

Highlighted Species

Humpback whale
Bald eagle
American peregrine falcon
Atlantic piping plover
Shortnose sturgeon
Atlantic green sea turtle
Karner blue butterfly
American burying beetle
Seabeach amaranth
Dwarf cinquefoil

Humpback Whale

Range: The western North Atlantic stock summers in the waters of New England. The North Pacific summer range includes coastal and inland waters from California to Alaska.

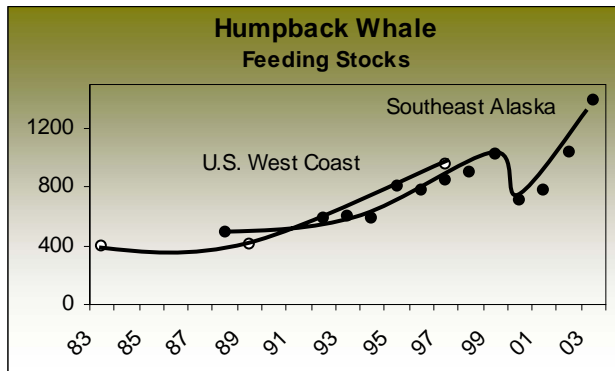
Endangered species listing: 1970

Federal recovery plans: 1991

Status since listing: Increased



Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) populations were greatly depleted by commercial whaling in the 19th and first half of the 20th century. American whalers alone killed between 14,164 and 18,212 humpbacks between 1805 and 1909. Its recovery began with the prohibition of whaling in the North Atlantic in 1955 and in the North Pacific in 1965. Since then, both populations have been slowly increasing. In 1992, it was estimated that the North Pacific population numbered between 6,000 and 8,000, up from an estimated 1,200 in 1966. In the U.S. Atlantic, there is evidence humpbacks in the Gulf of Maine have increased as well. Approximately 900 whales feed in these waters during the summer. Humpback whales are still threatened by ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear. In 1995, a marine mammal disentanglement program was established. In 1996, an “Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team” was formed to reduce incidental mortality and injury of whales in offshore fisheries. Two years later a similar team was established for Eastern North Pacific populations.



Northeast Highlight: The Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies (PCCS) coordinates a coast-wide network to rescue whales that become entangled in fishing gear. First Responders quickly get to the site, monitor and standby the animal until the primary rescue team arrives, or if possible, frees the animal themselves. The Disentanglement Network's first response teams are

located at strategic sites along the east coast of the United States and Canadian Maritimes. The network includes Cetacean research organizations, Universities, government agencies, and individual fishermen and their associations, such as the Atlantic Fish Spotters Association. In 2004 two humpbacks were disentangled off Cape Cod and one off Newport, Rhode Island. Although PCCS's long-term goal is to find ways to keep whales from becoming entangled, the whale rescue team provides a necessary, emergency service for the interim.

