



# *Florida Key Deer Recovery and Endangered Species Act Classification Process*

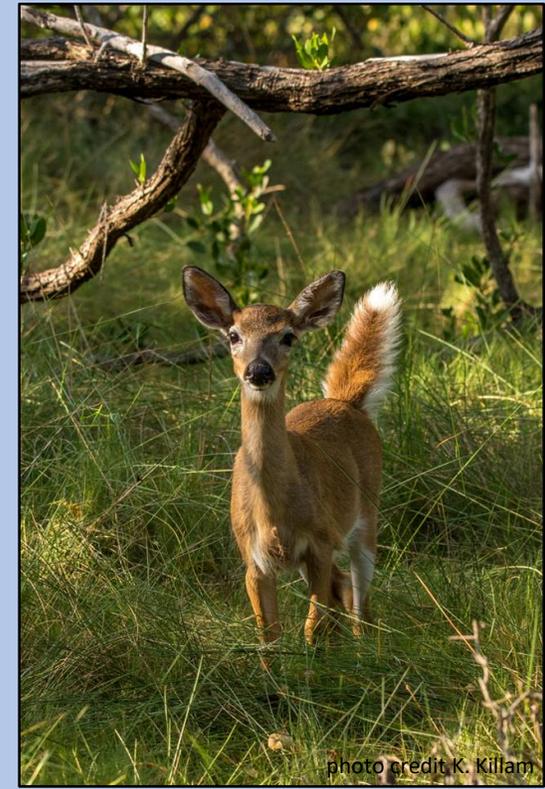
Marathon Key - August 22, 2019



# Stuff you need to do/know

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- Please mute cell phones
- Be cognizant of people listening in on the phone
- Please hold your questions until the end
- Emergency exit
- Facilities
- Introductions



# The First and Last Things You Need To Know

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*There has been no final decision to  
delist the Key deer*

*and*

*If we propose to do so,  
you will have an opportunity to  
participate in the process*

# Why are we here?

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- Recognize the success of the measures put in place to support Key deer recovery
- Explain the process used to evaluate and classify the status of species
- Opportunities for public participation



# Eight Decades of Partnership and Amazing Conservation!

**Milestones in Key Deer Recovery**  
Population numbers for the herd increased from  
only about 50 in 1950 to an estimated 1,000 in 2016.

**COUNTY and FEDERAL  
PARTNERSHIP** — Habitat  
Conservation Plan  
acquires over 420 acres  
habitat

2016: ~1,000

2006



2002

2000: 500

**US 1 UPGRADES  
COMPLETED** —  
1.6 miles of fencing, 2  
underpasses, 4 deer  
guards and signage in-  
stalled; safer travel  
corridor created for  
people & deer.

1970: 200

**KEY DEER LISTED AS  
ENDANGERED**

By U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1967



1957

**NATIONAL KEY  
DEER REFUGE  
ESTABLISHED** —  
9,000 acres protected by  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
Service

