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The most significant public lands bill in a decade was signed into law in March protecting 2.3 million acres nationwide, including the expansion of the Molalla River Wild and Scenic designation in Oregon.

Celebrate the most significant public lands bill in a decade

Your support and activism led to a stunning victory for conservation when Republicans and Democrats in Congress joined forces to pass the first major legislation protecting public lands in a decade. The bill gained overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate (92-8) and the House (363-62) and was signed into law on March 12.

Its passage affirms one thing we can all agree on—that the protection of our lands, waters and wildlife is key to the health and wellbeing of future generations as well as our own. It is a striking departure from the relentless assaults against our public lands by the Trump administration and its allies on Capitol Hill. For you, our supporters, it is a chance to recognize years of tireless effort to protect the wildlands you love.

Among its highlights, the new legislation permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the nation's most important conservation program. Since 1964, the Fund has protected iconic wildlands throughout the country and supported more than 41,000 outdoor recreation projects, such as new community parks, hiking trails and ball fields.

This sweeping bill also protects a total of 2.3 million acres of wildlands, including designating 1.2 million acres of new wilderness in New Mexico, Utah, California and Oregon and putting several key landscapes off-limits to mining and other development in Montana and Washington. In addition, by establishing new national monuments, such as the home of civil rights heroes

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Dear Public Lands Champion,

Thank you for protecting America's wild places for future generations.

In our 84-year history, The Wilderness Society has never faced a president

so bent on environmental destruction. Thanks to your generous support and activism, we have been able to prevent many of the worst impacts of the Trump administration's "drill-everywhere" agenda.

As reported in our cover story, we've also had remarkable success in gaining permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, protection for more than 2.3 million acres of wildlands, and renewal of the Every Kid Outdoors program. Gaining overwhelming support from Congress, this substantial victory for our public lands and waters reflects several years of work with local communities and many partners.

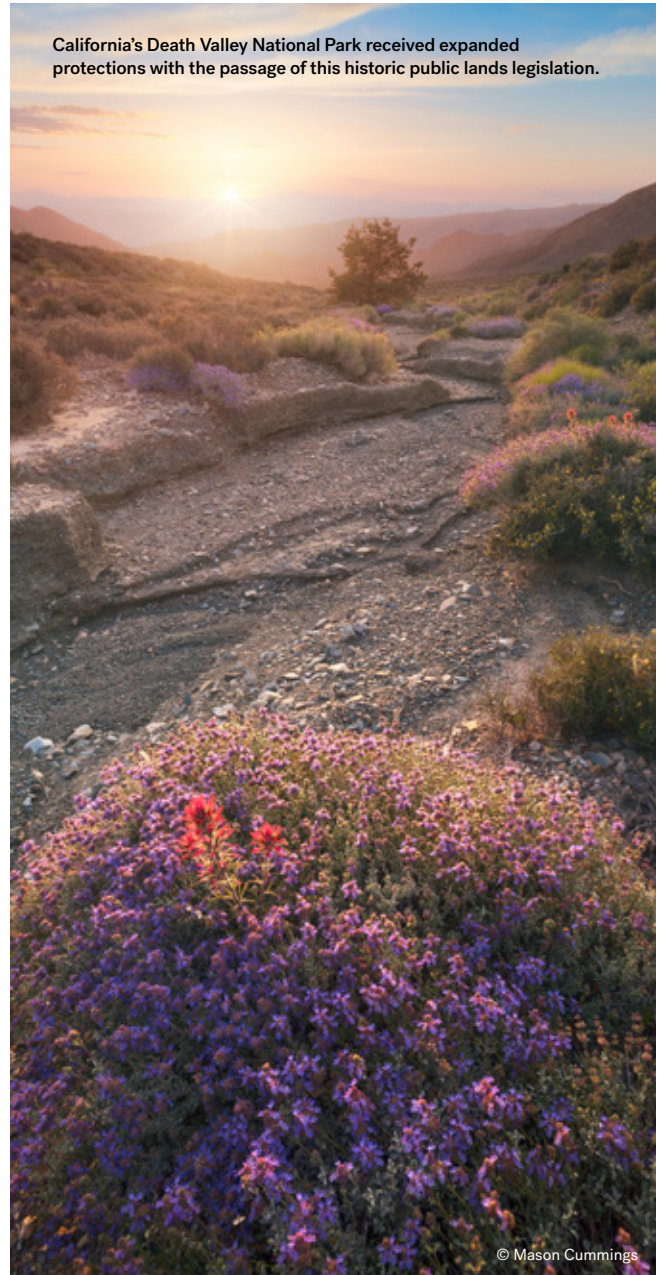
But the threat of this administration's radical policies remains very real and very urgent. Gravely endangered right now is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As you'll read in Wild Places (pages 4 and 5), the administration is racing to drill this hallowed ground. If they succeed, the way of life of the Gwich'in people will be destroyed, and this uniquely beautiful place that supports an astounding variety of wildlife will be damaged forever.

