Significant Portion of the Range (SPR)
The Final SPR Policy

• Final Policy on Interpretation of the Phrase “Significant Portion of Its Range” in the Endangered Species Act's Definitions of “Endangered Species” and “Threatened Species”

• Effective July 31, 2014.
Status Definitions

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

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

- The general geographical area within which that species can be found at the time of a status determination.

- Lost historical range is relevant to the analysis of the status of the species, but it cannot constitute a significant portion of a species’ range.
Significant Portion

“...The portion’s contribution to the viability of the species is so important that, without the members in that portion, the species would be in danger of extinction or likely to become so in the foreseeable future, throughout all of its range.”
When?

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When?

Endangered or Threatened **throughout all** its range?

Yes

**WARRANTED**

Endangered **throughout all** its range?

Yes – E throughout all

List as an Endangered species

Threatened **throughout all** its range?

Yes - T throughout all

List as a Threatened species

No - Not T/E throughout all

No - Not T/E throughout all

**NOT WARRANTED**

**a SPR...”**

Is there any Portion of the Range that is T or E AND Significant (SPR)?

Yes – E in an SPR

List entire as: Endangered species

Yes – T in an SPR

List entire as: Threatened species

No – Not T/E in an SPR

No – Not T/E in an SPR

**IF SPR = DPS, LIST DPS**

Not warranted - Do not list
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Example

- = Fake Potential Threat
- = Fake Overall Range
Questions

The 2014 SPR policy is available online:

http://1.usa.gov/1pgQ8Mz