

Jan 3 Paper submitted  
Jan 4 Paper assigned to EIC  
Jan 6 Paper assigned to SME  
Jan 12 List of potential reviewers received from SME  
Jan 17 Potential reviewers #1 and #2 invited  
Jan 17 Potential reviewer #2 declined  
Jan 17 Additional potential reviewer names requested from SME  
Jan 25 Potential reviewer #2 declined  
Jan 25 Reminder sent to SME re: additional potential reviewer names  
Feb 3 Reminder sent to SME re: additional potential reviewer names  
Feb 5 List of additional potential reviewer names received  
Feb 6 Potential reviewers #3 and #4 invited  
Feb 6 Potential reviewer #4 declined  
Feb 7 Potential reviewer #3 declined  
Feb 7 Additional potential reviewer names requested from SME  
Feb 13 List of additional potential reviewer names received  
Feb 13 Potential reviewers #5 and #6 invited  
Feb 13 Potential reviewer #5 agreed to review  
Feb 14 Potential reviewer #6 declined  
Feb 16 Potential reviewer #7 invited  
Feb 16 Potential reviewer #7 declined  
Feb 17 Potential reviewer #8 invited  
Feb 24 Reminder sent to potential reviewer #8  
Feb 24 Potential reviewer #8 declined  
Feb 27 Additional potential reviewer names requested from SME  
Mar 6 Review received from potential reviewer #5  
Mar 7 Reminder sent to SME re: additional potential reviewer names  
Mar 14 Reminder sent to SME re: additional potential reviewer names  
Mar 14 List of additional potential reviewer names received  
Mar 14 Potential reviewer #9 invited  
Mar 21 Reminder sent to potential reviewer #9  
Mar 24 No response from potential reviewer #9, potential reviewer #10 invited

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Please know that our SMEs and reviewers volunteer their time for the mission of the journal and, by extension, in the service of advancing the science of ecology. Ecosphere received nearly 900 manuscript submissions in 2016 and ESA staff make every attempt to keep the review process moving along for every paper in the queue. The average duration of review for a paper submitted to Ecosphere is approximately 50 days. The duration of review for your paper is an outlier, and, though I realize that does not provide consolation to you while you are waiting, I do hope that you understand that we did not allow your paper to sit unattended.

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