

THE TRACKS YOU LEAVE BEHIND

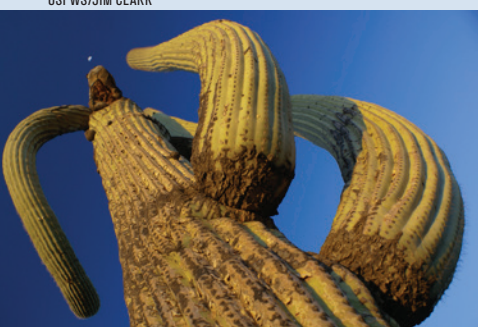
LEGACY AND FINANCIAL PLANNING
NEWS FOR FRIENDS OF DEFENDERS



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Scientists Unite Against the Wall

Warn of harm to borderlands wildlife, habitat and conservation work

In an effort spearheaded by Defenders, more than 2,800 scientists from 43 countries united to declare that President Trump's proposed border wall spells disaster for wildlife, habitat, biodiversity and collaborative conservation.

Scientists concur that walling off the nearly 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border would cause irreversible harm, affecting 1,506 native plants and animals—including 89 species already listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) like peninsular big horn sheep, Mexican gray wolves and jaguars. Bisecting the ranges of these species with an impassable barrier could prevent them from reaching vital resources like food and water and the genetically diverse mates essential to sustaining healthy populations.

The scientific community made its case against the wall in a paper that Defenders' scientists took the lead on, co-authoring it with other esteemed biodiversity and borderlands experts and securing the endorsement of many more. The paper was published in the peer-reviewed journal *BioScience*.

The paper identifies borderlands conservation hotspots—areas like Big Bend in Texas and the Sonoran Desert in Arizona—with high biological diversity and significant binational investment in conservation that are directly threatened by border wall



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construction and operations. The Department of Homeland Security can waive the ESA and any other federal and state and federal laws standing in the way of the wall—a greenlight for destroying and fragmenting wildlife populations and habitat and devaluing binational conservation investments and scientific research. The latter, say the scientists, is “especially concerning,” because, with the environmental laws that require scientific monitoring

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2018 in Review: Highlights

New field office opens in Texas

Defenders' first-ever field office in Texas is now open and focusing on the significant threats the state faces. Current priorities include stopping projects harmful to wildlife and habitat like proposed border wall segments and liquid natural gas export facilities and building relationships with local land owners and state and federal agencies to further biodiversity conservation efforts.

Prairie dog project paves way for black-footed ferret reintroduction

Defenders worked alongside the Prairie Dog Coalition to install burrows and translocate prairie dogs at the American Prairie Reserve in eastern Montana and the Lower Brule Indian Reservation in South Dakota. This collaborative effort laid the groundwork for the release of captive-bred black-footed ferrets, an endangered species that relies on established prairie dog colonies for food and shelter.

Defenders perseveres on Capitol Hill

During 2018, Defenders combated relentless congressional attacks on the Endangered Species Act, halting more than 110 anti-wildlife amendments, riders and bills, including one that would have ended protections for over 1,000 endangered or threatened species.



Court sides with red wolves

Defenders scored a major victory in the ongoing fight to save the red wolf by winning a court case filed jointly with the Red Wolf Coalition, Animal Welfare Institute and Southern Environmental Law Center against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The court ruled that FWS violated the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act with its recent rollback of protections for the last remaining red wolves in the wild, the reintroduced population in eastern North Carolina. 🐾



Florida panther recovery continues

Defenders' work to protect Florida panther habitat and make roads safer for these wide-ranging cats and other wildlife was rewarded when the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission confirmed that one of two female panthers north of the Caloosahatchee River had given birth to a litter of kittens. The litter is only the second documented north of the river within the last 40 years and renews hope for the northward expansion of range crucial to panther recovery.

WHY WE GIVE

"Defenders always 'goes to bat' for wildlife, especially wolves and grizzlies."

—Sherry G., Tahoe City, Calif.

Legacy donors share their reasons for supporting Defenders of Wildlife

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"All of us have to do our part to save the planet and our most precious wildlife. Supporting Defenders is my part in trying to help with that mission."

—Donna F., Coconut Creek, Calif.

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"I have been a member of Defenders for many years, as well as a citizen advocate. I like the ways in which Defenders takes common sense actions to help people like farmers and ranchers take steps to protect predators and minimize conflicts, as opposed to just lecturing them. I appreciate all the ways Defenders is trying to protect the ESA. Everyone at Defenders is a hero to me! Thank you!"

—Linda B., San Antonio, Texas

Against the Wall

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waived, independent research would be "the best source of scientific insight into the wall's impacts on biodiversity."

Many other measures could be taken to enhance border security, including hiring more enforcement personnel and immigration judges, installing vehicle barriers (though which wildlife can pass) and applying advanced surveillance technologies. But anything that is done to address border security should be done in compliance with applicable laws that protect people, wildlife and the environment; those important legal safeguards should not be waived.

With science—and you—on our side, Defenders of Wildlife will continue to fight unnecessary border wall construction through outreach, advocacy and litigation. 🐾

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Remembering Legacy Donor Gloria Davis



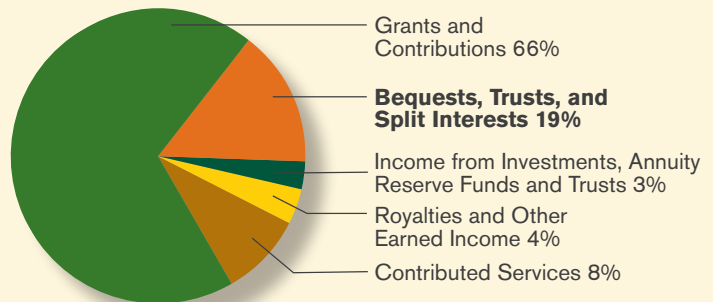
Gloria L. Davis had a deep appreciation for wildlife that she expressed in ways ranging from delighting in neighborhood birds, squirrels and chipmunks to contributing to the mission of Defenders to save species across the country. Gloria left a bequest to Defenders of Wildlife to ensure that the animals she loved are protected now and in the future.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHLEEN RONDELL

Legacy Gifts Matter

19 percent of Defenders' total revenue comes from planned giving. Legacy gifts of all sizes sustain our work to protect and restore imperiled wildlife across North America and ensure the long-term success of our conservation programs.



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.