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# Can the World Really Set Aside Half of the Planet for Wildlife?

The eminent evolutionary biologist E.O. Wilson has an audacious vision for saving Earth from a cataclysmic extinction event



A bold conservation vision calls for a return to the South's once-vast longleaf pine forests. (Carlton Ward Jr. )

By [Tony Hiss](#)

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The bison weren't thundering as we moved slowly through them, merely standing around massively, impressively, the calves frisky, the bulls larger than our truck. It seemed to take forever to get past the great herd. Then we struck off cross-country and uphill. "Let's go howl at the wolves," Phillips said. A bald eagle perched on a fencepost, a couple of four-foot-tall, reddish sandhill cranes stalked sedately through

rolling, grassy slopes filled with purple lupine, white yarrow and yellow blanket flowers. We stopped at a high, sweet-smelling meadow and, once Phillips cut the engine, an enormous silence enveloped us, broken only by the buzzy trill of a song sparrow.

We had to whisper because sounds carried so well in this natural amphitheater. Valpa Asher, the TEFW wolf biologist accompanying us, told us some wolves might show up, about a mile away. “You’ll think they’re floating,” she said quietly. “Wolves are all leg.” They’d be at eye level halfway up a steep, rocky slope over on the far side of a deep valley. No guarantees, of course. We were looking at a “rendezvous site,” a kind of aboveground den, where wolf pups that were old enough get brought to learn the landscape.

Farther away, the skyline was dominated by the pointed crests of the Spanish Peaks, snowcapped even in summer. There was a rumble of thunder, and it suddenly started to pour. Wind whistled in our ears. It got colder, and we retreated to the truck, where Phillips broke out deli sandwiches and cans of Jamaican lemonade. Then the sun came out again, and there was a double rainbow to our right. “The D is showing off—this is too cool,” Phillips said matter-of-factly, far more restrained than YouTube’s “double rainbow guy.”

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Then—there they were. Dots to the naked eye, but vividly close through a spotting scope. A black adult, a gray adult with a black ruff and six pups, four black and two gray, gamboling, sniffing the ground, chasing each other, dispersing and then regrouping.

Definitely floating. Phillips grinned, threw his head back and howled across the valley. On the other side, the two adult wolves threw back their heads and howled. The sounds were faint but unmistakable. For the moment, at least, Half Earth felt whole.

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Tony Hiss was a staff writer for the *New Yorker* for more than 30 years and is currently a visiting scholar at New York University. Hiss is the author of 13 books, including [The Experience of Place](#), [The View from Alger's Window](#) and [In Motion: The Experience of Travel](#). The National Recreation and Park Association's National Literary Award praised his lifetime of "spellbinding and poignant writing." Photo by Michael Lionstar.

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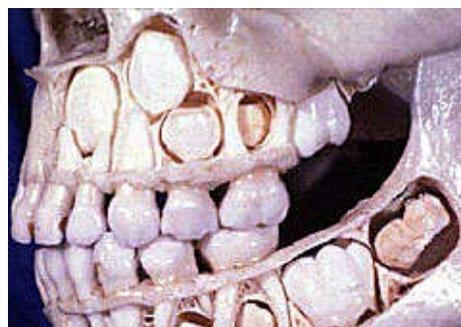
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[yahoo](#) · 9 months ago

