

### **Negative Population Growth, Inc.**

### W.W.L.D. – WHAT WOULD THE LORAX DO? THE DISMANTLING OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS UNDER TRUMP 2.0

"Because unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Dr. Suess, The Lorax

### An NPG Forum Paper by Dr. Karen I. Shragg

#### **ABSTRACT:**

This paper examines the impact of the implementation of Trump 2.0 (his second term) on the environment. While all things environmental were already alarming both globally and nationally, when it comes to species loss, climate change, pollution and more, our nation is headed for an even greater disaster. When Donald Trump took office on January 20<sup>th</sup> he solemnly swore to faithfully execute the Office of the President of the United States and uphold the Constitution. He quickly implemented Project 2025, causing widespread dire and immediate consequences to our (now) unprotected natural resources.

#### **OUR CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS**

The news is alarming. Programs with great track records of helping people are on the chopping block. Meals on Wheels has helped the elderly and shut-ins get nutritious meals for 70 years and it's being slashed. Habitat for Humanity helps low-income people move into well-made homes, but under the smoke and mirrors of "saving Federal tax dollars," is also facing the axe. There are many supporters up in arms about wiping out these critical programs, and rightly so.

When I saw the title Habitat for Humanity it made me think: "What about habitat for wildlife? What is happening to the habitat needed by the 1,300 plants and animals on the endangered and threatened species list, now that the hatchet is coming down on so many jobs in the Forest Service and Park Service?"

The US has 63 national parks, encompassing 52.4 million acres. The National Park Service manages over 85 million acres which includes monuments, seashores, memorials, historic sites, historic parks, recreation areas, parkways and battlefields as well.<sup>1</sup>

These national treasures cannot exist without the help of personnel trained to manage the delicate balance between human recreational demand and protecting the resources they came to see. Our national park system is a destination for many family vacationers. The park rangers provide interpretation of the area's unique geology, botany and mammalogy. My parents treated us to the beauty of Old Faithful at Yellowstone National Park back in 1966 when yearly park visitation was 2.3 million. Perhaps the seeds of my own career as a naturalist were planted when my 12-year-old eyes witnessed my mother feed a sweet roll to a huge grizzly as it approached her car window. Now that visitation has doubled to 4.5 million Yellowstone needs more personnel, not less.<sup>2</sup>

National parks are places which provide outdoor adventures like rock climbing and river rafting. Cultural and historical places provide hands-on experiences to teach unforgettable and essential parts of American culture. Our national park personnel are charged with the overwhelming tasks of not just managing usage issues but also deciding how to decrease invasive species and plan for native ones to return to the landscape. They do all of this with the threat of increased usage and the negative effects of climate change.

About 20,000 full-time and seasonal workers are typically employed to manage these lands. If you do

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the math, each well-trained staff member is responsible for an average of 4,250 acres per person. For reference, I used to manage a 150-acre urban nature center, and that size was often overwhelming. Just like the national parks, our local nature center's popularity grew over the years, but our budgets and personnel remained stagnant. In 2024, the National Park Service saw an increase of 6.36 million visitors from the previous year, totaling 331.9 million users of trails, campgrounds, toilets, roads, parking lots and more. More personnel are needed to ward off the negative impacts of the increasing numbers of visitors. Many of the more popular national parks have been forced to adopt lottery systems in order to prevent clogging their limited roads with cars, and the trails with too many hikers.

From an economic point of view, investing in our national parks has a great payback. According to Headwaters Economics, visitation "grew by 4% across the National Park System from 2022 to 2023, generating 415,400 jobs and resulting in more than \$26.4 billion in spending in nearby communities."<sup>3</sup>

Wildlife and the plant communities on which they depend are threatened by a myriad of problems. Climate change threatens the stability of their interdependent world. Insects that metamorphose too early will not be there when the birds, frogs and bats need them. Rain that does not arrive at its usual time causes droughts, dries out the forests and threatens the animals that live there. Population growth leads to sprawl into delicate habitat areas, fragmenting land which then can no longer support the bigger wild mammals. Pollution comes from everything from mining to the new threat of microplastics in our industrialized world. Human-introduced invasive species, from European buckthorn to blackberry bushes and garlic mustard, destroy native plants and threaten the whole native food chain

Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel) published his now classic environmental children's book, *The Lorax*, in 1971. Geisel was upset because he witnessed the destruction of eucalyptus trees near his home in La Jolla, California. In 1971, the news was all about the Vietnam War and the Charles Manson murders. But Earth Day had happened just the year before and its message was gaining steam. The US was less populated then with 207.66 million people. Though the Wilderness Act had already passed in 1964, and the National Environmental Policy Act in 1969, the US natural lands and their wildlife needed even more protection with all of the threats they were facing. The Endangered Species Act came along in 1973. These pieces of legislation were designed to safeguard our

wildlife and wildlands along with the North American Wetlands Act of 1989 which followed.

Everything from bobcats to timberwolves, grizzly bears to rusty bumble bees must be added to the list of the many victims of recent actions by the new federal government. To be fair, nothing in Project 2025 promised to protect wildlife, and they are certainly living up to their plan to hand over our public lands to private interests who only see dollar signs where wild landscapes still exist in the public domain.<sup>4</sup>

The legislative acts designed to protect wildlife were a great step in the right direction, but they never went far enough, in this naturalist's opinion. Those agencies entrusted to uphold Acts of Congress never had enough funding or adequate personnel to police and prosecute violations. Population growth was never on the table as a wildlife issue. Clearly, the development that happens with greater demand for housing and other infrastructure is the enemy of wildlife. Roughly 140 million people have been added to the US since Dr. Suess warned us of the consequences of cutting down all of the Truffula trees in his iconic children's book. Those numbers overwhelm our fragile ecosystems with the increased demand for resources and visitation they represent.

