

Back from the Brink: Success Stories Of the U.S. Endangered Species Act

Now designated as recovered, the Oregon chub is the 29th species to be taken off the endangered list under the landmark U.S. Endangered Species Act. This [e360 photo gallery](#) highlights the 21 species endemic to the U.S. that have made comebacks strong enough to be removed from the list.

23 MAR 2015

[HTTP://E360.YALE.EDU/DIGEST/BACK FROM THE BRINK SUCCESS STORIES OF THE US ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT/4392/](http://e360.yale.edu/digest/back-from-the-brink-success-stories-of-the-us-endangered-species-act/4392/)

As of today, a small minnow known as the [Oregon chub](#) becomes the 29th species to recover after being listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the first fish to ever join those ranks. The [Endangered Species Act](#), signed into law in 1973, is widely considered one of the most important pieces of U.S. environmental legislation ever enacted and has served as blueprint for wildlife protection laws worldwide. In the 42 years since its passage, the law has played an instrumental and often-controversial role in protecting hundreds of species of animals and plants and the habitats on which they depend.

The Oregon chub's 22-year journey to recovery showcases efforts by private landowners, conservation groups, and federal agencies to repair the fish's habitat and boost its population. Indeed, many U.S. species that have recovered could not have done so without intense cooperative efforts and creative land management approaches.

This e360 photo gallery highlights the [21 species](#) endemic to the United States that have made recoveries strong enough to be removed from the endangered list, and the conservation strategies that helped them make their comebacks.

— Crystal Gammon