



THE TRACKS YOU LEAVE BEHIND

FINANCIAL PLANNING NEWS AND INSPIRATION FOR FRIENDS OF DEFENDERS

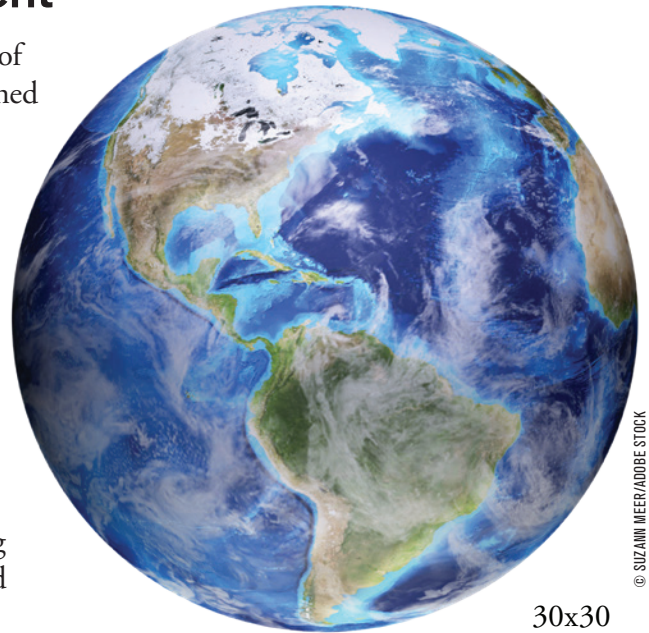
30x30: Make Our Commitment Your Commitment

An international group of scientists recently warned that if we fail to act to save plants, animals and their habitats, we could lose up to 1 million species by century's end. To combat this loss of wildlife and wild places—the biodiversity essential to the health of vital ecosystems and resiliency to climate change—Defenders is promoting the goal of conserving 30% of our nation's lands and waters by 2030.

We are part of a global initiative known as 30x30, which recognizes that existing protections are not enough. Unless we take strategic action to protect lands and waters and address climate change now, we will continue to lose biodiversity.

Studies show that our land-use practices are a primary driver of the current biodiversity crisis. Unchecked development continues to destroy and fragment habitat. Climate change not only accelerates the resulting loss of biodiversity, it also reduces the natural protection provided by ecosystems like wetlands and coral reefs, leaving communities more vulnerable to rising sea levels, extreme weather events and other impacts.

To recognize and support our



© SUZANN MEER/ADOBE STOCK

30x30 work, we launched a bequest challenge last month with the goal of reaching 30 new commitments every 30 days. Bequests from constituents like you are critical to the efforts of our scientists on the ground, our lawyers in the courts and our field conservation staff across the country. The combined income from bequests, trusts and other estate gifts provides roughly 20% of funding for the programs and daily operations that drive our 30x30-compatible mission to protect and restore imperiled species and their habitat. Add Defenders of Wildlife as a beneficiary in your estate plans today and ensure that our nation's ecosystems stay healthy for years to come. 🐾



BISON © DIANA LEVASSEUR



PRAIRIE © JOHN RUTH



BLACK-FOOTED FERRET © RICK & NORA BOWERS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

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:
 defenders.org/tracks

More Than “for the Birds”

Good news for birds on the move! The Biden administration formally dropped a Trump administration appeal of a federal district court ruling that rejected an attempt to strip protections for birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

A 2017 reinterpretation of the longstanding law under Trump sought to relieve companies of the responsibility for “incidental take,” the predictable and preventable killing of birds caused by industrial hazards like open oil pits and powerlines.

In 2018, Defenders of Wildlife joined with conservation organizations in eight states to challenge this restriction of the MBTA’s reach and has staunchly defended it ever since.

The Biden administration’s move leaves in place an August 2020 ruling by a U.S. district court criticizing the Trump administration’s argument that the MBTA only applied to the intentional killing of birds and not incidental take.

For over 100 years, the MBTA has helped protect and restore populations of the many bird species that travel from one place to another at regular times and often over long distances. Federal agencies and the courts have applied it to protect these birds not just from unauthorized hunting but also from industrial operations. Even with the threat of MBTA enforcement, industry still kills millions of birds annually—birds that also face the increasing threats of development, habitat loss and climate change. 🐾



SANDHILL CRANES BY USFWS/TOM KOERNER



MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD © GAIL KLETT



RED KNOT © CHUCK HOMER/FOCUS ON WILDLIFE

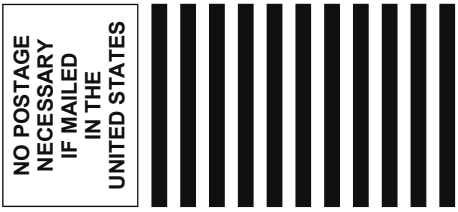
Sample bequest language for your attorney:

“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.”

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.



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 1630 WASHINGTON, DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

OFFICE OF PLANNED GIVING
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
1130 17TH ST NW
WASHINGTON DC 20077-5775



OCLOUT BY USFWS

Spotted! New Ocelot Kitten in Texas

At the beginning of March, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the appearance of a new ocelot kitten in Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. Defenders has been working for years to protect habitat for ocelots from oil and gas development. A new ocelot kitten is uplifting news for a species on the brink of extinction.

A trail camera captured the image pictured here of an ocelot kitten on Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge in Texas. The refuge has now documented a total of 17 of the endangered cats, a recent high. 🐾

“We need to protect endangered species and their environments for future generations. Defenders does this in all phases: in court, in the field, and with educational programs.”

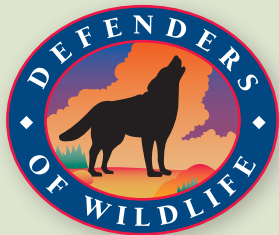
—Shauna & Tom S., Wichita, Kansas



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.




SPRING 2021



THE TRACKS YOU LEAVE BEHIND

FINANCIAL PLANNING NEWS AND
INSPIRATION FOR FRIENDS OF DEFENDERS

Inside this issue:

-  *Defenders commits to 30x30 conservation goals*
-  *A reprieve for migratory birds*
-  *Uplifting news for ocelots*



OCLOT © UC JIMARI PHOTOGRAPHY (CAPTIVE)