

Solving conservation issues

Species level approaches

What are your expectations
for finding solutions for
conserving biodiversity?

What are reasonable expectations?

"You can't always get what you
want.....sometimes you get what you
need."

--- Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, 1968

What are reasonable expectations?

- Biodiversity will be conserved in some cases and not others.
- Other people's needs, greeds, and wants sometimes trump biodiversity.
- Sometimes there are irreconcilable differences in values for biodiversity.

A pep talk for a positive attitude

Approaches when values for biodiversity differ

- What are there ways of uniting divergent interests and values for a common goal?
- What self-interest motivates the action of individuals?

Approaches to finding solutions

- Laws
- Incentives: creating benefits for conservation
- Buy-in: recognizing the benefits of conservation

Laws and treaties to protect species

- Endangered Species Act, 1973
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

Toothless precursors to the Endangered Species Act

- Endangered Species Preservation Act, 1966, native vertebrates, existing wildlife refuges
- Endangered Species Conservation Act, 1969, foreign species imports

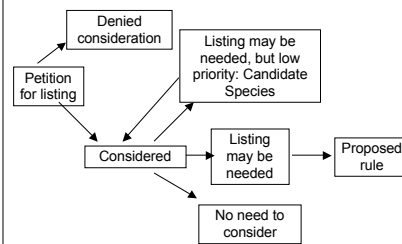
Endangered Species Act of 1973

- All plants and animals, legal definition of species
- Five reasons for listing
 - habitat destruction
 - Overexploitation
 - loss due to disease or predation
 - lack of legal protection
 - other natural or manmade factors affecting existence

Endangered Species Act of 1973

- Two categories: threatened (T), endangered (E)
- Requires identification of critical habitat
- Prohibits "taking" of listed organism
- Requires federal agencies to consider effects on T&E species

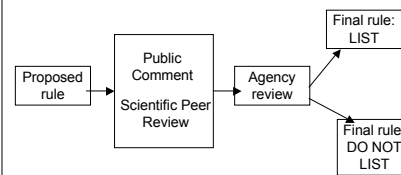
ESA Process Overview



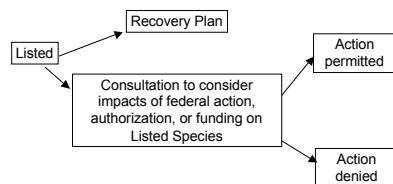
What is in the proposed rule?

- background info
- status
- threats to existence
- critical habitats
- what conservation measures available
- actions that would be prohibited and not prohibited if species were listed

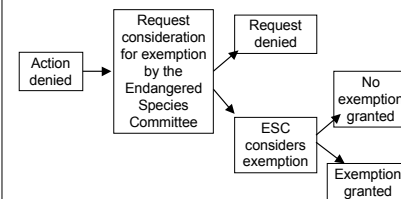
ESA Process Overview II

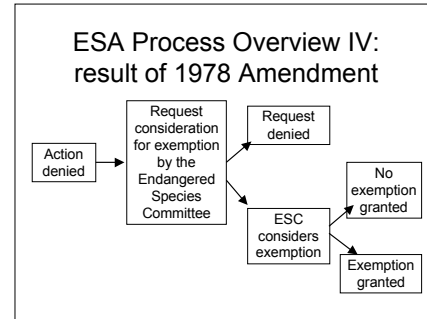
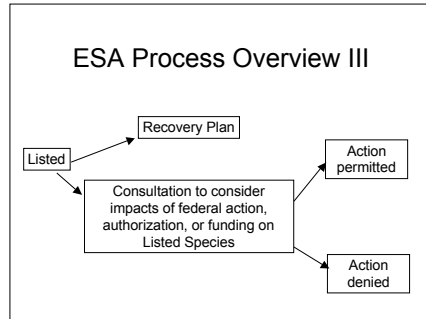


ESA Process Overview III



ESA Process Overview IV





Endangered Species Committee

- Amendment to the 1978 reauthorization
- Incorporates process for economic consideration

Endangered Species Committee: the God Squad

- 7-members
 - Cabinet and other high-level appointees
 - Chaired by Sec'y of Interior
 - A 5-2 vote will grant exemption
- Petition considered when action has significance, is beneficial, and no alternative exists
- Decision may allow extinction

In 31 years, the ESC has considered 3 exemptions

1978: Tellico Dam and the Snail Darter

ESC rules in favor of fish

1978: Graysrock dam and whooping cranes

- Exemption granted
 - included mitigation measures to protect Whooping Crane
 - required owners to provide \$7.2 million (~\$22 mil in 2005) to establish Platte River Trust

1991: Oregon and Spotted Owls

- ESC Exemption initially granted
- Court ruled exemption illegal
- Clinton administration withdraws request for exemption

ESA Amendments

- 1978
 - Economics incorporated into Section 7 (ESC)
 - Economic analysis required for designation of critical habitat

ESA Amendments

- 1982
 - “incidental take” permits
 - Develops into Habitat Conservation Plans
- 1988
 - More guidelines for Recovery Plans
 - Monitoring of candidate and recovered species

The future of ESA: tentative



- Not reauthorized in 1993
- Year-to-year appropriations, underfunded
- 1995: 1 year moratorium on listing
- Critical habitats for 471 of 1272 T&E species

The future of ESA: tentative



- H.R. 3824, “Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act” passed, 229-193.
- S. 2110, the “Collaboration for Recovery of Endangered Species Act” introduced, referred to Committee on Finance

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

- History
- 169 countries



Tradable Plants and Animals



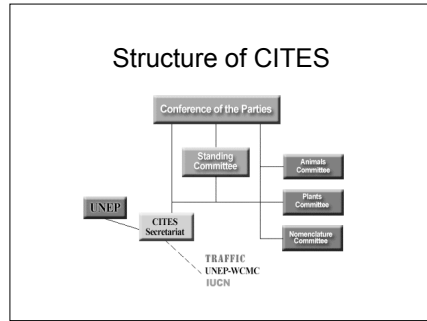
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- Tradable
- Plant and Animal
- Three categories




CITES categories

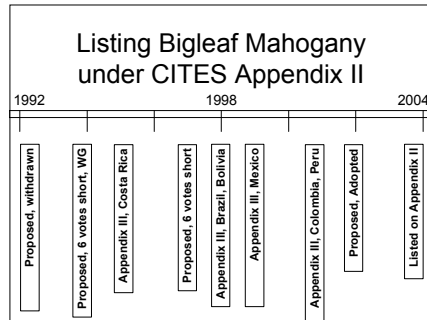
- Appendix I: species threatened with extinction. Very restricted trade.
- Appendix II: Not threatened with extinction but trade controlled to avoid unsustainable use.
- Appendix III: Protected in at least one country. Country requests assistance to control trade.



Listing under CITES: Big-leaf Mahogany



- Excellent source of hardwood
- Beautiful
- Worth \$1300/m³
- Not being harvested sustainably



Listing process

- Highly charged!
- Long!
- Does happen!