



In Indiana, Thirty Years of Success

For more than 30 years, the Endangered Species Act has helped prevent the extinction of our national treasures. Because of the act, beloved symbols of America such as the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon are thriving, and rare species such as the Indiana bat and Karner blue butterfly are appearing again in our forests.

Only nine of the 1,800 species protected by the act have been declared extinct since its passage in 1973. Such an astonishing success rate makes the act a true symbol of our nation's commitment to protecting our natural heritage for future generations. It is also an example of the progress that can be made when communities work together to conserve their local wildlife and habitat. With the participation of communities, business and government, less than one percent of development projects reviewed under the act have been halted, proving that we can conserve wildlife without sacrificing progress. With the creation of jobs from tourism and outdoor recreation related to endangered species, it can truly be said that people all over Indiana benefit from the act.

Indiana currently has 33 endangered and threatened species (29 animals and 4 plants).

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Indiana Bat

Indiana bats can eat half their weight in insects each night, helping to control pests that might otherwise destroy crops and spread disease. During the past 25 years, the population of Indiana bats has declined by about 50 percent.

Today, a new bat center at Indiana State University is working to protect these mysterious flying mammals and help the public solve bat-related problems. Indiana State is currently tracking the effects of a habitat project designed to keep Indiana bats away from construction and urbanization around Indianapolis International Airport. Since 1997, the state has monitored the airport's efforts to protect the Indiana bat in an area south of Interstate



Karner blue butterfly

70. In addition, Indiana Department of Natural Resources forestry and wildlife experts are working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop Indiana bat conservation initiatives on the state's 150,000-acre forest system. This proactive plan will address Indiana bat habitat and population issues on all of Indiana's 10 state forest administrative units. Scientists hope that these efforts will help save one of Indiana's most important and iconic creatures.

Karner Blue Butterfly

Although once extensive throughout the Midwest and eastern United States, populations of the Karner blue have decreased dramatically in recent years, due to agriculture, urbanization and fire suppression. A plant called blue lupine is key to Karner blue butterfly survival. It is the only food that Karner blue caterpillars will eat, and habitat destruction has reduced its availability, further jeopardizing the butterfly's future. Indeed, the Karner blue has declined to less than one percent of its previous population abundance over 100 years ago, with most of the decline occurring in the last two to three decades. In 1992, Karner

blue butterflies were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Happily, several Indiana utility companies are working with federal authorities to help save the species. Northern Indiana Public Service Company and Indiana American Water Company have presented a plan that describes ways the companies will manage their lands to conserve the butterfly and its habitat on 86 acres in Lake and Porter counties. If the plan is approved, the companies will receive permits that allow a limited number of butterflies to be affected by maintenance activities, as long as the companies continue to implement conservation actions contained in the habitat conservation plan. A provision of the Endangered Species Act allows activities on private land that might harm or kill endangered or threatened animals, as long as long-term conservation is guaranteed.

Economic Benefits of Protecting Wildlife and Habitat

Ecotourism represents a huge economic force in the country. Each year, millions of Americans travel and pay to view wildlife and take in all that nature has to offer. Much of this activity takes place on the hundreds of national wildlife refuges spread across the country. Nationwide, visits to wildlife refuges generated more than \$1.3 billion in income for local and state economies and an addition \$150 million in tax revenues. Indeed, national wildlife refuges received nearly twice as many visitors in 2004 than Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Acadia, Grand Teton, and Statue of Liberty national parks combined. And the vast majority of those visitors came from outside the area, further testament to the ability of these special places to draw people and dollars to a region. In Indiana alone, Patoka National Wildlife Refuge in the southwestern part of the state generated \$384,100 in economic activity for the local area.

For more information on the success of the Endangered Species Act, please visit www.saveesa.org.

What You Can Do

The Endangered Species Act works because of individuals like you who help make it a success. To assist Defenders of Wildlife in protecting the act and make it work better for all concerned, we urge you to:

- ✓ Communicate with your elected officials about the importance of the act.
- ✓ Work with your local media to educate the public about the act's accomplishments.
- ✓ Reach out to others in your community and urge them to get involved.

To learn more about the Endangered Species Act and ways you can help protect America's vulnerable species, please visit www.saveesa.org.



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