Bald Eagle

Range: Continental United States

Endangered species listing: 1967

Federal recovery plans: 1986

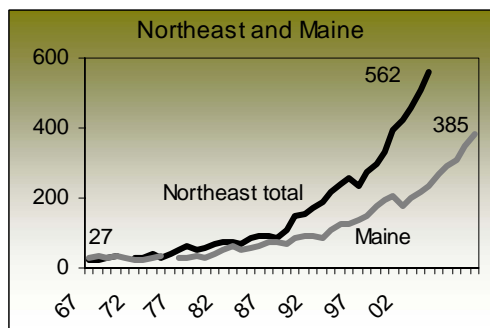
Downlisted to “threatened”: 1995

Proposed for delisting: 1998, 2006

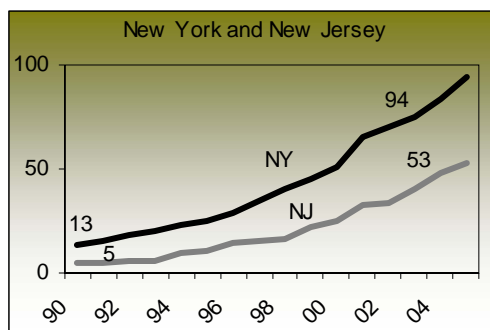
Status since listing: Increased



The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) first declined in the 1800s due to trophy hunting, feather collecting, and wanton killing. By the late 1940s, the use of DDT and other organochlorine compounds became increasingly widespread, causing eggshells to thin and lowering reproductive success. Eagle numbers plummeted, and in 1967 the species was listed as endangered in the Lower 48 states. It was joined by the American peregrine falcon, Arctic peregrine falcon and brown pelican in 1970. The plight of these large birds led to a ban on the use of DDT in the U.S. in 1972. Combined with habitat protection measures and a breeding, relocation, and reintroduction program, bald eagle numbers in the Lower 48 have soared from 416 in 1963 to 7,678 in 2003.



Northeast Highlight: Nesting pairs increased in the Northeast from 21 in 1967 to 562 in 2005. Maine contributed most of growth, increasing from 27 to 385. Between 1990 and 2005, New York pairs grew from 13 to 94 and New Jersey pairs grew from 5 to 53. After an absence of almost 80 years, eagles were reintroduced to Massachusetts in 1982, and grew to 19 pairs in 2005. New Hampshire’s single pair in 1990 grew to eight in 2004. Due to the growth in neighboring states, eagles made their own way back to Vermont and Rhode Island.



The Northeast also provides essential wintering habitat for bald eagles. The Connecticut wintering population increased from 20 to 92 between 1979 and 2005, and the New York population increasing from 6 to 194 between 1978 and 2006.

American Peregrine Falcon

Range: Occurs throughout much of North America from the subarctic boreal forests of Alaska and Canada south to Mexico. Breeds only in North and Central America.

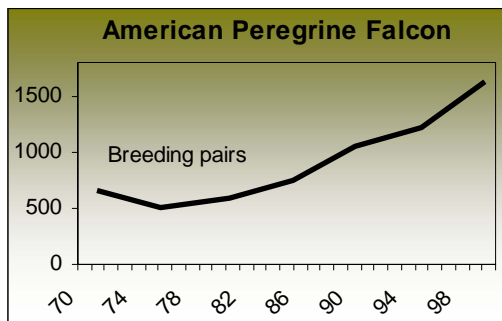
Endangered species listing: 1970

Federal recovery plans: 1979, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1991

Status since listing: Increased



Prior to the 1940s, there were approximately 3,875 nesting pairs of American peregrines (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) in North America. Populations crashed by the 1960s as a result of organochloride pesticides such as DDT which caused reproductive failures. By 1975, there were only 324 known nesting pairs in the U.S. The eastern population plunged from an estimated 350 active sites in the 1930s-40s to none by 1964. The use of DDT was banned in Canada in 1970 and in the U.S. in 1972. Efforts were also made to reestablish peregrine falcons by releasing offspring from wild stocks held in captivity by falconers. The first releases of captive-produced young occurred in 1974 in the eastern U.S. Since then, over 6,000 falcons have been released in North America. By 1980, peregrine populations were on the rise. Today, American peregrines can be found nesting in nearly all states within their historical range. The American peregrine was removed from the endangered species list in 1999.



Northeast Highlight: In 1975, the Peregrine Fund first released young captive-bred American Peregrines into New Jersey. In 1980 wild pairs were nesting on their own. Nest sites are often less than wild, can be found on tall buildings, bridges, and man-made nesting towers. In 2003, a pair nested successfully on the cliffs of the Palisades overlooking the Hudson River- the first successful nest in a historic, natural site since reintroductions began. Each year since, nesting has occurred on natural cliff habitat that had been devoid of peregrines since 1950.

In New Hampshire, American Peregrines are also again soaring at many of their historic breeding cliffs. A dedicated group of rock climbers help New Hampshire Audubon and USFWS access the state's peregrine nests. Over the past two decades, a total of 119 climbs have resulted in the banding of 200 peregrine chicks and the collection of 80 peregrine eggs that failed to hatch for shell-thickness and chemical content analyses.

