

Chapter 10 Section 2 Notes

Preserving biodiversity comes into conflict with human interests because additional land is used for agriculture or housing in response to population growth and species may represent food or a source of income.

biotechnology – making chemicals or drugs from plants

extinct species – a species when the very last individual dies; ex) passenger pigeon

mass extinction – ex) death of the dinosaurs

Current Extinctions –

Species Prone to Extinction – The groups of organisms most in danger of extinction are those with small populations and those that migrate or need special habitats.

endangered species – any species whose numbers have fallen so low that it is likely to become extinct in the near future; ex) Florida panther

threatened species – any species that is likely to become endangered if it is not protected

How Do Humans Cause Extinctions? – The major human causes of extinction today are poaching, habitat destruction, polluting, and introducing exotic species.

- exotic species – a species that is not native to a particular region; fire ants in southeastern United States
- poaching – illegal hunting

Areas of Critical Biodiversity

Many critical biodiversity hotspots are located on islands, in tropical rainforests, and in coastal areas.

endemic species – species native to a particular area; honeycreepers in Hawaiian Islands

- Coral reefs are threatened by human activities by development along waterways, overharvesting of fish, and pollution.
- The island of Madagascar is the only home of the primate lemur.
- Biodiversity Hotspot - critical ecosystem with high species diversity; can be threatened areas of high biodiversity; ex) Amazon rain forest
- The United States has several unique ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots
 - Florida Everglades
 - Pacific Northwest
 - California coast
 - Hawaii