

EXTINCTION

Extinct is a when an animal or plant ceases to be or exist

Extinction is forever

Nearly one-third of native species in the United States are at risk of disappearing

- > 1,000 plant and animal species are currently listed as 'threatened' or 'endangered' by the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- 266 species are listed as 'extinct' or 'extinct in the wild' in the United States - from the 2006 IUCN Red List
- More than 500 U.S. species are already extinct or missing.
 - Of these, at least 100 plants and animals have disappeared forever and are presumed extinct, while another 439 are missing and feared lost – Precious Heritage, 2000



Going, going...

The Center for Biological Diversity has identified 631 North American species and subspecies which have been driven extinct since 1642. This ongoing research project will eventually identify well over a thousand extinct species.

Some of the casualties are:

- The **California Grizzly Bear** (Golden Bear) - hunted to extinction by 1925.
- The **Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf** - extirpated in the lower 48 states by 1926 (reintroduction efforts began in 1995.)
- The **Southern California Kit Fox** - died out in 1903.
- The **Passenger Pigeon** - hunted to extinction over the course of a few decades, extinct by 1914.
- The **Central Valley Grasshopper** – extinct 1996.

In the 20th century, unprecedented numbers of species were driven to extinction:

1. They were hunted to extinction for their furs, as food sources and as trophies
2. They were wiped out because they fell victim to other species, introduced either deliberately or accidentally to their habitats
3. They disappeared because the habitats themselves have been destroyed—and it is this that is fuelling most extinctions today

In pushing other species to extinction, humanity is busy sawing off the limb on which it is perched...

