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NREM 585

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Reading Activity 12: Cubbage Chapter 14

1. What are the five criteria, defined in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) legislation, for making listing decisions? In your opinion, are these criteria sufficient? Why or why not?

The criteria for making listing decisions under the ESA are: the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of a species’ habitat of range; overutilization of commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; disease or predation; the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence.

I think these criteria *topics* are broadly sufficient, however, I do not believe that they are specific enough to adequately protect threatened and endangered species. For example, to what extent must habitat destruction/modification/curtailment occur in order to trigger an ESA listing? The terms are too ambiguous.

1. Two Important Things:
   1. CITES has broad international and ecological influence, however, the exceptions to CITES regulations indicates a general lack of “teeth” to the policy.
   2. I didn’t know about the “warranted but precluded” list of the FWS, which acknowledges that a species should be protected but official listing under the ESA is delayed until resources are available.
   3. (Bonus: Nick Hadad’s seminar on his research with endangered butterflies in a military firing range would be an interesting case study for this chapter.)
2. One Question:

Will commercializing non-game wildlife use be a successful way to raise funds for conservation of non-game species? Or will it lead to over-use and exploitation of non-game resources?