



The ESA Amendments Act of 2025

H.R. 1897



The Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is America's most effective wildlife protection law. An astonishing 99% of species listed under the ESA have been saved from disappearing forever and hundreds are currently on the road to recovery. Thanks to the ESA, dozens of iconic species like the bald eagle, humpback whale, and American alligator are still with us today. The ESA is also broadly popular: according to recent polling, 84% of Americans, no matter where they fall on the political spectrum, support the law.



H.R. 1897: Extinction Under the Guise of Optimization

The “ESA Amendments Act of 2025” would eviscerate protections for species on the brink of extinction. Contrary to the bill’s stated purpose of “optimizing conservation,” beloved animals like Florida manatees, grizzly bears, sea turtles, whales, and more could enjoy less protection and suffer more harm if it were to pass. Among other things, H.R. 1897 would:

- Strike at “the heart” of the ESA by weakening consultations that limit harm to imperiled species
- Gut the review of “take permits” that allow developers to harm or kill threatened species, as well as increase allowable “taking” of these species
- Extend deadlines for protecting species that need the ESA’s help to avoid extinction while fast-tracking the removal of those protections
- Erode science-based decision making by redefining “the best available science” as any data submitted by a state, tribe, or local government, regardless of its quality
- Make it harder to protect habitat that imperiled species need to survive

What’s at Stake?

Today, the ESA’s promise to safeguard imperiled species is more important than ever before as we face an unprecedented extinction crisis that puts one million species at risk of disappearing forever. **While extinction is irreversible, it is not inevitable.** Upholding the ESA will help stem the decline of our species, the American natural heritage they represent, and the services they contribute to the natural systems that support us all.