



# GRAZING TO EXTINCTION

The species listed here have one thing in common: they are being driven to extinction by historic and ongoing abusive grazing practices on our public lands. Livestock grazing has severely diminished native biological diversity in the western United States.



## GILA TROUT

One of the first species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Gila trout numbers have not improved because of overgrazed streams in New Mexico's Gila Wilderness. Only 5% of its habitat, which once included rivers and streams in the Prescott National Forest in Arizona, still exists.



## SOUTHWEST WILLOW FLYCATCHER

This migratory songbird is dependent upon healthy cottonwood/willow forests along the Southwest's major streams. A century of abusive grazing along streambanks has decimated the species, leading to its listing under the ESA in February 1995. There are less than 700 pairs left, with only 150-200 in New Mexico.



## MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE

The jumping mouse is listed under Arizona and New Mexico's endangered wildlife laws, but it is not yet federally protected. Jumping mice are dependent upon lush and diverse grasses and a high water table, both of which are absent in grazed areas.



## SACRAMENTO THISTLE

The Sacramento thistle is vanishing because its streamside habitat is nearly gone in its only home, New Mexico's Sacramento Mountains. Dozens of native plants, including the Sacramento thistle, are being grazed to extinction.



## DESERT TORTOISE

The tortoise is starving to death despite the fact that it eats less in one year than a cow eats in one day. Disappearance of lush native grasses and flowers, a critical component of tortoise diets, has weakened individuals, making them more susceptible to a devastating respiratory disease. Many tortoises have also been trampled to death by cattle.



## MASKED BOBWHITE

Native to the temperate grasslands of south central Arizona and northern Mexico, the bobwhite was once thought to be extinct, the victim of wholesale over-grazing of its habitat. Prospects for successful restoration in the United States improved in 1986 when Congress established the 110,000 acre Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, a cow-free sanctuary in southeastern Arizona.

## ENDANGERED STREAMSIDE FORESTS

Streams are the arteries of life in the arid West. Today these biologically rich areas are in the "worst shape in history," according to the EPA, the result of being clogged with cattle for a century or more. Seventy-five percent of all our endangered wildlife depends upon healthy streams and these disappearing forests.

## GRASSLANDS AND DESERTS GRAZED TO THE BONE

The fragile desert grasslands of the interior West have been forever altered by the cumulative effects of too many cattle. Most western grasslands did not evolve with large grazing mammals, and are ill-suited to alien livestock. By eliminating the most palatable perennial grasses, livestock have degraded forever a landscape where they never should have been in the first place.

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Endangered Plants, Fish and Wildlife on Western Public Lands: 1982-1993

