



Illinois

# ENDANGERED & THREATENED SPECIES

## How do species make, or get removed from the United States list?

The Federal system is a bit more complicated than the State. It is handled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). They have strict guidelines under which a species can be added. The process includes gathering information, reviewing biological data, and publishing a notice in the Federal Register to gather more information. The public can also petition to list a species. Originally it was only supposed to take two years but recently it has taken as long as 12 years.

Biological data is important in figuring out if a species is listed or not. This includes information on biology, distribution, and/or threats. This data guides when a species is declining or recovered. Species that have population recovery and are no longer threatened or endangered in U.S. may be removed from the list.

