

About NESARC

Background

The National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC) is the country's oldest broad-based, national coalition dedicated solely to achieving improvements to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Coalition includes farmers, cities and counties, rural irrigators, electric utilities, forest product companies, homebuilders, agricultural interests, mining companies, and other businesses and individuals throughout the United States. Since its inception in 1991, NESARC consistently has proven that it is possible to carve out a balanced middle-ground approach to the sometimes contentious debate surrounding improvements to the ESA. The diverse membership of the Coalition and single issue focus have attracted a growing number of associations, organizations, governmental entities, and other groups that support NESARC's efforts.

NESARC's Focus

NESARC has been instrumental in shaping both comprehensive and targeted ESA proposals considered by Congress and federal agencies. The Coalition has supported and worked with Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle as they have developed legislation and built support for legislative improvements to the Act. In the regulatory arena, NESARC has provided its members with detailed analyses of Administration proposals on a broad range of issues related to ESA implementation, and has submitted comments on many of these proposals. In both Congress and the Administration, NESARC provides its members and like-minded stakeholders a voice for meaningful input and participation in finding effective and balanced legislative and regulatory improvements to the ESA that support the protection of fish, wildlife and plant populations as well as responsible land, water and resource management.

Coalition Governance

NESARC is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of representatives of a cross-section of the Coalition's membership and the country as a whole. The Board sets the policy direction for NESARC and oversees the financial operations of the Coalition, including membership development.

FAQ's on the ESA

Originally enacted in 1973, the Endangered Species Act's framers envisioned a law which would protect species believed to be on the brink of extinction. When the law was enacted, there were 109 species listed for protection. Today, there are nearly 2,000 on the list, with 250 species considered as "Candidates" for listing.

Is it true that the ESA has expired?

The authorization for funding of the ESA expired on October 1, 1992, though Congress has appropriated funds in each succeeding fiscal year to ensure continued implementation of the law.

Has the ESA been successful at recovering species?

Unfortunately, the ESA has failed at recovering and delisting species since its inception. Less than one percent of all listed species have been removed from ESA protection since 1973, and many of those are due to extinction or "data

error" (i.e. they never should have been listed in the first place). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains the most up-to-date data on domestic species, which may be found on their [website](#)

Who administers the ESA?

The Endangered Species Act is administered primarily by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(FWS\)](#) of the Department of the Interior. [The National Marine Fisheries Service \(NMFS\)](#) of the Department of Commerce has responsibility for threatened and endangered fish.

What is the difference between an endangered species and a threatened species?

Under the ESA, certain species of plants and animals (both vertebrate and invertebrate) are listed as either "endangered" or "threatened" according to assessments of the risk of their extinction. Once a species is listed, powerful legal tools are brought to bear to enforce the recovery of the species and protection of its habitat. A species may be classified for protection as "endangered" when it is in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A "threatened" classification is provided to those fish, wildlife and plants likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges.

What is a species?

A species includes any species or subspecies of fish, wildlife, or plant, and any distinct population segment of any vertebrate species that interbreeds when mature. Excluded is any species of the Class Insecta determined by the Secretary to constitute a pest whose protection under the provisions of the ESA would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to man.

How does a species get listed?

The government relies largely upon petitions to list, surveys conducted by FWS and other agencies' surveys, and other substantiated reports on field studies. Anyone may petition FWS or NMFS to have a species listed or reclassified as endangered or threatened, or removed from the list. Findings are required before any proposal is published in the Federal Register.

Within 90 days of receiving a petition, FWS must make a finding as to whether the petition presents substantial information that the listing may be warranted.

Within one year of receipt, a finding is required that the listing is either "warranted" or "not warranted."

A finding of warranted must lead directly to an immediate (less than 30 days) proposed listing, or the Service can find that such an immediate proposal is precluded by other listing activities such that the proposal may not be made for several additional weeks, months or even years. In order to make this secondary finding of "warranted but precluded," FWS must also be making expeditious progress in its overall listing program (e.g., candidates of higher priority are taken first).

Any warranted but precluded finding must be re-examined on each successive anniversary of the petition's receipt until the listing is either proposed or the petition is deemed not warranted.

What are the criteria for listing?

