

REFERENCE TITLE: **endangered species act**

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-first Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2013

# **SCR 1013**

Introduced by  
Senators Griffin, Burges, Shooter; Representatives Gowan, Stevens:  
Senators Melvin, Pierce

**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO UPDATE THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1           Whereas, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was passed in 1973 to  
2 safeguard the existence and recovery of fish, wildlife and plants that are so  
3 depleted in numbers they are in danger of or threatened with extinction; and

4           Whereas, in its fortieth year and more than 2000 species listings  
5 later, only one percent of the listed species have been recovered and  
6 delisted as a result of implementation of the Act; and

7           Whereas, sixty percent of critical habitat for listed species in the  
8 United States is located on nonfederal lands and dependent on the stewardship  
9 of private and state management; and

10          Whereas, there are 62 species of plants and animals listed as either  
11 threatened or endangered in Arizona and 23 more on the candidate list; and

12          Whereas, Arizona communities have been negatively impacted by  
13 implementation actions of the ESA, leading to catastrophic wildfires, public  
14 lands road closures, undue regulatory burdens on agriculture and mining,  
15 increased budgetary stress on military installations and general uncertainty  
16 for Arizona industries; and

17          Whereas, implementation of the ESA has endangered the sustainability of  
18 Arizona's natural resources by restricting the ability of federal and state  
19 agencies to adaptively manage those resources for multiple uses; and

20          Whereas, the ESA has not been amended since 1988 or reauthorized since  
21 1992 and has become outdated, unworkable and unsuccessful for its intended  
22 purpose of species recovery; and

23          Whereas, the efforts of our nation and state and of citizens to recover  
24 listed species can be successful only when those citizens, specifically  
25 landowners and lessees, embrace the ESA with incentive-based acts of  
26 confidence, free from fear of retribution or litigation; and

27          Whereas, implementation of the ESA should be based on sound science and  
28 must take into account the local economy, customs and culture; and

29          Whereas, it is in our best interest to manage our natural resources to  
30 promote protection, conservation and maintenance of a vibrant economy through  
31 mining, agriculture and tourism.

32 Therefore

33 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of  
34 Representatives concurring:

35          That the Members of the Legislature support efforts of the Congress of  
36 the United States to update the Endangered Species Act to improve its  
37 effectiveness in protecting and recovering Arizona's threatened and  
38 endangered species while rewarding landowner and lessee involvement,  
39 promoting productivity, ensuring vibrant and sustainable natural resources  
40 for future generations and relieving Arizona from burdensome regulatory  
41 measures that have been harmful to this State and ineffective in furthering  
42 the intent of the Act.