

Another win

Chalk up another victory for the Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity, which has been highly successful at winning court fights.

Last week a federal appeals court, in a suit filed by the center, struck down a policy that allowed federal officials to indefinitely delay listing species as endangered.

The Endangered Species Act requires federal officials to determine within a year whether a species - recommended by the public for listing as endangered - qualifies.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service circumvented that rule by adopting a policy that allowed it to shelve - in one case for 19 years - decisions about species already designated by the U.S. interior secretary as candidates for listing.

Center director Kieran Suckling told The Associated Press that 39 species have gone extinct while languishing on the candidate list. One only has to mention the Center for Biological Diversity's name to solicit rancor from folks who don't give a hoot about the fate of endangered species.

Those who understand the broader implications of allowing plant and animal species to die out should be thankful for the center's dogged persistence.