



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM**

An Introduction to the Endangered Species Act of 1973

Module 6 of 11 – Section 4 Recovery

Time: (3:49)

Slide 1 (Music Plays)

Slide 2

Endangered species have different needs and require different conservation strategies to achieve recovery.

The single most important conservation measure for many threatened and endangered species is habitat conservation or restoration.

For some species, captive breeding, followed by reintroduction into the wild, may help increase numbers.

In all cases, however, knowledge of the natural history of the species is essential to acquiring a better understanding of a species' needs, as well as to the development of measures that will aid in the species' conservation and recovery.

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Recovery occurs in three phases:

- Reducing or eliminating threats to listed animals and plants;
- Restoring, or maintaining self-sustaining wild populations; and
- Removing species from the lists because they have recovered to the point where they no longer need the protection of the Endangered Species Act.

Slide 4

To guide species back to health, a recovery plan is developed.

The plan outlines the path and tasks required to restore and secure self-sustaining wild populations.

Slide 5

Recovery plans are non-regulatory documents that describe, justify, and schedule the research and management actions necessary to support recovery of a species.

They are developed with Federal, State, Tribal, local governmental, non-governmental, and other interested parties.

If successfully implemented, they result in a listed species being reclassified from endangered to threatened status, or result in the delisting of the species and its removal from the protections of the ESA.

Slide 6

If a recovery team is formed to develop a recovery plan, the team is brought together by invitation from a Service Regional Director.

During plan development, public input and comment are formally solicited.

Though recovery plans are often developed for single species, plans are also developed that address the recovery of several listed species simultaneously when they occur together in a shared habitat or ecosystem.

By focusing on shared habitats and ecosystems, not only will listed species be conserved, but other species of plants and animals will benefit.

Slide 7

All listed species are subject to a review of their conservation status at least once every five years.

5-year reviews consider recent recovery progress, the level and impact of ongoing and new threats, and incorporate any new information about the species.

The review evaluates whether or not the listing classification of threatened or endangered is appropriate for the species.

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A 5-year review may result in a recommendation to reclassify or delist a plant or animal.

The criteria for reclassification or delisting are based on reducing the five listing threat factors, as described in the species' final listing rule and recovery plan.

However, a species' listing status can only be changed by the rulemaking process.

Slide 9

Species may be removed from the lists of endangered and threatened species for three reasons:

- The species has become extinct;
- The species has recovered to such an extent that it is no longer in need of the ESA's protection; and
- The original information warranting listing has been shown to be incorrect, or new information suggests that the species is not actually endangered or threatened.

Slide 10

Once a final rule to delist is published in the *Federal Register* and the species is officially removed from the lists of threatened or endangered plants and animals due to recovery, the ESA requires monitoring of that species, in conjunction with the States, for at least five years.

Slide 11

What if a delisted species gets into trouble again and needs the protections of the ESA?

The ESA has a mechanism for the emergency relisting of the species.

End Segment