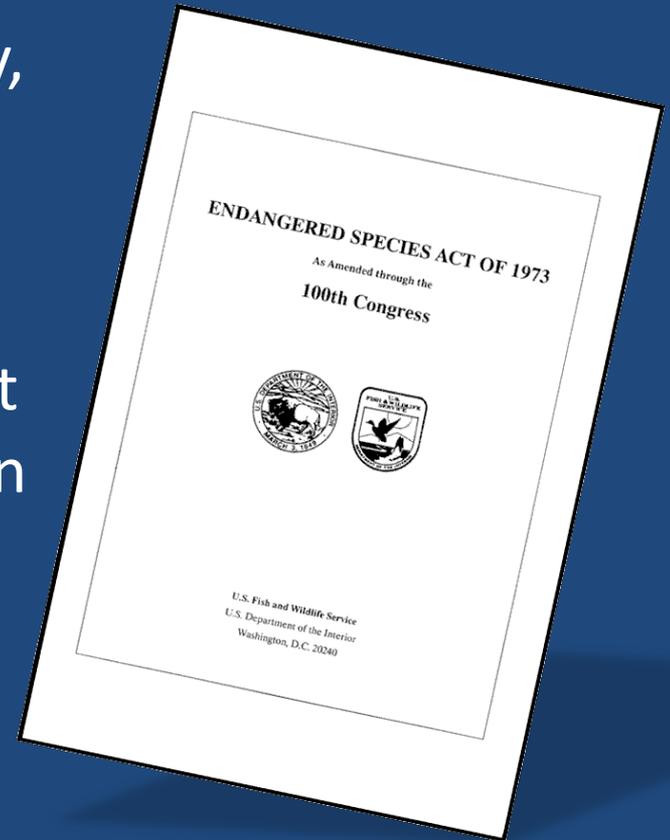


Policy for the Evaluation of Conservation Efforts (PECE)

PECE and Section 4

Section 4(b)(1)(A) requires Services to take “into account those efforts, if any, being made by any State or foreign nation, or political subdivision..., to protect such species, whether by predator control, protection of habitat and food supply, or other conservation practices, within any area under its jurisdiction or the high seas.”



Purpose of PECE

- To provide a policy framework and criteria for evaluating, within a listing determination, conservation efforts that have not yet been implemented or have not yet demonstrated whether they are effective.
- To facilitate planning for conservation efforts to reduce or remove threats to a species.

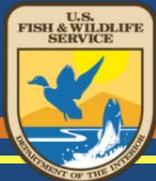
Joint Policy of FWS/NMFS – March 28, 2003

(68 FR 15100)



What Standard must be met?

“To consider that a formalized conservation effort(s) contributes to forming a basis for not listing a species or for listing a species as threatened rather than endangered, we must find that the conservation effort is sufficiently certain to be implemented and effective so as to have contributed to the elimination or adequate reduction of one or more threats to the species identified through the section 4(a)(1) analysis.”



PECE – Key Definitions

Formalized Conservation Efforts

“are conservation efforts identified in a conservation agreement, plan, management plan or similar document.”

Conservation Efforts

“are specific actions, activities, or programs designed to eliminate or reduce threats or otherwise improve the status of a species....may involve restoration, enhancement, maintenance, or other beneficial actions.”



Credit: USFWS



What is “Sufficiently Certain”?

- PECE does not provide specific direction or a quantitative threshold for determining when an individual criterion has been met.
- 9 criteria for certainty of implementation.
- 6 criteria for certainty of effectiveness.
- Not limited to these criteria.



Listing Process with PECE

- A preliminary listing determination is made absent information about future conservation efforts
- If listing is found to be warranted, PECE analysis is initiated
- PECE criteria are used to assess which future conservation efforts should be evaluated in the status review
- A second, separate evaluation of listing status is made using those efforts that met PECE



Obligation to Track Efforts

- If listing is not warranted due to PECE evaluated efforts, we are required to monitor those efforts into the future.
- Based on that monitoring, we may need to re-evaluate the status of the species and consider initiating the listing process.



Examples of Application of PECE

- Dunes sagebrush lizard
- Lesser and Greater Adams Cave beetles & Beaver Cave beetle
- Camp Shelby burrowing crayfish
- Coral pink sand dunes tiger beetle
- Sand Mountain blue butterfly



Key Points about PECE

- If the analysis indicates listing is unnecessary, PECE does not come into play in the listing determination.
- Having complete information that addresses the individual criteria is crucial for determining that a conservation effort meets the PECE standard.
- The evaluation takes lots of time and effort, so it's critical we have information about conservation efforts early in the listing process.



Credit: Mary Grim/USFWS



Questions



The 2003 Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions is available online:

<http://1.usa.gov/1pwsrii>