1950: 50



1939

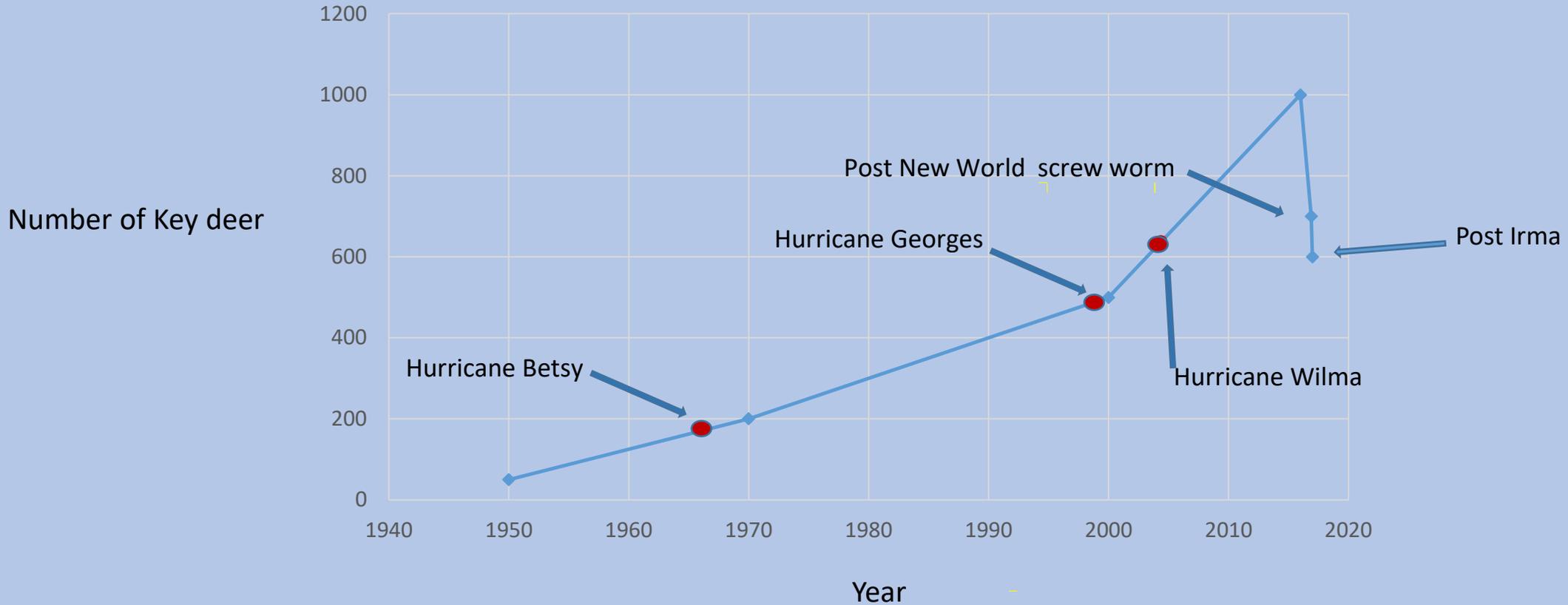
**HUNTING OUTLAWED**

By Florida state law



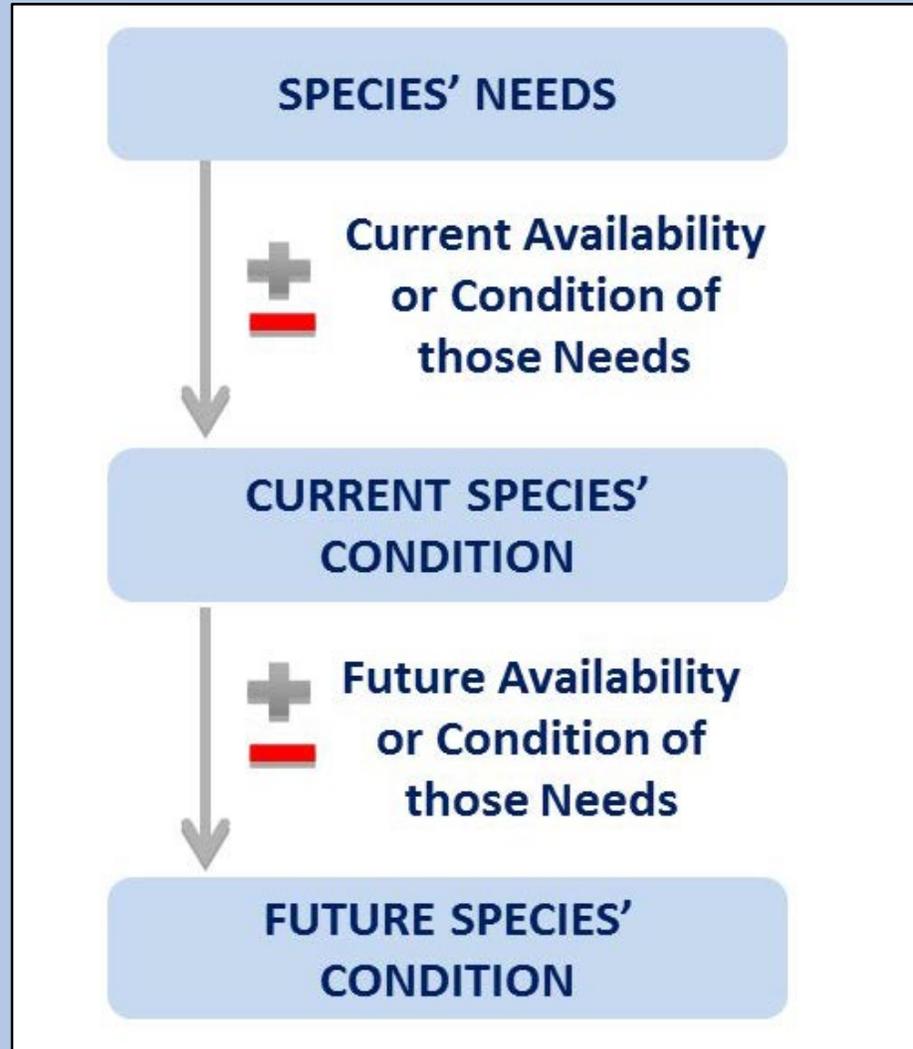
# Population Trend

## DEER POPULATION ESTIMATE



Population growth average ~ 3 % annually

# Species Status Assessment



SSA informs species classification according to ESA definitions