Atlantic Piping Plover

Range: nests in dunes and beaches along the Atlantic coast from Newfoundland to North Carolina, including ME, VT, RI, CT, MA, NY, NJ

Threatened species listing: 1985

Federal Recovery Plan: 1988

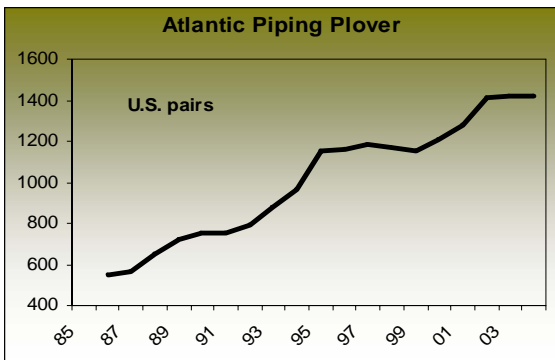
Critical Habitat Designation: 2002

Status: Increased

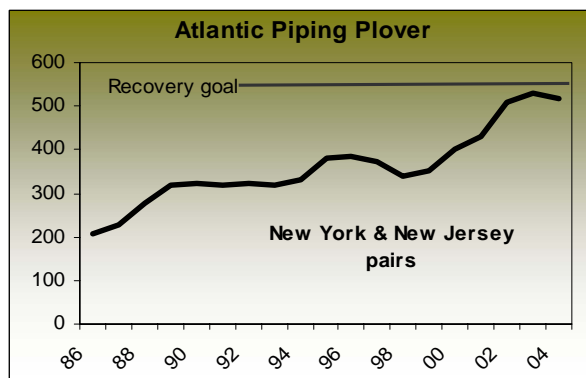
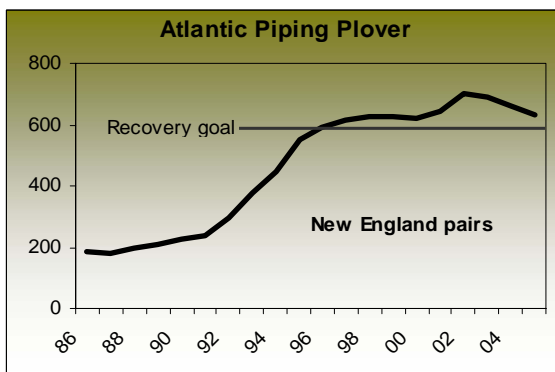


By the beginning of the 20th century the Atlantic population of the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) had plummeted due to hunting and egg collection. Numbers increased following the passage of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but declined again after World War II, as development and population growth began to seriously impact the Atlantic Coast. Plover numbers began a second upswing when it was placed on the endangered list in 1985. Nesting pairs grew from 550 in 1986 to 1,423 pairs in 2004. Most occur in New England (659 pairs) and New York/New Jersey (519 pairs).

While many endangered species inhabit Atlantic coast beaches, the plover is the most widely protected, and this has benefited many less known species such as the seabeach amaranth and northeastern beach tiger beetle which have been introduced to or naturally found their way into protected plover sites.



Northeast Highlight: Crane Beach, MA is one of the most important piping plover nesting areas in the world. Their Piping Plover Protection Program, which includes fencing nesting areas and prohibiting the removal of natural debris so birds feed on and seek cover in it, has been very successful and received state and national acclaim.



