



Improving ESA Implementation

National Military Fish and Wildlife Association
Annual Conference
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USFWS Endangered Species Program Strategic Vision

- Focus on recovery
- Provide conservation incentives
- Increase public participation
- Ensure clear and consistent policies and implementation
- Science-driven decisions
- Reduce the frequency and intensity of conflicts



Improving ESA Implementation

The Service and NOAA are reviewing and updating our regulations and policies to:

- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the ESA in conserving species
- Improve the clarity and consistency of our regulations;
- Encourage more effective conservation partnerships;
- Encourage innovation and cooperation



Focus Areas

Recent developments:

- Critical Habitat Textual Descriptions
- Significant Portion of Its Range

Future direction:

- ANPR on Expanding Incentives
- Critical Habitat Procedural Guidance
- Definition of Adverse Modification
- Quantification of Incidental Take



Multi-District Litigation (MDL) Settlements and Work Plan

The work plan will reduce litigation-driven workloads and allow the agency to focus its resources on the species most in need of protection under the ESA.



Listing Work Plan: USFWS ES Program commitments

- Complete 90-day and/or 12-month petition findings for over 600 species (most are 90-day findings) in the first 2 years.
- Over a period of six years:
 - Determine whether the more than 250 species on the Nov 2010 list of candidates should be listed; and
 - Make 90-day findings on incoming petitions to screen, and process, if necessary, emergency listings.



Listing Work Plan

The work plan provides certainty and predictability to partners about what species will be proposed for listing and the general timeline.



Discussion and Questions

