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Oral testimony at the House Natural Resources
Committee hearing on “The Endangered
Species Act: How Litigation Is Costing Jobs
and Impeding True Recovery Efforts”

December 6, 2011

“Evaluating success as a measure of how many species are delisted is a non-informative metric.”

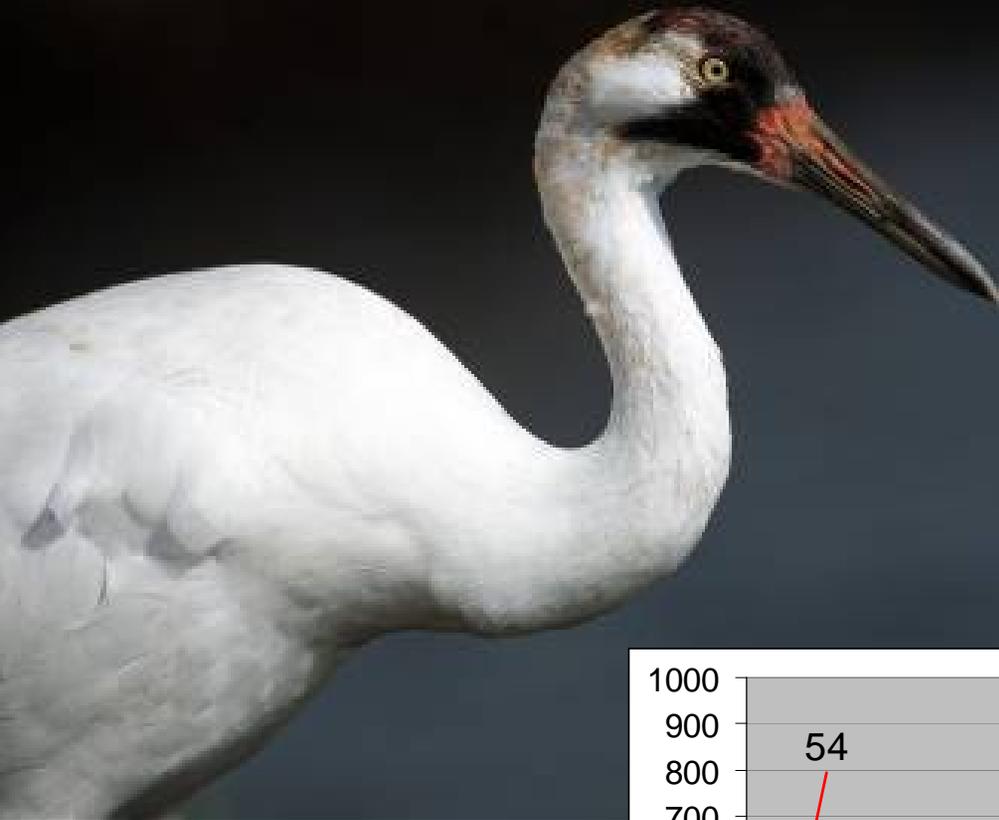
*The Performance of the Endangered Species Act
Schwartz (2008)*

“The recovery plans we reviewed indicated that species were not likely to be recovered for up to 50 years. Therefore, simply counting the number of extinct and recovered species...provides limited insight into the overall success of the services’ recovery programs.”

