



THE TRACKS YOU LEAVE BEHIND

LEGACY AND FINANCIAL PLANNING
NEWS FOR FRIENDS OF DEFENDERS



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**FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION,
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This Land is Our Land: People and Predators Sharing Habitat

Nearly 70 percent of the land in the contiguous United States is privately owned. Countless wild animals—including more than half of all federally protected species—inhabit these lands. Sharing the landscape with wildlife, particularly predators like wolves, grizzly bears and Florida panthers, can result in conflicts.

Defenders pioneered efforts to address these conflicts almost 40 years ago by promoting coexistence through education and nonlethal methods to protect livestock and other property. We continue to be a leader in building social acceptance for carnivore conservation.

In the West, we partner with ranchers to provide technical and financial assistance for livestock-guarding dogs, fladry (a rope barrier strung with red flags that flap and scare wolves away from livestock pastures), range riders and noise and light emitters. To help people keep grizzlies and black bears from fruit trees, chicken coops, beehives and other bear attractants on their property, we offer an electric-fencing incentive program.

In Florida, one of the fastest growing and most biologically diverse states,



Defenders staffer Russ Talmo installs fladry on a Montana ranch.

we provide information and outreach about living responsibly with the endangered Florida panther. We also work directly with residents of panther country to help them build predator-resistant enclosures to protect pets and livestock.

Defenders also furthers coexistence and wildlife conservation on private lands by working with Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure that Farm Bill conservation programs provide assistance for landowners to manage, protect and restore wildlife habitat. In Florida, these programs are especially important because public conservation lands are not extensive enough to sustain the wide-ranging Florida panther. The cats need large tracts of interconnected

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A New Tool You Can Use to Protect Wildlife

There's a new way to help ensure Defenders' mission to protect our native animals and plants in their natural communities endures for generations to come. And it costs you nothing now.

We've partnered with FreeWill, an online tool you can use to create or update your will and remember the people and causes you love. Even if you live to 150, you still need an up-to-date will and if yours is more than five years old, you need to update it. The service is free whether or not you choose to leave a gift.



Get started today at FreeWill.com/Defenders.

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Coexistence Species Spotlight: Red Wolves

The red wolf is the world's most endangered canid, with fewer than 30 remaining in the wild. The species has lost a shocking 99.7 percent of its historical territory—more than any other large carnivore. Once found throughout the southeastern United States, today red wolves are relegated to parcels of private and public lands in rural northeastern North Carolina.

A captive-breeding and reintroduction program saved the species from extinction, but these rare wolves still face threats, including human-caused mortality and mismanagement of their recovery by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Although public support for red wolf protection has been overwhelming—99.1 percent of North Carolina residents favor strong federal protections for the species—FWS has all but given up on the red

wolf recovery program in recent years. The agency has abandoned efforts to increase genetic diversity through the release of more captive-bred wolves and has failed to address poaching. As a result, the red wolf population has declined from as many as 150 to fewer than 30 in just over a decade.

The outlook for red wolves may seem bleak, but Defenders of Wildlife is determined. We are committed to working with FWS to stabilize the North Carolina population and establish additional populations elsewhere. We will continue to promote coexistence by providing consistent, on-the-ground education to address landowner concerns and increase awareness of the benefits red wolves bring to the ecosystem and to farmers and communities. We will do whatever it takes to keep the red wolf in the wild. 🐾

Conservationist to the Core: Laurie Macdonald

Laurie Macdonald is a Wildlife Legacy Society member who began her relationship with Defenders of Wildlife as a volunteer. She went on to join our staff and for over 20 years led Defenders' Florida programs, an experience she has honored by naming Defenders in her will.

As a teenager, Laurie was interested in both human and animal behavior, but one day in college, as she walked across campus pondering the plight of the bald eagle, it came to her in a flash that what she really wanted to do is save endangered species.

After finishing her undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of Oregon, she moved to Florida, got involved in the local Sierra Club and eventually earned her master's in zoology. She rose through the volunteer ranks at Sierra, becoming state chair and later national chair for endangered species and habitats. In the latter role, she worked with Defenders on the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act and met our refuge policy representative, Robert Dewey, who today heads our government relations department.

"Robert recognized that Florida needed a stronger Defenders of Wildlife presence because of rapid development and incredible biological diversity, and he asked me to help him shape a new Florida program," says Laurie.

The program began with Habitat for Bears, a campaign with part-time staff dedicated to raising awareness of the plight of the Florida black bear. It evolved into a comprehensive Florida program that now works on protecting imperiled species and conservation lands statewide.

"We began the program trying to bring recognition and protection to the Florida black bear, and recently it was removed from the state's endangered species list," says Laurie. She counts her contribution to the bear's recovery among her proudest achievements.

Of her decision to name Defenders as a beneficiary in her will, Laurie—now retired but still active in conservation—says that trying to save life on Earth is the worthiest of causes. "That's how I saw my work at Defenders. I want to continue to support that work and Defenders' science-and-solutions-based approach to it." 🐾



Laurie Macdonald, former director of Defenders' Florida programs, continues to champion our work and science-based approach to conservation in her retirement.



USFWS/B. BARTEL (CAPTIVE)

4 Ways to Approach Leaving Defenders in Your Will, Trust or Retirement Plans

- ◆ **Divide your estate by percentages.** For example, you can specify that 75 percent of your estate goes to your children and 25 percent to Defenders. The final distributions will rise or fall with the value of your estate.
- ◆ **Determine if there is a specific amount you want your children or other heirs to receive.** Specify that any estate value over and above that amount will go to Defenders.
- ◆ **Carve out a specific dollar amount for Defenders to receive.** Specify that the remainder of the estate value go to your heirs. Even a small amount can mean a great deal for the future of wildlife.
- ◆ **Use a “beneficiary designation form”** to leave an IRA or life insurance policy to Defenders and these assets would pass to Defenders tax-free. 🐾

Did You Know?

- ◆ Only 29 percent of American adults have an up-to-date will.
- ◆ Less than 7 percent of wills in the United States include a charitable bequest.
- ◆ Your will—along with the rest of your estate plans—should be reviewed at least every five years.



USFWS

This Land is Our Land

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habitat—including private lands—to thrive and expand their range. To promote human and panther coexistence, we are now advocating for the inclusion of nonlethal deterrents and other coexistence measures in the practices eligible for funding through the Farm Bill.

Our approach to coexistence and predator conservation is rooted in scientific facts and combines policy, advocacy and education to change hearts and minds—property owner by property owner, community by community. And your support is making it all possible. 🐾

To contact field staff in your region about nonlethal deterrents, visit [Defenders.org/where-we-work](https://defenders.org/where-we-work).

Sample bequest language for your attorney:

“I give, devise and bequeath _____% of my estate/the remainder [or \$_____] of my estate to Defenders of Wildlife, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) [Tax ID #53-0183181] located in Washington, DC.”

For additional information...



ABOUT REMEMBERING DEFENDERS IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS, CONTACT US:

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We recommend you seek the advice of an estate or tax professional in connection with any planned gift.