

S. RES. 125

Whereas in the United States and around the world, more than 1,000 species are officially designated as at risk of extinction and thousands more also face a heightened risk of extinction;

Whereas the actual and potential benefits derived from many species have not yet been fully discovered and would be permanently lost if not for conservation efforts;

Whereas recovery efforts for species such as the whooping crane, Kirtland's warbler, the peregrine falcon, the gray wolf, the gray whale, the grizzly bear, and others have resulted in great improvements in the viability of such species;

Whereas saving a species requires a combination of sound research, careful coordination, and intensive management of conservation efforts, along with increased public awareness and education;

Whereas two-thirds of endangered or threatened species reside on private lands;

Whereas voluntary cooperative conservation programs have proven to be critical for habitat restoration and species recovery; and

Whereas education and increasing public awareness are the first steps in effectively informing the public about endangered species and species restoration efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 18, 2007, as “Endangered Species Day”; and

(2) encourages—

(A) educational entities to spend at least 30 minutes on Endangered Species Day teaching and informing students about threats to, and the restoration of, endangered species around the world, including the essential role of private landowners and private stewardship to the protection and recovery of species;

(B) organizations, businesses, private landowners, and agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate on educational information for use in schools; and

(C) the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

DESIGNATING JUNE 20, 2007, AS
“AMERICAN EAGLE DAY”

The resolution (S. Res. 146) Designating June 20, 2007, as “American Eagle Day,” and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States, was agreed to; as follows:

S. RES. 146

Whereas, the bald eagle was designated as the national emblem of the United States on June 20, 1782, by our country's Founding Fathers at the Second Continental Congress;

Whereas, the bald eagle is the central image used in the Great Seal of the United States and the seals of the President and Vice President;

Whereas, the image of the bald eagle is displayed in the official seal of many branches and departments of the Federal Government, including—

- (1) Congress;
- (2) the Supreme Court;
- (3) the Department of Defense;
- (4) the Department of the Treasury;
- (5) the Department of Justice;
- (6) the Department of State;
- (7) the Department of Commerce;
- (8) the Department of Homeland Security;
- (9) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (10) the Department of Labor;

(11) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(12) the Department of Energy;

(13) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(14) the Central Intelligence Agency; and

(15) the United States Postal Service;

Whereas, the bald eagle is an inspiring symbol of the American spirit of freedom and democracy;

Whereas, the image, meaning, and symbolism of the bald eagle have played a significant role in American art, music, history, literature, architecture, and culture since the founding of our Nation;

Whereas, the bald eagle is featured prominently on United States stamps, currency, and coinage;

Whereas, the habitat of bald eagles exists only in North America;

Whereas, by 1963, the number of nesting pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 States had dropped to about 417;

Whereas, the bald eagle was first listed as an endangered species in 1967 under the Endangered Species Preservation Act, the Federal law that preceded the Endangered Species Act of 1973;

Whereas, caring and concerned citizens of the United States in the private and public sectors banded together to save, and help ensure the protection of, bald eagles;

Whereas, in 1995, as a result of the efforts of those caring and concerned citizens, bald eagles were removed from the “endangered” species list and upgraded to the less imperiled “threatened” status under the Endangered Species Act of 1973;

Whereas, by 2006, the number of bald eagles in the lower 48 States had increased to approximately 7,000 to 8,000 nesting pairs;

Whereas, the administration is likely to officially delist the bald eagle from both the “endangered” and “threatened” species lists under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, with a final decision expected no later than June 29, 2007;

Whereas, if delisted under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, bald eagles should be provided strong protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act;

Whereas, bald eagles would have been permanently extinct if not for vigilant conservation efforts of concerned citizens and strict protection laws;

Whereas, the dramatic recovery of the bald eagle population is an endangered species success story and an inspirational example for other wildlife and natural resource conservation efforts around the world;

Whereas, the initial recovery of the bald eagle population was accomplished by the concerted efforts of numerous government agencies, corporations, organizations, and individuals; and

Whereas, the sustained recovery of the bald eagle population will require the continuation of recovery, management, education, and public awareness programs, to ensure that the population and habitat of bald eagles will remain healthy and secure for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 20, 2007, as “American Eagle Day”; and

(2) encourages—

(A) educational entities, organizations, businesses, conservation groups, and government agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate on education information for use in schools; and

(B) the people of the United States to observe American Eagle Day with appropriate ceremonies and other activities.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that today the Senate has

agreed to S. Res. 146, a bipartisan resolution establishing a national American Eagle Day, on June 20, 2007, the day the bald eagle was selected as our national emblem during the Second Continental Congress in 1782. I am delighted that the bald eagle is scheduled to be “delisted” from the Endangered Species Act on June 20 of this year. I commend Senators ALEXANDER and BYRD for their work on this resolution.

The bald eagle has been protected under Federal law since Congress passed the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act in 1940. This law prohibits the taking, possessing, or commerce of both bald and golden eagles. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 reinforced protection of the bald eagle. I am a longtime supporter of the Endangered Species Act, a landmark environmental law that provides crucial protection to fish and wildlife on the verge of extinction.

Vermont is actually one of the only States in the continental United States without nesting bald eagles. Senator JEFFORDS funded a program about three years ago where orphaned or threatened nestlings were relocated from sites between Maryland and Maine to nests in the Dead Creek State wildlife management area in Addison County, VT, along Lake Champlain.

About 25 individual birds were successfully raised and released from nests there. While eagles usually return to nest in the general area where they were nestlings, it can take up to 4 years. Vermont fish and wildlife staff are closely monitoring the effort to see if Vermont will be successful in joining other states as a home to the bald eagle.

I support the passage of this resolution, which would allow all of us to celebrate the successful recovery of the bald eagle, and to remember the freedoms and ideals that the eagle represents as a symbol of our country.

SACRIFICE MADE BY THE MEN
AND WOMEN WHO HAVE LOST
THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING AS
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution (S. Res. 162) commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased the Senate is considering today a bipartisan resolution to designate May 15, 2007, as National Peace Officers Memorial Day that Senator SPECTER and I introduced along with the majority leader, and Senators BIDEN, GRASSLEY, CORNYN, STABENOW, MENENDEZ, DURBIN, KOHL, KENNEDY and BROWNBACK. Last week, the Judiciary Committee favorably reported this resolution unanimously. I thank all members of the Judiciary Committee and the cosponsors on this bipartisan resolution for their support in recognizing