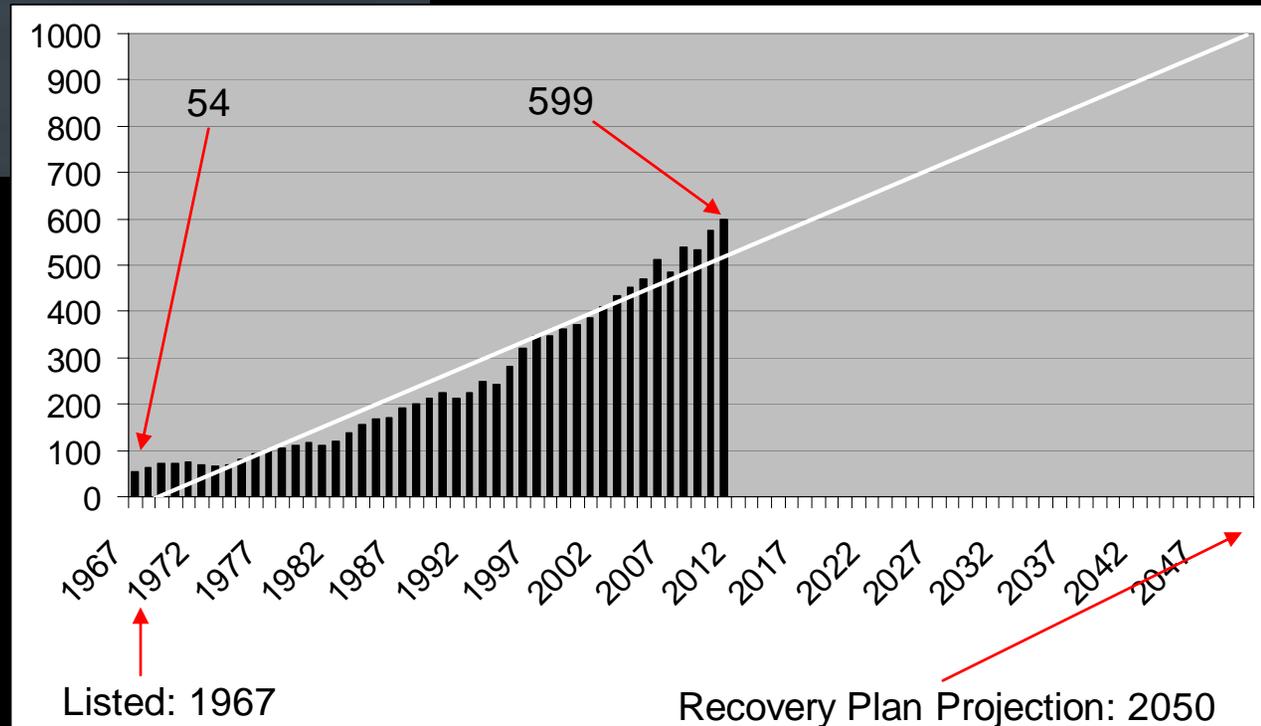
*Time and Costs Required to Recover Species Are Largely Unknown
Government Accountability Office (2006)*

