

White-haired Goldenrod Delisting Q&A

Why is the White-haired Goldenrod being proposed for delisting? I thought the heavy recreation use was a threat to this species?

Over the last 10+ years, the efforts from several groups have helped White-haired Goldenrod (WhG) populations recover:

- The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, partners and visitors have cooperated to implement policies that have been very successful in protecting WhG and allowed populations to increase.
- Over 10 years ago, the Daniel Boone NF implemented an Order to prohibit camping in rockshelters (where most populations occur). This greatly reduced the trampling of populations of WhG by visitors camping in rockshelters.
- Fences with informational signs have been installed at several key populations where heavy recreational use occurs. Visitors have respected these fences and allowed populations to spread without threat from trampling.
- A backcountry ranger program was implemented 10 years ago to have official US Forest Service personnel out in the field on weekends talking with visitors about the importance of WhG, maintaining fences and signs, and removing NNIS weeds threatening WhG.
- The Gladie Visitor Center in the heart of the Red River Gorge has implemented a strong educational campaign to help visitors understand the importance of this species and how they can help.

What will visitors notice different now?

Very little. An agreement will be in place with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service to continue monitoring for 10 years. The fences and signs will remain in place to protect key populations of WhG as monitoring continues to ensure populations remain at strong levels. Order to prohibit camping and firebuilding in rockshelters will remain in place.

How will you know success during the monitoring period and what happens after 10 years?

If at least 40 occurrences (group of plants) remain stable or increase over the 10 year period, we will be successful. After 10 years, a variety of factors will be evaluated to determine how the cooperating agencies proceed.

Does this mean can camp in rockshelters again?

No. The Order to not camp or build fires in rockshelters will remain in place to not only protect WhG, but also other sensitive resources such as archaeological and endangered bat species.

Does this mean climbing routes closed will reopen?

No. The few climbing routes (26 out of 770+) closed on National Forest land will be remain closed. These fences are installed for a variety of reasons including WhG, archaeological, and endangered bats.

Will fences be removed?

No. The fences and signs will remain in place to protect key populations of WhG as monitoring continues to be sure populations remain at strong levels. Some fences are in place to protect archaeological resources or endangered bat habitat.