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ESA Overhaul Revealed

Last Friday, Sens. Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.) and Larry Craig (R-Idaho) introduced the Endangered Species Reform Act of 2007, an effort to expand the states' role in listing and managing endangered species.

The proposal would require petitioners to do more work before asking the government to protect a species. They would have to include an analysis of species' status, population trends and threats. The advocacy groups would be required to provide information on the species that has been tested in the field, peer reviewed and published by a scientific source.

"I believe the Endangered Species Act's (ESA) intention of protecting species is good, but I believe those good intentions have gone off track," said Thomas.

In addition to allowing states to weigh in more on species listing and recovery, the bill would require that the Fish and Wildlife Services delist a species when it meets its recovery goals.

"We need comprehensive reform to the ESA - it will be better for our environment, our resources and the people who enjoy them," commented Craig.

Thomas said the bill would re-direct federal efforts more toward delisting and recovery.
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