



Golden-cheeked Warbler update

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ECOS Environmental Conservation Online System

Conserving the Nature of America

[ECOS](#) / Species Profile for golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*)

golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*)

[Federal Register](#) | [Recovery](#) | [Critical Habitat](#) | [Conservation Plans](#) | [Petitions](#) | [Life History](#)

Taxonomy: [View taxonomy in ITIS](#)

Listing Status: **Endangered**

Where Listed: **WHEREVER FOUND**

ecos.fws.gov

[Search for images on digitalmedia.fws.gov](#)

General Information

The golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*, GCWA) is a small, neo-tropical songbird weighing about 10 grams (0.34 ounces) and is about 12 centimeters (4.7 inches) long (Pulich 1976, pp. 126-128). Adult GCWA males have yellow cheeks outlined in black with a thin black line through each eye and extending backwards from the eye (Oberholser 1974, p. 750; Ridgway 1902, p. 565). Upper breast, throat, and back are black, and the lower breast and belly are white with some lateral black spotting or streaking (Oberholser 1974, pp. 750, 753; Ridgway 1902, p. 565). Wings are blackish with two white wingbars, and tail feathers are black, except the outermost tail feather on each side is white with a black shaft line (Oberholser 1974, p. 753; Ridgway 1902, p. 565). The beak, legs, and feet are black, and eyes are dark brown (Oberholser 1974, p. 753). Adult GCWA females are similar to adult males but less strikingly marked (Pulich 1976, p. 121). For example, the cheeks and center of the throat of females are yellowish, grading to pale buff or white on the abdomen (Oberholser 1974, pp. 750, 753; Ridgway 1902, p. 566). Additionally, the back is dark olive-green with thin black streaks (Oberholser 1974, p. 750; Ridgway 1902, p. 566). Sides of the throat are black with feathers tipped in white, and the flanks (sides) are covered with black streaks (Oberholser 1974, p. 753; Ridgway 1902, p. 566).

- **States/US Territories** in which the golden-cheeked warbler, Entire is known to or is believed to occur: [Texas](#)
- **US Counties** in which the golden-cheeked warbler, Entire is known to or is believed to occur: [View All](#)
- **USFWS Refuges** in which the golden-cheeked warbler, Entire is known to occur: Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

ESA Listing History

- 12/30/1982 – Candidate Notice of Review, Category 2 (47 FR 58454-60)
- 5/4/1990 - Emergency Rule to List the GCWA as Endangered (55 FR 18844-45)
- 5/4/1990 – Proposed Rule to List the GCWA as Endangered (55 FR 18846-49)
- 12/27/1990 – Final Rule to List the GCWA as Endangered (55 FR 53153-60), without Critical Habitat



Recent Developments

- 8/26/2014 – Service completes 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation for golden-cheeked warbler
- 6/30/2015 – Service receives Petition to delist the golden-cheeked warbler
- Service is reviewing the petition and will respond with a “90-day finding”
- 90-day finding can result in a determination that information provided in the petition is either “substantial” or “not substantial”
- 90-day finding will be published in the Federal Register



Standard of Review:

Section 4(b)(3)(A)

- ...of the Endangered Species Act (Act) requires that we make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted.
- Our standard for substantial scientific or commercial information with regard to a 90-day petition finding is “that amount of information that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the measure proposed in the petition may be warranted.” 50 C.F.R. § 424.14(b).

