

RAFT Foods On The Menu:
Highlights From The 2007 "American Traditions Picnics"

Cherokee Purple Tomato and Boothby Blond Cucumber Salad

Crostini with Vermont Native Wild Onion Jam

Vermont Native Milkweed Blossom Fritters

Wood Fire Roasted Green Mountain Potatoes

Fire Roasted Onions Served on a Bed of Amish Deer Tongue Lettuce

Black Watch Beef with Heirloom Squash Chutney

Heirloom Tomato Gazpacho in Cucumber Cups

Pork Belly with Meeche's Quince Chutney

Abenaki Flint Corn Cakes

Slow Roasted American Plains Bison over Carolina Gold Rice Grits

Sorghum BBQ Mulefoot Pork Shoulder Sandwich

Washington Marbled Chinook Salmon

Braised Leg of Navajo-Churro Lamb

Crispy Hazelnut-Fried Makah Ozette Potatoes

Pineywoods Beef Meatloaf

Roasted Heritage Black Turkey

Stayman Apple Cobbler

Causes of Food Endangerment

Changes in a variety of human-initiated and natural processes have triggered the loss of habitats and decline in the food species or varieties and populations unique to North America. The list below identifies many of the causes. Reversing such losses requires a variety of actions including recovering populations and restoring habitats, reducing consumption of resources, and affecting positive policy changes.

Domesticated Foods (livestock, vegetables, grains, fruits and nuts)

- Changes in consumer preferences and “keeping” (shelf-life) times
- Consolidation in the nursery trade and loss of locally-owned nurseries
- Consolidation in the seed industry and decline in local seed trade
- Conversion of farm and ranch lands to housing and recreational lands
- Decline in food-processing traditions (cider-making, cane-pressing)
- Demise of farming traditions and local agricultural knowledge
- Demise of multi-purpose breeds and selection for single production characteristics (e.g. only meat, only eggs, only milk)
- Disappearance of small- and medium-scale processors
- Globalization and commodification of foodstuffs
- Introduction of exotic pests and diseases
- Loss of access to springs and other irrigation water to cities
- Out-migration of traditional farmers from rural areas
- Replacement or genetic contamination by modern hybrids and GMOs
- Technological changes that have replaced traditional storage techniques (e.g. refrigeration has eliminated smoking, curing and drying skills)

Wild Foods (fish, game, herbs and roots)

- Anthropogenic changes in vegetative cover and the loss of understory herbs
- Competition with exotic, invasive species
- Contamination of habitats and poisoning of stocks
- Degradation of habitats through poor fire and flood management
- Draining or damming, and inundating wetlands
- Dredging or channelization of nursery grounds
- Drift of pesticides or herbicides into field-side habitats
- Fragmentation and conversion of natural habitats
- Global climate change and the subsequent disruption of life cycles
- Inappropriate grazing and abandoning of rest-rotational cycles
- Inappropriate harvesting and selective taking of reproductive females
- Loss of pollinators and seed dispersers
- Loss of sustainable harvesting traditions in many rural areas
- Over-harvesting and abandoning community-based quotas
- Technological changes that facilitate significantly larger harvests (e.g. invention of scuba gear)
- Under-harvesting and abandoning traditional cycles of pruning and re-growth
- Wasteful harvesting and using of only a few selected cuts

Short List of RAFT Foods for which Successful Recovery Efforts Have Begun

Fruits, Berries and Nuts

Meyer Lemon
Mission Olive
Sonoran White Pomegranate
Montreal Nutmeg Melon
Chimayo Chile Pepper
Moon and Stars Watermelon (specific strains)

Vegetables

I'toi's Shallot/Papago Onion
Makah Ozette Potato
Gilfeather Turnip
Waldoboro Greenneck Turnip/Rutabaga

Grains (includes Corn)

Roy's Calais Flint Corn
Tuscarora White Hominy Corn
Texas Wild Rice
Red Fife Hard Spring Wheat

Legumes

O'odham White Tepary Bean

Fish and Shellfish

Apache Trout
Gila Trout

Wild Game Animals

Silver Fox Rabbit
American Alligator

Livestock

Pineywoods Cattle
Ossabaw Island Pig
Navajo-Churro Sheep

Poultry

Buckeye Chicken
Standard Varieties of Turkeys (a.k.a. Heritage Turkeys)

Short List of RAFT Foods that Should No Longer Be Eaten Until Several Generations of Recovery Occur

