



Endangered Species Act by the Numbers

ESA Success Numbers

According to the National Research Council, the Endangered Species Act has saved hundreds of species from extinction.

* A study published in the Annual Review of Ecological Systematics calculated that **172 species** would potentially have gone extinct during the period from 1973 to 1998 if Endangered Species Act protections had not been implemented.

* According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **99 percent** of the species ever listed under the Endangered Species Act remain on the planet today.

* According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, of the listed species whose condition is known, **68 percent** are stable or improving, and **32 percent** are declining. The longer a species enjoys the Endangered Species Act's protection, the more likely it is that its condition will stabilize or improve.



On the Underfunded Endangered Species Act

In 2005, Congress gave the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a **mere \$143 million** with which to implement the Endangered Species Act -- the same price as approximately seven miles of interstate highway. This represents an average cost of merely 48 cents per American per year.



Listing Numbers

* There are currently **286 species** on the Candidate List. These species are deemed by federal wildlife agencies as deserving of Endangered Species Act protection, but are unable to receive such protection due to a lack of adequate funds and a lack of support from the administration.

* In its FY06 budget request, the Bush Administration requested **only \$18 million** to address listing and critical habitat, even though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that it would need \$153 million over five years in order to address the current backlog of listing and critical habitat obligations.

* There are currently **over 1,200 listed species** in the United States.

Critical Habitat Numbers

- * There are **885 listed domestic species** that have never had their critical habitat designated as is called for in the Endangered Species Act.
- * For **approximately 400** of those, USFWS deemed critical habitat designation as "not prudent." USFWS's view that critical habitat is redundant with other Endangered Species Act protections, and therefore of little or no value, has been struck down by every court that has considered the issue.
- * Of the approximately **485 species** without critical habitat designation, the decision not to designate can be challenged in court for only 44 of them. Decisions not to designate critical habitat for approximately 423 species were made more than six years ago, and a legal challenge is therefore barred by the statute of limitations.



On the Economic Benefits of Species

Protecting endangered species isn't just the right thing to do. It makes economic sense too. Extinction is something we can't afford. Diverse plants, wildlife and fish provide us with priceless benefits, from supplying lifesaving drugs to maintaining natural ecosystems for flood protection, drinking water, recreation and eco-tourism.

- * **\$108 billion** in annual revenues would rank hunting, fishing and wildlife watching as the seventh largest corporation in America.
- * Hunting, fishing and wildlife watching employ nearly as many people -- **2.6 million** -- as the United States computer industry.
- * Once extirpated from Yellowstone National Park, the gray wolf's reintroduction in 1995, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, has boosted revenues in local communities by **\$10 million** annually. Total benefits are expected to reach \$23 million a year.

Sportfishing numbers:

- o 44.3 million anglers
- o \$41.5 billion in retail sales
- o 1,068,046 jobs
- o \$7.3 billion in state and federal taxes
- o \$116 billion in overall economic output

Hunting numbers:

- o 13 million hunters in the United States
- o \$25 billion in retail sales
- o \$17 billion in salaries and wages
- o 575,000 jobs
- o \$2.4 billion in federal income tax revenue

Extinction and Delisting Numbers



- * Scientists estimate that **539 species** have gone extinct in the United States in the past 200 years. The Endangered Species Act provides us with hope that we can not only slow these extinctions, but also restore our native wildlife.
- * As of 2005, the NatureServe database noted that more than 9,000 -- or **approximately one-third** -- of the United States' native species are at risk of extinction.
- * Current extinction rates are **100 to 1,000 times higher** than pre-human levels.
- * **37 domestic species** have been removed from the U.S. Endangered Species List:
 - o 13 domestic species have recovered
 - o 9 have become extinct (6 of the 9 became extinct before listing)
 - o Others have been removed as the result of new information, taxonomic revisions, or Act amendments.

On the Medicinal Benefits of Species

* 56 percent of the top **150 most popular prescribed drugs** are linked to discoveries of natural compounds in the wild, with an annual economic value of **\$80 billion**. This could only be the tip of the iceberg, as **less than one percent** of all tropical plant species have been screened for potential pharmaceutical applications. At



the current extinction rate, experts estimate that the Earth is losing one major drug every two years. A cure for cancer or AIDS may lie in a plant or animal waiting to be discovered.

* The Pacific yew, a slow-growing tree found in the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest, was historically considered a "trash" tree that was burned after clear-cutting forests. We now know that a substance in its bark -- now marketed as Taxol® -- was later identified and approved as treatment of ovarian, breast, and lung cancer.

* The rosy periwinkle provides the cure for Hodgkin's disease and certain forms of leukemia. The periwinkle was on the brink of extinction due to deforestation until scientists discovered its immense value.

* Digitalis, a drug derived from the purple foxglove plant, extends the life spans of an estimated **3 million Americans** who suffer from heart disease.

These are just a few examples of what we may lose each time a species goes extinct. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to be good stewards of the environment and leave behind a legacy of protecting endangered species and the special places they call home.



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