



THE TRACKS YOU LEAVE BEHIND

FINANCIAL PLANNING NEWS AND
INSPIRATION FOR FRIENDS OF DEFENDERS

2020 Accomplishments

Like everyone, Defenders faced unprecedented challenges in 2020. Nevertheless, we persisted and found innovative ways to continue the hard work and collaborative projects that drive our mission to protect our nation's imperiled species and habitats. Here is just a sampling of what we were able to accomplish before COVID-19 hit in March and while working remotely as we have ever since.

- Proposition 114, the Colorado ballot measure to reintroduce wolves in the state, passed by local voters on election day. This is the first time in history that the residents in any state have voted to bring back an endangered species. Defenders continues outreach efforts to prepare the public for the return of wolves, developing relationships with key partners and hosting our "Ranching with Predators" workshops.
- In mid-May, in response to a petition by Defenders and Sierra Forest Legacy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed fishers in the southern Sierra

- Nevada as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Fishers face a variety of threats including climate change, rodenticide poisoning, vehicle collisions and habitat loss.
- Defenders developed a new range-rider partnership with the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona that supports a tribal member working closely with Defenders. The San Carlos Apache Tribe controls 1.8 million acres of mostly excellent wolf habitat, home to at least three Mexican gray wolf packs.
- Defenders' scarlet macaw reintroduction project in Mexico had another very successful year. The

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FISHER BY WDFW/JOHN JACOBSON



SCARLET MACAWS © DAVID BAHR



RANGE RIDER BY ODFW/DIANA HUNTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT OUR PLANNED GIVING TEAM:

Jim Luerksen, Director
Arielle Retrosi, Manager
Devon Kotch, Associate

1-800-915-6789

legacy@defenders.org

Visit our website:

www.defenders.org/tracks



© BILL KEETING

Belugapalooza!

Cancel a popular annual event that raises awareness of a critically endangered species or get creative? That was the choice Defenders' Alaska outreach team faced when COVID-19 made it impossible to hold the yearly Belugas Count that involves the public in looking for and learning about the imperiled population of beluga whales found only in Cook Inlet in southcentral Alaska.

We chose the creative route and worked with our partners to put together a three-day series of virtual evening events via Zoom. Participants were encouraged to have art supplies on hand for the first evening to paint a beluga along with an accomplished local artist and hear our Alaska marine representative talk about basic beluga biology and Defenders' beluga program as their paintings dried. Evening two featured a video from the



NOAA/ACTIVITY PICTURED AUTHORIZED BY NMFS/SP MMPA/ESA 18786-02

Belugapalooza participants got an update on Tyonek, a rescued Cook Inlet beluga now being cared for in captivity.

Georgia Aquarium on its beluga research, a live appearance by the curator who works with the facility's belugas and the world premiere of Defenders' Cook Inlet beluga story map. Tyonek, the first successfully rescued and rehabilitated Cook Inlet beluga

calf now in the care of SeaWorld San Antonio, stole the show on the final night, which featured footage of his new life and updates from his caretakers.

Read more about Belugapalooza—and experience it firsthand—at defenders.org/cib. 🐾

Accomplishments *continued*

pandemic prevented the release of new birds, but we provided funding for 20 nesting barrels. Camera traps documented six hatchlings in these cozy, innovative artificial nests, an indication that the reintroduced population is getting established and starting to increase on its own.

Moving into 2021, Defenders looks forward to working with President Biden on the priorities and actions needed to safeguard America's extraordinary conservation legacy for all wildlife and people. We submitted a detailed plan for our nation's wildlife to the new administration and our staff continues to participate in working group discussions with the transition team. Defenders is acutely aware of the difficult work ahead, but we look forward to it with unbounded optimism and a focused determination to change the direction for wildlife. 🐾

Seeking Some Security?

When you create a charitable gift annuity, your donation of cash or securities (\$10,000 minimum) will immediately contribute to Defenders' mission and a large portion will be tax deductible for you. If you choose to donate using appreciated securities, you will also receive a significant break in capital gains taxes. In return, Defenders will send you monthly, quarterly, or annual payments that are partially tax-free to supplement your retirement income.

If you are at least 60 years of age, charitable gift annuities are a great option to provide for you and the wildlife you love. 🐾



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How to Give Wildlife a Voice for Years to Come

- 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.

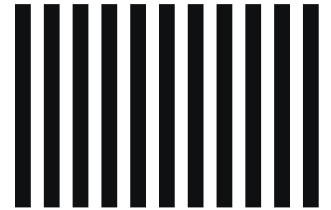
Interested in learning more? Tear along the perforations, check the subject(s) of interest to you on the reverse side, fold in half, tape shut (to keep your address information private) and drop in the mail.



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DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
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Support Defenders Today, Get More Tax Benefits Tomorrow

Do you have a securities portfolio or a donor-advised fund (DAF)? Both are great options if you are looking to make an immediate contribution to Defenders of Wildlife while gaining tax advantages.

If you choose to donate stock, you immediately earn a full tax deduction for the contribution based on the current stock value and also avoid the capital gains and income taxes you would pay if you were to trade the stocks for cash. Not ready to lose the company from your portfolio? Simply donate the stocks to make your contribution to Defenders and then re-buy the stock to keep your portfolio from changing.

You can use the same strategies to fund your DAF if you have one and earn the same benefits. Just remember to make your distributions from your DAF to your favorite organizations!

Learn more on our website or by reaching out to our planned giving team ([1-800-915-6789](tel:1-800-915-6789) or Legacy@Defenders.org). 🐾



© DOMINI ECK



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.*

**If you're already a Wildlife Legacy Society member, we greatly appreciate your support!*




WINTER 2021



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FINANCIAL PLANNING NEWS AND
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Inside this issue:

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-  *Save wildlife and cut your tax bill*

