

Wild Life – What’s Next

To learn more about the film visit: <https://films.nationalgeographic.com/wild-life>

Land Conservation and Climate Change

Conservation and the protection of wild lands are forms of climate action in several ways. Conserving natural lands helps to retain the habitat of many species of plants and animals. The biodiversity crisis and climate crisis are not separate issues, rather they compound on each other. If lands are protected, they are more likely to retain their natural biodiversity, making them more effective carbon sinks. This can offset emissions and is a natural climate solution. As biodiversity increases, ecosystems become more resilient in the face of climate change. For example, if a species is forced to shift their habitat north due to increased temperatures, the entire ecosystem is less likely to collapse if the landscape is biodiverse.

Equitable Land Conservation

Ensuring that natural features are protected is not the only important consideration in land conservation. Land conservation must be rooted in equity to be sustainable. Indigenous peoples are the original stewards of many protected lands around the world, but land conservation efforts have historically excluded them. This is both unjust and decreases the effectiveness of conservation by excluding Indigenous people’s traditional ecological knowledge. Dispossession cannot be undone, but there are steps conservation groups can take to make their work more equitable. Some examples include, increasing diverse access to conserved lands and including community needs in planning for future projects.

What can you do?

- Support habitat restoration on your property and in your community!
 - Planting native plants and setting up water sources or nesting boxes can help make your garden valuable to wildlife. This brings nature right to your front door! You can learn more about this from the [National Wildlife Federation](#).
 - Eagle County Open Space also has many [volunteer opportunities](#) to restore habitats in our local area through planting, weeding, picking up trash, and more.
- Get involved with our local land trust!
 - The Eagle Valley Land Trust works with local landowners to set up conservation easements, support the management of our open spaces, and protect wildlife and recreational opportunities. You can learn more about their work on their [website](#).