



## **Endangered Species Act Alert 2000-19**

**RE: Aleutian Canada Goose Removed from Endangered Species List**  
**DATE: March 20, 2001**

Fewer than a dozen ESA-listed species in the U.S. have ever been declared “recovered” and removed from the Endangered Species List. On Monday, the Aleutian Canada goose joined this small group when Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced the delisting of the species.

The goose, once thought to be extinct, nests in the Aleutian Island chain off southwest Alaska. As early as the mid-1700’s, farmers released red foxes onto the islands for fur farming, which eventually came close to exterminating the species. The recovery strategy included eradicating foxes from 35 islands; moving remaining geese to fox-free refuges; prohibiting hunting in wintering areas; and protecting and enhancing winter habitats in California and Oregon through conservation easements. Secretary Norton credits cooperation between state and federal agencies and private landowners for the species’ recovery from a population of several hundred to about 37,000 today.

After delisting, the Aleutian Canada goose will continue to be monitored and protected from various forms of “take” through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Hunting of the goose may eventually be permitted; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will evaluate requests from states that wish to allow hunting of the species.

Among the other “success stories” that have recovered enough to be removed from the Endangered Species list are the American alligator, two species of peregrine falcon, the brown pelican, and the gray whale.

Links to more information:

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2001-03-18-goose.htm>

<http://alaska.fws.gov/media/finalqanda.html>

### **Need More Information?**

If you have questions or comments about this ESA Alert, please contact Megan Callahan Grant ([mcallahan@parametrix.com](mailto:mcallahan@parametrix.com)), ESA Program Policy Analyst, who can direct them to the appropriate specialist.