

# Kid gets WILD tracking endangered animals

Grab your backpack. The Kid is tracking endangered animals around the world.

The numbers of some animals have dropped. Scientists worry that those animals are in danger of dying out. Nature loses something unique each time an animal species becomes extinct.

Our country took official notice of endangered species 33 years ago. In 1973, Congress approved the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The purpose is to keep native plants and animals from becoming extinct. To do that, people try to help the endangered animals and the ecosystems where they live.

People in charge of the act work at the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service.

The act is working. Several species that were on the endangered or threatened list have been restored.

A century ago, many otters lived along the California coast. They were hunted for their fur. By 1914 the population was down to 50 otters. Thanks to conservation efforts, 2,417 otters were counted in 2005.



The bald eagle, our national symbol, is the best-known success story.

The eagle population was endangered by the use of the pesticide

DDT. The chemical thinned eagle eggshells. They broke before hatching.

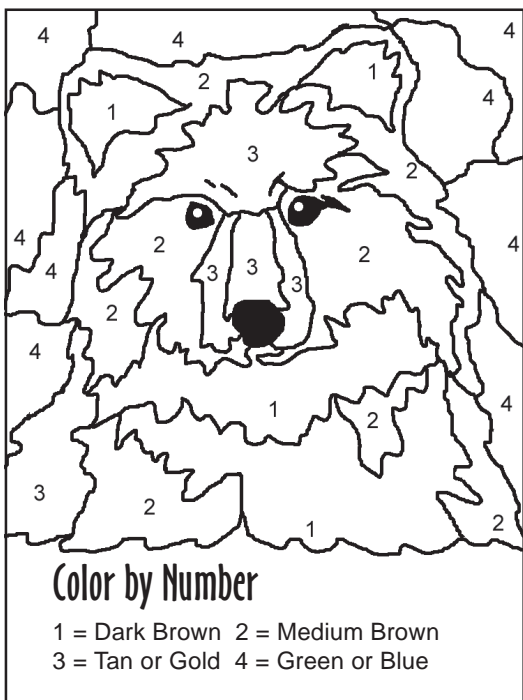
There were 417 pairs in 1963. Now, we have 9,250 pairs of bald eagles.

The bald eagle may be removed from the endangered species list. Eagles will still be protected by other acts that forbid killing, selling or harming eagles, their eggs or nests.

The grizzly bear is another success story.

About 50,000 grizzlies once roamed the West. Only 136 were still alive when the grizzly was listed as endangered in 1975. The bears' habitat and their conflict with humans caused the decline.

Now, the Yellowstone area in Wyoming is home to about 580 grizzly bears.



Watch your newspaper to learn about endangered animals across the globe in our continuing Wild World Safari.

## Newspaper in Education activity

- List any states you read about in your newspaper. Find them on a map.
- List any animals you read about.
- Start a travel journal for our safari where you can save the articles.
- Discuss endangered animals. Why do you think the animals in this story are increasing in number?

