

### **Slide 30: 5-Year Reviews**

From recovery plan development and implementation, we're going to move on to discuss regular reviews of the status of species and their progress toward recovery, and how recovery plans help these periodic assessments.

Recovery plans need to look sometimes decades into the future, when a species might merit delisting. It would be unwise, however, to plod along this lengthy path without charting our progress. So the Endangered Species Act anticipated this need.

We are required to review the status of listed species every five years to assess their condition and their progress toward recovery. Such reviews are peer-reviewed and used to assess whether it is time to consider delisting, reclassifying from endangered to threatened (or sometimes vice versa), or maintaining a species current status. A recovery plan's goals and criteria provide a good measuring stick when making this assessment.

This is also a good opportunity to assess whether the goals, criteria, strategy, and recovery actions need revision. Recovery plans can, and should, be updated and revised when needed.

### **Slide 31: 5-Year Reviews**

Evidence that determines whether a species should be reclassified or delisted must be comprehensive.

What are a species' status and trends? Are size, numbers, and distribution increasing or decreasing?

What about threats? Have they been reduced?

Have we met some or all recovery criteria? If not, does it simply need more time or should the recovery plan be revised? Does new information suggest the recovery criteria or actions need reconsideration?

Is the recovery plan itself still valid, or is it outdated and in need of revision?

### **Slide 32: Reclassification and Delisting**

Reclassification changes a species' status from endangered to threatened, or from threatened to endangered, but this is very rare. Delisting a species removes the species from the list, usually because it has recovered.

### **Slide 33: Reclassification and Delisting**

There are several reasons why a species might be evaluated for reclassification or delisting. And these processes are similar to the listing process. They require a thorough assessment of **the** status and trends of populations and an evaluation of threats, both at and since the point of listing. A decision to reclassify or delist is based on the five threat factors you encountered in the module on Section 4 – whether a species still meets the definitions of endangered or threatened.

**Slide 34: Reclassification and Delisting**

As with any rulemaking, a decision to reclassify or delist a species requires a proposed rule, public review and comment, and a final rule.

A final determination is not made until all information – including public comment – is thoroughly evaluated. Once recovery criteria in the plan are achieved, a status review concludes threats have abated, and the species is delisted, what comes next?