

Talk About It

How do people cause problems for Earth?
What can people do to help?



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Helping Planet Earth

Vocabulary

conservation
remains
trouble
extinct
hardest



Prairie Dog

Prairie Problem

"We really do not have a lot of time left to save the prairie," says Ron Cole. A prairie is a large, flat area covered with grasses.

Prairies have very few trees. Prairies once stretched across the middle part of the United States. Today, most of that land is covered with farms and towns instead of grasses. Ron Cole belongs to a **conservation** group that teaches people to take better care of the prairie. Their goal is to protect the prairie land that **remains**. That will help the plants and animals that live there.



Ron Cole

A South Dakota prairie

BE CAREFUL! WE'RE ALMOST GONE!

Experts warn us that many animals on our planet are in **trouble**. More than one thousand animal species are endangered! That means that they may disappear forever and become **extinct**.

It is natural for some plants and animals to become extinct. But now humans are causing more living things to become extinct than ever before. As people cut down forests, mow down prairies, or move into deserts, plants and wild animals get pushed out.

Protecting endangered species is one of the **hardest** jobs people face. The good news is that people are working to solve this problem before it gets worse.



California Condor,
an endangered
species

Endangered Animals

Amphibians: about 30 species

Insects: about 50 species

Fish: about 130 species

Birds: about 275 species

Mammals: about 350 species

This chart
shows the number of
animal species that
are endangered.



Find out more about endangered animals at www.macmillanmh.com