



2017 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARDS DINNER

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 | THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Award Recipients and Speakers

Brock Evans, *Legacy Award*

Brock Evans has been a committed advocate for wildlife and public lands for more than 40 years. Since 1997 he has served as president of the Endangered Species Coalition, an alliance of over 400 scientific societies, environmental and sportsmen's associations, religious groups and others dedicated to protecting imperiled wildlife and the Endangered Species Act. He was also vice president for national issues for the National Audubon Society for 15 years and spent 14 years with the Sierra Club focusing on forest, wilderness and energy policies and their implications for public lands. A prolific writer and public speaker, Evans has done scholarly work at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, Harvard's Institute of Politics and the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in Israel.

Sen. Martin Heinrich, *Spirit of Defenders Public Service Award*

Representing New Mexico, U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich is a champion for his state's burgeoning clean energy economy and treasured public lands. He serves on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Parks and a member of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. Heinrich was instrumental in the designation of the Río Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks national monuments and the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Area and in transitioning management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve to the National Park Service to increase public access.

Dr. Thomas D. Sisk, *Spirit of Defenders Science Award*

Dr. Thomas Sisk is a pioneer in science-based landscape-level analysis of wildlife habitat and the engagement of diverse voices in conservation planning. Dedicated to training the next generation of conservation leaders, he is the Olajos-Goslow Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at Northern Arizona University (NAU). He also leads NAU's Landscape Conservation Initiative, which works to improve conservation policy and on-the-ground results through field research, remote-sensing techniques and spatial and statistical modeling. He is a founding board member of Conservation Science Partners, a provider of advanced quantitative research and planning services for conservation projects. Prior to joining the NAU faculty, Sisk was the special assistant for science to the director of the National Biological Service.

Dr. Nathan Varley and Linda Thurston, *Spirit of Defenders Citizen Advocacy Award*

Nathan Varley and Linda Thurston are wildlife biologists and naturalists specializing in the ecology, biodiversity and history of Yellowstone National Park. Over 10 years ago, they co-founded Yellowstone Wolf Tracker, a company that specializes in wildlife tours and natural history programs in the park and educates hundreds of visitors each year. Together, Nathan and Linda have dedicated their lives not only to understanding wildlife behavior and ecology but to advocating for the sustained recovery of wolves and other apex predators on our public lands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Amy Moore at 202.772.0209 or amoore@defenders.org
or visit our website at www.defenders.org/awardsdinner