

#### **Slide 4: Recovery as a Process**

Recovery of threatened and endangered species can be a very long, complex, and often under-recognized process.

#### **Slide 5: Recovery as a Process**

And “process” is the important word when it comes to recovery. There are a number of integral elements that work together in recovery of species.

Recovery is the fundamental purpose of the Endangered Species Act. Remember, we talked about this in the purposes and policy section of this training. Recovery is the responsibility of *all* Federal agencies. Everything you have learned to this point is setting the stage for this purpose. They identify which species need listing as either endangered or threatened, and why, and then actually list those species that need recovery programs.

Now we move to the next level— how we restore species to the point where they are secure, self-sustaining components of their ecosystems. Listing a species ensures a program to recover species **that** can be developed and followed.

We’re about to take an in-depth look at the proactive methods and tools we use to pursue this underappreciated process.

#### **Slide 6: Recovery as a Process**

Reversal of threats is one of the *most* important parts of recovery program ... *even* though it isn’t singled out as a statutory requirement in a recovery plan. It is, however, inferred – the Act does require an analysis of five factors – that is, categories of threats – in both listing *and* delisting a species.

Once we identify the threats that lead to a species becoming endangered, and we analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the species **itself**, an effective strategy for overcoming those threats can usually be designed.

Analysis of **the** threats helps in designing a recovery strategy and setting recovery criteria for a species. These criteria identify not only numbers and distribution of populations and individuals, but what each threat should look like once they’ve been reduced to tolerable levels.

#### **Slide 7: Recovery as a Process**

To help planners design effective recovery plans, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service worked jointly to develop guidance for comprehensive recovery planning.

#### **Slide 8: Recovery as a Process**

However, even the best recovery plan won’t achieve recovery if it’s not applied. Planning and implementation go hand-in-hand. The best recovery programs marry them seamlessly. Good implementation also includes partnerships and regular assessment and adjustment.