

WHAT'S NEW ON EVERYTHING EARTH

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July 2022



ESA Reinstated for Wolves

Video: *Babies Go for a Swim!*

Grilled Summer Salads

3 Minutes to Change the World

Blue Sky Meditation

A RARE REPRIEVE FOR WOLVES

When the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) decided in 2020 that they wanted to remove [federal endangered species](#) protection from gray wolves, they commissioned scientific [peer reviews](#) to support their desired position. When the reviews backfired, showing a clear need for continued protection, the FWS ignored their own experts and delisted the gray wolf anyway effective January 2021.

Wolf-hating states went immediately crazy: Wisconsin authorized killing during the breeding season issuing 1,535 permits for a population of only 1,000 wolves. They [slaughtered 218 wolves](#) in February 2021.

Emboldened by the delisting, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana where wolves have been delisted for years, passed legislation authorizing bounty hunting, baiting, pursuit by hounds and ORVs and no restrictions on season or nighttime hunting.

Horrified by FWS's deceit and the subsequent onslaught, [six environmental groups](#) went to court once again in November 2021 on behalf of wolves, accusing the FWS of numerous egregious [ESA violations](#). In February 2022, a federal judge found in favor of the environmental groups and [vacated the Fish & Wildlife Service's delisting order](#). The court "found that the agency's proposal to delist wolves ignored science and appeared to come to a predetermined conclusion, with inadequate scientific support."

North America's war on wolves began in earnest more than a century ago when settlers arrived with unfounded fears about wolves based on myth and folklore. But the real carnage began around 1900 when politically influential cattle ranchers [demanded "safe pasturage"](#) for their herds. In response, government agencies set about exterminating wolves for their wealthy constituents. Once numbering in the tens of thousands in the lower 48 states, gray wolves were hunted nearly to extinction by 1940.

Decades later, scientists recognized that slaughtering this [keystone predator](#) initiated a disastrous ripple effect. In the 70 years that wolves were absent, entire ecosystems fell out of balance. Coyotes ran rampant and the elk population exploded overgrazing riverside willows and aspen forests. Without trees, songbirds declined, beavers couldn't build dams, trout disappeared as sunbaked rivers overheated and riverbanks began to erode.

By 1973 the unanticipated consequences could no longer be denied and wolves were granted protection under the ESA. They began a slow but steady recovery. By 2020 there were 7,500 wolves in the lower 48—a good start but still occupying only 15% of their historic range.



Gray Wolf. FWS photo archive

This battle is won but the war on wolves is not. Cattlemen have a powerful lobby; western states relentlessly demand slaughter; and FWS guns down "problem packs" even in protected areas for complaining ranchers.

Vigilance is necessary if we are to continue standing guard for the wolf, [symbol of guardianship, ritual, loyalty, and spirit](#). See "3 Minutes to Change the World" below for a quick easy way to lend a hand.

JULY VIDEO: MAMA FACES DOWN AN INTRUDER



Yup, July's video of the month is "just a duck" and her five precious ducklings. One thing that Everything Earth celebrates is the quiet often overlooked miracles in everyday life. These "just" ducklings—at only a few days old—have remarkably developed instincts.

Ducklings are able to identify their own mother and siblings based on sight and won't follow other mothers or siblings, greatly improving their survival chances. The roots of this behavior—which prove that birds have cognitive abilities that do not need to be learned—remain a mystery that has fascinated scientists.

[Watch till the end](#) when mama faces down a seriously large intruder. Spoiler alert: the videographer had to get out of the way, but mama did prevail and then took her babies for a swim.

3 MINUTES TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Personal hand-written letters are an extremely effective way to communicate to elected officials. President Biden takes time at night to read letters from ordinary Americans to give him a sense of the national mood on key issues. Please tell him and Secretary Deb Haaland that we ordinary Americans want Idaho and Montana to reverse their policies and protect wolves. Letters from kids are especially appreciated by Mr. Biden.

Keep your letter to one page. Include your name and personal address on the letter and the envelope. Be clear about your topic and the outcome you desire. Feel free to use this verbiage or some version of it.

- *I am deeply concerned about the new war on wolves in Idaho and Montana. Idaho just passed a new law that will allow the killing of 90% of the wolves in the state, including newborn pups and nursing mothers in their dens. Montana has adopted a bounty system like the one that led to the eradication of wolves in the West.*
- *Idaho and Montana have proven that they are unable or unwilling to manage wolves responsibly.*
- *Please place wolves in Idaho and Montana back on the list of federally endangered species.*
- *Please amend our federal grazing system to prioritize the wildlife conservation.*

Send your letter to:

President Biden

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Deb Haaland

Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

BLUE SKY MEDITATION

Everything Earth News features one of our website's 90-second visual meditations every month. They are meant to provide an opportunity to balance your day even if you only have, literally, two minutes. What could be more appropriate for July than a focus on a [Brilliant Blue Sky](#). Namaste, my friends.

JULY PHOTO CONTEST: *DAY LILIES AND NIGHT CROSSINGS*



Submissions for July's Flora Photo Contest were astonishingly beautiful. I chose this double day lily because it is a "volunteer" – not planted by human hand, just gracing the earth without prompting.

Please see July Flowers for more jaw-dropping beauties.

For Ashlanders, choosing a deer for the Fauna Photo

Contest winner is like featuring a lowly pigeon! Deer are everywhere

in southern Oregon and some consider them pests. But they are graceful (if voracious) survivors just trying to make a living in a human construct that used to be their own quiet home. This handsome young buck is crossing Ashland creek at dusk.



"Night Crossing". A young buck in search of his doe at dusk, Ashland, OR

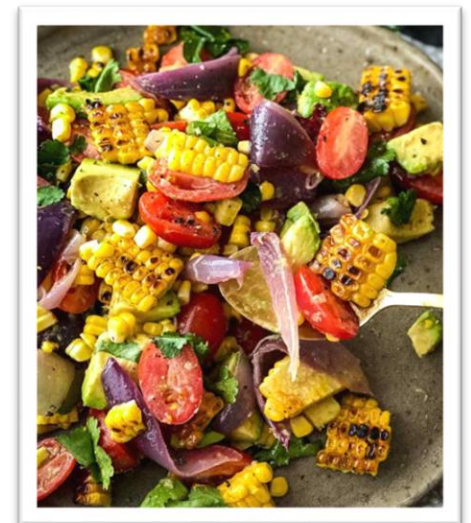
JULY RECIPE: *CHARRED CORN & COUNTRY BREAD SALAD*

This [grilled spring salad](#) is so delicious, the kids won't even realize that they are eating "healthy". It is packed with nutrients, vitamins, essential minerals – and best of all – flavor! You can use most any fresh organic vegetable you love. Just be sure to leave the pieces large enough that they don't fall through the grill. Chop them smaller post-grilling if you like.

I wouldn't suggest skipping the grilled bread as it absorbs and delivers so much flavor and crunch. But of course you can go gluten-free.

This salad gains flavor as it sits, so no pressure to hurry this to the table.

Be sure to check out the June recipes too. **No-Cow-A-Bunga Burrito Pie**, made with Impossible or Beyond Burger has been getting rave reviews! And berries for our **World's Easiest Strawberry Pie** are still in season.



STAY TUNED FOR "WHAT'S NEW ON EVERYTHING EARTH" AUGUST 2022

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