

23. ENDANGERED SPECIES

We support:

1. A moratorium on additional listings under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in its current form until such time as it is amended and updated to accommodate the needs of both endangered and threatened species and humans with complete respect for private property rights within the framework of the United States Constitution.
2. Endangered and threatened species protection that is achieved through providing incentives to private landowners and public land users rather than by imposing land use restrictions and penalties.
3. The burden of proof for listing being on the petitioner, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (together, the Agencies), rather than on the general public.
4. Scientific and peer-reviewed data being used as the basis for listing a species, as well as the basis for the development of regional or state conservation plans involving those species.
5. A legitimate state-level process of involving stakeholders, including farm organizations, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and agricultural representatives, in discussions around listing decisions and conservation planning.
6. A more efficient process for the delisting of species that allows the Agencies to achieve the stated objectives of the ESA: to recover and delist species.
7. Reasonable assurance mechanisms at the federal and state level that allow farmers to conduct normal farming activities without fear of liability under the ESA and Illinois' Endangered Species Protection Act.

We oppose:

1. The recognition of species that are considered under threat versus endangered to be a factor in liabilities to private landowners.
2. A definition of critical habitat that includes areas without the current presence of an endangered species.
3. The listing of the monarch butterfly as a threatened or endangered species.
4. Any group that receives funding pursuant to the ESA or as a result of litigation associated with the ESA, from being able to petition, support or encourage the listing of a species.