

Feds to reconsider protecting mountain plovers

August 29 2009

(AP) -- Federal officials will reconsider whether a bird that breeds in Colorado and neighboring states and summers in California should be protected.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed in a settlement announced Friday to review the mountain plover's status and decide by July 31, 2010, whether it should be added to the [endangered species](#) list.

The agreement settles a lawsuit by two environmental groups that claimed a 2003 finding that the bird isn't in danger of going extinct was politically motivated.

Wildlife officials estimate there are from 5,000 to 11,000 plovers left. WildEarth Guardians and the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, who sued, argue the bird is endangered by urban sprawl, conversion of prairie to [agriculture](#), and threats to prairie dogs, whose burrows provide shelter.

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Citation: Feds to reconsider protecting mountain plovers (2009, August 29) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2009-08-feds-reconsider-mountain-plovers.html>

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