# Endangered Species Definitions

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**Endangered:** any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

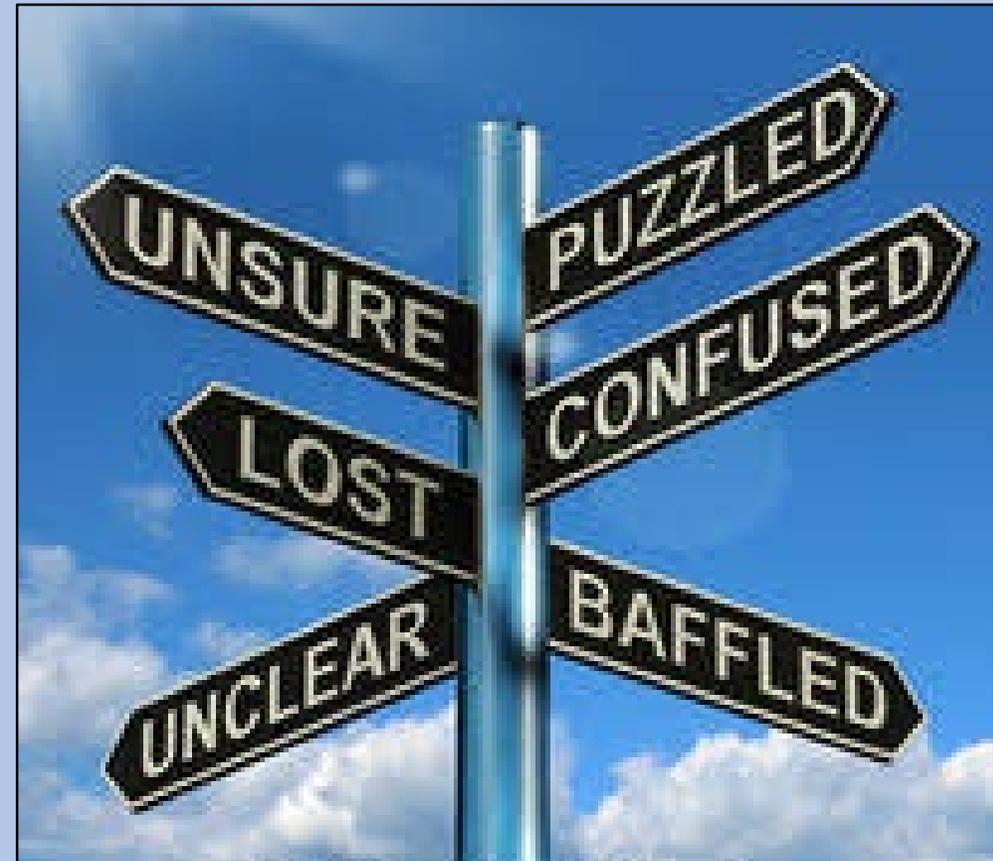
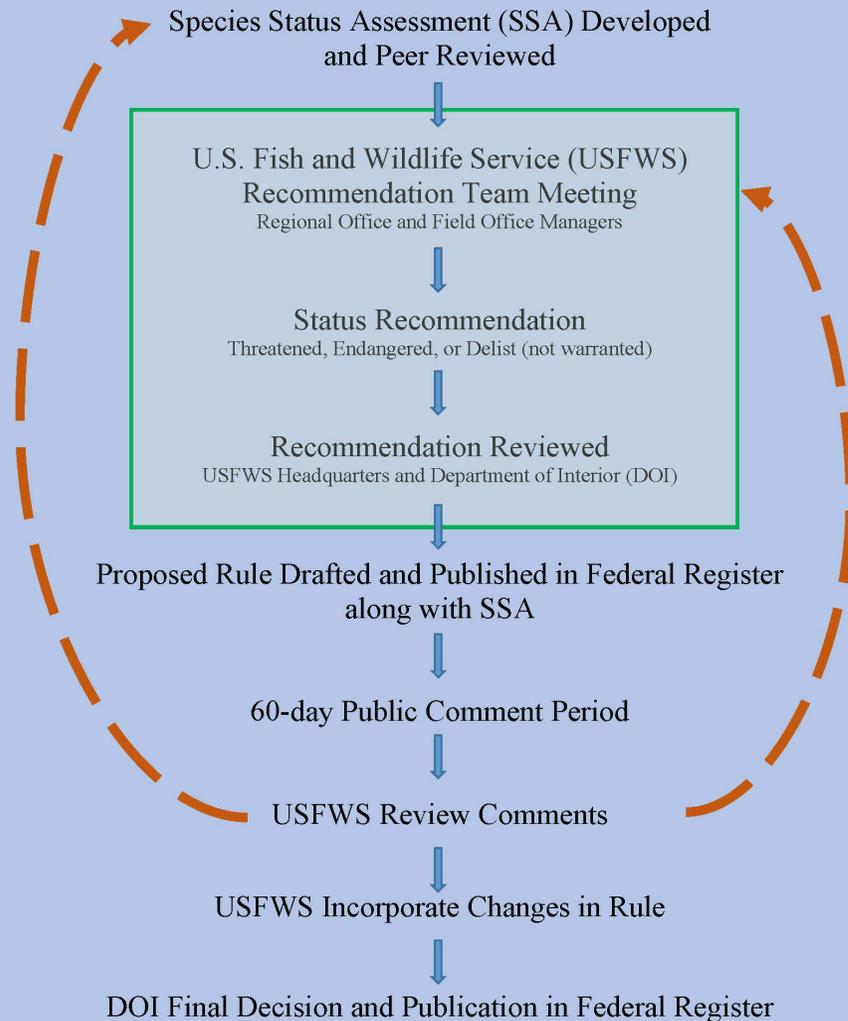
**Threatened:** any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Recovery:** improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the ESA.