Your support is the key to our success. Your continued investment will enable The Wilderness Society to lead the fight to defend our treasured public lands. Thank you for standing with us!

Sincerely,

Jamie Williams
President

California's Death Valley National Park received expanded protections with the passage of this historic public lands legislation.



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PRINTER PLEASE UPDATE

America's Wilderness is published three times a year by The Wilderness Society.

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DESIGN:
Studio Grafik

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The Wilderness Society meets all standards as set forth by the Better Business Bureau/Wise Giving Alliance.

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Every Kid Outdoors, a program that gives fourth graders free nationwide access to national parks, will be continued as a result of this bipartisan lands bill.

CELEBRATE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC LANDS BILL IN A DECADE continued from page 1

Medgar and Myrlie Evers in Mississippi and a Civil War-era training facility for the Union’s African American soldiers in Kentucky, it makes progress in recognizing the full story of America. Finally, it extends the Every Kid

Outdoors program, which provides fourth grade students and their families free admission to all national parks and other federal lands.

Your commitment to public lands achieved this victory. Because of you, we were able to work with local communities to secure protection for the lands they love and depend upon. Your calls, letters and emails were instrumental in Congress, where a few members were holding up reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. You demanded action, and they listened.

While we celebrate, we are also gearing up for more big moments in the months ahead. Now that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is reauthorized, we need your help to encourage Congress to ensure that it is fully funded annually. In addition, we need to act now to protect even more of our shared public lands and waters and to address the impacts of climate change.

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Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Where Human Rights and Conservation Converge

© Kery Oberly

Potential drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge puts the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd at risk.

Alaska's 19.3 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest pristine wilderness areas left in the United States. At the heart of the Refuge—where the tundra meets the Beaufort Sea—is the coastal plain. It provides essential habitat for an astonishing array of wildlife, including polar and grizzly bears, wolves, Dall sheep, musk oxen and nearly 200 species of birds. The mighty Porcupine Caribou Herd, 218,000 strong, makes the long journey to the coastal plain every year to birth and nurse their calves.

For thousands of years, the indigenous Gwich'in people have lived in this region. They depend upon the caribou's annual arrival for their physical, cultural and spiritual sustenance. To the Gwich'in, the coastal plain is "Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit," which means "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins."

The Threat

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has never been in greater danger. The Trump administration is fast-tracking environmental reviews in their rush to lease

this land for drilling. Hauling large trucks and other heavy equipment, oil companies are eager to begin seismic testing to map underground formations that might hold oil and gas reserves.

Based on studies in the nearby Prudhoe Bay oilfield and other areas to the west, we know that industrial activities can affect caribou migration patterns, life cycle and herd health. Caribou are an irreplaceable component of the Gwich'in people's identity and contribute significantly to remote residents' food security. If caribou are displaced away from their calving grounds or suffer population declines, the well-being of the Gwich'in people will be threatened.

With the land on the brink of destruction, the Gwich'in people are fighting for their livelihoods, their culture and their future. We are in this fight with them.

The Fight

A dozen conservation organizations have come together to stand with the Gwich'in people to design



© Kery Oberly

For the Gwich'in people, the Arctic Refuge sustains their livelihood.

Oil companies and their friends in Congress have tried for decades to drill in the coastal plain, defiling it with roads, airstrips, heavy machinery, noise and pollution. In 2017, the Republican majority in Congress forced opening the coastal plain to oil development into a major tax bill that narrowly passed along partisan lines—effectively shattering 40 years of bipartisan agreement to protect it.

But the backers of this misguided legislation underestimate the Gwich'in people. And they forget that you and countless other supporters of The Wilderness Society have been at the forefront of working to preserve the Arctic Refuge for more than 80 years. With you at our side, we will never abandon the Gwich'in people in their essential battle for their homeland and way of life.

and advance a shared strategy to save the coastal plain and the entire Arctic Refuge. In Washington, DC, we are advancing two bills. Working with the Gwich'in and our allies in Congress, we hope to first reverse Congress' decision to open the coastal plain to drilling, restoring the previous level of protection. Our longer-term goal is to designate the entire coastal plain as federally-protected wilderness—ending the threat of drilling once and for all.

