

**STATEMENT OF DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE ON  
S. 2110, “Collaboration for the Recovery of the Endangered Species Act”  
December 15, 2005**

Defenders of Wildlife does not support S. 2110, the “Collaboration for the Recovery of the Endangered Species Act” introduced by Senators Crapo and Lincoln. In our view, the key test for any measure addressing the Endangered Species Act is whether it makes the recovery of listed species more likely than under existing law. The bill introduced by Senators Crapo and Lincoln does not meet that test and is weaker than current law.

We are particularly concerned by the following provisions of the bill:

- The bill contains unnecessarily broad exemptions from consultation requirements designed to protect listed species.
- The bill establishes a complicated new system for setting priorities among virtually all endangered species conservation actions and creates the potential that habitat necessary for species survival and recovery will be unprotected for as long as five years after a species is listed.
- The bill creates a complex and cumbersome process for the development of recovery plans; authorizes conservation banking for mitigation of endangered species habitat destruction and fails to provide clear standards for assuring the effectiveness of the mitigation; grants provisional permits allowing the taking of listed species and fails to require adequate mitigation for such taking; and contains broad exemptions from consultation requirements and environmental impact statement requirements.

We continue to believe that the most appropriate forum for addressing changes to this vitally important law is in the committee of jurisdiction, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and specifically the Fisheries, Wildlife and Water Subcommittee led by Senators Chafee and Clinton. Accordingly, we urge all Senators to work with Senator Chafee and Senator Clinton as they explore ways to make the Endangered Species Act work better for wildlife conservation, landowners and other stakeholders.”

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