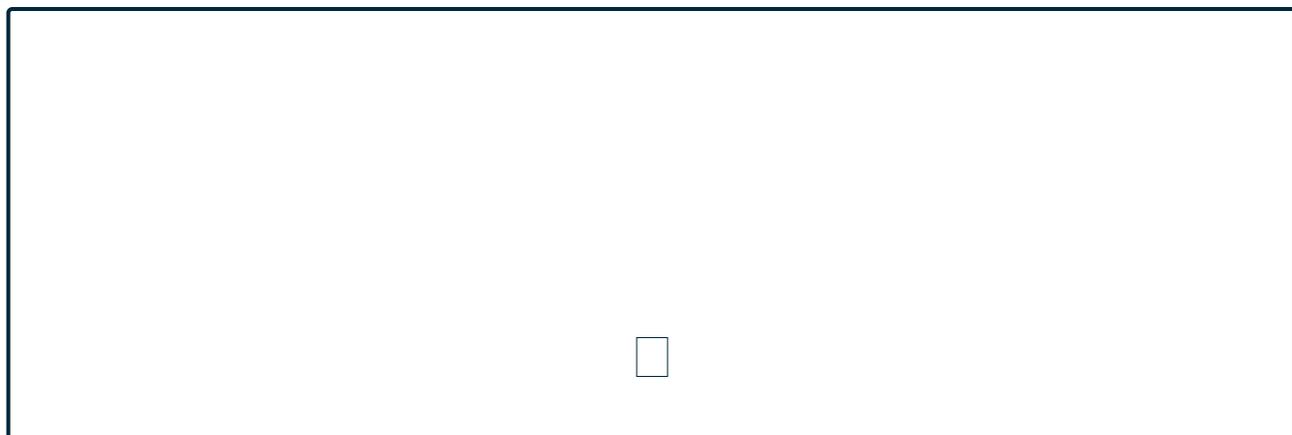
Thank you Tony Hiss for this wonderfully inspiring article. E.O. Wilson, M.C. Davis and Ted Turner are true visionaries that are putting their minds and resources toward accomplishing wonderful transformations in the "re-wilding" of America. If Ted Turner can complete a wide wildlife corridor between his Montana Flying D Ranch to the Greater Yellowstone national forests, there would be a link between these two natural wonders, and also it would help isolate or eliminate the anti-wildlife private ranchers who are also abusing our public lands in the Yellowstone area.

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[Chandie Bartell](#) > [yahoo](#) · 8 months ago

How your community is implementing AGENDA 21





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**kristilloyd** > Chandie Bartell • 7 months ago

Tea Party Television....that explains it right there.

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**Chandie Bartell** > kristilloyd • 7 months ago

Wrong as usual it wasn't on Television.

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**kristilloyd** > Chandie Bartell • 7 months ago

TEA PARTY TELEVISION, the TP has/had its own network. It was video recorded and posted on youtube.  
Spoon feeding you again.

2  |  • Reply • Share ›



**kristilloyd** > Chandie Bartell • 7 months ago

See that blue box in the lower left corner? What do those words say? Or does that need to be spelled out, spoon fed to you?

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**Chandie Bartell** > kristilloyd • 7 months ago

Actually Kristy, Rosa Koire is a Democrat: She has given presentations World Wide such as the country of Denmark.

Rosa Koire is the executive director of the Post Sustainability Institute. Impacting every aspect of our lives, UN Agenda 21/Sustainable Development is a corporate manipulation using the Green Mask of environmental concern to forward a globalist plan.

Rosa speaks across the world and is a regular blogger on her website Democrats Against UN Agenda 21 dot com. Her book, BEHIND THE GREEN MASK: UN

Agenda 21 is available on [Amazon.com](#), Kindle, and Nook, and at her website.  
Websites: [www.DemocratsAgainstUNAgenda21...](#)  
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Speaker is: Rosa Koire Lays Out UN Agenda 21 Plans for America

Here she is at the Open Mind Conference. She is a professional speaker:



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**kristilloyd** > Chandie Bartell • 7 months ago

So what if she's a Democrat? What does that have to do with anything? She's still spewing hysteria and ignorance to the gullible.

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**Chandie Bartell** > kristilloyd • 7 months ago

Hysteria. No facts you can't process the data. United Nations Conference on Environment & Development  
Rio de Janerio, Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992  
AGENDA 21  
<http://sustainabledevelopment...>

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**Pat Kittle** > Chandie Bartell • 7 months ago

"Facts"??

You are free to present the Zionist version of WWII history.

I have evidence to refute it, but the censor won't allow me to post it.

That's one way to win an argument -- and the ONLY one in your case.

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**Guest** > kristilloyd • 7 months ago

That's not where I got it, and has nothing to do with the content or where it came from. We have citizens that have had this lady speak at our events before she is very well researched.

