



Special Environmental Concerns

Endangered & Threatened Species

Clean Air Act
Criteria Pollutants

Clean Air Act
Regional Visibility
Degradation

Clean Water Act

Coastal Zone
Management
Areas

Coral Reefs

Cultural
Resources

Endangered
and Threatened
Species

Environmental
Justice

Essential Fish
Habitat

Floodplain
Management

Invasive
Species

Migratory Birds

Prime and
Unique
Farmlands

Riparian Areas

Wetlands

Wild and Scenic
Rivers

ENDANGERED & THREATENED SPECIES & STATE/TRIBAL SPECIES OF CONCERN

Consistent with legal requirement of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and NRCS policy regarding State and Tribal Species of concern, NRCS is fully committed to supporting the conservation of formally designated Federal (including “candidate” and “proposed” species), State and Tribal species of concern.

What is it?

When Congress enacted the ESA in 1973, it made several findings regarding the disappearance of various plant and animal species of the United States, the importance of these species to the Nation and its people, and the obligation of the Federal Government to conserve to the extent practicable the various species of fish, wildlife, and plants facing extinction. NRCS policy (190-GM, Part 410) also requires consideration of impacts to species protected by State or Tribal laws or regulations.

Why is it important?

Section 7(a) of ESA requires NRCS, in consultation with and with the assistance of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), to advance the purposes of the Act by implementing programs for the conservation of endangered and threatened species, and to ensure that its actions and activities do not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened and endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the species’ critical habitat. NRCS must also consult with State and/or Tribal entities when considering impacts to species of concern protected by State or Tribal laws or regulations.

What can be done about it?

In working with landowners, NRCS planners should identify and recommend alternative actions to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to at-risk species that are present or may be present within the project area and to benefit these species whenever possible. NRCS must make an initial effects determination for any endangered or threatened species, designated critical habitats, proposed species or habitats, candidate species, or State or Tribal species of concern protected by State or Tribal law or regulation. Once the effects determination has been completed, there may be a need to initiate consultation with the USFWS or NOAA-NMFS that would result in the development of negotiated “reasonable and prudent measures” (RPMs) to mitigate potential negative impacts.

Endangered & Threatened Species & State/Tribal Species of Concern at a Glance

Problems / Indicators - Potential negative impacts to Federal, State, and Tribal Species of Concern	
Causes	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use changes/conversions • In-stream and upland restoration projects • Ground disturbing practices • Timing of project implementation • Management activities in occupied habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation to eliminate potential impacts during planning process • Consultation with USFWS and/or NMFS • Incorporate RPMs and conservation measures into project specifications • Establish monitoring protocols