photo credit USFWS

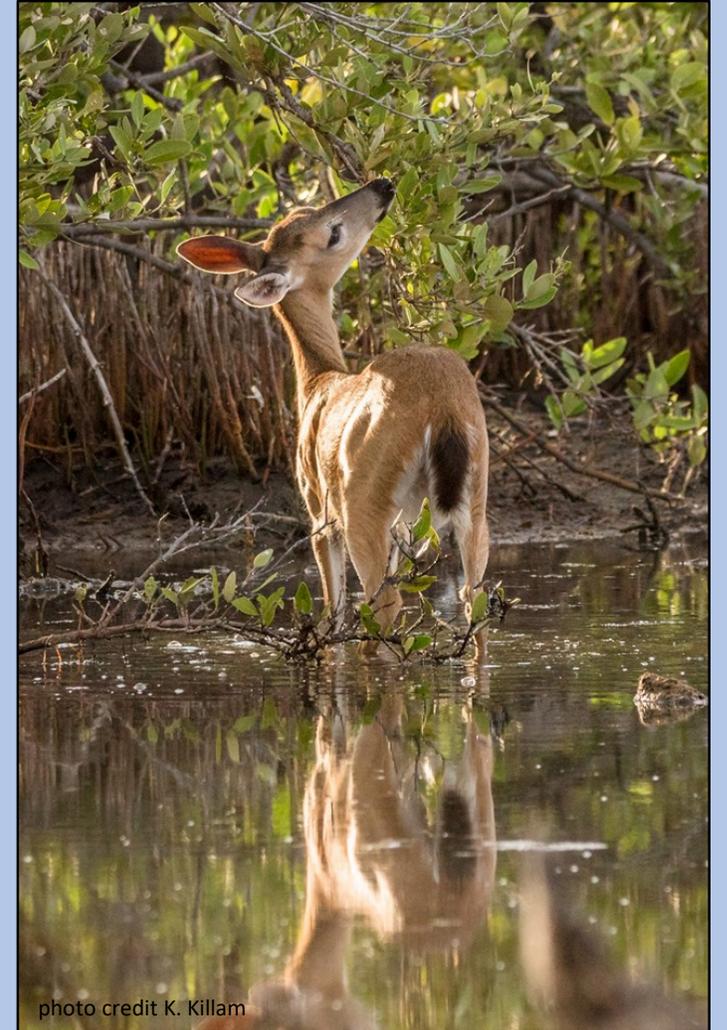
# Overview of Classification Decision Process



