

## ENDANGERED SPECIES TERMS

**Species:** A full species. Any subspecies of fish, wildlife, or plants, and any distinct population segment of any species of vertebrate fish or wildlife, that interbreeds when mature.

**Endangered:** Any species (including distinct populations) that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

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

**Candidate:** Species that are recommended by either an interested citizen or the government goes onto a "candidate" species list.

**Species of Concern:** Those species that have been denied a listing, or for which the information available does not justify listing.

**Critical Habitat:** Those areas occupied by a species at the time it is listed that have the physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species, and which may require special management or protection. Includes those areas not occupied by the species at the time of listing that the Secretary determines are essential.

**Take (Animal):** To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, would, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such contact with a species. FWS interprets "harm" to include "significant habitat modification or degradation that actually kills or injures wildlife," while "habitat" means not only the areas *actually occupied* by a species, but any areas that would be *suitable* for the species, including private property.

**Take (Plant):** This term generally does not apply to private landowners, but is prohibited on lands under federal jurisdiction and all other lands covered by state law.

### Listing process:

1. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) prioritizes candidates for listing based on the following order:
  - a. Biology (and threats to support the proposal to list)
  - b. Immediacy of the threat
  - c. Genetic distinctness of the species as reflected by the taxonomic level at which it is recognized
2. Anyone may petition to have a species listed, de-listed, or reclassified
3. The Secretary has 90 days to research if petition presents substantial information that a listing may be "warranted" (Requires proposal to be published in Federal Register, newspapers, and official journals)
4. Within a year after receipt of a petition for a species that may warrant listing, a definitive choice on whether to list the species or not must be made. Subsequently:
  - a. If warranted, the species must be listed within 30 days, unless immediate listing is precluded by higher priority listing activities. The finding must then be reviewed annually until species is listed or a new finding is made that the listing is no longer warranted.
  - b. If the petition denied, the petitioner (or any other person) may pursue legal action and attempt to overturn the decision in court.
5. The Secretary has authority to list a species under an emergency rule without all procedural requirements in cases where the emergency poses a significant risk to the well being of any species of fish, wildlife, or plants.