

Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis*).

An ESA overview, or how the species became a Federal candidate



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OUTLINE

Introduction to the Endangered Species Act

The petition process

- 90 day finding

- 12 month finding (aka Status Review)

- 5 factor threat analysis

Warranted Finding - species is immediately added to the
ESA species list

Warranted, but precluded finding - listing the species is
precluded by high priority actions

Candidate species designation

Opportunities for funding candidate species



The Petition Process

- Section 4(b)(3) of ESA allows public participation in Service's listing/delisting/reclassification process.
- Petitions have often driven the listing process.



How the public uses petitions

- List, delist, or reclassify species (Sec 4(b)(3)(A))
- Revise critical habitat (Sec 4(b)(3)(D))
- Sets statutory timeframes for processing petitions



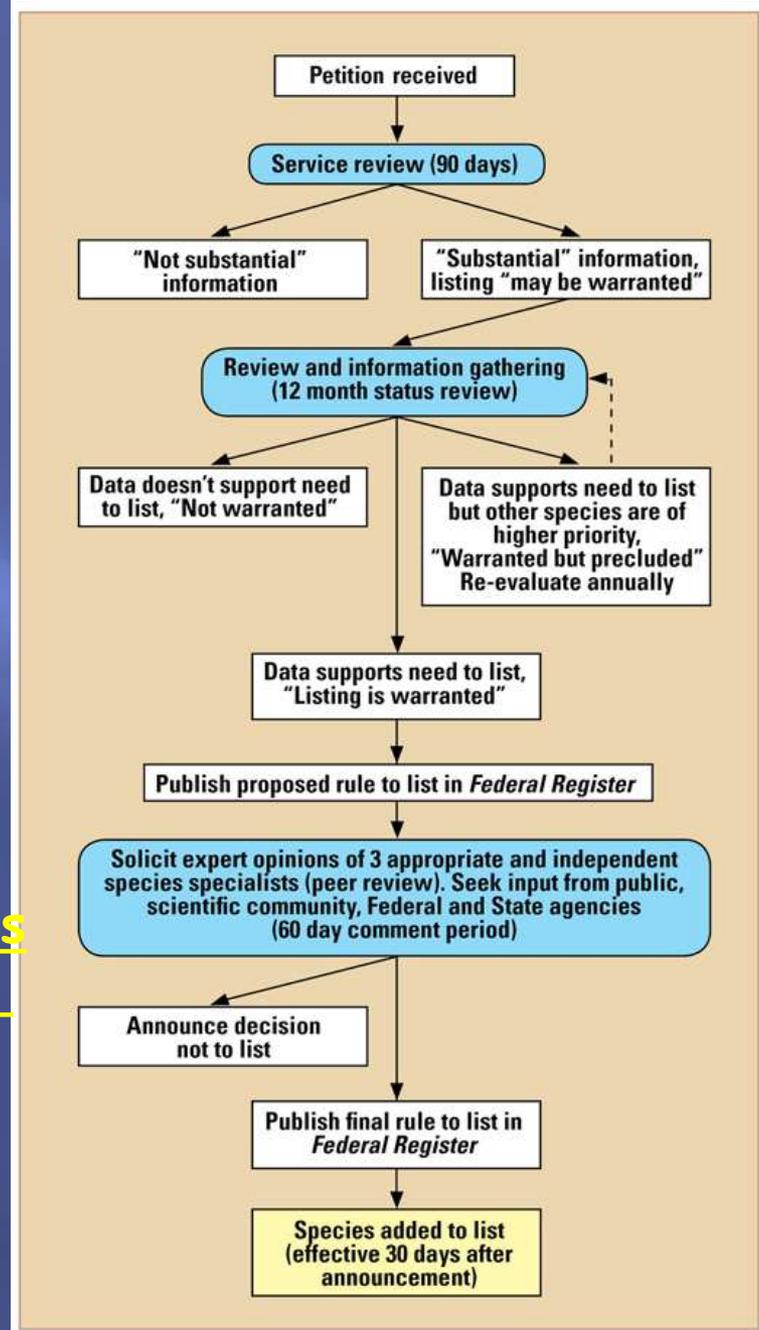
Island Marble

How we process petition findings.

