



THE TRACKS YOU LEAVE BEHIND

FINANCIAL PLANNING NEWS
AND INSPIRATION FOR
FRIENDS OF DEFENDERS

Where Science, Technology and Policy Meet

Defenders of Wildlife has a long history of pioneering solutions to protect North America's biological diversity while focusing on endangered species and sensitive landscapes. To further this work, Defenders launched the Center for Conservation Innovation (CCI) in 2016.

CCI uses science, technology and policy to improve conservation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and other laws.

To increase the effectiveness of conservation, CCI:

- publishes papers on their innovative work in world-class scientific journals;
- develops cutting-edge technologies that can be used to determine if land developers are complying with their ESA permits;
- critically assesses policies to identify needs for conservation.

Among CCI's many accomplishments is the development of the first system that automatically detects changes in habitat by using free satellite data. This approach is easier and cheaper

than traditional habitat monitoring. Ultimately, resource-strapped agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will be able to use the tool to monitor essential habitats for wildlife. CCI is also expanding its use of story maps—interactive narratives that engage users and provide geographic context—to share new monitoring results.

In 2020, CCI plans to collaborate with FWS on the applications of a novel tool CCI developed to share critical mapping information for ESA-listed species. CCI will also continue its work to better protect key habitats on federal public lands.

To learn more about how CCI is taking conservation to the next level, visit defenders-cci.org. 🐾



WOLVERINE © ROBIN CARLETON



POLAR BEARS © JOANNA MOSS



BISON © JEFF TERRILL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT OUR PLANNED GIVING TEAM:

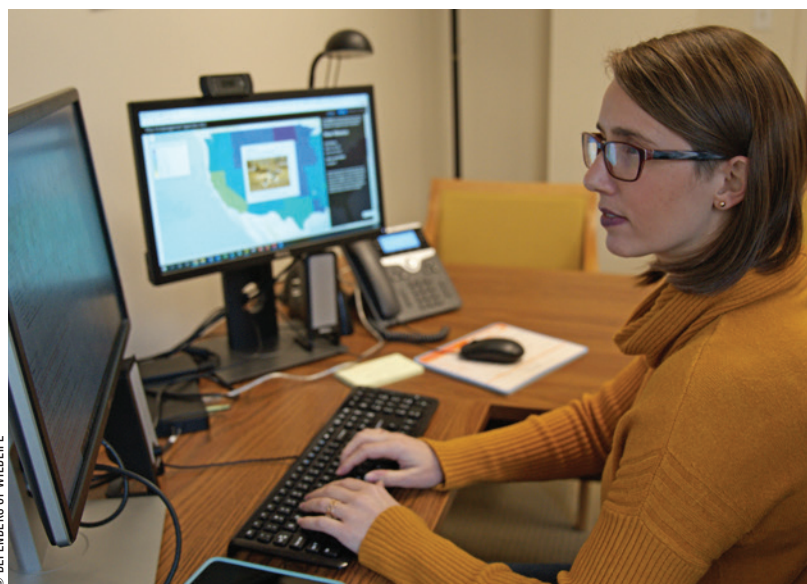
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www.defenders.org/tracks



© DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Dr. Lindsay Rosa, part of CCI's interdisciplinary team of scientists, collects spatial data for a story map, an engaging, interactive way to share CCI's work.

Defenders in the Courts in 2019

2019 proved to be another vital year in defending our nation's diverse and threatened species and public lands.

- Last summer, a sweeping rewrite of Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations gutted the landmark conservation law. In response, Defenders quickly built and mobilized a coalition of over 30 organizations that collectively generated nearly a million comments opposing them. In the fall, Defenders filed litigation challenging the regulations.
- A federal judge in Texas ruled in our favor that the golden-cheeked warbler should remain protected under the ESA. Despite some improvement in its numbers, this tiny bird that breeds exclusively in the Texas Hill Country still faces real threats from habitat loss and climate change.
- Defenders is vigorously fighting for the preservation of public lands and the imperiled plants and animals that rely on them. We signed onto a lawsuit with 10 other organizations challenging the reduction in size of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments, a violation of the Antiquities Act. We are also preparing to litigate against the proposed development in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other key areas targeted for oil drilling. 🐾

A rock spire in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.



