

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Scientific Authority

CITES Non-Detriment Findings

for wild American ginseng

Panax quinquefolius

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Purpose of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

To monitor and control international trade
in animals and plants considered to be
threatened by commercial trade.



General CITES Background

- Provides mechanism to regulate and monitor international trade in plants and animals, and their parts and products
- Currently 175 member Parties
- Regulates trade through inclusion in three Appendices



General CITES (continued)

- CITES regulates international trade through a system of permits
- Parties designate CITES Management and Scientific Authorities



CITES Appendices

Three Appendices, each with different permit requirements and scientific and management findings based on level of protection.



Appendix II

- Species which may become threatened with extinction unless trade is subject to regulation
- Commercial trade permitted under controlled circumstances
- Export permit or re-export certificate required
- Multi-lateral agreement to list (or delist)






Panax quinquefolius
American ginseng

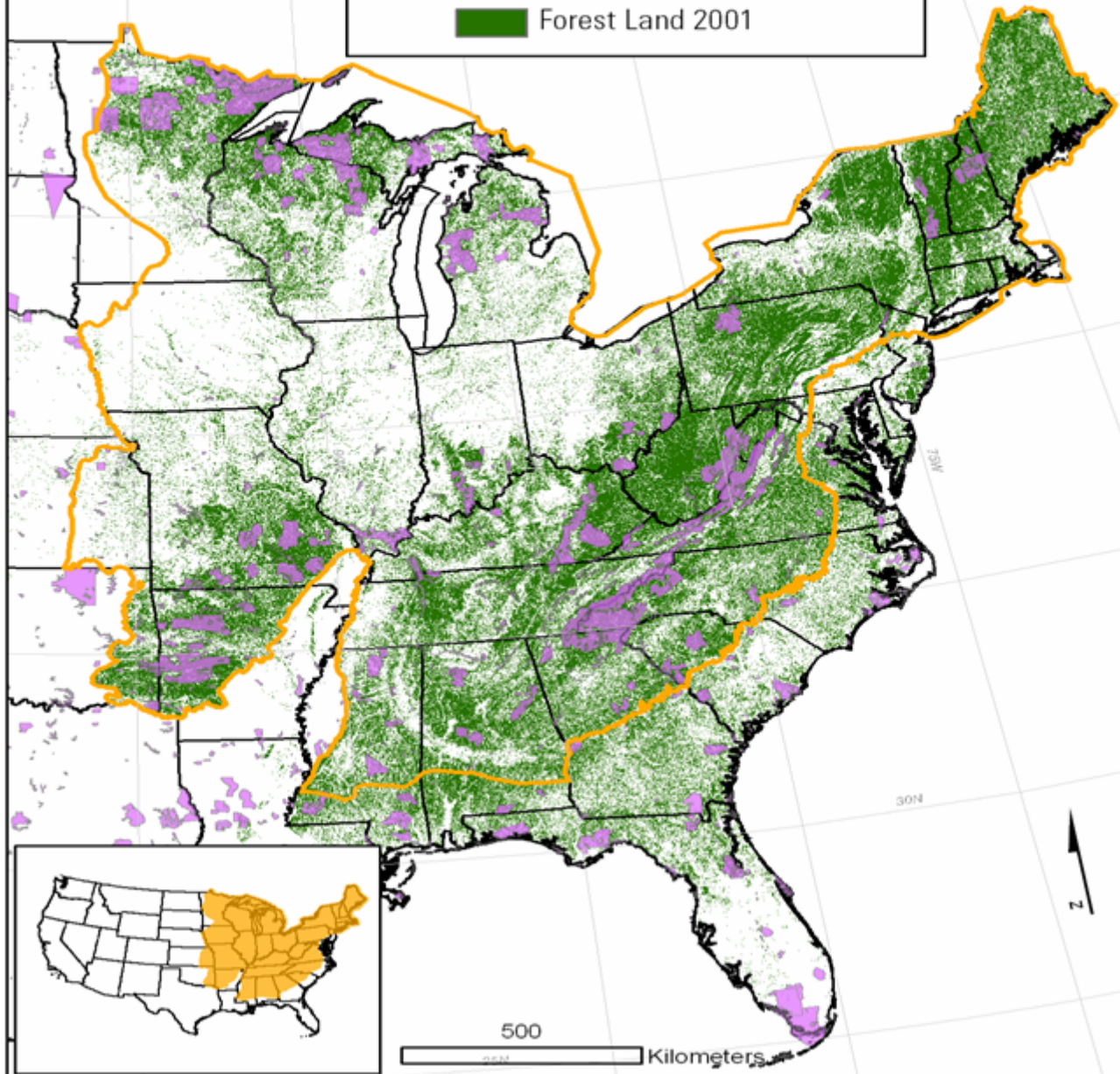


Listed in Appendix II of CITES
on July 1, 1975



American ginseng range in the U.S.

-  *P. quinquefolius* range
-  Federal Lands
-  Forest Land 2001





Division of Scientific Authority Responsibilities

- Determine that the export of wild ginseng roots will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.
- Document results in non-detriment finding for the export of ginseng roots.



What is Detriment?

- Harvest that is not sustainable
- Harm to the status of the species in the wild
- Removal from the wild that results in habitat loss or destruction, or interference with recovery efforts for a species



United States non-detriment finding for *Panax quinquefolius*

- The Division of Scientific Authority (DSA) makes a programmatic non-detriment finding on a State-by-State basis.
- Not on a permit-by-permit basis for individual applicants.



19 U.S. States are approved for the export of wild-harvested roots

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin



U.S. CITES Authorities Export Program for States

- States must have promulgated laws and regulations for the harvest and sale of ginseng roots.
- States must have a management program designed to monitor and protect populations of *P. quinquefolius* from over-harvest.



U.S. CITES Authorities Export Program for States

- States must provide an assessment of its population and trends;
- Distribution of the species on a county-by-county basis;
- Information on the phenology of the species in their State; and
- Description of the types of information used to make the assessment.



U.S. Non-detriment finding for *Panax quinquefolius*

- The 19 approved States must submit an annual harvest report with current species' status information;
- The weight of the total amount of wild-harvested roots;
- Total amount harvested on a county-by-county basis;
- The average number of roots per pound; and
- Trends in abundance and distribution of populations.



Information DSA considers for making a NDF for *Panax quinquefolius*

- Biological life history characteristics of the species (e.g., reproductive strategy, recruitment rate, survival rate, regeneration requirements);
- Status of the species in the wild;
- Population structure, size, and trends;
- Genetic diversity;



Information the DSA considers for making a NDF for *Panax quinquefolius*

- Areas of harvest and non-harvest;
- Habitat distribution (e.g., continuous, fragmented);
- Habitat availability and quality;
- Role of the species in its ecosystem;



Information the DSA considers for making a NDF for *Panax quinquefolius*

- Main threats to species;
- Management and harvest practices;
- Trade data: legal and illegal trade levels; and
- State legislation and regulatory requirements, and law enforcement practices.



Age Determination of wild American ginseng

Only roots harvested from wild plants that
are 5-years of age or older can be
exported.



Sources of Information

- State annual reports
- Published and unpublished scientific literature
- Species experts/researchers
- Other government agencies
- CITES documents and trade data
- Private enterprises and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- U.S. Code of Federal Regulations 50 Part 23



Contact Information

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