In the case of *Pinus albicaulis*, we determined the species warranted listing, but was precluded by higher priority actions, therefore a proposal rule to list was deferred.

Species becomes a Federal candidate species, which requires annual update of candidate status published in an Annual Candidate Notice of Review

Last CNOR (78 FR 70104) published 22 Nov 2013



Five Factor Threat Assessment

Factor A - the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat and range;

Factor B - overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, educational purposes;

Factor C - disease or predation;

Factor D - inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms;

Factor E - other natural or manmade factors affecting the species continued existence.



Five Factor Threat Assessment, continued:

Factor A: "loss of habitat"

Fire and Fire Suppression
Climate Change

Factor C: "disease and predation"

White pine blister rust
Mountain pine beetle
Synergistic interactions between wpbr and mpb

Factor D: "inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms"

...inadequate to reduce or eliminate threats
to whitebark pine



Listing Priority Number, LPN

Based on: LPN guidance (48 FR 43098)

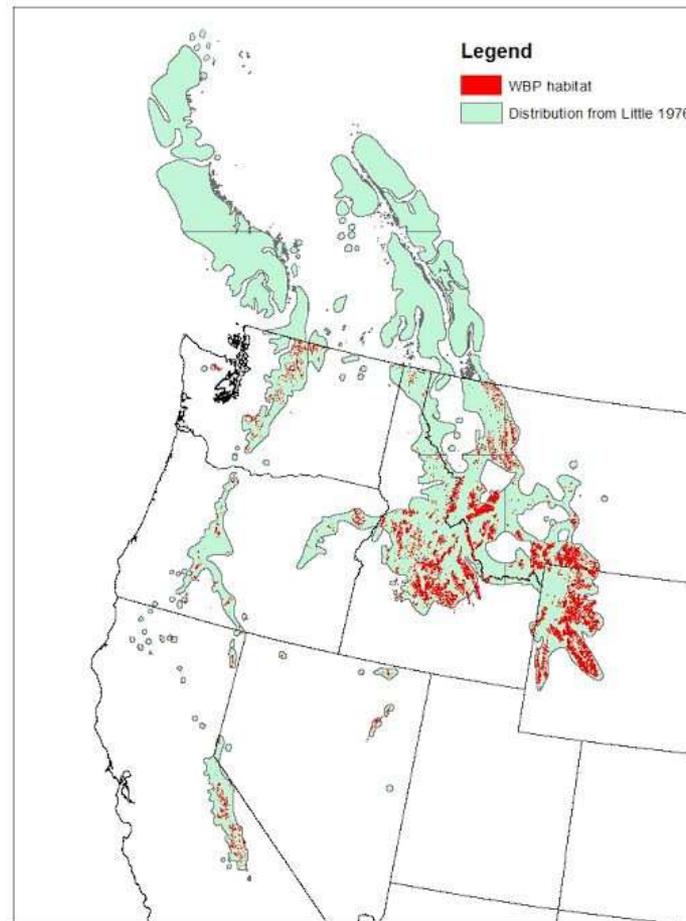
Magnitude of threat: High

Imminence of threats: High

and taxonomy: as a full species *Pinus albicaulis* (whitebark pine), thus in accordance with our LPN guidance, FWS has assigned *Pinus albicaulis* an LPN = 2.



Rangewide Distribution of *Pinus albicaulis*, whitebark pine



Deferred Decision: Critical Habitat Designation

A decision to determine critical habitat for the species was deferred until FWS would develop a proposed rule to list the species.

Timing of proposed rule: following the MDL settlement timeline, or no sooner than 2017.



Funding Opportunities for Candidate Species

Recovery Funding

Check with your local FWS office for when/if they have recovery funding to support on the ground conservation actions;

In the past FWS have provided recovery funding to support candidate species.



QUESTIONS ?



A five needle stone pine of Hokkaido, Japan. *Pinus pumila*