

An enthusiast of ornamental plants takes home a few cactus, but was unaware it was an endangered lacy cactus! The cactus is now extinct in the wild.

(Cactus Player sits)

Because the cactus is gone, it takes more energy for the bee to go plant to plant, causing many to die out.

(Bee Player sits)

Climate change can affect the amount of rainfall that occurs in the desert.

Excessive drought has made it difficult for the sagebrush to survive!

(Sagebrush Player sits)

The Kangaroo Rat once lived among the roots of the Sagebrush, but has lost a habitat and food source.

(Kangaroo Rat Player Sits)

A new landfill is constructed near the desert, forcing many desert tortoises out of their homes and making it difficult for the tortoises to find resources. These animals have been seen walking great distances, only to be struck by cars. The tortoise is driven to extinction.

(Tortoise Player Sits)

Climate Change has made it unbearably hot in the desert, causing the hedgehog mushroom to die off.

(Fungi Player Sits)

Without decomposers, like fungi, nutrients aren't replenished into the soil, making it hard for plants to live!

(Sagebrush Player Sits)

Cats from local residents in the desert have been left outdoors to roam free.

This means that many species, like the Kangaroo Rat, are hunted for the cats' entertainment.

(Kangaroo Rat Player Sits)

When decomposers aren't around to clean up deceased animals and plant material, disease can quickly spread.

A desert bat picks up a disease and takes it back to the rest of its colony, causing problems for hundreds of individuals!

(Bat Player Sits)

As we use energy and burn more fossil fuels, we cause an increase in global temperatures, making it hard for zooxanthellae to survive. Coral bleaching has increased, and all the coral on the reef is gone.

(Coral Player Sits)

Much of the plastic we use has found its way to the ocean. Animals, such as the dolphin, mistake the plastic for food. This pollution made the dolphin sick and drove them to extinction.

(Dolphin Player Sits)

Irresponsible pet owners dump lion fish from their aquariums into the ocean. The lion fish become very invasive, outcompeting many of the local fish species for resources.

(Fish Player Sits)

Trawling (pulling a net behind a boat) for shrimp has pulled up much of the kelp. With so little kelp left, there is no way it can come back.

(Kelp Player Sits)

The loss of the kelp means a loss of oxygen and food for the fish and the shark.

(Fish and Shark Players Sit)

Loss of habitat, like coral reefs, kelp forests, and mangroves, has contributed to the loss of many species. Without a place to live, the crab has a harder time finding food and shelter!

(Crab Player Sits)

When we burn coal, we contribute to mercury pollution in the ocean. Animals at the top of the food chain, like the shark, have higher, sometimes toxic, levels of mercury due to biomagnification.

(Shark Players Sits)

The buffalo were over-hunted and are no longer living on the prairie.

(Bison Player Sits)

The Buffalo was crucial to maintaining the prairie grasses. Without the buffalo, other plants take over and the native Switchgrass disappear.

(Prairie Grass Player Sits)

A city develops homes and shopping centers on a once beautiful prairie, fragmenting and destroying many of the wildflowers!

(Wildflower Player Sits)

With the loss of wildflowers, fewer insects buzz in the prairie, leaving the Flycatcher with little to eat!

(Flycatcher Player Sits)

The wolf is seen as dangerous to many local farmers. People hunt the wolf to extinction.

(Wolf Player Sits)

When the apex predator is gone, many of the common deer in the area become overpopulated and overgraze the healthy grasses.

(Prairie Grass Player Sits)

Nearby corporate farms use pesticides on their plants, but that doesn't stop these toxins from getting into the prairie. The grasshoppers on the prairie are unable to survive.

(Grasshopper Player Sits)

A bird watching group opens up a stretch of prairie for ecotourism in the area. This helps some flycatcher populations return to their original nesting site.

(Flycatcher Player Stands)

Fire used to be very important to the ecology of the prairie. In performing prescribed burns, many native grass and wildflower species return!

(Wildflower and Prairie Grass Players Stands)

The *Fuligo* slime mold returns to decompose and recycle nutrients to the earth!

(Slime Mold Player Stands)

Loggers come to find the pine trees in a nearby wooded area to be an excellent resource. They cut all trees in the area down.

(Pine Tree Player Sits)

The Bluebird loses many of the wonderful nesting sites and has to leave the area.

(Bird Player Sits)

Nearby oil and gas extraction has created quite the noise disturbance, making it difficult for local birds to raise their offspring. The birds decide to move away.

(Bird Player Sits)

Pollution from a nearby manufacturing plant seeps into the soil, harming the earthworm.

(Earthworm Player Sits)

The earthworm is important in recycling nutrients into soil. Without that healthy soil, the Fern does not have enough resources to survive.

(Fern Player Sits)

Feral Hogs rip up much of the vegetation in the woods, including the Pitcher Plant. The hogs rip up the last remaining patch of these amazing, beautiful plants!

(Pitcher Plant Player Sits)

Introducing non-native species to an ecosystem, like the Burmese python, can have catastrophic effects on local populations. A local King Snake species has a hard time finding food with its new neighbor around.

(Snake Player Sits)

Climate change and deforestation have caused an increase in soil erosion in the area, leaving less land area for the fern to grow.

(Fern Player Sits)