

## Bill to Protect Wild Dogs Moves Forward

**Great Cats and Rare Canids Act seeks greater protections for iconic cat and dog species.**

Posted: April 27, 2009, 5 a.m. EDT

Wildlife advocates are praising the recent passage of an act that seeks greater protections for endangered and iconic cat and dog species, including leopards, cheetahs, and African wild dogs.

The Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, introduced by Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., garnered overwhelming approval by the House of Representatives on Tuesday, April 21. Passage of the act supports conservation programs, educational resources, and increased monitoring and law enforcement activities to prevent poaching and illegal trafficking.

The legislation would provide financial resources to restore populations of rare wild cat and canine species and protect their habitats. The bill was approved by a vote of 290 to 118.

The bill defines "rare felid" to: (1) mean any of the felid species lion, leopard, jaguar, snow leopard, clouded leopard, cheetah, Iberian lynx, and Borneo bay cat, including any subspecies or population of such a species; and (2) exclude any species, subspecies, or population that is native to the United States and any tiger.

In addition, it defines "rare canid" to: (1) mean any of the canid species dhole, gray wolf, Ethiopian wolf, bush dog, African wild dog, maned wolf, and Darwin's fox, including any subspecies or population of such a species; and (2) exclude any subspecies or population that is native to the area comprised of the United States and Canada or the European Union

"Wild and rare cat and dog species are some of the most iconic animals on the planet," said Dr. Sybille Klenzendorf, managing director of species conservation at World Wildlife Fund. "The bipartisan bill that passed the House will help ensure these majestic creatures continue to roam the wild for generations to come."

Supporters also said that the recent passage marks an important stride in the battle to save great cats from the loss of habitat and food sources. A vote in the Senate is pending.

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