

USFWS Southeast Region Species Assessment Process and Data Needs



Cahaba River, Alabama



Forest Certification Workshop
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, March 2014

Our Challenge in the Southeast

- Since 2010, FWS has been petitioned to list over 450 southeastern species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). “12-month” findings on these species will be made over the next 8-10 years.
- Through settlements with environmental groups in 2011, FWS is required to make proposed or final listing determinations on 251 candidates for ESA protection and several other species by 2017.
- These commitments use almost all of the FWS listing budget, limiting agency discretion.
- Keep our focus on conservation of priority species





Southeast Region Listing Actions for October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014

Species	Action Type*	Historical Range	Target Federal Register Date	Lead Office
Kentucky gladeceess (<i>Leavenworthia exigua</i> var. <i>laciniata</i>)	NOA	KY	Published 1/7/14	Kentucky
Cape Sable thoroughwort (<i>Chromolaena frustrata</i>)	FCH	FL	Published 1/8/14	South Florida
Spring pygmy sunfish (<i>Elassoma alabamiae</i>)	NOA	AL	Published 2/5/14	Mississippi
Neosho mucket (<i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i>)	FCH	AR, KS, MO, OK	3/1/2014	Arkansas
Rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>)		AL, AR, GA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MO, MS, OH, OK, PA, TN, WV		
Spring pygmy sunfish (<i>Elassoma alabamiae</i>)	FCH	AL	Spring 2014	Mississippi
Florida bonneted bat (<i>Eumops floridanus</i>)	PCH	FL	Spring 2014	South Florida
Green sea turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	SR/prelim. PL (DPS)	Global	Spring 2014	Jacksonville, FL
Short's bladderpod (<i>Physaria globosa</i>)	NOA	IN, KY, TN	Spring 2014	Tennessee
Fleshy fruit gladeceess (<i>Leavenworthia crassa</i>)		AL		
Whorled sunflower (<i>Helianthus verticillatus</i>)		AL, GA, TN		
Aboriginal prickly apple (<i>Harrisia aboriginum</i>), Florida semaphore cactus (<i>Consolea corallicola</i>)	PCH	FL	Spring 2014	South Florida
Georgia rockcress (<i>Arabis georgiana</i>)	NOA	AL, GA	Spring 2014	Georgia
Bartram's hairstreak butterfly (<i>Strymon acis bartrami</i>), Florida leafwing butterfly (<i>Anaea troglodyta floridalis</i>)	NOA	FL	Spring 2014	South Florida
<i>Agave eggersiana</i>	NOA	U.S. VI	Spring 2014	Puerto Rico
<i>Gonocalyx concolor</i>		PR		
<i>Varronia rupicola</i>		PR		
Carter's small-flowered flax (<i>Linum carteri</i> var. <i>carteri</i>), Florida brickell-bush (<i>Brickellia mosieri</i>)	NOA	FL	Spring 2014	South Florida
Kentucky gladeceess (<i>Leavenworthia exigua</i> var. <i>laciniata</i>)	FL/FCH	KY	by 5/24/2014	Kentucky
Sequatchie caddisfly (<i>Glyphosyche sequatchie</i>)	PL/PCH	TN	July 2014	Tennessee
Loggerhead sea turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) - NW Atlantic Ocean DPS	FCH	NW Atlantic Ocean Basin – Northwest Atlantic Ocean north of the equator, south of 60° N. Lat., and west of 40° W. Long.	by 7/1/2014	Jacksonville, FL
Bartram's hairstreak butterfly (<i>Strymon acis bartrami</i>), Florida leafwing butterfly (<i>Anaea troglodyta floridalis</i>)	FL/FCH	FL	by 7/15/2014	South Florida
Georgia aster (<i>Symphotrichum georgianum</i>)	12-Month Finding	AL, FL, GA, NC, SC	by 7/31/2014	Asheville, NC

PL/PCH=Proposed Listing, Critical Habitat, NOA=Notice of Availability, FL/FCH=Final Listing, Final CH, SR=Status Review, DPS=Distinct Population Segment
*This represents anticipated action. Based on public input, workload considerations and budget the action may not be completed by target FR date.

