## Social Security Report

ith some experts s - or about a quarter ose on earth - will me extinct during the 30 years, the U.S. langered Species Act, up Congressional renewal this year, has taken on a new significance for many Americans. Conservationists contend that we're losing too many species too fast, and most agree that much more is at stake than the fate of the Tecopa pupfish - the first species officially stricken from the Endangered Species List by a finding before. that it is extinct.

Nevertheless, the upcoming debate over the ESA will be a "very tough battle" for the act's proponents, says the current issue of National Wildlife magazine, the be - monthly publication of the National Wildlife Federation. To win, conservationists will have to dispel some popular misconceptions about the law itself and buck the momentum behind the Reagan administration, which tried to cut the Endangered Species Program budget by some 43 per cent last year.

For one thing, says the magazine, the public needs to understand that the Act never sought to bring a halt to development. It instead established a consultation process to come up with alternatives that wouldn't affect threatened species.

Statistics bear out the contention that the law doesn't stymie development, says National Wildlife. In cose to 1,000 consultations between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and federal agencies implementing the ESA which involve critical since 1979, only 150 proposed projects posed a danger to an endangered species or its habitat. In the "great majority" of cases, says the magazine, "reasonable security blanket of the alternatives' were developed. For example, the many more species would magazine points out, have preceded the tiny mineral exploration in Tecopa pupfish down the Montana's Cabinet road to extinction. Mountains was allowed to proceed with only slig. a travelled - the more the modifications to protect grizzly bears.

Other parts of the law himself con haven't worked so well, endangered.

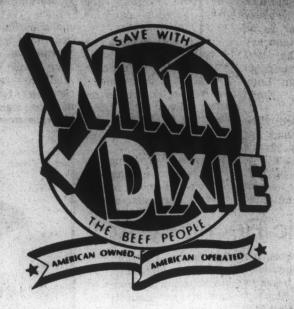
according to National Wildlife and that's where the legislation needs strengthening. One of the most criticized aspects of the law is the procedure for adding endangered or threatened species to the official list. When this part of the act was amend 1978, the entire process was simply made more cumbersome and inefficient, conservationists say. The result - a mere 15 species were added to the list the year after the amendment took effect, compared to the 65 species listed the year

Now, under the Reagan Administration, says National Wildlife, the listing process has "ground to a complete halt." Not a single species has been proposed for the threatened or endangered list since Reagan took office, though some species that were proposed under President Carter have been added to the list.

Working against a more efficient listing procedure, says the magazine, is a slashed budget. A cut of nearly half in the current federal budget for listing activities reflects "not only the Administration's cost trimming campaign, but also a downgraded emphasis on listing," says the magazine report. In addition, the Administration proposed a 20 per cent reduction in funding for programs that help restore a species' numbers, the recovery programs that have helped save the whopping crane and the California condor, among others.

The Endangered Species Act is being attacked on several fronts, many of provisions of the law. Conservationists will have to remind the American people, says National Wildlife, that without the Endangered Species Act, have preceded the tiny

The more that road is "web of life" is broken by dropouts - the closer man himself comes to being

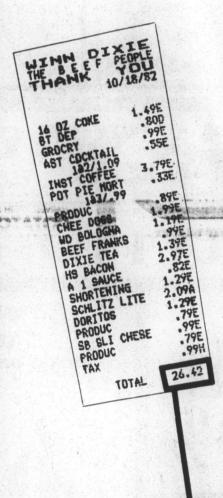


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## **Endangered Species Act**

liw Lee E. Wallio

Field Representative A new Social Security study shows that very few people will be hurt by congressional action last year that eliminated the 'minimum benefit".

received the "minimum benefit" under prior law are mainly housewives who will usually get higher benefits on their husbands' records \$135.00 at the time -and people qualified for pensions under other government retirement programs.

The date disproved the notion that most who would have received the future were lifetime workers with low earnings, as feared by many.

"minimum benefit" by Congress last year for 3 million current recipients and for future recipients was a source of much controversy.

Congress later rescinded their earlier action, eliminating the "minimum benefit" only for people becoming eligible in 1982 and later.

The new study sampled Ky. newly eligible recipients who turned age 62 in November, 1981, and who applied for Social Security benefits at that time. All were legible for the m benefit".

me 78 per cent were ives, most of whom so entitled to a wife's heirischusbands' work

The average benefit for those eligible on their own record and on their husband's record was \$200. Without the minimum benefit, the average would have been \$196.

Another 10 per cent were The study shows that people covered under other those who would have government retirement pension programs, with only a little work under Social Security.

The "minimum benefit" -represented a windfall to that group.

The study noted that even without the "minimum benefit" - using the regular beneift formula - this group of people will get back a "minimum benefit" in the disproportionately large benefit because the benefit tables are weighted in favor of people who have paid The elimination of the small amounts into the Social Security system.

## Promoted

Floyd Jordan, son of Madeline H Jordan, Route 1, Tyner, has bee promoted in the U.S. Army to the rank of private first class.

Jordan is a storage specialist at Fort Campbell,

**Board Of Education** To Meet

The Edenton - Chowan
Board of Education will hold
a monthly meeting at 7:30
P.M. November 1st in the
third floor conference room
of the County Office