



For Immediate Release

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Second Annual Endangered Species Day—May 18
Americans Encouraged to Learn about Our Nation's Fish, Plants and Wildlife on the Brink of Extinction

Washington, D.C.— Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) along with Senators Susan Collins (R-ME,) Russ Feingold (D-WI,) Carl Levin (D-MI,) Olympia Snowe (R-ME,) John Kerry (D-MA,) Joseph Biden (D-DE,) Maria Cantwell (D-WA,) Joseph Lieberman (I-CT,) Ron Wyden (D-OR,) Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY,) Bernard Sanders (I-VT), and Mike Crapo (R-ID), today introduced a resolution in the U.S. Senate to declare May 18th “Endangered Species Day.” Zoos, parks, schools, conservation organizations, and community groups are scheduling events to recognize the day.

By designating May 18, 2007 as “Endangered Species Day,” the resolution encourages students to learn about the threats facing endangered species and efforts to restore populations both here in the United States and around the world. “Endangered Species Day” offers our youth an occasion to discover more about endangered species through such activities as attending workshops, library lectures, field trips, and having species actually come into classrooms.

“Endangered Species Day will provide opportunities for young people, students, and the general public to learn more about the more than 1,800 species in the U.S. and abroad, which are designated as ‘at risk’ for extinction,” Senator Feinstein said.

In 2006, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved the designation of the first annual Endangered Species Day. The purpose of the nationwide observance is to educate the public about the importance of protecting threatened and endangered species and highlight the everyday actions that individuals and groups can take. Last year, thousands of people throughout the country participated in various activities. A variety of events were held across the country to highlight endangered species success stories including a birds of prey demonstration in Montana and visit by black-footed ferrets to a classroom just outside Denver. In addition, the Governor of Maine, the Rhode Island state legislature, and the cities and counties of Santa Barbara, San Diego, and San Francisco also declared state and local Endangered Species Days and educational events were held at zoos and aquariums across the country, such as the Roger Williams Zoo in Providence, RI and the San Diego Zoo in California.

“We’re expecting an even greater response for Endangered Species Day 2007,” said Leda Huta, Executive Director for the Endangered Species Coalition. “This provides an opportunity to celebrate the success stories of the Endangered Species Act.”

“Seventy organizations nationwide representing millions of Americans have also endorsed the designation of Endangered Species Day,” said Huta. “They all understand that we owe it to our

children and grandchildren to be good stewards of the environment and leave behind a legacy of protecting endangered species and the special places they call home.”

For additional information, visit www.stopextinction.org/endangeredspeciesday.

The organizational endorsement letter can be found at: www.stopextinction.org/ES_Day_letter.

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As the guardian of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) and the wildlife it protects, the Endangered Species Coalition (ESC) is composed of 380 environmental, conservation, religious, scientific, humane, sporting and business groups around the country. Our tools are public education, scientific information and citizen participation in decisions affecting the fate of at-risk species. Through extensive grassroots work, education, discussions with lawmakers, and the dissemination of information, we work to ensure that the Act itself, as well as all endangered animals and plants, can be passed on safely into the future.