

EXTINCTION PREVENTION ACT

Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) introduced the *Extinction Prevention Act of 2023* on May 18, 2023, which provides much-needed funding for some of the most imperiled wildlife species in the United States including threatened and endangered North American butterflies (Title I), Pacific Island plants (Title II), freshwater mussels (Title III), and Southwest desert fish (Title IV). These less charismatic species are chronically underfunded and are some of the species most at risk of extinction.

North American butterflies are one of the fastest declining groups of all endangered species. Of the 39 listed species of butterflies, not a single listed butterfly is known to be improving.



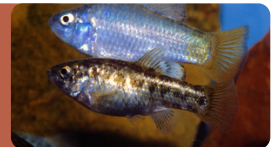
There are nearly 400 endangered and threatened plant species in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, representing ~22% of all listed species. In Hawaii, over 200 plant species have fewer than 50 wild individuals remaining.



Freshwater mussels are the most imperiled taxonomic group in the US – 70% of all U.S. species are at risk of extinction, and 38 species have already been lost.



Southwest desert fish are all in decline due to droughts and water scarcity – 42 species are listed as endangered or threatened and many have experienced significant abundance and range reductions.



THE EXTINCTION PREVENTION ACT OF 2023 WOULD:

- Assist in the conservation of threatened and endangered species by supporting and funding on-the-ground projects to conserve species, protect their habitats, and address other threats to survival.
- Authorize \$5 million annually for conservation projects related to restoration, protection and management of ecosystems; research and monitoring of populations; development and implementation of management plans; enforcement and implementation of applicable conservation laws; and community outreach and education.

Eligible applicants for funding include relevant states, territories, tribal governments, or any other entities with expertise required for the conservation of the particular species group.

Original cosponsors in the House include Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.), Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.), Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-CNMI), Rep. Darren Soto (D-Fla.), Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-N.Y.), Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.)

Supporters include Center for Biological Diversity, The Columbus Zoo & Aquarium Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Research Center, and Endangered Species Coalition