If you read on the link her credentials are listed, and it doesn't say Television? duh

□ | □ • Reply • Share ›



**Susan Bryant Myers** > yahoo • 5 months ago

we these environs buy off you congressman to take land and make it a national park against the will of the people, it shows that what these environmentalists are doing is not what citizens want. We have fought this for 2 years and still trying to stop the national park service from taking our delta. It is not right!

□ | □ • Reply • Share ›



**yahoo** > Susan Bryant Myers • 5 months ago

...taking what Delta?? Where and what are you talking about?? Most deltas and wetlands in the United States are already owned by the states or federal governments, so maybe this is not in the United States?

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**Greg Costello** • 9 months ago

Thank you for this wonderful and timely story. Since 1993 Wildlands Network has been promoting a Wildway vision, not only along the Spine of the Continent (Western Wildway) but also north-south in the east, along the Pacific and across the boreal forest. Since then similar efforts have started worldwide. In short, the answer to the question posed is "yes, we can do it."

Thank you for this article and the shout out. Ed Wilson has been an inspiration, a confidant, and most of all a friend and ardent supporter from the start. For readers interested in a more in depth look at a continental scale Wildway and the people behind it, I'd recommend picking up a copy of the Spine of the Continent by Mary Ellen Hannibal or The Carnivore Way by Cristina Eisenberg or visit our website at [www.wildlandsnetwork.org](http://www.wildlandsnetwork.org).

Greg Costello  
Executive Director  
Wildlands Network

17 □ | □ • Reply • Share ›



**Chandie Bartell** > Greg Costello • 8 months ago

Wildlands Network is Unconstitutional.

5 □ | □ • Reply • Share ›



**Ernie Meyer** > Chandie Bartell · 7 months ago

how so?

3 | · Reply · Share ›



**Yote Hunter222** > Greg Costello · 7 months ago

Tell Wilson he should then practice what he preaches & give up the "butter pecan ice cream" made from dairy cattle, raised by ranchers/farmers that also grow hay to feed the cows & plant the pecan groves. He also needs to relinquish the "guest cottage" & mansion & go live in a cave. What a foolish hypocrite.

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**Chandie Bartell** > Yote Hunter222 · 7 months ago

Exactly.

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**Pat Kittle** > Chandie Bartell · 7 months ago

Most conservationists, me included, aren't talking about eliminating all humans or all their impact, so don't pretend we are.

We're talking about sustainable limits, which we've exceeded by orders of magnitude -- something you're too selfish to seriously consider.

You'd drive every species extinct that got in your way or posed any threat, and you'd rationalize it all by saying, "species have always gone extinct."

As if the rate of extinction was irrelevant.

4 | · Reply · Share ›



**Susan Bryant Myers** > Greg Costello · 5 months ago

about half of the land on Earth now is used for farming. Are you advocating it is OK with you for our farms to also be taken and set aside for animals in case of another mass extinction - and too bad for humans?

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**yahoo** > Susan Bryant Myers · 5 months ago

Actually most of the open lands on Earth (not forests) are used for growing livestock (cattle, sheep & goats) not for farms using cultivation of the soil. Some of these

grasslands can and should support much more wildlife than they do now.

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**LesterBallard** • 8 months ago

Does this mean 7 billion humans on half the space they now occupy?

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**anja** > LesterBallard • 8 months ago

We just have to control our population growth so there are not so many humans.

8  |  • Reply • Share ›



**LesterBallard** > anja • 8 months ago

By force?

12  |  • Reply • Share ›



**Chandie Bartell** > LesterBallard • 8 months ago

They will regulate us into Sustainable communities. In other words removing humans off of rural properties into stacked/packed housing communities. This is an attack on the United States Constitution and Private Property Rights.

4  |  • Reply • Share ›



**Pat Kittle** > Chandie Bartell • 8 months ago

"Environmentalists" are timid creatures.

They know darn well human over-breeding is catastrophic, and underlies all other ecological problems. But they don't have the courage to say what needs to be said.

So instead of opposing human over-breeding (& highly unsustainable immigration rates), they want to cram everyone in ever tighter & tighter. They pretend endless growth is OK as long as they call it "smart growth."

Of course lots of people resent being packed like that. So "environmentalists" are merely guaranteeing even bigger horrors in the future by their fear of confronting over-breeding directly.