Shortnose Sturgeon

Range: rivers and estuaries throughout the east coast of the U.S.: CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NJ, NY, RI, SC, VA

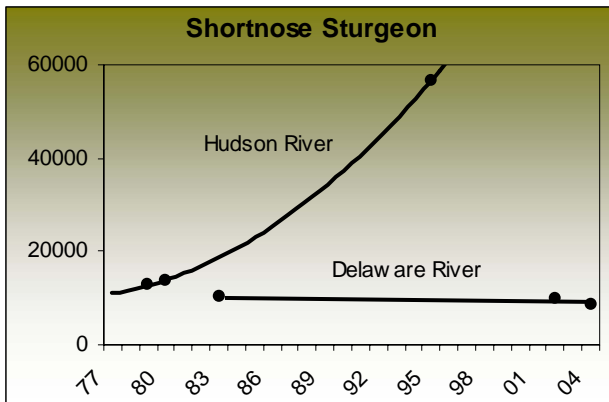
Endangered species listing: 1967

Federal recovery plans: 1998

Status since listing: Increased

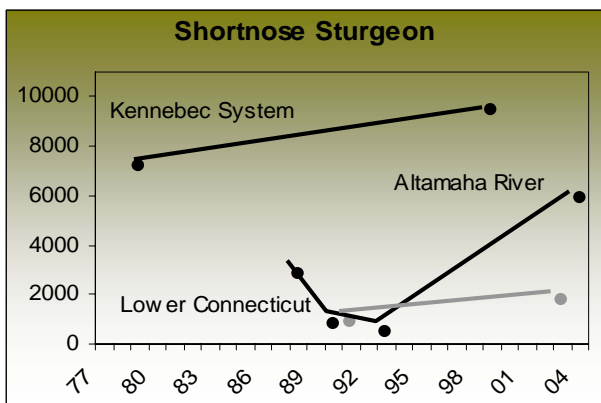


The shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) formerly occupied rivers and estuaries along the Atlantic seaboard from New Brunswick, Canada to northern Florida. It was driven to near extinction by the 1950s or earlier due to overfishing, by-catch in the shad fishery, damming of rivers, habitat destruction, and deterioration of water quality. There are seven large populations of shortnose sturgeon: Saint John River (NB), Kennebec System (ME), Connecticut River (CT, MA), Hudson River (NY), Delaware River (DE, NJ, PA), Savannah River (SC), and Altamaha River (GA). Five of these seven increased in size, one remained stable, and one has an unknown trend. The 1987 draft federal recovery plan recommended downlisting the Connecticut, Delaware, and Hudson River populations to “threatened” and delisting the Kennebec System population as recovered.



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Northeast Highlight: In New York, the sturgeon is found in the Hudson River and its estuary from the Troy Dam near Albany to Manhattan. It is larger than all other populations combined, and increased dramatically from 12,669 spawning fish in 1979 to 56,708 in 1994-1995. The Lower Connecticut River population increased from 875 in 1988-1993 to 1,800 in 2003. Maine’s Kennebec system (Kennebec, Sheepscot, and Androscoggin Rivers) increased from 7,222 in 1977-1981 to 9,488 in 1998-2000.



Atlantic Green Sea Turtle

Range: forages from Massachusetts to Texas; nests in Florida and in smaller numbers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, the U.S. Virgin Island, and Puerto Rico.

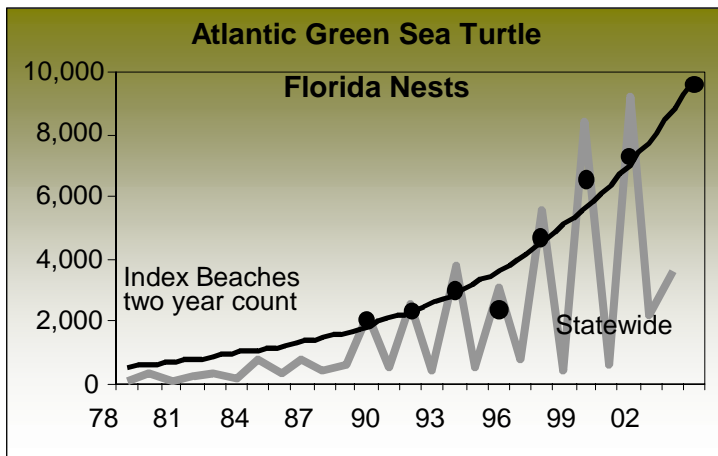
Endangered species listing: 1978
Federal recovery plans: 1984, 1991
Critical habitat designation: 1998



