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Contact Your State Government Offices

As you have learned in this study unit, it is more effective and less costly to conserve species before their populations get so low that they are endangered.

Contact the agency in your state that is in charge of conserving biodiversity. (The agency usually is called the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Wildlife, or the Department of Game.) Find out if your state has an Endangered Species Act of its own and how the law works.

Next, find out if the agency keeps track of "species of concern" or "sensitive species," those that are not yet formally listed as threatened or endangered under state or federal law but whose populations appear to be declining.

Ask what measures the agency takes to prevent declining species from getting to the point where they are threatened or endangered. If there is no program to prevent endangerment, write to the agency and tell them why you think there should be such a program.