

Protecting the Pika under the Federal and California Endangered Species Act

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Listing Criteria

- endangered: in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of the range
- threatened: likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of the range
- current population decline is not a requirement for listing
- species, subspecies, or distinct population segments can be listed

Listing process

- (1) Evaluate petition to determine if listing “may be warranted”

ESA: 90 days after petition received

CESA: 3 to 4 months after petition received

- (2) Status review: comprehensive look at the best available science

- (3) Determine whether species should be listed

ESA: 12 months after petition received

CESA: after 12 month status review

Status of petitions

California Petition

- petition filed August 21, 2007
- FGC rejected petition at “may be warranted” stage in April 2008
- CBD challenged decision and prevailed; court ruled that FGC used wrong legal standard in evaluating petition and ordered FGC to reconsider petition in May 2009
- FGC rejected petition again in July 2009 and finalized that decision in October 2009
- CBD challenged decision in October 2009

Federal Petition

- petition filed October 1, 2007
- FWS 8 months overdue on 90-day finding; CBD then filed suit over ESA timeline violations, resulting in settlement requiring decisions by May 2009 and February 2010
- FWS announced in May 2009 that listing may be warranted based on threats from climate change
- full status review underway
- listing decision due February 1, 2010

Strategies to protect vulnerable species from climate change threats

- Research/monitoring – understand the problem
- Outreach – education
- Mitigation – reduce emissions
 - > 2 degrees Celsius
 - > 350 ppm CO₂
 - consider climate commitment and irreversible impacts
- Adaptation – increase resilience
 - protect future habitat
 - increase habitat connectivity
 - reduce non-climate threats
 - minimize climate stress
 - preserve genetic diversity



(c) William Gladish

Endangered Species Act listing leads to concrete actions to protect climate-vulnerable species

- **Increased research/monitoring**

Listed species often get more research funding and monitoring

- **Outreach**

Educates public by illustrating effects of climate change locally

- **Mitigation**

Consultation process can reduce carbon emissions from agency actions

- **Adaptation**

1. Recovery plan
2. Critical habitat protection
3. Consultation can reduce non-climate stressors

