



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington, D.C. 20240



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## Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, Regions 1-8  
From: Principal Deputy Director   
Subject: Recovery Outlines for Newly Listed Species

Effective immediately, recovery outlines for newly listed species are to be completed and posted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Environment Conservation Online System (ECOS) website within 30 days of publication of the final listing rule.

Recovery outlines provide interim guidance for the management and conservation of newly listed species between the time of listing and the development of a recovery plan. This step ensures that all recovery partners have a common road map to guide initial recovery and section 7 efforts and that the species' status is not further compromised while a recovery plan is developed. Recovery outlines bridge the gap between listing a species and completing a recovery plan by providing provisional guidance to safeguard a listed species and kick-start conservation.

With the Species Status Assessment (SSA) process implemented for all new listing rules, the information and analyses necessary to develop a recovery outline are available as the proposed listing rule is being developed. Taking advantage of that ready source, recovery outlines should be able to be completed quickly with minimal effort.

The recovery outline should address:

- Interim recovery actions necessary to prevent further declines in the species status, such as:
  - reducing particularly harmful threats identified in the SSA analysis;
  - restoring key habitats identified in the SSA;
  - enhancing populations considered particularly vulnerable to extirpation;
  - initiation of research to address critical information needs; and
  - identification of project types and locations that might need special attention during section 7 consultation.
- Identification of key partnerships and stakeholders for collaboration to develop the species' recovery plan.
- The recovery priority number for development and implementation of the recovery plan (48 FR 43098, September 21, 1983 & 48 FR 51985, November 15, 1983 – correction).

The recovery outline should be approved and signed per Regional delegation of authority, posted in the Recovery Plans module on ECOS, and made the active plan. It may also be posted on the Regional Endangered Species website if desired. Posting must be no later than 30 days from publication of the final listing rule. For assistance in posting the recovery outline, please contact the Branch of Recovery and State Grants (703) 358-2171.

Additional guidance regarding recovery outlines is under development and will be distributed to Ecological Service's Assistant Regional Director's within 30 days of this memo. If you have any questions about the development of Recovery Outlines, please contact Mr. Jeff Newman, Chief, Division of Restoration and Recovery, at (703)358-2555.