



ESA 40th Anniversary Quote Sheet

“Alarmed by the precipitous decline of iconic species like the bald eagle, the whooping crane and the American alligator, America took the bold step of passing the world’s first comprehensive law to protect and recover imperiled species in 1973,” said **Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell**. “This landmark law has helped to stop the slide towards extinction of hundreds of species. Along the way, we have strengthened partnerships among states, tribes, local communities, private landowners and other stakeholders to find conservation solutions that work for both listed species and economic development.”

"The Endangered Species Act has played an integral role in wildlife conservation for four decades, giving us the ability to work with partners across the nation to prevent the extinction of hundreds of species, recover many others, and protect fragile habitat that supports both species and people," said **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe**. "We face enormous challenges as we seek to sustain and build on this success, which is why we're committed to improving our ability to work collaboratively with landowners and other key stakeholders at a landscape scale."

“Forty years ago, the United States recognized that more needed to be done to protect marine species such as whales, sea turtles, corals, and salmon,” said **Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator**. “Our nation's heritage is intertwined with our natural environment, from the lands we farm to the oceans we fish. This heritage, as the Act stated, is important not just from an ecological standpoint, but from an educational and scientific one as well. As we commemorate 40 years of conservation, there are certainly reasons to celebrate, but we also know that many species remain threatened and endangered. NOAA will continue our work to protect and recover these species so that future generations can experience the wonder of the natural world we live in today.”

“Forty years ago, the United States enacted a law to prevent species’ extinction and restore them to healthy populations,” said **Dr. Mark Schaefer, Deputy NOAA Administrator and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Conservation and Management**. “Since then, NOAA has worked to uphold the spirit of the ESA and protect threatened marine species. But protection is only one side of the coin -- recovery is the other. And this year NOAA, for the first time since the 1990s, delisted a species, the Eastern Steller sea lion population. There have been successes, but there is much more work to be done; we will continue to work with our partners to ensure recovery of other marine species.”

“From protecting our coastlines to safeguarding our most vulnerable species, the Department of Commerce has made environmental stewardship a priority,” said **Acting Deputy Secretary of Commerce Pat Gallagher**. “We have made significant progress in our management of protected species, and the science behind it, since the Endangered Species Act was enacted in 1973. There is still work to be done, but our goal remains to work together to save as many species as we can from extinction.”

"Any of us would be proud to have the legacy of the Endangered Species Act," said **Leda Huta, Executive Director of the Endangered Species Coalition**. "It is no small feat, bringing species back from the brink of extinction and restoring a nation's natural heritage. I am thankful to be living in a country that has led the way."