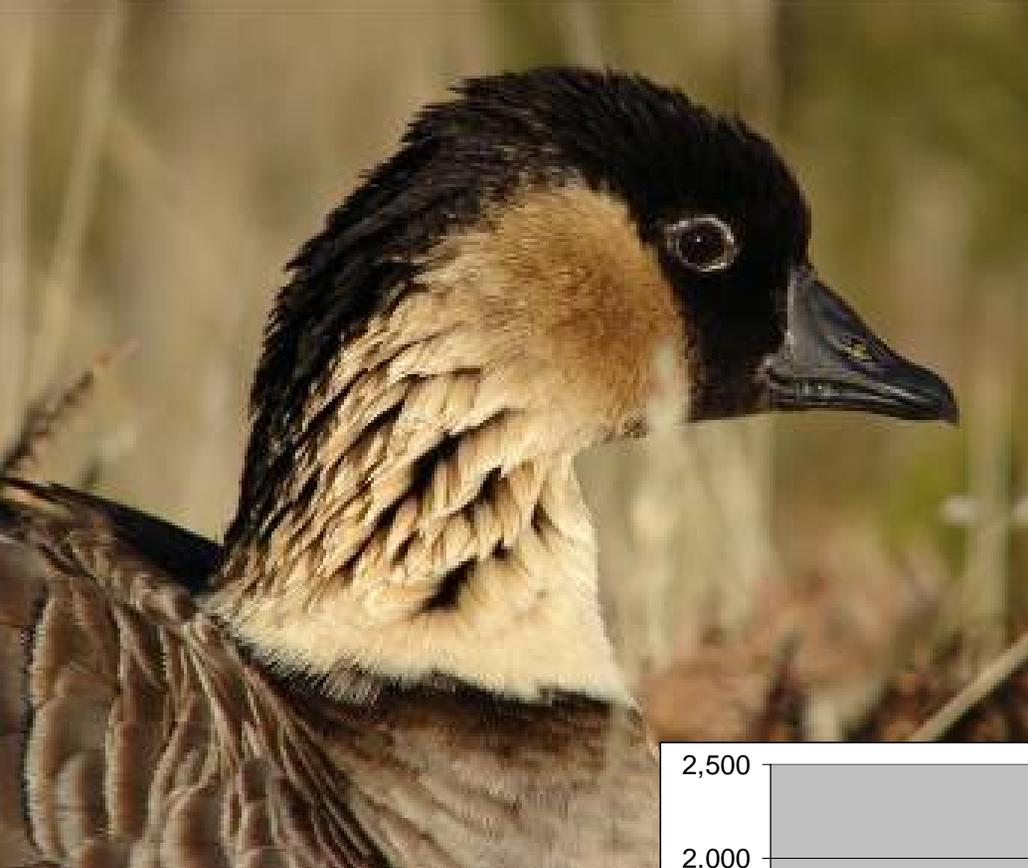
Average Length of Listing: 21 years

Average Recovery Plan Projection: 42 Years

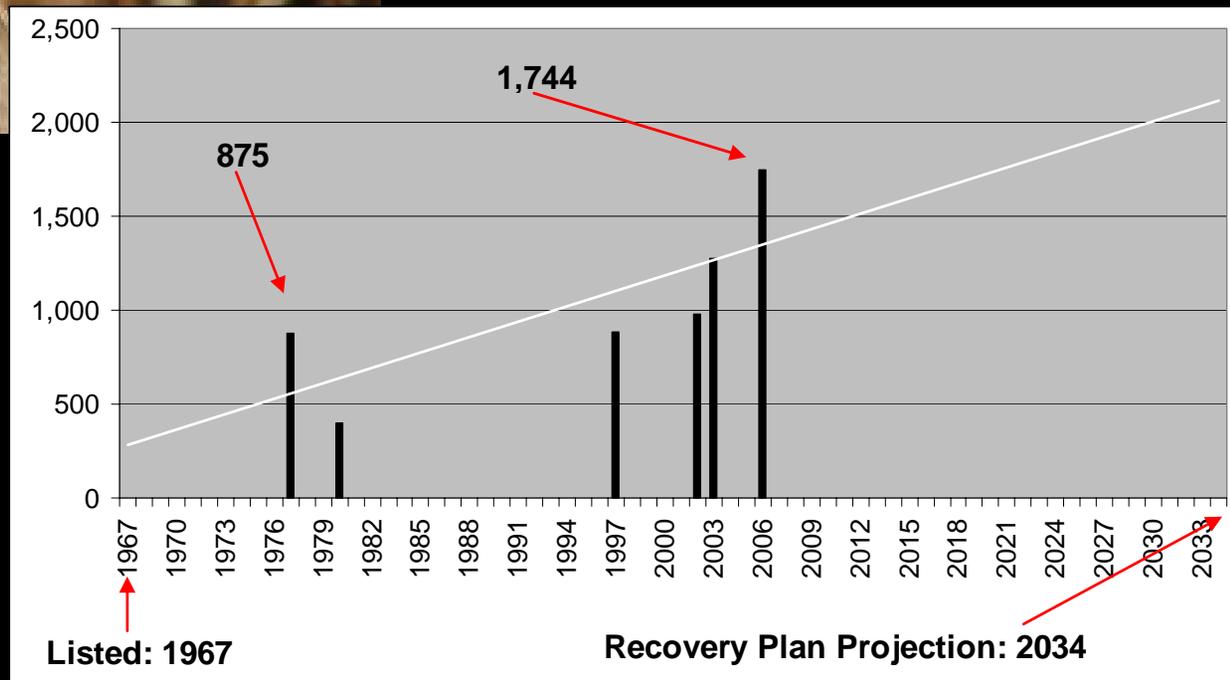


Whooping Crane

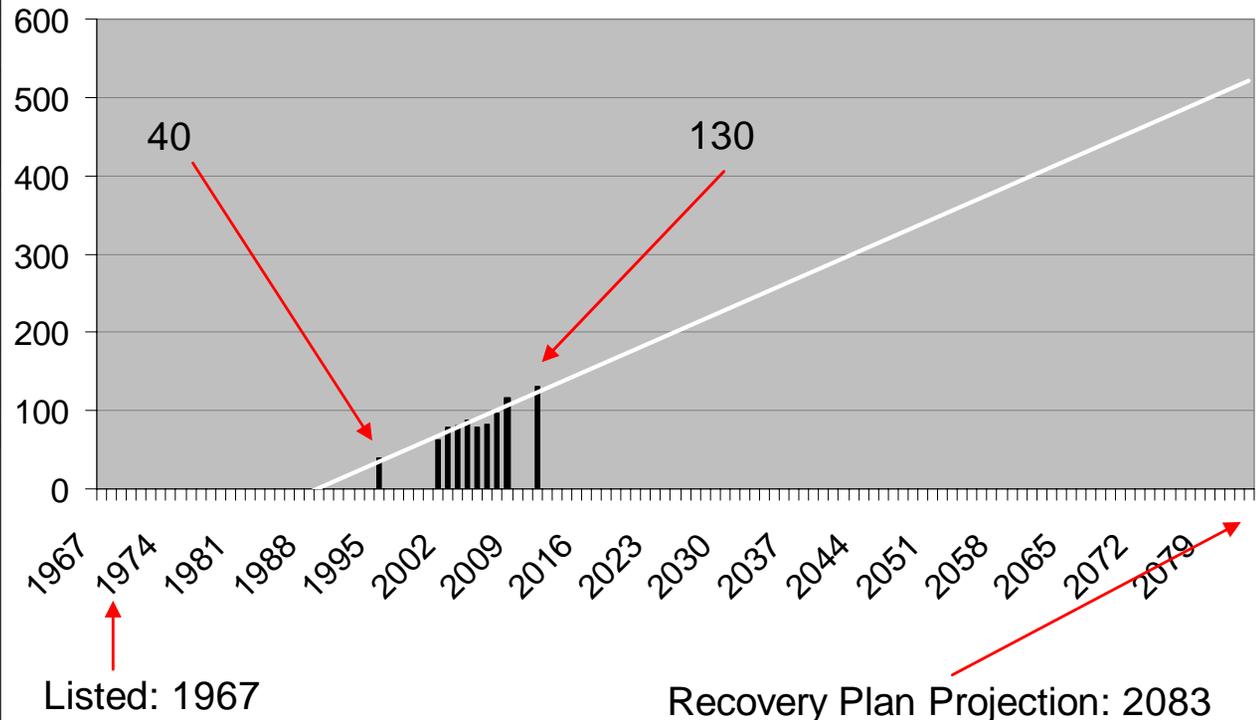




Hawaiian Goose

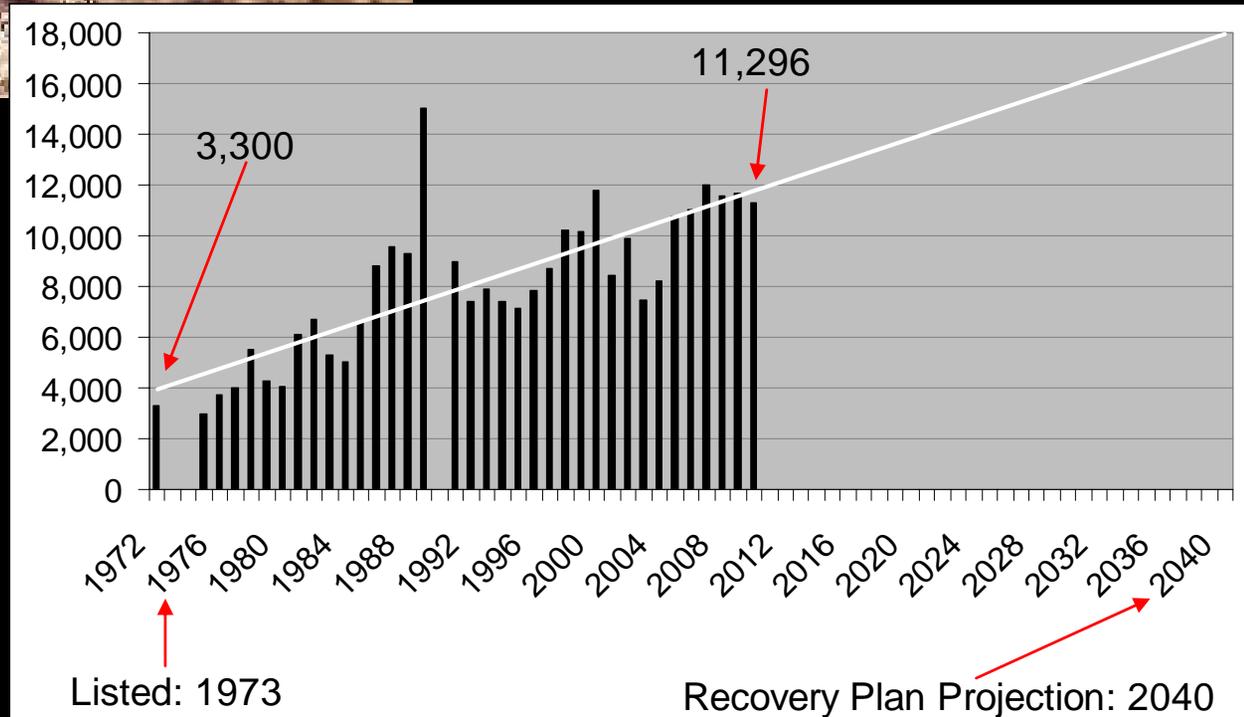


Florida Panther

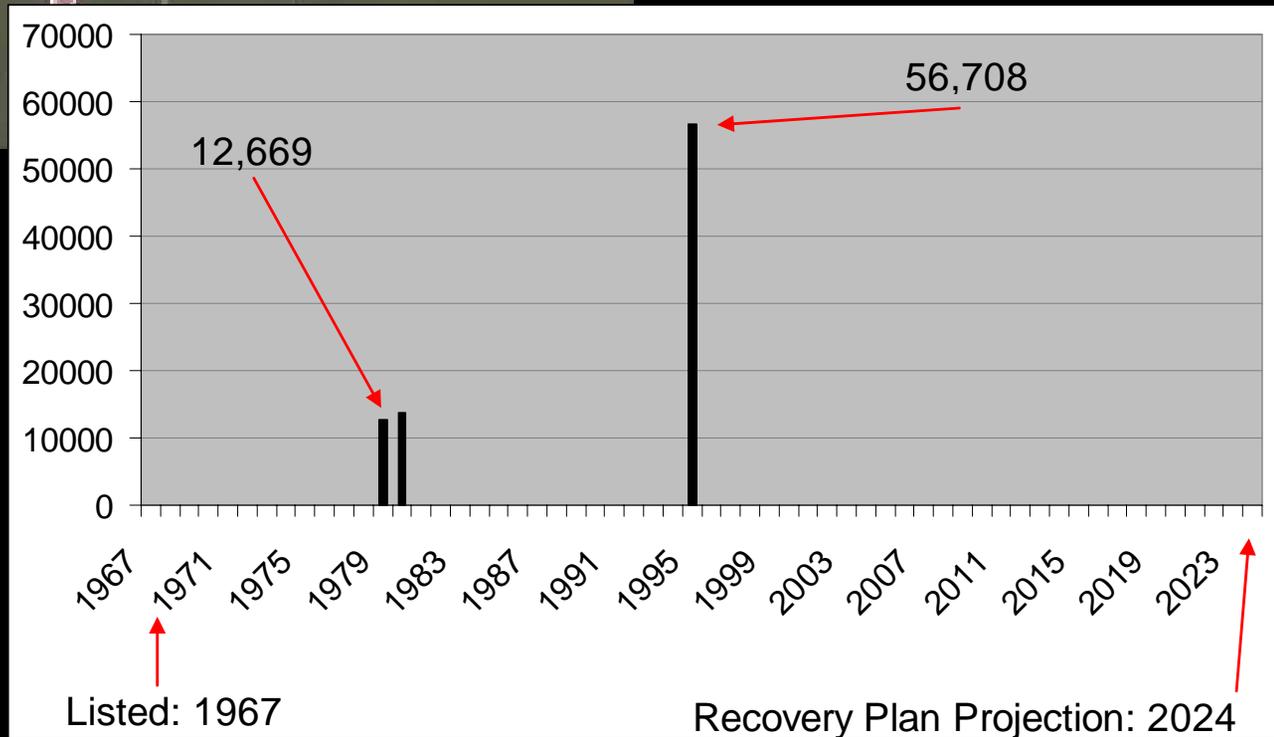




Utah Prairie Dog



Shortnose Sturgeon (Hudson River population)



Proper Measures of Effectiveness

- Prevention of extinction
- Population growth toward recovery goals
