

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) 5-Year Review



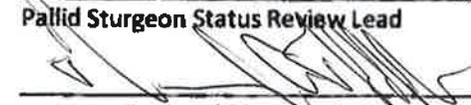
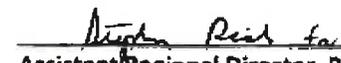
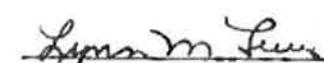
Lead Region: Mountain-Prairie Region (Region 6)

Cooperating Regions: Midwest Region (Region 3) & Southeast Region (Region 4)

**Background and Methodology:** Section 4(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) requires that we conduct a status review of each listed species at least once every 5 years. We initiated a 5-year review of the pallid sturgeon on May 6, 2014 (79 FR 25883). Based on the outcome of the 5-year review, we recommend whether the species should: 1) be removed from the list of endangered and threatened species; 2) be changed in status from endangered to threatened; 3) be changed in status from threatened to endangered; or 4) remain unchanged in its current status. If we recommend a change in listing status based on the results of the 5-year review, a separate rulemaking process must be conducted to implement the recommendation.

This evaluation relies upon the attached "Revised Recovery Plan for the Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)." Development of the Revised Recovery Plan spanned five years and was coordinated amongst multiple State and Federal agencies. The Revised Recovery Plan addresses current status, population trends, threats (including the five listing factors), recovery objectives, recovery criteria, and recovery actions needed for this species.

**Review and Summary:** Please refer to the Revised Recovery Plan for a complete review of the species' status (including biology, population trends, and habitat), threats, and recovery actions. Since listing, the status of the species has improved and is currently stable. However, the pallid sturgeon continues to be affected by curtailment of range, habitat destruction and modification, altered flow regimes, and water quality issues, as well as by low population size, lack of recruitment, and hybridization in one or more portions of its range. While propagation and reintroduction efforts have restored or maintained the species in some reaches of the Missouri River, Pallid Sturgeon would once again face local extirpation within several reaches if supplementation efforts were to cease. Additionally, downlisting criteria have not been met. Given these threats and overall status, we recommend no change in its current endangered status.

Approve:		10/10/2014
	Pallid Sturgeon Status Review Lead	Date
Approve:		12/4/14
	Assistant Regional Director, Region 6	Date
Concurred:		12/1/14
	Assistant Regional Director, Region 4	Date
Concurred:		11/13/14
	Assistant Regional Director, Region 3	Date

## **Appendix A**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2014. Revised Recovery Plan for the Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado. 115 pp

[http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery\\_plan/Pallid%20Sturgeon%20Recovery%20Plan%20First%20Revision%20signed%20version%20012914\\_3.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Pallid%20Sturgeon%20Recovery%20Plan%20First%20Revision%20signed%20version%20012914_3.pdf)