

# THE EXTINCTION PREVENTION ACT OF 2025

119<sup>th</sup> Congress

## Background Information

The biodiversity crisis demands immediate and meaningful action to safeguard wildlife while we still have the chance. Every species, regardless of its popularity or charisma, plays a vital role in the functioning of a natural ecosystem. This legislation reestablishes critical funding that was included in the Inflation Reduction Act to ensure continuous funding to recover some of our nation's most underappreciated endangered species.

The ***Extinction Prevention Act of 2025***, introduced by Rep. Grijalva and Sen. Blumenthal, provides much-needed funding for some of the most imperiled wildlife species in the United States, including threatened and endangered North American butterflies, Pacific Island plants, freshwater mussels, and Southwest desert fish. These are some of the species most at risk of extinction, and each of them plays an important role in our natural ecosystem. It authorizes \$5 million annually for each species group to fund 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.

## Five Reasons to Support the Bill

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Freshwater mussels are the most imperiled taxonomic group in the US – 70 percent of all US species are at risk of extinction, and 38 species have already been lost.
4. 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.
5. The Extinction Prevention Act addresses the longstanding issue of insufficient funding which has plagued efforts to recover these at-risk species, in some cases, for decades.