Fruits, Berries and Nuts

Desert Plum
Fox Grape

Vegetables

Jepson's Wild Onion
Prarie Potato/Wild Turnip

Wild Plants

Lady's Thumb

Fish and Shellfish

White Abalone (other than farm-raised)
Giant Sea Bass
Bonytail Chub
Atlantic Queen Conch
Winter Flounder
Colorado River Pike-Minnow
Pacific Rockfish
Northern California Coho Salmon
Peconic Bay Scallop
Shortnose Sturgeon
Totoaba
Greenback Cutthroat Trout

Livestock

Peninsular Bighorn Sheep
Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep

Poultry

Masked Bobwhite Quail
Attwater's Prairie Chicken

Wild Game Animals

Carolina Northern Flying Squirrel
Columbia White-tailed Deer
Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope
Musk-Ox
American Crocodile
New Mexico Ridge-Nosed Rattlesnake
Loggerhead Sea Turtle
Steller's Sea Lion

RAFT List of Food Species and Varieties at Risk by Region

Acorn Region

(South & Central CA)

Endangered – 47

Threatened – 22

Bison Region

(TX, OK, KS, NE, SD, ND, WY, MT, IA, MN, SA, MO, NM, AB, SK, MB)

Endangered – 36

Threatened – 18

Extinct – 5

Chestnut Region

(GA, SC, NC, TN, KY, WV, VA, OH, PA, DC, MD)

Endangered – 71

Threatened – 30

Extinct – 1

Chile Region

(NM, TX, AZ, CA & Northern Mexico)

Endangered – 111

Threatened – 60

Extinct – 13

Clambake Region

(MD, DE, PA, NJ, NY, CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, ME, NF, NS)

Endangered – 104

Threatened – 67

Extinct – 8

Cornbread Region

(KY, OH, IN, IA, IL, OH, MO, AR, TS, OK, North TX, LA, MS, AL, GA, FL)

Endangered – 58

Threatened – 26

Extinct – 4

Crabcake Region

(East FL, GA, SC, NC, VA, DC, MD, PA, RI)

Endangered – 35

Threatened – 24

Extinct – 1

Gumbo Region

(TX, LA, MS, AL, GA, West & South FL)

Endangered – 55

Threatened – 32

Extinct – 5

Maple Region

(WV, MD, PA, NY, VT, NY, ME, NF, QC, ON)

Endangered – 155

Threatened – 74

Extinct – 10

Moose Region

(YT, NT, NU, BC, AB, ON, QC, NF, MN)

Endangered – 5

Threatened – 1

Pinyon Nut Region

(NM, AZ, CO, UT, MT, ID, OR, East CA, NV, WY)

Endangered – 36

Threatened – 16

Extinct – 1

Salmon Region

(North CA, OR, WA, ID, AK, BC, YK, NT)

Endangered – 44

Threatened – 47

Extinct – 3

Wild Rice Region

(ND, MN, WI, IL, IN, MI, OH, PA, NY, NB, NS, QC, ON, MB)

Endangered – 33

Threatened – 5

Extinct – 1

RAFT List of Food Species and Varieties at Risk by Type

Fruits, Berries & Nuts

Endangered – 266

Threatened – 96

Extinct – 16

Total: 378

Vegetables

Endangered – 119

Threatened – 101

Extinct – 11

Total: 231

Grains (includes corn)

Endangered – 109

Threatened – 23

Extinct – 12

Total: 144

Legumes

Endangered – 85

Threatened – 30

Extinct – 3

Total: 118

Fish and Shellfish

Endangered – 42

Threatened – 81

Extinct – 2

Total: 125

Wild Game Animals

Endangered – 22

Threatened – 15

Extinct – 1

Total: 38

Livestock

Endangered – 17

Threatened – 8

Total: 25

Poultry

Endangered – 15

Threatened – 9

Total: 24

Wild Plants

Endangered – 13

Threatened – 13

Total: 26

RAFT List Criteria

Criteria for being listed as ENDANGERED:

For wild species, federally listed as endangered or critically imperiled—few (1-10) sites, small range, rapid declines in NatureServe database; for domesticated food varieties, availability known only through 1-3 farmers markets, seed catalogs, tree nurseries, community museums, botanical gardens or historic farms.

Criteria for being listed as THREATENED:

For wild species, federally listed as threatened or vulnerable—few (11-20) sites, small range, rapid declines in NatureServe database; for domesticated food varieties, availability known only through 4-6 farmers markets, seed catalogs, tree nurseries, community museums, botanical gardens or historic farms.

Criteria for being listed as FUNCTIONALLY EXTINCT IN THE AMERICAN FOOD SYSTEM:

For wild species, listed as extinct in the wild—no sites in NatureServe database; for domesticated food varieties, no longer available in farmers markets, seed catalogs, tree nurseries, community museums, botanical gardens or historic farms.

Sources of information for domestic foods have been compiled by Seed Savers Exchange & American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.