



From the Director's Desk

Words matter. They are the tip of the iceberg, the visible, or maybe audible, evidence of a whole worldview lurking out of sight.

Take the case of wild animals. Wildlife managers like to refer to them as “natural resources,” akin to copper and other inanimate objects. But inanimate means “without life” which is obviously inaccurate when applied to living beings.

Using the term “resources” to describe wild creatures like wolves, which clearly possess intelligence, show emotions, experience pain, and enjoy complicated social lives, demonstrates more than mere ignorance of the lives of “others.” It reveals a worldview in which humans consider themselves superior to other beings, and hence have the right to use wild animals as they please, even killing them for fun, as long as the “resource” is not compromised. (In the case of wildlife management, the “resource” of concern is always wildlife in the aggregate, i.e. populations and species, and never the individual animal or its social group.)

This is the ethos upon which state wildlife management in the U.S. is based. It is why wildlife killing contests remain legal in most states. It is why wolves are being slaughtered, often with gleeful brutality as described in this excellent [New Yorker article](#), in the states where the federal government does not protect them.

We are fighting to change that system, starting with its linguistic underpinnings. Call them wildlife, wild lives, other-than-human people, “other nations” (Henry Beston)--but please don't call wild animals “resources.”

In gratitude,

Kevin Bixby



Democracy in action: Washington state wildlife commission nixes spring bear hunt for 2022

In March, the governor-appointed Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission voted 4-3 to reject a proposed spring bear hunt for 2022. Predictably, hunting [groups](#) decried the decision for being based on “politics and emotion” and part of an anti-hunting agenda. Apart from the biological and ethical reasons for prohibiting hunting bears in the spring when they come out of hibernation and females have cubs, what is noteworthy about this decision is that the commission listened to and responded to public opinion which was overwhelmingly against the hunt—a rare thing in wildlife management. Usually the non-hunting majority of the public is ignored by state wildlife commissions. As chairwoman Barbara Baker [said](#), it was important for the commission to consider public values in addition to science.

Did you know....

Wildlife management discussions and articles are full of jargon and euphemisms, making it hard for the average person to understand what is *really* being said.

[From "anti-hunting" to "wise use" we make it easier for you to be a part of the conversation!](#)



While hiking in January, a Las Vegas, Nevada family [released a fox](#) caught in a baited trap laid outside its den. In mid-March - two months after the incident - game wardens showed up at their home and issued over \$700 in fines after receiving complaints from the trapping community.

By comparison, a trapper who [failed to visit](#) his string of traps within four days as required by law, which could have resulted in enormous suffering for multiple animals, was only fined \$330.

This story, in which an act of compassion is punished more severely than an act of neglect and cruelty, is another example of the current bias in wildlife management in Nevada and other states that favors consumptive uses--hunting, fishing and trapping--and consumptive users over the general public.

Update on our Prius Raffle

Some of you may remember that for the past 16 years, we have raffled off a Prius Prime plug-in hybrid as our major fundraiser. Maybe you have even purchased tickets or have been a lucky winner! We are sorry to say that **due to Covid-related production issues, we were unable to procure a vehicle this year.**

We hope that you will consider making a gift of the \$110 raffle ticket price to us today. Instead of winning a car, your gift will ensure that wildlife wins with a more just, compassionate wildlife management system that values their individual lives.



Help wildlife win with a gift today!

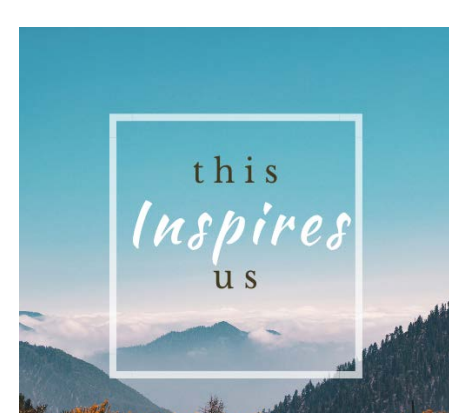
Our Coalition

Wildlife for All is the organizing body for a nationwide coalition of organizations working together to reform state wildlife management to be more ecologically-focused, democratic and compassionate.



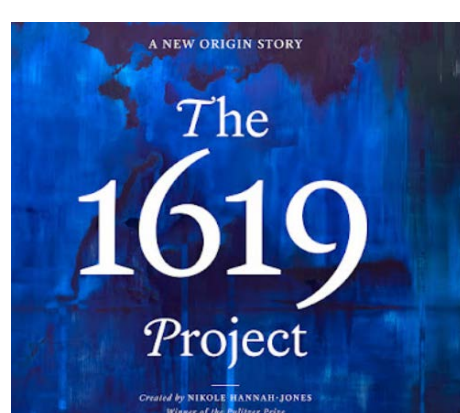
This month's featured coalition partner is [International Wildlife Coexistence Network](#). The International Wildlife Coexistence Network provides expert interdisciplinary assistance, training, collaboration, and shared research to enable communities around the globe to coexist with wildlife.

[Learn more about our partners](#)

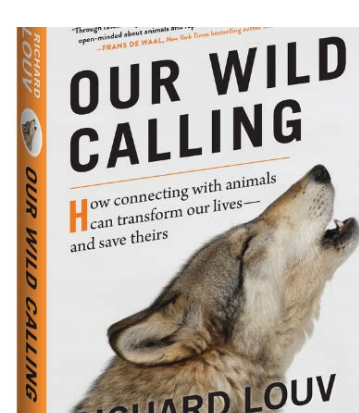


This Inspires Us

Find ideas for books, movies, articles, documentaries, podcasts, and more suggested by our staff, board and coalition partners!



Kevin Bixby, WFA Executive Director says this about the [1619 Project](#): "It's hard to ignore the parallels between how black people and wildlife have been treated in America."



Mikaila Wireman, WFA Campaign Associate loves [Our Wild Calling](#) by [Richard Louv](#) and says it's powerful study about how compassion can save wild lives.



We hope you are enjoying the newsletter! If you aren't already a member, we encourage you to consider becoming one to support the work we do.

If you have comments, questions or suggestions for our newsletter, send them on - we'd love to hear from you! Email: robbyn@wildlifeforall.us

[Become a member](#)