



2026 Earth Week Fly-in

Speak up to defend the Endangered Species Act!

April 21-22 – Washington, D.C.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is America's most effective law for protecting wildlife in danger of extinction. Nearly all species listed under the ESA have been saved from disappearing forever and hundreds are on the path to recovery. Unfortunately, anti-wildlife members of Congress have launched an all-out assault on the law and the species that rely on it for protection. These attacks ranged from ones seeking to remove or block protections for individual species – depriving them of the protections of the ESA on a political basis – to more extensive pieces of legislation that would undermine the framework of the law.

Scientists have warned that one million species are facing extinction in the coming years. At a time when the planet is experiencing a biodiversity crisis of epic proportions, politicians should not be weakening the nation's best tool for helping to stave off the tragedy of extinction. As passionate constituents, we must urge members of Congress to support the ESA and oppose these profound dangers to imperiled wildlife.

Topline messages - The ESA Works!

- The ESA is the strongest and most effective U.S. law for preventing extinction. It has a near-perfect track record of preventing extinction, with 99% of species listed under the Act having survived and hundreds on the path to recovery. Currently, more than 1,650 U. S. species are listed.
- Species saved from extinction by the ESA include America's symbol – the bald eagle – as well as the peregrine falcon, the brown pelican, the American alligator, the gray whale, and the whooping crane.
- The ESA is a proven sound and flexible law. Over the years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have relied on the ESA's clear goals, direction, and flexibility to issue regulations and guidance that are responsive to evolving conservation needs and that take into consideration both species protection and communities. Congress should not rewrite the successful ESA.
- A majority of registered voters strongly support the ESA. In fact, polling in 2025 showed that at least 84% of Americans support the ESA. This support cuts across ideological and geographical boundaries. This support is a drastic mismatch from Congress's attempts to gut the ESA.
- Saving these species and the ecosystems on which they depend is directly related to human health – healthy wildlife populations supports healthy ecosystems, clean water, clean air, crops, and more on which we all depend.

Asks for Representatives

Ask: We urge you to strongly oppose H.R. 1897, the ESA Amendments Act of 2025, which would eviscerate the most important aspects of the Endangered Species Act, pushing our imperiled species to extinction.

- [The ESA Amendments Act of 2025](#) is one of the worst-ever attempts to eviscerate the Endangered Species Act. It would gut many of the ESA's core tenets, warp its foundational reliance on the best available science, increase the potential for political interference, impose additional burdensome

and costly process on agencies that already are under-funded and under-staffed, and drastically reduce protections for imperiled species.

- Damaging provisions in H.R. 1897 include:
 - 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 listed species, as well as increase allowable “taking” of threatened species
 - Extend deadlines for protecting species that need the ESA’s help to avoid extinction
 - Erode science-based decision making by establishing a presumption that data submitted by a State, local, or tribal government is the best available science regardless of its quality.
 - Make it harder to protect habitat that imperiled species need to survive
 - Make it easier to use the extraordinary exemption process allowed under the ESA – called the God Squad – that could result in species extinction.
- We urge you to listen to the American public’s overwhelming support for the Endangered Species Act and reject this disastrous bill. It does nothing to strengthen wildlife protections and instead reverses decades of conservation success.

Ask for Senators

Ask: We urge you to stand up for endangered species and against extinction by responding vigorously to the congressional attacks on the ESA. Please oppose all bills, riders, and amendments seeking to weaken ESA protections and protections for individual species.

- The current Congress is mounting an all-out assault on the ESA and the species it protects. To date, [over 55 bills and amendments](#) have been introduced to undermine the ESA, ranging from measures to block critical protections for individual species – such as wolves and grizzly bears – to efforts to limit the ESA’s protections overall, for example by limiting the lands designated as critical habitat.
- Congress is attempting to substitute politics for science-based agency decision making that has been the ESA’s bedrock for 50 years. The ESA gives FWS biologists responsibility for protecting endangered species based on sound science and public input.
- Should it be sent to the Senate by the House, we particularly urge you to oppose H.R. 1897, the ESA Amendments Act of 2025. Sponsored by Rep. Bruce Westerman, this bill would eviscerate many of the ESA’s core tenets, warp its foundational reliance on the best available science, increase the potential for political interference, and drastically reduce protections for imperiled species.

Ask: We urge you to strongly oppose [H.R. 845, the intentionally misleadingly named Pet and Livestock Protection Act of 2025](#), which aims to prematurely delist gray wolves in the Lower 48 from the ESA should it receive consideration in the Senate.

- In contrast to what the bill’s title leads one to believe, more livestock are lost to weather than to wolves each year. Non-lethal deterrent tools have a proven track record of keeping wolves away from livestock and pets when implemented correctly.
- H.R. 845 harms wolves and ignores both science and the courts which have repeatedly affirmed that wolves need federal protection to have a chance at full recovery in the Lower 48.