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Comment from Kappelman, John

Posted by the **Fish and Wildlife Service** on May 11, 2026

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It is critical that the F&WS continue to follow the rules that were set to help establish experimental populations of endangered and threatened species. Data collection by the ESA is essential for protecting individuals of experimental populations and aiding in monitoring their successful reintroduction and recovery efforts. These species vary from insects and plants to a wide variety of vertebrates, most of whom have been impacted by human activities. Humans arrived late on the scene in the US, and the reintroduction of these species will aid in restoring the habitats to their previous ecological balance. There is a science behind reintroduction, and data collection is a cornerstone of the effort and essential for tracking its successes and failures, and designing and redesigning programs that will ensure success. Species loss is, literally, the canary in the coal mine, and it will be to our detriment to ignore these measures of environmental degradation. We as a species have a single opportunity to get it right – once a species is extinct, it is gone, and the loss is immeasurable.

Comment ID

FWS-HQ-ES-2025-1463-0019

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mp1-br13-t7gc

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