

Submission and Review Guidelines for Comments & Replies

Ecology, Ecological Monographs, Ecological Applications, and Ecosphere

How should I submit my Comment or Reply?

A Comment should be submitted on the ScholarOne site of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) journal that published the paper being commented upon. A Reply is invited by the journal's editorial staff at the appropriate stage and should also be submitted in the ScholarOne site of the ESA journal that published the paper being commented upon.

When submitting a Comment, you should include a complete citation for the paper you are commenting upon in the cover letter.

Specific formatting guidelines

Comments and Replies should follow all basic [manuscript preparation guidelines \(PDF\)](#) and, if applicable, length limit guidelines for the specific journal to which the papers are submitted. Please see the submission type guidelines (PDF) for [Ecology](#), [Ecological Applications](#), [Ecological Monographs](#), and [Ecosphere](#), respectively.

In addition, please note these specific guidelines:

- No abstract is included.
- The title of a Comment should use the following format: [Title of the original paper up to the first colon]: Comment
- The title of a Reply should use the following format: [Title of the original paper up to the first colon]: Reply

Workflow for Comments/Replies

- Comments are assigned to a Subject-matter Editor (SME) for evaluation or handled by the journal's Editor-in-Chief. If the manuscript is sent to a SME, we try to assign it to the same SME who handled the manuscript being commented upon but reserve the right to assign the paper to a different SME. The SME renders an immediate decision or proceeds with the peer review process. For reviewed papers, the SME generally seeks two peer reviews.

- In addition to peer reviews requested by the SME, the journal's editorial staff will invite the corresponding author of the paper being commented upon to serve as a reviewer. This individual is welcome to consult with the co-authors of the paper being commented upon when preparing their review.
 - If the author(s) of the original paper being commented on wish to submit a formal "Reply" for publication, their formal review of the Comment must be a signed review.
 - This signed review is considered as supplemental to, and not a replacement for, the other peer review comments.
 - This supplemental review (signed, if the reviewer intends to publish a "Reply") will be provided to the authors of the Comment, along with other reviews, in the Editor's decision letter.
- If a Comment is accepted for publication, the corresponding author of the paper being commented upon is contacted by the journal's editorial staff and provided with the final version of the Comment to prepare their Reply (provided this author had submitted a signed review of the Comment previously).
 - This Reply must be submitted within four weeks to guarantee simultaneous publication.
 - If these authors submit a Reply, it will be assigned to the same EIC or SME who handled the Comment.
 - The Reply may follow a normal review process, but the EIC or SME may choose to accept the Reply without review in cases in which the response is concise and simple.

We will make every attempt to publish a Comment and its Reply in tandem. We generally neither invite nor publish responses to a Reply.