

Biological Status Definitions

Below are definitions of the biological statuses used in the USGovXML.com: Threatened and Endangered Species Field Guide. These definitions have been culled from the Endangered Species Glossary published by the US FWS: http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/docs/glossary.pdf.

Candidate - A plant or animal species for which FWS or NOAA Fisheries has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support a proposal to list as endangered or threatened.

Endangered - A species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Extinct - A species that no longer exists. For the Endangered Species Act, a species currently believed to be extinct.

Proposed Endangered - A species that has been proposed for listing as endangered. Before a species can be classified as endangered, a draft Federal regulation must be published in the Federal Register establishing a comment period for public input into the decision-making process. The resulting public comments must be analyzed before the FWS or NOAA Fisheries can make a final decision.

Proposed Threatened - A species that has been proposed for listing as threatened. Before a species can be classified as threatened, a draft Federal regulation must be published in the Federal Register establishing a comment period for public input into the decision-making process. The resulting public comments must be analyzed before the FWS or NOAA Fisheries can make a final decision.

Recovery - A species whose decline has been stopped, reversed or threats to its survival neutralized so that its long-term survival in the wild can be ensured and it can be removed from the list of threatened and endangered species.

Species of Concern - An informal term referring to a species that might be in need of conservation action. This may range from a need for periodic monitoring of populations and threats to the species and its habitat, to the necessity for listing as threatened or endangered. Such species receive no legal protection and use of the term does not necessarily imply that a species will eventually be

proposed for listing. A similar term is "species at risk", which is a general term for listed species as well as unlisted ones that are declining. Canada uses the term in its new "Species at Risk Act."

Threatened - A species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Under Review - A species whose listing is in the Candidate or Petition process (see Process Descriptions).

Unlisted - A species, subspecies, or distinct population segment that has been removed from the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants.

Process Descriptions

Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) - A voluntary agreement between FWS or NOAA Fisheries and other Federal or non-Federal landowners that identifies specific conservation measures that the participants of the agreement will undertake to conserve species covered by the agreement, none of which are listed under the Endangered Species Act, with the intention of preventing any need to list the species.

Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) - A voluntary agreement between FWS and a non-Federal property owner who agrees to manage lands or waters to remove threats to candidate or proposed species, with assurances that the property owner's conservation efforts will not result in future regulatory obligations that exceed those agreed to at the time the agreement is signed; it authorizes take if the species is later listed.

Petition - A formal request that a species be listed, reclassified, delisted or that critical habitat be revised for a listed species under the Endangered Species Act. Critical habitat can be petitioned for designation under the Administrative Procedures Act.