

1. California Freshwater Shrimp

The California freshwater shrimp eats decaying plants and animals. It requires clean fresh water to survive. This shrimp lives in coastal streams in Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties. These counties are north of San Francisco and contain cities, such as Santa Rosa, San Rafael, and Napa. Many factors have endangered this shrimp. Humans have altered habitat by mining for gravel in the shrimp's streams, harvesting timber along banks, and building farms and dams in these counties. The shrimp are also threatened by nonnative fish species that people have stocked in streams. These fish eat the shrimp. Water pollution poses another threat, since the shrimp require clear, clean water to survive.

Status: endangered



2. California Golden Trout

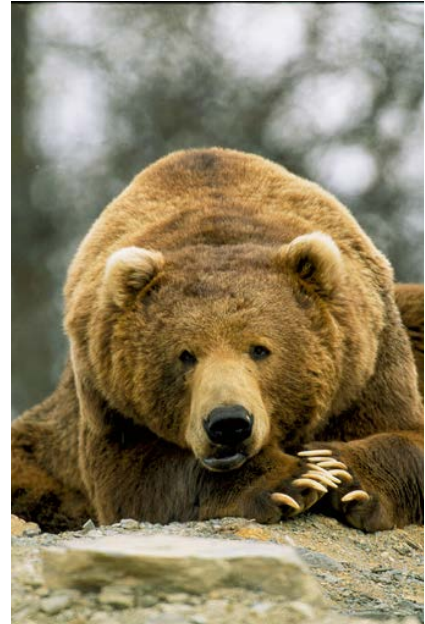
The California golden trout lives in cold, clear mountain streams and pools in Inyo National Forest in the eastern Sierra Nevada mountains. This forest sits next to the town of Mammoth Lakes. The trout feeds on insects and their larvae. People have introduced brown trout and rainbow trout into the golden trout's habitat. The golden trout cannot compete with these other fish for the same food resources. In addition, brown trout often eat golden trout. Cattle ranching has also hurt the California golden trout. When cattle graze in meadows next to streams, they often strip the streams of plants or damage the banks that help hide the golden trout from predators.

Status: threatened. Conservationists are working to get the trout added to the endangered species list.

3. Grizzly Bear

The grizzly bear lived in hills and mountains throughout California. The grizzly bear eats both plants and animals, but is most famous as a fierce top predator. When large numbers of people came to California during the Gold Rush in 1849, they moved into grizzly bear habitat. People were afraid of the grizzly bear and did not want it to kill their livestock, so they began to hunt the bear. By 1922, fewer than 75 years after the discovery of gold, the last grizzly bear in California was killed. The grizzly bear still lives in North America, mostly in and around Canada, American national parks, and other and protected areas of the United States.

Status: threatened. Removed from the endangered species list in March 2007.



4. Guadalupe Fur Seal

The Guadalupe fur seal used to live along the coast of California. In the 1800s, fur seal hunters killed most of the 30,000 seals that lived in the ocean. In fact, so many were killed that scientists thought the seals were extinct. Some seals survived, however, and were rediscovered in 1954. Several thousand seals now breed in Mexico and swim off the coast of Southern California. They eat the plentiful squid and mackerel. Noise pollution from the space shuttle program harms the seals. In addition, oil exploration in the ocean disturbs its habitat.

Status: threatened. Conservationists are working to get it added to the endangered species list.

5. Island Fox

The island fox lives on the Channel Islands off the coast of California. This fox is the largest mammal native to the Channel Islands. It is only about the size of a house cat and eats mostly insects and fruit. It faces a variety of human threats. Golden eagles, which arrived in the islands in 1999, now kill and eat island foxes. Before 1999, bald eagles lived on the islands and scared away the golden eagles. Bald eagles ate fish instead of foxes, so the foxes had no natural predators on the islands. Pollution from DDT, a pesticide humans used in farming, killed off the bald eagle population on the islands. Golden eagles arrived after the bald eagles disappeared. In addition, dogs that humans introduced to the islands have brought diseases that kill some foxes.

Status: endangered. The population has dropped at least 50% since the 1990s. On Santa Cruz Island the population has dropped from 1,300 in 1995 to fewer than 100 today.



6. Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse

The salt marsh harvest mouse lives in the marshes of the San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun bays in northern California. About 84% of the salt marshes by these bays has disappeared since 1850 as humans have developed this land for cities, agriculture, and salt production. People have also affected the marshes by putting fresh water from wastewater treatment plants into the bay—adding fresh water makes marshes less salty and changes the plants that live there. The salt marsh harvest mouse needs marsh plants, such as pickleweed and saltgrass—without the right plants harvest mice cannot survive. Stray cats from the nearby houses prey on the harvest mouse. These are among the many threats faced by salt marsh harvest mice.

Status: endangered. Population has declined 50–90% in the past 150 years.