# Potential Outcomes of Our Process

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- a) Remains endangered
- b) Downlisted to threatened
- c) Delisted



# Please Engage! We Want To Hear From You

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- Any proposed rule will be posted on Federal Register website:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/>
- Watch our website for up to date information.  
<https://www.fws.gov/verobeach/>
- Provide your contact information today to be added to our stakeholder list
- **Come to the public hearing and provide comments.**

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*and*

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# Questions on the Process?

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photo credit K. Killam



Thank you to Monroe County  
for hosting this meeting!

Thank you for your attendance  
and your interest in conserving  
species!

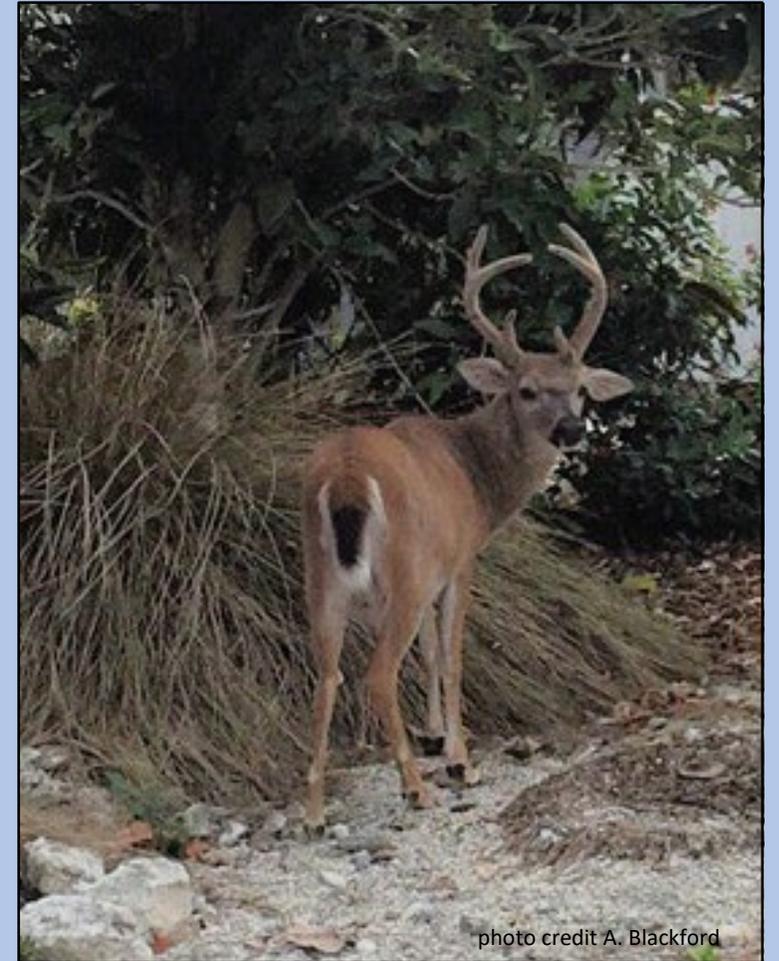


photo credit A. Blackford