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"The system of private property is the most important guaranty of freedom, not only for those who own property, but scarcely less for those who do not." -Fredrich August von Hayek

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Physical Property



The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 was designed to protect critically imperiled species from extinction due to "the consequences of economic growth and development." However, since its inception, the ESA has been one of the largest threats to property rights and has yielded very little results. **In over 30 years, the success rate for its main objective, species recovery, is less than 1%.** This abysmal record is not the only problem. The threat of ESA actually encourages land owners to destroy habitats on their land so that it will not be taken away from them in the name of species protection.

The ESA statistics demonstrate that there is dire need for reform. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 21% of all species listed are classified as declining, while two dozen species listed as endangered are already believed to be extinct. Nearly 77% of all listed species have only achieved 0-25% of their recovery goals. These statistics demonstrate the need for legislative reform of this outdated act. To read Rep. Richard

Pombo's (R-CA) report on the need for ESA reform, [click here](#).

Because 90% of endangered species in the U.S. have habitat on private land, it is important that ESA be reformed to end the adversarial relationship between government and property owners. Known as the "shoot, shovel and shut up" syndrome, research demonstrates that the ESA causes some property owners to destroy habitats of endangered species rather than risk losing their property.

H.R. 3824: The Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (TESRA) aims to reform the outdated ESA and strengthen its results for endangered species recovery. TESRA will offer new conservation tools to promote conservation of species on private lands while also strengthening the rights of property owners.

legislative alert

PRA's letter to Chairman Pombo

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