

Analysis and Report on Endangered Species

An endangered species is a type of organism that is endangered by extinction (Geographic, 2022). Species can become endangered for two reasons: loss of habitat as well as a loss of genetic variation (Geographic, 2022). Habitat loss can occur for many reasons such as destruction, fragmentation, and degradation of habitat (National Wildlife Federation). In correspondence, a loss of genetic variation can be the result of habitat destruction which results from the increase of human populations and human activities (Ehrlich). One of the many endangered organisms to exist is the Venus Flytrap. The Venus Flytrap is scientifically referred to as *Dionaea muscipula* and it is a small perennial herb (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). This species is native to the East Coast of the United States. Specifically, the Venus Flytrap is native to the Coastal Plain and the Sandhills of North and South Carolina (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service).

Venus Flytraps also known as *Dionaea muscipula* are internationally listed as vulnerable (National Wildlife Federation). Along with this, the species is listed on the U.S endangered species list (National Wildlife Federation). Venus Flytraps have become more and more vulnerable over the years, this is due to overcollection, habitat destruction, and fire suppression (National Wildlife Federation). The greatest of all these threats for Venus Flytraps is habitat loss. Venus Flytraps only grow in the wet muddy ground and as a result, many of their habitats have been lost due to expansion (Platt, J. R., 2015). Another reason why Venus Flytraps are vulnerable is due to fire suppression techniques. While such methods protect properties, they allow the brush to thrive which starves Venus Flytraps of the sunlight they require to flourish (Platt, J. R., 2015). In North Carolina, Venus Flytraps are considered to be a “species of special concern” due to poaching. Even though the poaching of Venus Flytraps is illegal, it remains a great threat to this species (Web, C. N. R., 2021).

Over the years, there have been laws and regulations put in place to protect Venus Flytraps from becoming extinct. For example, it is considered illegal to poach Venus Flytraps. Moreover, in 2014 a change of state laws made it a felony to poach Venus Flytraps (Web, C. N. R., 2021). Furthermore, under the Endangered Species Act Venus Flytraps have been preserved under definite measures. These measures include protection from being “jeopardized by federal

activities,” “protection from having critical habitat destroyed or adversely modified,” “restrictions on take and trade,” and, etc (Yearsley, C., 2017). While these laws and regulations certainly help Venus Flytraps from going extinct, the species remains vulnerable and endangered to this day (Web, C. N. R., 2021). The prognosis for the recovery of this species is mixed because they remain a rare species. Venus Flytraps are considered endemics, meaning they are native and restricted to a certain place (Matt, 2021). If both the demand for wild plants continues and their habitat is destroyed, Venus Flytraps will become extinct (Matt, 2021). According to the North Carolina Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, only around 35,000 Venus flytraps currently remain in the wild (AZ Animals, 2022).

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