A species is only determined to be an endangered species or a threatened species based on any one or more of the following factors (economics or other considerations not listed here are not permissible under the Act):

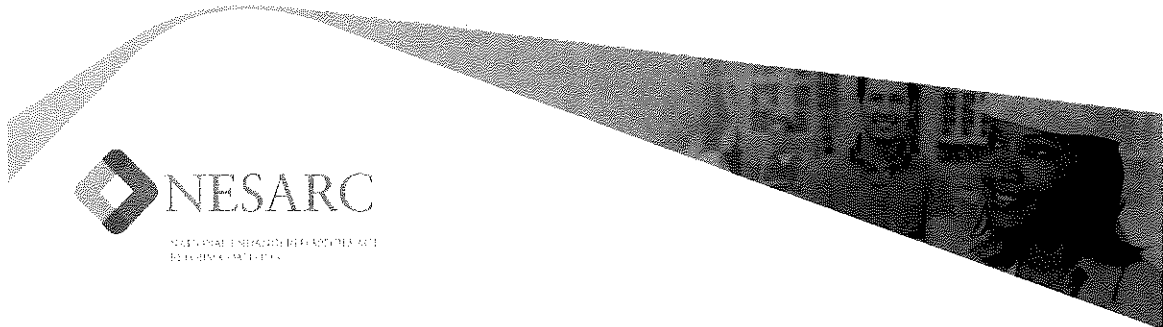
- the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- disease or predation;
- the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
- other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence.

Can I see a copy of the ESA on-line?

A PDF copy of the Endangered Species Act is available on the [FWS website](#)

What if I have more questions?

Feel free to contact NESARC via e-mail at nesarc@vnf.com or call us at 202-333-7481.



NESARC 2018 Membership

American Agri-Women Washington, D.C.	National Alliance of Forest Owners Washington, D.C.
American Farm Bureau Federation Washington, D.C.	National Association of Counties Washington, D.C.
American Forest and Paper Association Washington, D.C.	National Association of Conservation Districts Washington, D.C.
American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers Washington, D.C.	National Association of Home Builders Washington, D.C.
American Petroleum Institute Washington, D.C.	National Cattleman's Beef Association Washington, D.C.
American Public Power Association Washington, D.C.	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Washington, D.C.
Association of California Water Agencies Sacramento, California	National Water Resources Association Arlington, Virginia
Basin Electric Power Cooperative Bismark, North Dakota	Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation Lincoln, Nebraska
Central Electric Cooperative Mitchell, South Dakota	Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc. Bath, South Dakota
Central Platte Natural Resources District Grand Island, Nebraska	Northwest Horticultural Council Yakima, Washington
Charles Mix Electric Association Lake Andes, South Dakota	Northwest Public Power Association Vancouver, Washington
Coalition of Counties for Stable Economic Growth Glenwood, New Mexico	Public Lands Council Washington, D.C.
Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc. Watertown, South Dakota	Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Danube, Minnesota

<p>Colorado River Energy Distributors Association Phoenix, Arizona</p> <p>Colorado River Water Conservation District Glenwood Springs, Colorado</p> <p>Colorado Rural Electric Association Denver, Colorado</p> <p>County of Eddy Carlsbad, New Mexico</p> <p>County of Sierra Truth or Consequences, New Mexico</p> <p>CropLife America Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Dixie Escalante Rural Electric Association Beryl, Utah</p> <p>Dugan Production Corporation Farmington, New Mexico</p> <p>Eastern Municipal Water District Perris, California</p> <p>Edison Electric Institute Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Frank Raspo & Sons Vernalis, California.</p> <p>Empire Electric Association, Inc. Cortez, Colorado</p> <p>Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Carrington, North Dakota</p> <p>Guadalupe Blanco River Authority Seguin, Texas</p> <p>High Plains Power, Inc. Riverton, Wyoming</p> <p>Idaho Mining Association Boise, Idaho</p>	<p>San Luis Water District Los Banos, California</p> <p>Southwestern Power Resources Association Tulsa, Oklahoma</p> <p>Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative Willcox, Arizona</p> <p>Teel Irrigation District Echo, Oregon</p> <p>Washington State Potato Commission Moses Lake, Washington</p> <p>Washington State Water Resources Association Yakima, Washington</p> <p>Wells Rural Electric Company Wells, Nevada</p> <p>West Side Irrigation District Tracy, California</p> <p>Western Business Roundtable Lakewood, Colorado</p> <p>Wheat Belt Public Power District Sidney, Nebraska</p> <p>Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. Milbank, South Dakota</p> <p>Wilder Irrigation District Caldwell, Idaho</p> <p>Wyrulec Company Lingle, Wyoming</p> <p>Y-W Electric Association, Inc. Akron, Colorado</p>
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NESARC 2018 Board of Directors

Association of California Water Agencies
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Public Power Association
American Petroleum Institute
Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
CropLife America
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National Association of Home Builders
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