Animals and plants are listed as threatened when likely to become endangered. Animals and plants are listed as endangered when at risk of extinction.

Animals and plants are at risk of extinction due to several factors:

1. **Invasive Species**
2. **Overharvesting** and overfishing
3. **Climate Change**
4. **Illegal Wildlife and Plant Trade**
5. **Habitat Loss**
6. **Plastic Pollution**
7. **Toxic and Chemical Pollution**

**Habitat Loss** is the number one cause of species endangerment.
What is the Endangered Species Act?

One of the world's strongest legal protections for biodiversity, the Endangered Species Act safeguards our most vulnerable animals and plants, placing them on the path to recovery.

1973, Endangered Species Act Passed

99% success preventing species extinction 1973-2013

1,600 species protected

Millions of acres of critical habitat protected

9 out of 10 people polled support a strong Endangered Species Act

291 species saved by the Act

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The Endangered Species Act restores and recovers species. Animals and plants are delisted when populations are stabilized. Hundreds of species have been saved from extinction by the Act.

- **Bald eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), delisted in 2007.
- **Tennessee coneflower** (*Echinacea tennesseensis*), delisted in 2011.
- **Deseret milkvetch** (*Astragalus desereticus*), delisted in 2018.
- **Black-capped Vireo** (*Vireo atricapilla*), delisted in 2018.
10 Actions You Can Take to Conserve Endangered Species

1. Volunteer
   with endangered species conservation organizations; for ideas visit the ESC Member Directory.

2. Reduce

3. Protect
   ecosystems and habitat: support laws creating open space, wildlife crossings and corridors, and other protections.

4. Report
   harassment and cruelty toward animals; threatened/endangered species are protected from these illegal actions.

5. Garden
   without pesticides and herbicides: toxic chemicals can accumulate, migrate up the food chain, harming and killing a range of species.

6. Plant
   native plant species: cultivate native, regionally appropriate plant species, creating habitat for pollinators and other species.

7. Never
   buy products made from or threatened/endangered animals or live animals and plants. Help end illegal species trade.

8. Travel
   compassionately: don’t participate in activities exploiting threatened/endangered species, such as animal selfies, animal rides, or trophy hunting.

9. Choose
   alternatives to single use plastic: reusable bags, utensils, straws, and packaging; advocate for increased recycling and measures like plastic bag bans.

10. Raise
    YOUR VOICE to support threatened and endangered species
    VOTE for elected officials, be involved in the political process.
    ATTEND city and county council and game agency meetings.
    SHARE information about issues facing endangered species.
    EMAIL, tweet or call your member of congress.
    CREATE and sign petitions.
    WRITE letters to the editor.