



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”

A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

(970) 242-3264 ★ FAX (970) 245-8300

P.O. Box 550 ★ Grand Junction, CO 81502-0550

www.club20.org

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Endangered Species Act Reauthorization

WHEREAS Congress is debating re-authorization of the Endangered Species Act, and

WHEREAS CLUB 20 supports protection of endangered species as important to our economy and quality of life, and

WHEREAS although there has been broad public support for the Endangered Species Act since its inception in 1973, the Act has alienated many private landowners including those whose livelihoods are dependent on the property and on whom the species depend upon for habitat;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports re-authorization of the Endangered Species Act with amendments that achieve the following objectives:

1. The scientific information upon which agency findings are based should include the best available science, have independent scientific peer review, include local experience and knowledge, and be available for public scrutiny.
2. Agency findings and rulings should be subject to the same Administrative Procedures Act requirements as the rulings of other federal agencies.
3. Prior to listing and upon the identification of occupied habitat, an assessment of economic and cultural impacts of the proposed listing (consistent with NEPA) should be made available to the public for review and comment.
4. Protect private property rights and water rights under state law and provide just compensation to affected parties for any impairment to such rights.
5. Include draft recovery plans in the public review process prior to listing, and include within those recovery plans a definition of the species' presently occupied habitat, historic habitat, and that habitat necessary for recovery of the species, and an analysis of the present threats to the species including habitat loss, predation and disease.
6. Ensure federal funding for state mandates and habitat protection.
7. Acknowledge the legitimacy of state government findings and processes; insofar as possible, ESA recovery plans should complement existing state and local recovery efforts.
8. Require the establishment of recovery goals to measure the success of the recovery effort that, when met, will trigger the automatic delisting of the listed species; for those species currently listed, require that such recovery goals be established by 2010.
9. There should be an emphasis on incentives to encourage private landowners to actively participate in the identification and recovery of candidate and listed species; these incentives may include, but should not be limited to, cash rewards, tax benefits, certainty for management expectations (“safe harbor” from changes in Agency direction extended to both private landowners and public land permittees), and immunity from liability for efforts to conserve the species.
10. Upon the identification of a candidate species, if local citizens petition the Secretary to form a local Working Group to investigate and address the needs of the species, then the Secretary should create such groups from diverse interests residing within the affected communities and give serious consideration to the recommendations from those groups as part of the listing process.

Adopted September 10, 1993

Amended March 31, 2006