



www.wildlifeforall.us

575-522-5552

From the Director's Desk

September 24th is National Public Lands Day, a day to "celebrate the connection between people and green space in their community, inspire environmental stewardship, and encourage use of open space for education, recreation, and health benefits," [according](#) to the National Park Service.

It is also National Hunting and Fishing Day, a day [created by the gun industry](#) to "celebrate the conservation successes of hunters, target shooters and anglers," according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Strange coincidence, no?

State wildlife agencies, sportsmen's groups and public lands agencies around the country will be setting up booths at public events side by side to extol the virtues of hunting, fishing and public lands. The message is clear: hunting, fishing and public lands were meant for each other.

But wait. What about all the other ways to enjoy public lands, like hiking and camping? What about all the other ways of valuing wild creatures, like birdwatching and photography?

Those activities won't be highlighted, because the gun and hunting lobbies have done a great job of making getting outdoors on public lands synonymous with hunting, fishing and target shooting. Why? Because they have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo in wildlife management, which prioritizes hunting and fishing. State wildlife agencies get much of their [revenues](#) from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The gun lobby enjoys good [public relations](#) from being defenders of the hunting heritage. And sportsmen's groups maintain their power over wildlife policy. Everyone wins, except for the public.

Wildlife watchers far [outnumber](#) the people who hunt and fish in the U.S. So far, there isn't a "National Wildlife Watching Day" but maybe that is changing. Michigan's governor recently [declared](#) September 4th to be Wildlife Watching Day." Hopefully other states will follow Michigan's lead.

Hunting and fishing have their place, but public lands and wildlife are for all Americans to enjoy.

United in stewardship of our public lands,

Kevin Bixby



Coming Soon: Wildlife for All Photo Contest

Wildlife for All kicks off our photo contest on October 10, 2022. Enter photos and vote on your favorites - you might see yours featured alongside those of our coalition partners in our 2023 Calendar!

Watch for details coming in your email at the end of September!

Do you know...

...how residents in your state value wildlife? The America's Wildlife Values state reports explore the "values, attitudes, and beliefs" of residents in regards to fish and wildlife management. You can learn more about wildlife value orientations in your state, issue specific attitudes, and more.

There are four types of wildlife value orientations:

- Mutualists believe wildlife are part of our social network and we should live in harmony
- Traditionalists believe wildlife should be used and managed for human benefit
- Pluralists prioritize the above values differently depending on the context
- Distanced individuals believe wildlife related issues are unimportant to them

To learn which is dominant in your state, and to dive deeper into how gender and age influences these categories, visit the "[find your state](#)" page on our website and click on the state report under "America's Wildlife Values."



Stories From the Front

"Wyoming's policies are bad for Wyoming wolves and residents, and the Governor should stop pretending otherwise...Wyoming has proven itself unable and unwilling to effectively manage our state's wolves, and our residents deserve better."

Wildlife for All coalition member, Kristin Combs challenges Wyoming Governor Gordon in this compelling letter.

Wildlife for All is the organizing body for a nationwide coalition of organizations working together to reform state wildlife management to be more democratic, just, compassionate, and focused on protecting native species and ecosystems.



This month's featured coalition partner is [Attorneys for Animals](#), the group that was instrumental in the Michigan governor's decision to designate September 4, 2022 as "Wildlife Watching Day."

This Michigan nonprofit is made up of legal professionals and animal advocates who:

- advocate for animals and provide resources for people who care about them
- foster creative projects that will positively impact animals and educate their advocates
- act to support, educate and encourage attorneys and others who work on behalf of animals.

We are proud to have them as part of our coalition!

[Learn more about our coalition partners](#)



You are vital to the success of Wildlife for All!

To show our appreciation of your support, all new members, new monthly gifts and renewals will receive our new WFA sticker!

If you have comments, questions or suggestions for our newsletter email: robyn@wildlifeforall.us

[Click to become a champion for wildlife!](#)

SWEC dba Wildlife for All

PO Drawer BB,
Mesilla, NM 88046

wildlifeforall.us

info@wildlifeforall.us

575-522-5552

SWEC dba Wildlife for All is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, federal EIN 85-0403860.