Thanks to you, we are also investing in grassroots organizing to educate new audiences about the dire threats facing the Gwich'in people and the Arctic Refuge, and how they can join you in the fight. We hope to have the largest impact by concentrating on states where elected officials are out of step with the pro-conservation views of their constituents.

As our last line of defense, The Wilderness Society is prepared to join the Gwich'in and take the Trump administration to court over every corner they cut and their every attempt to circumvent the law. In addition, we will put pressure on oil and gas companies not to destroy the habitat of the very wildlife that a national wildlife refuge is supposed to protect. Together, we will defend The Sacred Place Where Life Begins, and with it, the Gwich'in people's way of life.

Take Action

The Wilderness Society proudly presents **Welcome to Gwichyaa Zhee**, a short film that features an intimate look at the Gwich'in community of Fort Yukon, Alaska and their quest to protect their home.



Visit www.wilderness.org/gwichyaa-zhee to view the film and find out how you can stand with the Gwich'in to protect the Arctic Refuge.

Frances Chamberlin Carter

A renowned mountaineer and a dedicated member of The Wilderness Society for 35 years, Frances (“Freddie”) Chamberlin Carter devoted her life to exploring and defending America’s wildlands. Though she passed away in 2017 at age 92, her remarkable legacy lives on—both in our nation’s climbing history, and in our mission to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places.

Taking her nickname from her maternal grandfather, Freddie was born in Chicago to a family of geologists and explorers. Her interest in climbing began almost as soon as she could walk and was cemented when she reached the top of New Hampshire’s Mt. Washington at age 11. From that point forward, she set forth on a passionate, lifelong pursuit of America’s highest places, including the 20,310-foot summit of Denali in Alaska in 1962—a feat only two women had achieved before. By 1980, Freddie became the first woman to climb the highest point in all 50 states.

With her husband David, whom she met climbing Colorado’s Mt. Democrat, Freddie enjoyed countless adventures, including a trip to the Arctic National Wildlife



Refuge to see Mt. Chamberlin, named after her geologist paternal grandfather. Inspired by her experiences, she understood the importance of protecting public lands for the enjoyment of all. Having made modest gifts to The Wilderness Society for decades, in 2001, she decided to include the organization in her will, saying “I’ve always believed in conservation. With population growing so rapidly, we need to protect wilderness, and that is The Wilderness Society’s specialty.”

By making a generous bequest to The Wilderness Society through her estate, Freddie made protection of America’s highest wild places part of her enduring legacy to the world. We are grateful for her extraordinary generosity, which ensures a stronger conservation movement for the future.

**Become an Advocate
for Wilderness**
and take your love for
nature to the next level.

**With your gift of \$1,000, you’ll receive
exclusive benefits, but the biggest
reward is knowing you’re doing all you
can to protect our nation’s wild places.**

**To learn more about becoming an
Advocate for Wilderness, please visit
www.wilderness.org/advocates.**

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Your Support In Action

Your commitment to America's public lands keeps us in the fight!

© Mason Cummings

A bill has been introduced that would bar new hardrock mining operations from protected public lands like Utah's Bears Ears National Monument, above.

A Halt to Offshore Drilling:

As a direct result of the decision The Wilderness Society won in the Alaska District Court in late March, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced that the Trump administration is putting its offshore drilling efforts on hold. This victory in the courts stated that President Trump overstepped his authority with an executive order to rescind

President Obama's move to protect the Arctic Ocean from oil drilling.

Reinstatement of Obama Era

Rule: In April, another one of our cases in the U.S. District Court of Northern California reinstated the Obama administration's valuation rule. This important rule will generate more than \$70 million a year in royalties from oil, gas and coal

companies for American taxpayers from development on public lands. The Court determined the Trump administration's effort to negate an existing rule was illegal and overturned it completely! This bodes well for our other cases arguing for reinstatement of the ban on fracking on public lands, and of the Methane Recapture Rule.

A New Bill Would Bar Mining:

And in May, Representative Raul Grijalva of Arizona introduced The Hardrock Leasing and Reclamation Act, which would bar new hardrock mining operations from protected public lands like Bears Ears National Monument, while reforming an antiquated 19th-century law in order to hold companies accountable for environmental clean-up costs.

To read more about these and other developments in the fight to protect our wild places, please visit www.wilderness.org/articles.



Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

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