

# Habitat Loss & Efforts Against It

## How are habitats lost?— Destruction

- Complete removal of habitat
- Examples
  - Clear-cutting forests
  - Filling in wetlands
  - Dredging rivers
  - Mowing fields
  - Bulldozing



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## How are habitats lost?— Fragmentation

- Broken into many smaller chunks of habitat
- Examples:
  - Making agricultural fields
  - Changing river channels
  - Building roads




## How are habitats lost?— Degradation

- Habitat remains but at a lower quality
- Pollution (air, water, trash, etc.)
- Toxins
- Invasive species
- Disruption of natural processes (like decay or photosynthesis)
- Fewer niches = lower biodiversity



## WHY are habitats lost?

- Driven by:
  - Agriculture
  - Land development
  - Water development
  - Pollution
  - Global warming



## What Do We Do About It?— Conservation

- Protection of environment, ecosystem, vegetation, and wildlife with little human impact, but with positive results



## What Do We Do About It?— Preservation

- Protection of nature or wilderness areas with NO human impacts



## What Do We Do About It?—Mitigation

- Creating a new habitat to compensate for the destruction of another



## What Do We Do About It?— Restoration

- Renewing and repairing degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems



## What Do We Do About It?—Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle

- Reduce—use less  
less used = less sold = less made = less land/habitat impacted & fewer resources used
- Reuse—buy once but use repeatedly  
fewer sold = fewer made = less land/habitat impacted & fewer resources used
- Recycle—buy repeatedly but mined once  
mined/drilled/cut down once = less land/habitat impacted & fewer resources used

Sustainability

