

Slide 14: Candidate Species Definition

Now that you have learned about the listing process, let's discuss aspects of the candidate species.

The term "candidate" is not specifically used in Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, but it is defined in regulation. And candidate status is described as a "qualified species" whose listing is precluded by other proposals.

The National Marine Fisheries Service uses the term "candidate species" for those species for which the agency has begun a status review through the petition process. The Fish and Wildlife Service, in its policy, defines a candidate as a species for which a status review has been completed and for which enough information exists to propose it for listing, but such listing is precluded.

So you see the National Marine Fisheries Service's definition is broader than the one used by the Fish and Wildlife Service, which generally reviews many more species and has a limited budget that sometimes means proposed rules for candidate species cannot immediately be prepared. Once the National Marine Fisheries Service finds that a species warrants listing, it moves forward with a proposed rule. Its candidate species remain candidates for a much shorter time than those of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Slide 15: Candidate Species – Federal Register

Fish and Wildlife Service candidate species are identified in the "Candidate Notice of Review," published yearly in the "Federal Register." The National Marine Fisheries Service identifies its candidates in individual "Federal Register" notices.

Identification of candidates and the threats they face helps conservation and planning by providing information on species' needs, information gaps, and threats. Resource managers and landowners may be able to alleviate those threats, making listing unnecessary.

Slide 16: Candidate Species – Land Management

...and some Federal agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service factor candidate species into their land management activities.