

**Title:** Our Success is Others' Demise: The Rise of Endangered Species

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Human activity is responsible for the current increase in endangered species, but proactive government intervention can prevent further endangerment. Recent population changes are unlike any past mass extinctions because human activity has accelerated extinction rates. The transportation of invasive species, artificial pollution, resource exploitation, and habitat destruction are the most significant causes of endangerment. Several human causes exist for the increase in endangered species. First, invasive species transported by humans have spread disease and introduced unanticipated competition and predation. Moreover, pesticide use and water contamination have decimated many populations, such as the peregrine falcon (“DDT Killing”) and freshwater mussel. Hunting has also negatively impacted the reproductive process of certain species including the Travancore tortoise (Deepak and Vasudevan). Above all, habitat destruction through logging, deforestation, and industrialized plantations is the most disruptive threat to at-risk species. However, solutions are available. Government intervention is in fact the most productive method of endangered species recovery. Past conservation legislation such as the Endangered Species Act of 1973 has provided insufficient protection due to its extensive process. Fortunately, the newly introduced Recovering America’s Wildlife Act offers a more proactive solution to declining populations. The 2019 act uses existing federal revenues to fund State Wildlife Action Plans which identify protective measures for threatened species. Despite initial costs, this act will in time become a profitable component of the growing outdoor recreation economy. Its enactment and similar international measures are necessary to protect threatened species.

## Works Cited

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