

WHAT'S NEW ON EVERYTHING EARTH

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

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Why We Must Achieve “30x30”

March Photo Contest Winners

Video: *Graceful Dolphin*

March Recipe: Fabulous Farro

3 Minutes to Change the World

HOPE ON THE HORIZON: THE “30X30” INITIATIVE

By Randi Spivak, Public Lands Program Director, [Center for Biological Diversity](#)

Wildlife populations are crashing around the world. From the blinking lights of fireflies at night to the dawn chorus of migratory birds and the evening chirping of frogs, the animals and plants that many of us grew up with are disappearing before our eyes.

Scientists predict that more than 1 million species could face extinction in the coming decades – and we lose about one species every hour.

More than a century of habitat destruction, pollution, the spread of invasive species, wildlife exploitation, climate change, population growth and other human activities have frayed the web of life. The drivers of wildlife extinction also undermine human life-support systems including pollination, water purification, oxygen production and disease regulation. It is in our own self-interest to fight to protect biodiversity.

It's not too late to save the life on earth. In the face of this crisis, [scientists have urged](#) us to conserve at least 30 percent of the planet's lands and waters by 2030. In January 2021, President Biden [signed an executive order](#), commonly known as “30 by 30”, directing federal officials to develop a plan to do just that in the U.S. It's a bold vision, but nothing less can address the scope of the problems we now face.

Currently, only about [12%](#) of American lands are protected in the continental U.S., and an average of a football field worth of natural area is lost every 30 seconds. So what will it take to protect 30% of our lands and waters by 2030?

We need to begin by identifying places where wildlife is at most risk of losing habitat and creating substantially more wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments, marine protected areas and wildlife refuges. It also means identifying and protecting corridors to ensure wildlife species such as the beautiful but imperiled pronghorn can continue their seasonal migrations. Private land owners can play a significant role as well by securing conservation easements on their properties to ensure that the habitat remains functioning and intact forever.

The American public is solidly behind protecting our lands and waters: [86%](#) of Americans and 73% of Westerners, including majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, support setting a national goal of protecting 30 percent of America's lands and oceans by 2030.

See “Three Minutes to Change the World” below to read more about “Saving Live on Earth” and how you can help.



Pronghorn on Arapaho NWR

Photo courtesy: [USFWS Digital Library](#)

CRUNCHY CREAMY DREAMY FARRO SALAD

This salad is a substantial entrée packed with protein, fiber, healthy fats and vitamins galore. The base is the ancient whole grain farro, red onion, creamy avocado and kidney beans. Add olives and capers for a touch of salt; sesame sticks for satisfying crunch; and candied pecans for a touch of sweet.

The [Crunchy Creamy Farro Salad recipe](#) will have you dreaming of more, so be sure to make plenty. It keeps like a dream for 2-3 days in the refrigerator. Just pop the leftovers onto a bed of butter lettuce and top with the crunchies. Or roll the whole thing into a tortilla for an easy school or work lunch.

Make it vegan by leaving out the Parmesan or substituting vegan cheese.



MARCH PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS: CITY DWELLERS



Nature brings us together in quiet but powerful ways.

Three small non-descript trees no one ever noticed in this inner city apartment courtyard have surprised and entranced residents with their sudden show of brilliant yellow clusters. People are talking!... pausing, smiling, sharing theories about the tree species.

See [March Flowers](#) for more spectacular show-offs!

A flock of snowy egrets at Mirror Pond, smack in the middle of bustling St. Petersburg's downtown district, is having the same effect.

Delighted tourists stop to ask about our snowy inner-city residents and locals are proud to show them off and explain how to i.d. great egrets vs. snowy egrets. *Hint:* Great egrets are larger than snowy egrets and have a yellow bill. Snowy egrets have a black bill and yellow feet.



*Thank you, Diana Forbes, for the photo!
Great Egret Takes Flight over Mirror
Pond, St. Petersburg, Florida*

TAKE 3 MINUTES TO CHANGE THE WORLD

You can help move the "30x30" goals forward by letting your elected officials know that you would like them to support the initiative – and that you vote!

Protecting the planet means protecting humanity. Never has the urgency been greater. Read more about [Saving Life on Earth](#).

VIDEO OF THE MONTH: BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN



An adult dolphin weighing an average of 385 pounds, consumes about 5 percent of its body weight per day. That means s/he needs to track down 20 pounds of food per day. A nursing female requires 30 pounds per day.

Although dolphins have teeth, they swallow their prey whole. Dolphins eat a wide variety of sea creatures including fish, crustaceans and squid.

Bottlenose dolphins typically hunt for food in two-hour time periods, taking two hours off to rest in between hunts. Males tend to travel in pairs while females and their young travel in larger pods for protection.

While dolphins can hold their breath longer than most sea mammals, they need to breathe 3-12 times per minute through their blowhole ([visible when this male surfaces](#) at the end of the video). *Video @lisabforce*

Stay tuned for April 2022 “What’s New on Everything Earth.”

Meanwhile check our website EverythingEarth.net for weekly blog posts and updates.

Please feel free to [contact us](#) with any questions, requests or to sign us for this monthly newsletter.