data
- - Significant data increases since historical listing information
- – Changes to survey methods resulting in more finds
- – Increased survey efforts since last T&E 5-year review to provide additional data
- – Table on Pg 6 – Question regarding number of surveys conducted in each location
- – Dislike lack of info provided/surveys conducted from 2019-current
- – Pro: Expansion to different forest types to collect additional habitat information. Can't find a species somewhere you haven't looked for them.

VOTE: YES (unanimous)

**Petition Discussion Notes**  
**12/18/2023**

**Northern Map Turtle**

-Downlist from Threatened to SINC (Submitted by Daren Riedle)

Review Comments:

- – Limited historical records. Not easy to trap – more surveys conducted with spotting scopes.
- – Concern regarding possibility of misidentification when sampling with spotting scopes rather than physical capture.
- - Any papers written on research/survey techniques? (JH – indicated that spotting scope methodology becoming increasingly common for turtles)
- - Are photos taken of species enough to verify field ID from spotting scopes? Pro: substantial information submitted regarding identification factors used and differentiating this from other species.
- - New herpetofauna possession limit reg change could've been listed as conservation action to benefit population numbers
- - More confident in species ID based on identification criteria, but no publication sighted
- - Dislike amount of personal communication referenced

VOTE: YES (Unanimous)

**Coal Skink**

-Not currently listed – Proposed SINC listing (Submitted by Daren Riedle)

- – Noted timing of surveys –nearly all recent and historic records in KS occur in April/current surveys referenced started in May
- – Dislike the amount of 'unknown' information listed in the petition with lack of information as to why it's unknown (in reference to Yes/No/Don't Know questions in petition).
- - Survey timing (earlier) could provide big informational gaps

General discussion related to Chautauqua and Montgomery counties, as those were a focus in the petition despite only a couple of historical records in that western portion of the species range.

Discussion regarding how much information is provided to petitioners if their petition is declined to move forward. Group concern regarding amount of data provided and how much is still unknown.

VOTE: NO (1 Yes, 6 No)

**Greater Prairie Chicken**

-Not currently listed – Proposed Threatened listing (Submitted by Andrew Townsend Peterson & Mark Robbins)

- - Concern regarding heavy focus in only one area vs entire state. Cross-checked with department info – several "lost leks" in petition would not meet that definition per department info

## Petition Discussion Notes

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■ - Agrees with several of the threats listed in petition, but disagrees with singling out one specific area (a couple counties) rather than listing for the entire range.

■ - Dislike that petition excludes population information statewide rather than just the Flint Hills

■ – general agreement with previous statements and concerns related to scope and quality of petition

Questions regarding validity of a couple cited resources, noted that some citations were known to be problematic and some references were quite old. General group dislike of lack of citations and information provided. Group desire for a deeper dive into this species, but questioning if there's enough information within this petition to proceed with expert review.

VOTE: NO (Unanimous)

### **Black-tailed Prairie Dog**

-Not currently listed – Proposed SINC listing (Submitted by Nicole Brown – Grassland Groupies)

■ – Existing regulations allowing population control/poisoning. Unsure of possibilities to review/list species with existing regulations. Dept. of Ag also has some regulatory authority over this species.

Discussion regarding how much this species is already protected due to the federally listed ferret species and their dependency on black-tailed prairie dogs for food.

Group dislike/confusion surrounding conflicting information provided in petition. Survey results presented in petition used variable methods, and information provided in the petition was difficult to tie to the citations.

■ – Petition information is unclear. Information provided doesn't directly answer the questions being asked.

■ – Info provided regarding SWAP listing as 1 of 3 mammals is incorrect.

VOTE: NO (Unanimous)