Status since listing: Increased

Although green sea turtle populations continue to decline throughout much of their worldwide range due to hunting (both illegal and legal), entanglement in nearshore gillnets, and habitat destruction, the U.S. Atlantic population has steadily increased in size since being protected by the Endangered Species Act. Conservation actions have included protection and acquisition of nesting beaches, prohibition of turtle and egg hunting, nest watch programs, public education, development of turtle excluder devices to limit accidental capture and killing by commercial fisheries, and a volunteer program to rescue winter-stranded turtles.

In 2004-2005, total numbers of nests in Florida reached 9,609 and is approaching the federal recovery plan goal of have an average of at least 5,000 nests over six consecutive years. Other recovery criteria are less well accomplished.



Northeast highlight: Most green, Kemp's Ridley, loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles migrate to warmer climates in the fall. Each winter, however, some stragglers become cold-stunned and wash ashore in Cape Cod Bay where they would die of hyperthermia if not rescued. Alerted by beachgoers or their own patrols, volunteers from the Massachusetts Audubon

Society's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary rescue the turtles and transport them to the New England Aquarium for rehabilitation. Rehabilitated turtles are released in Florida or back to the Northeast in the spring. Between 1995 and 2005, the yearly strandings ranged from 49 to 281 turtles, including as many as 7 green sea turtles per year.

Karner Blue

Range: formerly occurred across 12 states from Minnesota to Maine and into the Canadian province of Ontario. Today there are populations in MN, WI, IN, MI, NY, NH, and OH.

Endangered species listing: 1992

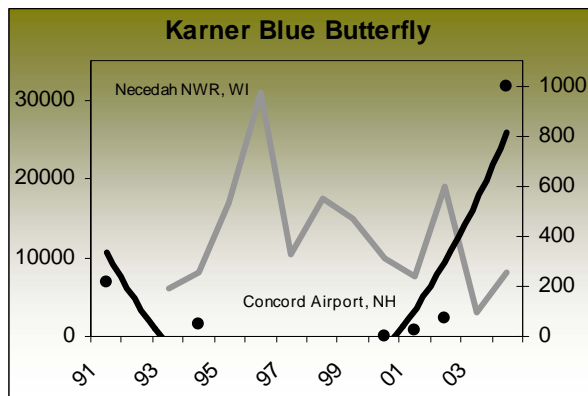
Federal recovery plans: 2003

Status since listing: Stable



The larvae of Karner blue butterflies (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) feed exclusively on one species of wild lupine and thus their range is restricted to areas that support this species. Much of the lupine's habitat has been destroyed by development and degraded by successional changes causing a decline in Karner blue locations and numbers. By the time the Karner blue was listed as endangered in 1992 it had declined by least 99%. Currently, the largest and most widespread populations occur in Wisconsin and Michigan where their numbers appear to have stabilized.

Northeast Highlight: A large population of over 10,000 blues is found in New York at the Saratoga Airport and appears to be stable. In the Saratoga Sandplains area of NY, the town of Wilton has joined state and Federal agencies and The Nature Conservancy in the creation of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park, the heart of which will contain a core



population of Karner blues. Near Albany NY, the Pine Bush Preserve and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission were established. Although Karner blue populations in this area have decreased, in part due severe weather conditions that occurred between 1998 and 2000, efforts to restore habitat, to link Karner blue sites together, and to develop a local supply of lupine seeds has met with some success. In addition, successful captive propagation

techniques have been developed for the Karner blue and reintroductions of captive bred Karner blues to sites in New Hampshire, Ohio, and Indiana have resulted in the establishment of new populations.

In New Hampshire, beginning in 2001, captive bred Karner blues were reintroduced to a site in the Concord Pine Barrens. Over 1,000 butterflies have been released at the site and in 2003 the butterfly began mating and reproducing in the wild again.