Species	Action Type*	Historical Range	Target Federal Register Date	Lead Office
Short's bladderpod (<i>Physaria globosa</i>)	FL/FCH	IN, KY, TN	by 8/2/2014	Tennessee
Fleshy-fruit gladeceess (<i>Leavenworthia crassa</i>)		AL		
Whorled sunflower (<i>Helianthus verticillatus</i>)		AL, GA, TN		
Florida bristle fern (<i>Trichomanes punctatum floridanum</i>)	PL/PCH	FL	by 8/29/2014	South Florida
Black pine snake (<i>Pituophis melanoleucus lodigi</i>)	PL/PCH	AL, LA, MS	Fall 2014	Mississippi
Georgia rockcress (<i>Arabis georgiana</i>)	FL/FCH	AL, GA	by 9/12/2014	Georgia
Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	FL	AL, AR, CT, CO, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NE, NC, ND, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, U.S. VI, VA, VT, WI, WV, WY	9/30/2014	New Jersey
Northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	FL	AL, AR, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VA, VT, Washington DC, WI, WV	10/2/2014	Wisconsin
Carter's small-flowered flax (<i>Linum carteri</i> var. <i>carteri</i>), Florida brickell-bush (<i>Brickellia mosieri</i>)	FL/FCH	FL	10/3/2014	South Florida
Florida bonneted bat (<i>Eumops floridanus</i>)	FCH	FL	10/4/2014	South Florida
<i>Agave eggersiana</i>	FL/FCH	U.S. VI	by 10/22/2014	Puerto Rico
<i>Gonocalyx concolor</i>		PR		
<i>Varronia rupicola</i>		PR		
Big Pine partridge pea (<i>Chamaecrista lineata</i> var. <i>keyensis</i>), Blodgett's silverbush (<i>Argythamnia blodgettii</i>), sand flax (<i>Linum arenicola</i>), wedge spurge (<i>Chamaesyce deltoidea serpyllum</i>)	PL/PCH	FL	TBD 2014	South Florida
Aboriginal prickly apple (<i>Harrisia aboriginum</i>), Florida semaphore cactus (<i>Consolea corallicola</i>)	FCH	FL	TBD 2014	South Florida
American eel (<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>)	12-Month Finding	U.S. states east of the Rocky Mountains except MI, ND	FY2015	Maine
Sprague's pipit (<i>Anthus spragueii</i>)	PLCH	AZ, AR, CO, KS, LA, MN, MS, MT, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX	FY2015	North Dakota

For more information, visit our website:

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/candidateconservation/>

or contact:

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Endangered Species Act (ESA) Listing Refresher

Endangered: any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range

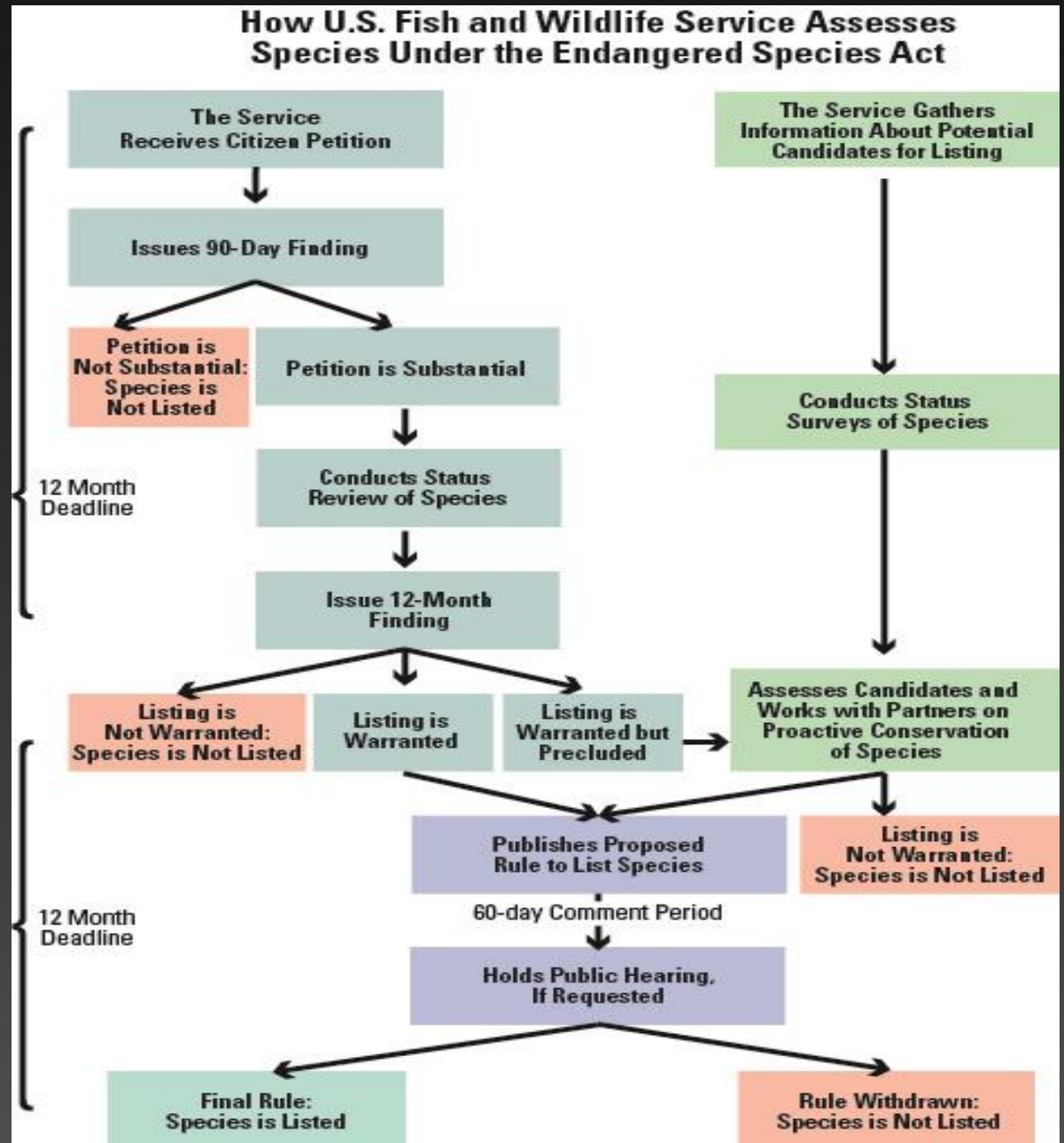
Threatened: any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Listing decisions arrived at by careful analysis of these 5 factors:

- A. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of the species' habitat or range
- B. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes
- C. Disease or predation
- D. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms
- E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting the species' survival.

ESA Listing Refresher (continued)

- Candidate assessment process or
- Petition process





To List or Not to List: What the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Needs to Know to Make Decisions Under the ESA

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will make decisions whether to provide federal protection to hundreds of southeastern species over the next several years as a result of litigation and petitions. Because the decisions are tied to legal timelines under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), we need to gather as much information on these species as possible from States, conservation partners, industry, and researchers, among others. The following information is needed to make these determinations. While we understand that no one partner is likely to have all the information noted below, many will have one portion that we can combine with other submitted information, and data in our files, to generate a more complete picture of the species' status.

Data Needs

Basic Biology

This includes natural history and ecology information related to the species, such as a description of the species and its current versus historical range, population status, life cycle, results of monitoring, and genetic information. It is critical to understand the current status of the species, which will help us more accurately evaluate the species' ability to withstand threats. For some species, this could result in finding substantially more resiliency and occurrences than expected, potentially precluding the need for federal protection.

Habitat

These are areas essential to the species across its range, including habitat needed for breeding, shelter and food needs.

Threats

A species is not listed on rarity alone. An analysis of the threats facing the species is integral to our listing decision. The analysis should include both domestic and international threats. This is done through the five-factor analysis outlined in the ESA, where we take into account:

- Factor A. Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of a species' habitat or range. Examples include development that could impact a species or its habitat, stream modification, fire suppression and clearing trees.
- Factor B. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes. Examples include hunting and over-collection for commercial purposes (ginseng, butterflies, horseshoe crabs).
- Factor C. Disease or predation. An example is white-nosed syndrome in bats, which is decimating some species of bats in the eastern United States.

- Factor D. Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms. An example is ongoing declines in some aquatic species despite protections afforded by the Clean Water Act.
- Factor E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting the species' continued existence. These could include any other threat not captured in the previous categories, such as small populations, inbreeding depression and sea level rise.

Detailed threat information will greatly help us in our determinations. We are working to improve upon this current process by also looking carefully at causes and effects; linking threats to actual impacts to individuals, populations, and species; and evaluating how those threats that cross factors work together to drive changes.

Conservation efforts/agreements

These include all existing conservation actions and formal agreements that are already helping to offset the threats listed above and future or planned conservation efforts. We also consider the effectiveness of the efforts and agreements, and the likelihood of whether they will continue long-term.

Viability

A characterization of a species' ability to persist in the wild over time. This determination is made by considering the threats to the species, conservation efforts, and the species' resiliency, redundancy and representation. This is essentially a prediction of how a species will fair under various scenarios.

(over)

Where is this Headed?

- Data Management
- Species Status Assessment Framework
 - Species status and viability can be evaluated by a group (including partner organizations)
 - Service maintains responsibility for individual listing decisions
- Development of a Listing Strategy for the Southeast Region

