Recovering Wildlife Takes Time

Recovering wildlife is a challenge that takes time, especially given that some species have been in decline for over a century. Of the 35 species that have been successfully recovered under the Endangered Species Act, the time from initial protection to delisting averaged nearly 29 years. Unfortunately, most species protected under the Act were listed only following dramatic population declines, and recovery efforts have not yet had sufficient time to restore these populations. Presented below are the different stages of a few of America's wildlife species on the path to recovery.

While we work to conserve species most vulnerable to extinction we need to prevent other species from declining to the critical stage where they need Endangered Species Act Protection. Recovering America's Wildlife Act will allow states and tribes work with private and public partners to prevent further wildlife declines and assist the USFWS with safeguarding the most vulnerable species.

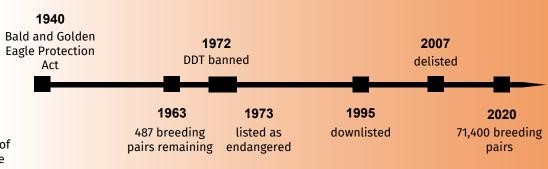
Delisted Species

Delisting is the removal of species from the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. The following are examples of species delisted due to recovery.

Bald eagle (in the lower 48 states)



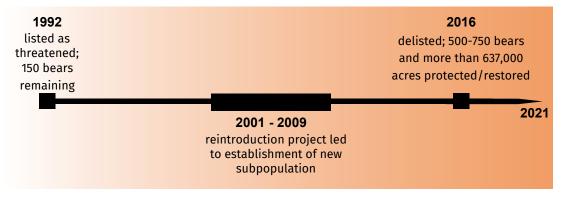
Key conservation actions: ban of DDT, habitat protection, captive breeding and reintroduction



Louisiana black bear



Key conservation actions: habitat restoration and protection, reintroduction



Snail darter



Key conservation actions: translocation and discovery of new populations

listed as endangered; only known from small reach of Little Tennessee River

1984 downlisted

1975-1980

snail darters transplanted into Hiwassee, Holston, Nolichucky, and Elk Rivers

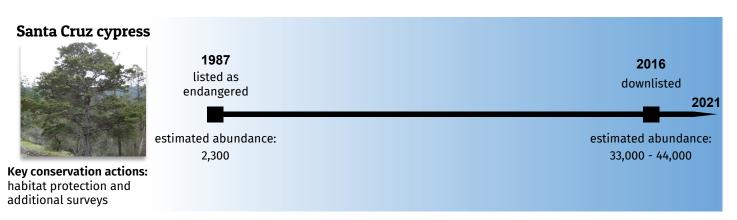
2021

delisting proposed; found in 7 mainstem reservoirs of Tennessee River and 12 tributaries in the watershed

Downlisted Species

Downlisting is the reclassification of a species from Endangered to Threatened

Wood stork 1984 2014 listed as endangered; downlisted: 6,245 breeding pairs 11,238 breeding pairs remaining 2021 1996 - 2014 NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program restores over 200,000 acres of wetlands in Florida Key conservation actions: and over 115,000 acres in Alabama, Georgia habitat protection and restoraand South Carolina tion, water level management



Endangered Species

A species is classified as Endangered if it is in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Black-footed ferret 1979 2014 1967 captive breeding program 5-year review found that listed as was unsuccessful; species still warrants protection; endangered presumed to be extinct 300 - 370 left in the wild 1981 1991 small population first reintroduction of Key conservation actions: discovered black-footed ferrets captive breeding and reintroduction California condor