American Burying Beetle

Range: historically found throughout the eastern U.S.; now found in RI, MA, OK, SD, NE, KA, AR, and TX.

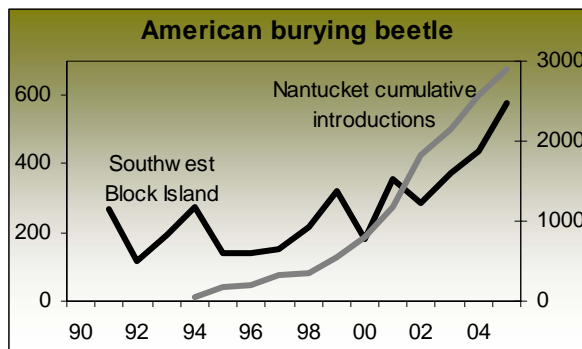
Endangered species listing: 1989
Federal recovery plans: 1991

Status since listing: Increased



The American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) formerly occurred across a vast range from Nova Scotia south to Florida, west to Texas, and north to South Dakota. It was documented in 150 counties in 34 states, the District of Columbia, and three Canadian provinces. Total historical numbers may well have been in the tens of millions or larger. The burying beetle's dramatic decline has been called "difficult to imagine" and "one of the most disastrous declines of an insect's range ever to be recorded." It was extirpated from mainland New England through New Jersey by the 1920s, from the entire mainland east of the Appalachian Mountains by the 1940s, and from the mainland east of the Mississippi River by 1974. It is currently absent from about 90% of its historic range.

The cause of the beetle's decline remains a mystery, but its unique dependence upon large (for beetles) carrion lends credence to the theory that it dwindled due to a cascading disruption of the food chain caused by the extinction, extirpation and suppression of wolves, bears and mountain lions and the extinction of the passenger pigeon. At the time of listing in 1989, three populations were known: one on Block Island, RI and two in eastern Oklahoma. Since then, populations have been discovered in South Dakota (1995), Nebraska (1992), Kansas (1997), Arkansas (1992) and Texas (2003). It has been reintroduced to Massachusetts and Ohio and several captive breeding facilities have been established.



Northeast Highlight: Located 12 miles off the south coast of Rhode Island, Block Island supports the last natural population of the American Burying beetle east of the Mississippi River. It is free of foxes, raccoons, skunks and coyotes which elsewhere compete for carrion. A study of one-third of the population determined that it was relatively stable between 1991 and 1997,

then steadily grew to 577 adults in 2005. The population served as the source for the Roger Williams Park Zoo captive breeding which was initiated in 1994 and for direct translocations to Nantucket and Penikese Island.

Seabeach Amaranth

Range: endemic to sand dunes and flats on the barrier islands along the Atlantic coast from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to central South Carolina: DE, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY, RI, SC, VA

Endangered species listing: 1993

Federal recovery plans: 1996

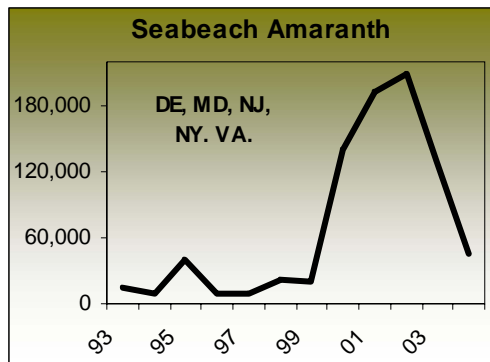
Status since listing: Increased



The seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*) is beach species which formerly occurred in 31 counties in nine states from Massachusetts to South Carolina. By 1988, it occurred only in the Carolinas. Its decline was caused by beach development, dune stabilization and enhancement projects, off-road vehicles, recreation, exotic species and hurricanes. Hurricanes and storms reduce and eliminate populations, but also create new habitat by reducing competing ground cover. The natural recolonization of New York in 1989 and 1990 may have been aided by severe winter storms.