Personally, I think humans are cruising for a mighty nasty bruising, but I'm going to keep speaking the unspeakable truth anyway. Just maybe enough people will

acknowledge the obvious:

Endless growth in a finite place is absurd, and the pursuit (or enabling) of it is INSANE.

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**Chandie Bartell** > Pat Kittle • 8 months ago

Where's your data the world is over-populated.

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**Pat Kittle** > Chandie Bartell • 8 months ago

By your own acknowledgement you don't like over-population, which is why you don't want to live in (your words) "overstacked/packed housing communities."

So, where's your data that we can have endless growth in a finite place?

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**Chandie Bartell** > Pat Kittle • 8 months ago

Before we start, however, let's define overpopulation. Overpopulation describes a situation where the number of people exhausts the resources in a closed environment such that it can no longer support that population.

How is that happening in the United States or North America????

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**Pat Kittle** > Chandie Bartell • 8 months ago

Lady, we're in a mass extinction -- the worst ecological catastrophe in 65,000,000 years!

Do you even comprehend what this forum is about?

Have you ever read anything by E.O. Wilson? Or just what his critics say about him?

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**Brandy Shale Davis** > Pat Kittle • 7 months ago

The man is senile....and so are his followers.....Jim Jones comes to mind!

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**Bobalee** > Brandy Shale Davis · 7 months ago

Jim Jones and his fanatic, suicidal, religious followers were not at all similar to those who consider the reality of Wilson's 50-50 idea for saving the planet from over population.

It appears to me that the takers don't care in the least for the future of mankind or other Earth biota so long as their immediate desires are not curtailed.

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**Susan Bryant Myers** > Bobalee · 5 months ago

now, 1/2 of Earth is in farm land. We live a large part of what is left. I love animals and wild places but we are fighting his take over of the Mobile-Tensaw delta to add to his "connected corridor". It has been 2 years. He is wrong but his money and clout are in our way. This movement is wrong when people do Not want to lose their land but politics [money] allows it

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**Susan Bryant Myers** > Brandy Shale Davis · 5 months ago

Here in Mobile area, we have been fighting the government, by environmentalists, take over of our delta for 2 years. Fighting to keep what is ours! we are on the map as "working on it". Frightening that insane people have money and power

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**Pat Kittle** > Brandy Shale Davis · 7 months ago

Brandy,

I work hard to expose anti-white racism, including the "dumb blonde" stereotype.

But you are not making it easy for me.

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**Yote Hunter222** > Pat Kittle · 7 months ago

Kittle, do you have any children? Are you a consumptive being on this planet that takes up space, drinks/uses fresh water everyday, eats food produced by other humans, lives in a dwelling made of products produced other humans/& or trees? If the answer is 'yes' to any of those questions, then STHU.

2  |  · Reply · Share ›



**Pat Kittle** > Yote Hunter222 · 7 months ago

Coyote Hunter222,

We all get upset sometimes, and later regret it.

I know you feel horrible about saying something so dumb (especially since someone already beat you to it).

But don't worry, I forgive you.

3 | · Reply · Share ›



**Chandie Bartell** > Pat Kittle · 7 months ago

Pat Kittle, Explain to me how we are in a mass extinction, the worst ecological catastrophe (your words) in 65 million years. Please explain the number of species that have went extinct not counting the Jurassic Period or Pres historic Period. The number is so low it will amaze you.

So start naming those species that are going extinct.

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**Bobalee** > Chandie Bartell · 7 months ago

Chandie, 65,000,000 years ago was the end of the Cretaceous Period (and the Mesozoic Era) when it is theorized that there was a mass extinction of life forms caused by a meteorite impact. The Jurassic Period ended about 80 million years prior to that. Why do you even mention it? By the way, no one could list all the species that became extinct during that period, or any period, since there is no way of knowing all the species that existed at that time.

What is the present historic "Period" of which you speak? Also there is a big difference between species that "are going extinct" and those such as the dodo, Steller's sea cow, passenger pigeon, . . . which are extinct. All species are going extinct; what is alarming is the rate at which it is happening which seems to be related to human population on a finite Earth!

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