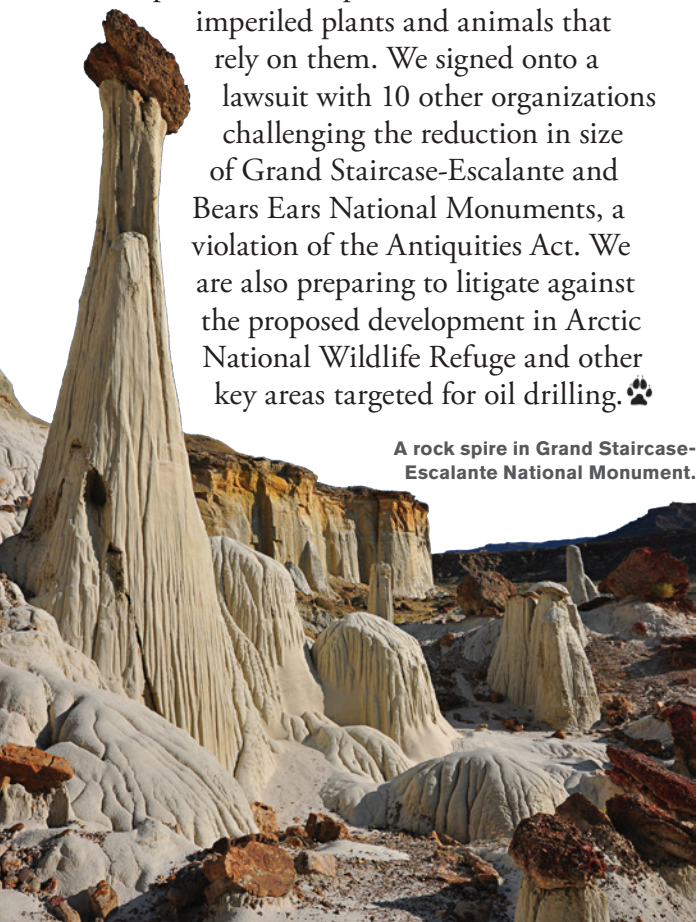
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25 Years After Yellowstone Reintroduction, Onto the Southern Rockies...

Defenders played a critical role in the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho in 1995. In the 25 years since, we have remained committed to restoring wolves to additional suitable places. Recently we partnered with the Rocky Mountain Wolf Action Fund to collect over 210,000 signatures in support of adding Colorado wolf reintroduction to the 2020 state ballot. On January 6, we learned that the ballot initiative succeeded and even surpassed the required number of valid signatures. In November, for the first time ever, a direct vote of the people could initiate the reintroduction of an endangered species. 🐾

Budgeting Your Bucks

Planning out your 2020 required minimum distributions? Try out FreeWill's tool to see how much you might need to withdraw from your IRA. Then, make your simplest IRA rollover donation yet. Check it out at Defenders.org/FreeWillQCD!



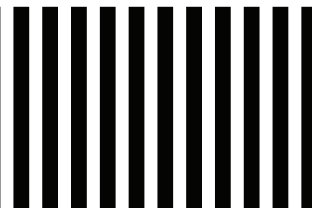
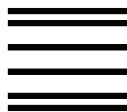
SALT LAKE CITY WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE/NOAA

How to Give Wildlife a Voice for Years to Come

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- Include a bequest in your will to designate 15% of your residual assets to Defenders of Wildlife.
- Name Defenders as a beneficiary of your retirement assets.
- Title or retitle a bank account as “payable on death” (POD) to Defenders, or a brokerage account as “transfer on death” (TOD) to Defenders.

Interested in learning more? Tear along the perforations, check the subject(s) of interest to you on the reverse side, fold in half, tape shut (to keep your address information private) and drop in the mail.



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“But I Don’t Have an Estate...”

Everyone has an estate! When we talk about estate planning, we use the legal definition of estate, which is all the money, property and any other assets that someone possesses. Estate planning is the process of outlining your plans for where these assets will go and who will help to shepherd them to the correct place after you die. Having a plan ensures that you have the final say on how your hard-earned assets will be distributed, so those important decisions aren’t left to the state. And remember: it’s important to revisit existing plans every five years or if your circumstances change. 🐾



© SKY JACOBS

Including Defenders of Wildlife in your estate planning helps protect imperiled species like this cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl. These tiny owls won’t fly higher than 10 feet—not high enough to clear the proposed border wall that would bisect their habitat in Arizona and Mexico, preventing the cross-border movement necessary to find food and mates.



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- ☐ I'm interested in bequests.
- ☐ I'm interested in gift annuities.
- ☐ I'm interested in giving through retirement assets.
- ☐ I'm interested in will-planning basics.






GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER/JUS'WS

WINTER 2020

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