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**PERSUASIVE SPEECH OUTLINE**

I. Introduction

A. Attention-getter: The Bog Turtle is the smallest and one of the rarest turtles found in the United States (“Year of the Turtle”, 2011).

B. Background of issue: The bog turtle has been listed on the threatened species list since 1997 ranging from 2,500 to 10,000 bog turtles left in the United States (Merry).

C. Thesis statement: The bog turtle population has decreased due to habitat loss and poaching.

D. Preview Statements:

First we will talk about the decrease in wetlands and how it affects the Bog turtle

Second we will talk about how bog turtles are being poached

And finally we will talk about a solution to decrease the loss of the bog turtles

II. Body

A. Main Point 1: There are two main problems on why the bog turtle is on the threatened species list

1. First Problem: Destruction of wetlands

All bog turtles live in wetlands, because they prefer cool waters and open areas for basking. They prefer shallow water channels for hiding, low-grassy vegetation with dense and tufted sedges for nesting (“Searching for Bog Turtles”, 2018).

Bog turtles are very sensitive to where they have to live. They have to be in a certain climate to be able to lay eggs and for their eggs to hatch. Bog turtles used to be able to migrate to another area if the previous one’s climate had changed. If a bog turtle wanted to move to a different area, they wouldn’t be able to because these habitats are so isolated now because of the different developments that have replaced their wetlands, restricting them from being able to move (“Bog Turtle”).

Development and wetland drainage plays a big role in the destruction of these wetlands where the bog turtles live. An example is the Chesapeake Bay. Because of many people moving to the Chesapeake Bay, a lot of development follows, for example: when new residential places are built, many other community places are built as well like schools or shopping centers. We also use more land than we need to. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2015, an average person’s home measured to be about 2,467 sq. feet which marks an increase in size even though the average of a housing population has decreased (“Development”).

2. Second Problem: The bog turtles are being collected

Even though there are laws where people can be fined for poaching, the bog turtle is still being collected because reptile collectors consider it a prize because it is so rare. These turtles can range up to $5,000 on the illegal reptile market making them more valuable than elephant ivory (Gibbons, 2019).

A zoologist named Bill Pitts from the Division of Fish and Wildlife says that, “Poaching is one of the biggest threats,” because if a poacher got their hand on one of these turtles, it would have a huge price tag for someone who would want it (Hurdle, 2019).

Demands for these turtles are also increased because they are put under the Endangered Species Act. Poachers know that it is illegal but do it anyways because they either love reptiles or they like the idea that these turtles are endangered which makes them more special (Gibbons, 2019).

Transition Statement:

B. Main Point 2: Stop overusing land and educate the public about where these turtles live and how to prevent hurting their habitats.

There should be more laws protecting the habitats or wetlands, for example the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. This agreement has a goal to conserve landscapes and has a land conservation goal to protect about 2 million acres of wetlands and other landscapes by 2025 and as of 2016; they have achieved 50% of that (“Development”). For wetlands, they want to re-establish 85,000 acres and enhance the function of 150,000 acres by 2025 (“Searching for Bog Turtles”, 2018).

Educate landowners about how they can help protect the land that they own because it can potentially house bog turtles and help for their survival and expansion (“Searching for Bog Turtles”, 2018).

 Another way of helping protect wetlands is by helping people practice “smart growth.” Smart growth is a way of different development and conservation strategies that can help protect our natural environments around us (“About Smart Growth”, 2019).

People can restore habitats, for example; state officials and scientists in New Jersey Audubon are working to restore the habitat suitable for the bog turtles. There can also be safe secret habitats so poachers can’t find them because there are biologists who already have secret isolated habitats to protect the bog turtles that they find (Hurdle, 2019).

CONCLUSION

The bog turtle has been on the threatened species list for 23 years and there aren’t as many left because of how small they are and how easily they can parish from their habitats being destroyed. The bog turtles are considered threatened by the federal government but are also endangered in certain states. There is still illegal collecting from reptile poachers in the United States because these turtles are so rare.

There are many ways to help this species by helping protect their habitats and wetlands and by educating the public about how they can help protect this species by taking care of their own lands or by helping decrease the amount of poaching that happens in the United States to keep the bog turtles safe.

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