



Endangered Species

Program Overview

Precluding Extinction

Our nation is home to an incredible diversity of plants, animals, and ecosystems. During the past 300 years, however, many native plants and animals have become extinct, and today many more species face the same fate as their habitats are threatened and their populations declining. In 1973, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to address the loss of species and their habitats and to safeguard for all citizens our heritage of fish, wildlife, and plants.

Within the Service, administration of the Act is divided between the Endangered Species Program for all U.S. species, and the International Affairs Program for foreign and protected species under the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).

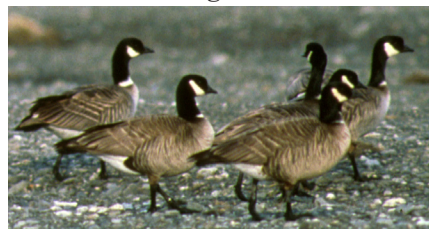
Recovering endangered and threatened species and conserving candidate species or species-at-risk in order to preclude their listing under the Act are the major goals of the Endangered Species program.

Under the Act, the Service is responsible for:

- Listing, reclassifying, or delisting species;
- Implementing actions for candidate species and other species-at-risk;
- Advancing conservation through regulatory and non-regulatory tools;
- Overseeing recovery activities for listed species;
- Funding state endangered species conservation efforts.

Only 7 of the more than 1,700 listed U.S. and foreign species, subspecies, and populations have gone extinct in the past 25 years. In fact, nearly half of listed species are today either stabilized or increasing in number.

In 35-years of implementing the ESA, the program has developed a wide range of tools to encourage efficient, consistent, and cooperative conservation of listed and at-risk species. These include tools such as Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Habitat Conservation Plans. Financial assistance is also provided through grants to states under the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. To increase effectiveness, we continue to incorporate lessons learned in implementation of our recovery tools. Another management tool the program uses is the reintroduction of species to their former ranges. Efforts to date have involved the reintroduction of the gray wolf, the black-footed ferret, the California condor and reintroductions contributed to the eventual delisting of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and Aleutian Canada geese.



USFWS

The Service works to forge cooperative conservation efforts with other Federal, State and Tribal wildlife agencies, recognizing that the authorities, resources, and cooperation of all partners are required to achieve species conservation objectives for impacted species.

Facts & Figures

- \$150.5 Million within resource management
- \$73.8 Million in Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
- 81 Ecological Services Field Offices throughout the Nation
- 1,036 FTEs



USFWS

Laws the Program Administers

- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. §1531 et. seq.

Emerging Issues

- Published Recovery Crediting Guidance on July 31, 2008
- Issued post-delisting monitoring planning guidance on August 14, 2008
- Updated the Memorandum of Understanding with Wildlife Habitat Council to promote corporate involvement in habitat restoration and wildlife biodiversity
- Produced and distributed a new video on Candidate Conservation Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances

- Processed 73 rule-making actions for listing, critical habitat or petitions to listing in FY 2008, including the proposed rule to designate critical habitat for 48 species on Kauai
- Processed 11 rule-makings or petitions for delisting species in FY 2008, including the delisting of the West Virginia northern flying squirrel
- Designated or revised final critical habitat for 38 species
- Published proposed rules to designate or revise critical habitat for 10 species
- Managed an increasing litigation workload that rose from 25 section 4 cases (listing, critical habitat, delistings, and petition findings) to 42 cases filed in FY 2008



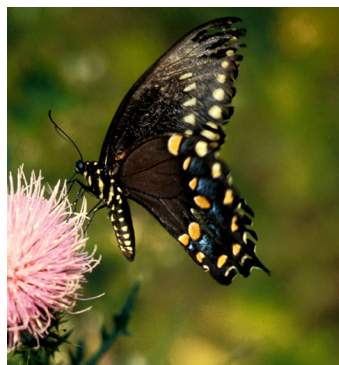
USFWS



USFWS



USFWS



USFWS

**Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director
Endangered Species Program
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered>**

November 2008