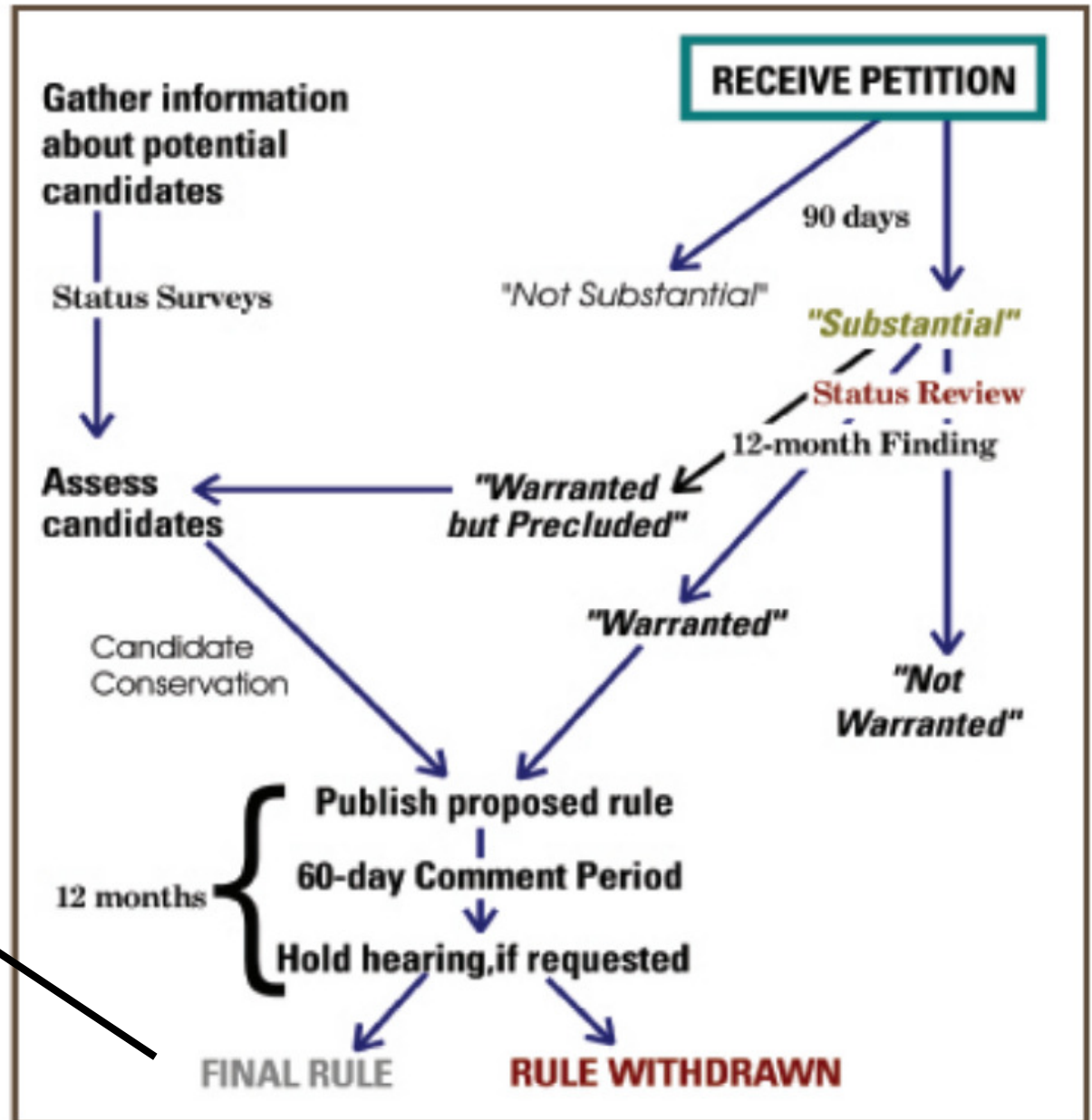


Section 4 of the ESA

Petition Process: Sec 4(b)(3)

FINAL RULE:

- Endangered
- Threatened
- Delisted



Black-capped Vireo Update



Omar Bocanegra
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological
Services Arlington, Texas

ESA History

1982 - Category 2 candidate species

1985 - Category 1 candidate species

1987 - Endangered, w/o CH

1991 - Recovery Plan

2007 - 5- year review – recommended downlisting

2012-2013 - Petition to downlist

Sept. 2013 - 90-day finding

2014 - Species Status Assessment



Species Status Assessment Framework

- **The SSA Framework is a different way of thinking about biological status assessments under the ESA.**
- **Its purpose is to describe the viability of species in a way that supports our ESA decisions.**



