



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-First Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.C.R. 1013

endangered species act

Purpose

Supports the efforts of the United States Congress to update the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Background

The ESA was passed by the United States Congress in 1973 to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems on which they depend. In its passage of the ESA, the 108th Congress declared that “fish wildlife and plants are of aesthetic, ecological, educational, recreational, and scientific value to our Nation and its people.”

Species may be listed under the ESA as “endangered” when under immediate threat of extinction in a significant part of its range, or “threatened” if that species is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. A “candidate” species is one for which listing is warranted, but precluded by higher priority listing actions. All species of plants and animals, except for pest insects, are eligible for listing. As of January 1, 2013 there are 2,054 species listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA; 1,436 of these occur in the United States (fws.gov) and 61 in Arizona (azgfd.gov).

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the take (to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or significantly modify habitat) of animal species listed as endangered or threatened. While plant species listed as endangered are not protected from take it is illegal to remove or maliciously harm such species on federal land. A prohibition against commercial trade applies to all listed species.

The ESA is administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Commerce Department’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The NMFS is primarily responsible for marine fish and wildlife while the FWS is responsible for terrestrial and freshwater species. FWS operates under a cooperative agreement with the Arizona Game & Fish Commission to enforce the ESA in Arizona.

There is no fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

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Provisions

1. Expresses the Legislature's support of the efforts of the United States Congress to update the ESA.

Prepared by Senate Research

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