**ENVS 100 Week 2 Homework Assignment**

**Wolves and the Endangered Species Act**

**We will be focusing on the grey wolf for both your homework and discussion assignments this week. There's a big controversy over whether the grey wolf should be listed under the Endangered Species Act. In this homework assignment, we'll learn about the Endangered Species Act and why wolves are considered important species for conservation. In your discussion assignment, you will debate whether wolves deserve special protection.**

**Step 1: Watch this video about how wolves change rivers. http://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/how-wolves-change-rivers/#.Uv2BOlaQnKk.facebook**

**Answer these questions**

**1. What is a trophic cascade?**

**2. Why did deer populations explode in Yellowstone Park and what were the effects of this?**

**3. What is an ecosystem engineer?**

**4. What is a keystone species and why is the wolf a keystone species?**

**5. How and why did the wolf reintroduction change the rivers?**

**Step 2: Learn about the Endangered Species Act:**

Read this fact sheet about the Endangered Species Act: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/ESA_basics.pdf>

Watch this video on the Endangered Species Act: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FROhgFc4TMo>

Answer these Questions:

1. What federal agency(s) enforces the Endangered Species Act?

2. Which agency would be responsible for keeping Seattle's favorite marine mammal, the Orca, from going extinct?

3. What is the difference between an endangered and a threatened species?

4. What is critical habitat? Why wouldn't say, the City of Seattle be able to build a bridge on a species' critical habitat?

5. What is CITES and how is it different from the ESA?

6. Besides government workers, who can petition to list a species on the Endangered Species List?

7. Name one species that recovered thanks to the ESA

8. In your opinion, what could be done to make the Endangered Species Act more effective?