The amaranth traps sand, initiating dune formation and creating suitable habitat for other plants, such as sea oats and beach grass. Numerous shorebirds, including the least tern, Wilson's plover, black skimmer, Caspian tern, and the endangered piping plover and roseate tern, nest in seabeach amaranth stands.

Since being placed on the endangered species list, the amaranth has recolonized New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. Numbers increased dramatically from 14,899-17,174 in 1993 to 46,108-48,668 in 2004. While the species fluctuated dramatically (well over 100,000 plants in 2000, 2001, 2003 and less than 50,000 in 1999, 2002 and 2004), the trend between 1993 and 2004 was clearly upward.



Northeast Highlight: Extirpated from New York around 1960, the amaranth naturally recolonized in 1990 with 331 plants and increased to 30,381 in 2004. Most amaranth sites are within areas fenced to protect endangered piping plovers. Extirpated from New Jersey in 1913, recolonization took place in 2000 at four sites within Gateway National Recreation Area and several sites on Monmouth County municipal beaches. The latter sites were created by a 1995 beach nourishment project by

the Army Corps of Engineers. The 2000 population was 1,039; the 2005 population was 5,795.

Dwarf Cinquefoil

Range: endemic to the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Endangered species listing: 1980

Critical habitat designated: 1980

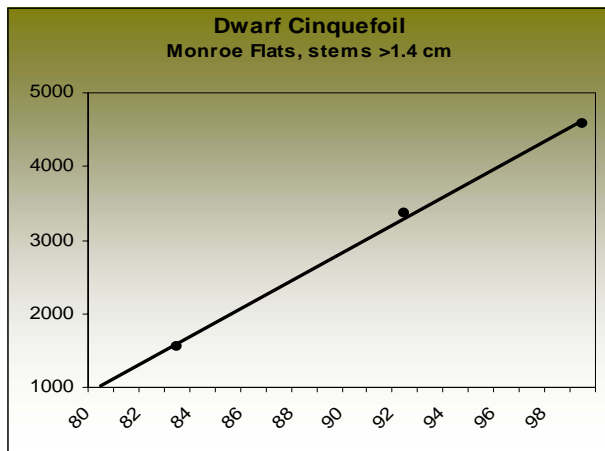
Federal recovery plans: 1983

Delisted due to Recovery: 2002

Status since listing: Increased



Dwarf or Robbins' cinquefoil (*Potentilla robbinsiana*) is a small perennial member of the rose family endemic to Mt. Washington and Franconia Ridge within the White Mountains National Forest, New Hampshire. When placed on the endangered species list in 1980, only two populations were known, a natural population at Monroe Flats and an introduced population at Camel Patch. Monroe Flats was designated as critical habitat. Over-collection was formerly a threat, but largely controlled by 1980. The primary threat at that point was recreational impact associated with the Appalachian Trail. The trail bisected the Monroe Flats population, extirpating the cinquefoil from the west side, severely curtailing it on the east side within eight meters of the trail, and causing an overall population decline of 75%. In 1984, a small population was rediscovered at a historic site on Franconia Ridge. In 1988 a new population was established on Franconia Ridge. Three of the four populations were considered viable (i.e. >50 plants) when the species was declared recovered and removed from the endangered species list in 2002.



Northeast Highlight: The primary population at Monroe Flats grew from 1,547 plants in 1983 to 4,575 in 1999 due to a propagation and augmentation program run by the New England Wildflower Center, and habitat protection efforts by the Appalachian Mountain Club and the U.S. Forest Service. The latter groups rerouted a section of the Appalachian Trail that bisected the dwarf cinquefoil population so that the trail instead ran outside the designated critical habitat

zone. Recreational access was prohibited within critical habitat, and a scree wall and educational signs were placed along the habitat border. Compliance with the measures has been 98% successful. Propagation efforts have established over 100 new plants at the site.