- Recovery within the time frame established by federal recovery plans

Prevention of extinction: 99.9% effective



Ten Species Have been Delisted
Due to Extinction

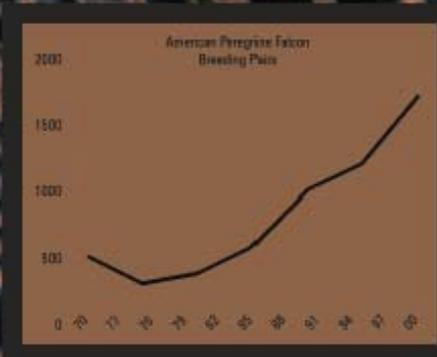
Only Two Went Extinct after Listing

West Indian monk seal	Extinct before listing
Guam broadbill	Extinct before listing
Marianna mallard	Extinct after listing
Dusky seaside sparrow	Extinct after listing
Amistad gambusia	Extinct before listing
Wabash riffleshell	Extinct before listing
Blue pike	Extinct before listing
Santa Barbara song sparrow	Extinct before listing
Longjaw cisco	Extinct before listing
Tecopa pupfish	Extinct before listing

MEASURING THE *Success*
OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



Recovery Trends in
the Northeastern
United States



Population growth
toward recovery
goals:

93% effective

Recovery within the
time frame
established by
federal recovery
plans:

82% effective

Prevention of extinction:

99.9% effective

Population growth toward recovery goals:

93% effective

Recovery within the time frame established
by federal recovery plans:

82% effective