



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM**

**An Introduction to the Endangered Species Act of 1973**

**Module 2 of 11 – Section 2 Findings and Purposes**

**Time: 1:17**

**Slide 1** (Music plays)

**Slide 2**

Section 2, Findings and Purposes, explains why the Endangered Species Act was needed.

Those reasons remain valid today.

In this section, Congress wrote: “Various species of fish, wildlife, and plants in the United States have been rendered extinct as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation....”

Congress also acknowledged that: “Other species of fish, wildlife, and plants have been so depleted in numbers that they are in danger of or threatened with extinction....”

**Slide 3**

When considering why species should be saved from extinction, Congress answered the question this way: “These species of fish, wildlife, and plants are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people....”

This was an acknowledgment that these species have a purpose in nature and a value, either directly or indirectly, to people.

**Slide 4**

Section 2 also states the law's purposes which include:

"...to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved...."

and

"...to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species...."

**End Segment**