

THE TRACKS YOU LEAVE BEHIND

FINANCIAL PLANNING NEWS AND
INSPIRATION FOR FRIENDS OF DEFENDERS

Alaska Wildlife Protections Under Fire

Despite overwhelming public opposition, the Trump administration is pushing regulatory changes that would defer wildlife management on certain federal lands in Alaska to the state and put wolves, bears and other species directly in the crosshairs.

The administration recently finalized a rule to allow the shooting of wolves and bears—and their pups and cubs—in their dens on national preserves in Alaska.

National preserves are part of our national park system, the fundamental purpose of which is to conserve natural resources and values, including wildlife. Policies implementing this mandate require the National Park Service to protect natural systems, processes and wildlife populations, including their natural abundances, diversities, distributions and behaviors—like denning and feeding.

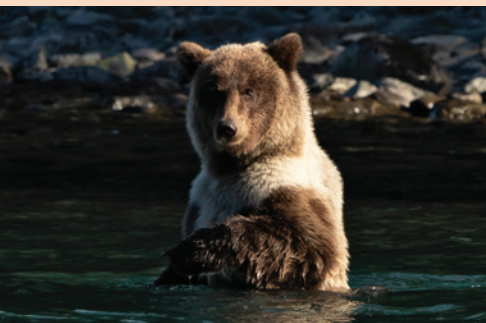
The administration also proposed regulations allowing hunters to shoot brown bears at bait stations in Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and eliminating federal trapping permit

requirements on the refuge.

The primary purpose of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and all our national wildlife refuges is to protect wildlife, including predators like wolves and bears, and habitats in their natural diversity. The loosened restrictions threaten the refuge's geographically and genetically isolated, at-risk population of Kenai brown bears, other target species like wolves, coyotes, lynx, wolverines, river otters and beavers, and nontarget species killed incidentally.

These regulatory changes abdicate the agencies' responsibility to manage wildlife in a way that is consistent with the direction Congress provided for federal lands. Nearly 30,000

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KENAI BROWN BEAR BY USFWS/LISA HUPP



SEA OTTER © JO RICCHIUTI



ORCA © JACOB MELTZER



USFWS/HILARY COOLEY

**FOR MORE
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Visit our website:
defenders.org/tracks

Bear in mind...

There are many ways to help provide for wild ones that don't detract from your income now. Assets in your IRA and qualified retirement plans don't pass through your will or living trust. Instead, they pass according to beneficiary designation forms from your plan provider. Beneficiary designations through your IRAs, qualified retirement plans and life insurance policies are easy to complete on your own and can be changed at any time. Traditional IRAs and qualified retirement plans are also among the smartest assets to leave to charity from a tax standpoint.



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Did you know?

The American Council on Gift Annuities effected a rate change for gift annuities established on or after July 1, 2020. The change comes in relation to the dip in national interest rates, a consequence of the pandemic.

Another wise way to give

Giving by way of a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is still a tax-savvy alternative, even without required minimum distributions in 2020. Also known as IRA charitable rollovers,

QCDs can benefit the wildlife and wild places you love without incurring taxes. **Talk with your plan provider or get started today using FreeWill's QCD tool at defenders.org/freewillqcd.** 🐾

Habitat Patrol on the Lookout for Landscape Changes

Defenders of Wildlife's Center for Conservation Innovation (CCI) continues to create cutting edge technology to help address the crisis of unprecedented biodiversity loss. Their newest tool, Habitat Patrol, is

an easy-to-use application that provides a simple way for officials and the public to monitor and scan vast areas for habitat change. Tracking the extent of historical habitat loss is crucial to protecting species, and this tool will help hold the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies accountable, while also helping them do their jobs better. For example, Habitat Patrol tracked the expansion of oil and gas sand mines in Texas into the habitat of the dune sage brush lizard, an imperiled reptile susceptible to habitat disturbances. The data collected was central to a petition to list the species under the ESA in 2018. 🐾



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Alaska Wildlife Protections

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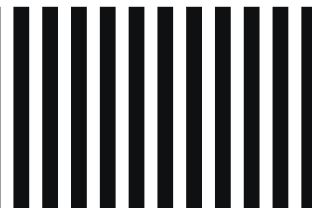
Defenders supporters signed on to oppose these proposed rules and regulations. Defenders will soon challenge the national preserve rule in court, and if the proposed Kenai refuge regulations are approved, we'll fight those in the courts as well. 🐾

How to Give Wildlife a Voice for Years to Come

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

- 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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Right Whale Internationally Listed as Critically Endangered

This summer, the plight of the North Atlantic right whale made news on a global scale. The International Union for Conservation of Nature changed the status of the whale from “endangered” to “critically endangered” on its Red List of Threatened Species. The upgrade on the global list recognizes that the species faces an extremely high risk of extinction.

Working toward change at the national level, Defenders and other conservation groups sent a petition to the National Marine Fisheries Service in response to continued ship strikes of right whales. The petition seeks to expand the areas and times of speed limit zones along the Atlantic Coast. The U.S. House Committee on Appropriations also passed legislation allocating additional funds toward protecting the right whale. If approved by the U.S. Senate and signed into law, the bill would provide \$5 million for research and monitoring as well as developing fishing technologies to reduce entanglement risks. 🐾

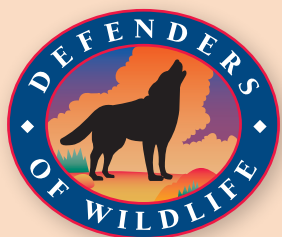
FLORIDA FWGC/NOAA RESEARCH PERMIT #15498





Defenders of Wildlife
1130 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-4604

- ☐ I am interested in bequests.
- ☐ I am interested in gift annuities.
- ☐ I am interested in sharing retirement assets.
- ☐ I am interested in will-planning basics.
- ☐ Defenders is already included in my plans.






FALL 2020

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Inside this issue:

-  *Proposed rules and regulations threaten Alaska wildlife*
-  *New technology tracks landscape changes*
-  *Support Defenders with tax-savvy giving*



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