



Conservation education fact sheet

What is a species?

A species is a name for a certain kind of animal, or other living being.

What does it mean for a species to be endangered or threatened?

Species that are “endangered” or “threatened” could face extinction—when there is no more of that kind of animal left. “Endangered” species are closer to going extinct than “threatened” ones.

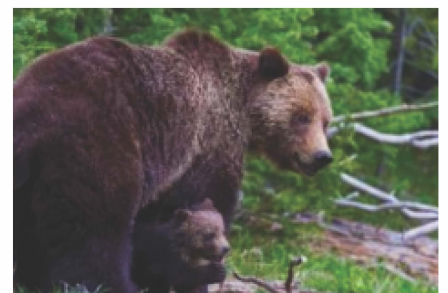
How can we help endangered or threatened animals?

Laws like the Endangered Species Act can help save species from going extinct—in fact, the ESA has a 99% success rate when it comes to saving protected species from extinction! It requires people to work together to protect animals and avoid losing them forever.

Learn about two American ambassador species, grizzly bears and wolves:

Grizzly Bears

- Grizzlies eat lots of different kinds of foods (mostly plants)! Eating lots in the summer helps them sleep through winter in a special process called hibernation.
- Grizzlies have few babies—every bear is important, and each is hard to replace.
- Most grizzlies in the United States (outside of Alaska) are considered “threatened” after almost being wiped out by hunters, but some people want to take those protections away and allow them to be hunted again.



Gray Wolves

- Wolves are very close to their families, called packs, and work to survive as a team.
- They “talk” to each other by howling and barking, like dogs.
- Wolves are very smart, but also shy, and mostly try to stay out of sight of humans.
- Some wolves in the United States are protected under the Endangered Species Act after they were hunted almost to extinction, but some people don’t want any wolves to be protected under the Endangered Species Act.

