



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, March 12, 2023

### Ecosystems in Grave Danger: Take Action

“A 50-year study just revealed that 40% of animals, 34% of plants, and 40% of ecosystems across the United States are at risk. It’s the most comprehensive study ever done on the status of U.S. ecosystems.

The study found that 51% of grasslands and 40% of forests and wetlands could soon collapse, yet only 12% of U.S. lands are protected. Nearly half of cactus species are vulnerable, as is 1 in 5 tree species.

‘It’s suicidal to pretend business as usual is more important than safeguarding the natural world we all depend on,’ said Center Senior Scientist Tierra Curry. ‘But the good news is, we can work together to stop this. **Extinction is a choice.**’ (*Center for Biological Diversity, 2/9/23*) You can help: [Tell President Biden to take bold action now for U.S. biodiversity.](#)

“This year marks **historic buffalo hunting kills** in the State of Montana’s campaign to keep our national mammal, the Yellowstone bison, out of its native habitat in Montana. With the kill counts rising, and the mothers and calves dying, these families are being torn apart. Over 500 animals have been killed in the hunt alone this year, and another 500+ have been removed from the ecosystem and cut off from all their relations by the invasive trap operated by the Park Service within the Yellowstone National Park border.

The buffalo are emotional, sentient beings. They display great care in raising their young and protecting the herd in these grave conditions....” In this [footage link](#), you will see one of the more ancient expressions of emotion - **a mourning ceremony**. (Jackson Doyel, Wildlife Biologist, Volunteer Coordinator, *Buffalo Field Campaign, 2/17/23*)

“More than 800 **wolves in Idaho are now in the crosshairs**. The state wants to slaughter 3 out of every 5 wolves who live there — a bloodbath on a scale we’ve never seen.... To kill the most wolves in the least amount of time, Idaho’s plan pushes hunting and trapping by offering hefty bounties on dead wolves.... The Center for Biological Diversity is pressing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to withhold federal funding from states that manage wolves and other animals in harmful ways, undermining their essential roles in the landscape.” (Kierán Suckling, Executive Director, *Center for Biological Diversity, 2/28/23*)

“This wolf-killing plan could set off a series of devastating consequences for this vulnerable species and send this beloved canine to extinction.... **Wolves are social animals that rely on their pack for survival**. If just a single wolf dies, the chance of survival for the rest of the pack significantly decreases.... That means it only takes ONE wolf death at the hands of vicious trophy hunters to threaten the entire pack.” (*Friends of the Earth, 3/4/23*) [Your action today could determine the fate of vulnerable gray wolves.](#)

“It is not enough to think of different species merely as potential ‘resources’ to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves. Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. **Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us.** We have no such right.” Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’* 33