SPECIES NEEDS



**Current Availability
or Condition of those Needs**

SPECIES CURRENT CONDITION

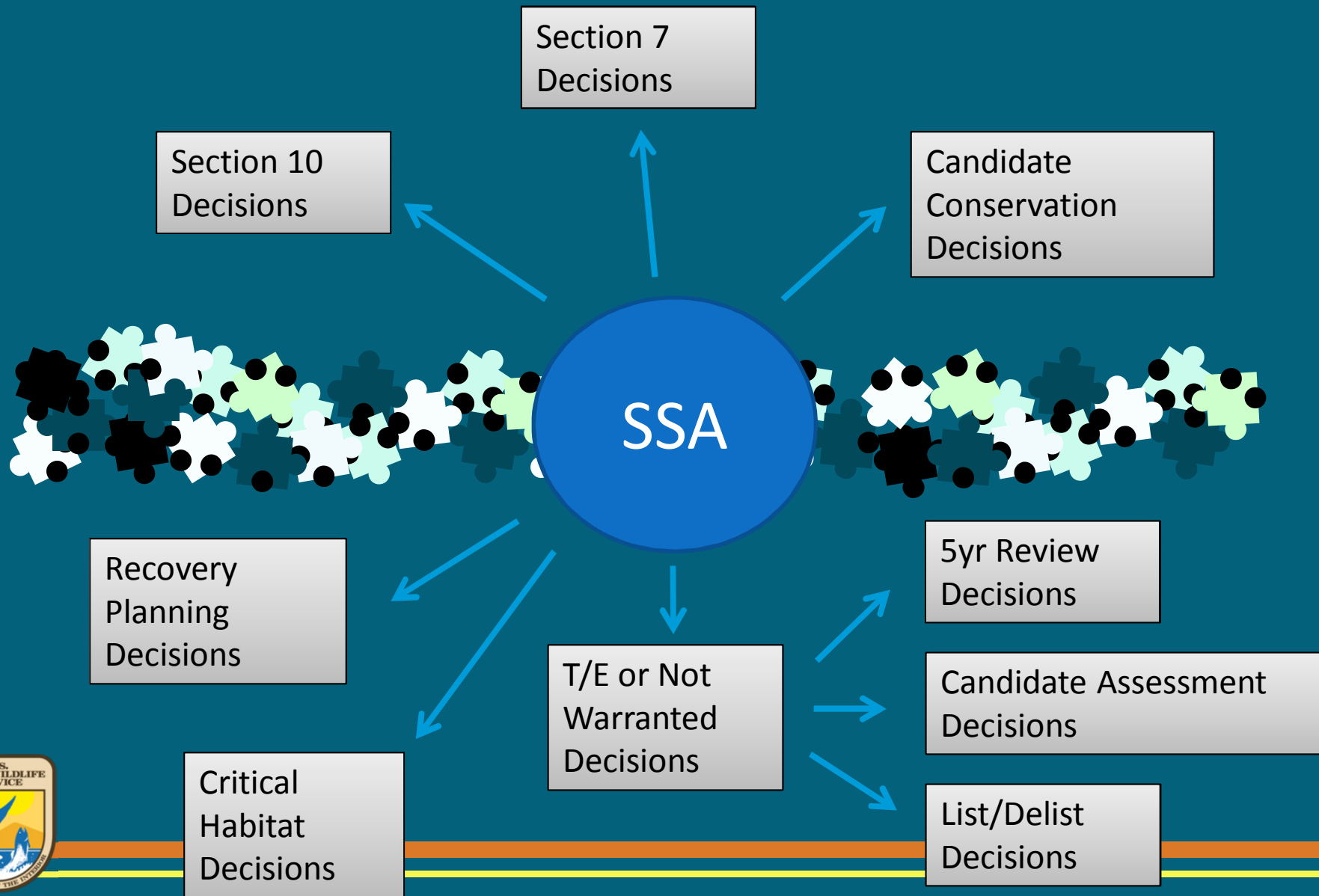


**Future Availability
or Condition of those Needs**

SPECIES VIABILITY



SSA informs all ESA Decisions



ESA History con't.

2014 – Started SSA process

Nov. 2015 - Complaint on downlisting

2016 - 12-month finding



Questions?

