



## THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT TURNS 40 MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT ITS SUCCESSES

In its 40<sup>th</sup> year, the success of the Endangered Species Act has never been clearer: Over 99 percent of the plants and animals entrusted to the Act's care have been saved from extinction, and hundreds more are on the road to recovery. A recent analysis of more than 100 of those species in all 50 states found 90 percent to be meeting or exceeding recovery expectations.

Now a new poll from the Center for Biological Diversity and Public Policy Polling finds that a majority of Americans support the Endangered Species Act and its remarkable record of saving rare and vanishing wildlife.



### **2 IN 3 AMERICANS BELIEVE CONGRESS SHOULD STRENGTHEN, OR NOT MAKE ANY CHANGES TO, THE ACT**

The poll found that 42 percent favor strengthening the Act and 25 percent support the current Act. Fewer than 1 in 4 believe Congress should weaken the Act.

### **THE UNITED STATES IS DOING TOO LITTLE TO PROTECT WILDLIFE**

Half those polled believe our country is doing too little to protect imperiled plants and animals and that too many species are being pushed to the brink of extinction. Only 1 in 3 believe the United States is doing too much to protect wildlife, while fewer than 1 in 5 are unsure or believe the country is doing the right amount. The poll's findings make it clear that the great majority of Americans support the protection of plants and animals and the Earth's life-sustaining biodiversity.

### **MAJORITY FAVORS PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT FROM INDUSTRY**

A strong majority of Americans believe the Obama administration should not capitulate to various industries' special-favor requests to weaken the Act. For example, because Americans understand that the designation and protection of critical habitat plays a vital role in the recovery of plants and animals on the endangered species list, **Americans do not support logging, paving or developing portions of designated critical habitats**, as proposed by the Obama administration in 2011-2012. Americans are opposed to shortsighted policies that would hurt a wide range of species and their recovery, including polar bears, jaguars, northern spotted owls, Mexican spotted owls, piping plovers, various species of salmon, bowhead whales, sea turtles and many others. A full 45 percent of those polled want President Obama to do a better job of defending the Endangered Species Act, while only 28 percent think it's OK for the president to take actions that weaken the Act.

### **VOTERS' PRIORITIES ARE CLEAR**

Americans of all political persuasions want their elected leaders and civil servants to protect endangered species and their habitat.

For more information: Bill Snape, Senior Counsel, (202) 536-9351 (Spring 2013)