# THE SUSTAINABLE SEVEN: WHAT THE ENVIRONMENT REQUIRES

Understanding the foundational importance of preserving biodiversity lies at the core of arguments to save it. Cleaning up the environment and trying not to damage it in the first place makes much more sense when ecological principles are infused in our ideology and practices.

Protecting the environment is like raking leaves. You need all the tines of the rake to be in place, or else you cannot do a proper job.

Ecology is complicated, vastly misunderstood and mostly ignored by industries and politicians. Trump 1.0 even suggested that California fires would be helped if we had only raked the woods. It is without a doubt an oversimplification and perhaps even arrogant to list only seven things that need to be done, but I offer it as a reality check as to why we keep failing to meet our environmental goals. Imagine that cleaning up our air, water and soil and protecting more species, could be done by a huge rake. There are seven basic tines to this environmental clean-up tool, which I like to call *The Sustainable Seven*.

We must do all of them to be on a truly sustainable path for both humans and the wild flora and fauna that support us at the top of the food chain. Addressing environmental issues has always been done in a piecemeal fashion which is why we can only gain traction in smaller battles but are losing the overall war.

Under most recent administrations environment regulations were strengthened, but population growth was not curbed which increased sprawl. In places like Everglades National Park the increase in development near the park has impacted the water supply. "Building up to the Everglades and so close to the border of this national park means that water is taken from the Everglades," said Jacqueline Crucet, director of Program Development for the Sun Coast Region of the National Parks Conservation Association. "This is especially detrimental because the water that flows through the Everglades shapes and provides nutrients to the land and vegetation and helps to sustain animal life. Us humans depend on that water supply as well." 5

We have never addressed all of the following seven critical parts of environmental recovery, but now with this administration, we are finding ourselves losing ground on the environmental protections we have counted on for decades.

- 1) We have to scale down the human enterprise in the most humane ways possible because our volume alone is doing great harm. No matter what level of consumption we are in overshoot. Numbers matter. Humans populate in two ways, when births exceed deaths and by the mobility of humans from one place to another in the form of immigration.<sup>6</sup> The US government must adopt sensible immigration policies to address where most growth in the US is coming from, mass immigration.<sup>7</sup>
- 2) We have to change our growth-based economic system. Untethered capitalism is chewing up our resources creating the pressure to dig up wildlands and start wars. Steady-state economies would work within ecological parameters as long as demand remains constant.8
- 3) We have to devote more tax dollars to the agencies charged with protecting our resources. We need to acquire more land, especially for the top predators mountain lions, bears and wolves. It is important to hire more personnel to be in charge of our wild public lands. We must adequately fund scientific research so that best practices can be implemented to protect wildlife facing the challenges of climate change and population growth.
- 4) We need a vital and active education system that teaches the core principles of sustainability as well as the damage that is created when one group of people hoards resources.

- 5) We need to move away from waging wars. It is the most costly part of the federal budget, and is both environmentally damaging and resource greedy. While we are being told to ride our bikes and take public transportation, the largest consumer of fossil fuel is the U.S. Army.
- 6) We need a news bureau that values the intentions of the First Amendment with its declarations of freedom of the press without interference by the government. Ecological laws must be better covered in the news. Agenda-based news is not news and has damaged our country by creating silos of identity politics. We need to be much less vulnerable to the political antics of those supporting development of resources over their protection. Journalists must confront the lies being told by politicians who claim, for example, that copper and lithium mines will not damage the soil and water. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "A well-informed citizenry is the best defense against tyranny."
- 7) Checks and balances of the US government must be restored as intended by the Constitution. The Executive branch should not be operating alone. That starts a downward slide into fascism. It must share power with the Judicial and Legislative branches. When power is in the hands of dictators it never results in a better world.

No administration has ever tackled all of the tines of this rake. Only once since the Nixon administration, which ordered the Rockefeller Commission to investigate the negative impacts of population growth, has any president tried to deal adequately with number 1, overpopulation. Bill Clinton's administration did try. In 1996, "President Clinton's Task Force on Population and Consumption declared that U.S. population stabilization is essential for environmental sustainability." Since we have grown by over 84.5 million since Clinton was in office, it is clear this commission had little clout.

The Biden administration got very low ratings on border policies which helped to increase the number of new Americans by millions during his four years in office.

Trump is seriously addressing immigration problems and has managed to reduce border crossings, but he is not advancing the narrative of sustainability. The news has never seriously picked up on the idea that the US is overpopulated and now has another potent distraction.

The news is full of stories of terrified individuals in the US legally without any criminal records who to are being swept up and deported to foreign prisons. Ruthlessly capturing innocent people creates public outrage and postpones the day when we can fully comprehend how unsustainable our mass immigration policies have been in recent years.

Two bills before Congress now include the following:

- H.R. 251 would crack down on illegal hiring by mandating E-Verify, the free online system that verifies the work authorization of new hires. Nearly a billion adults worldwide want to move to the United States. Many of them will try illegally as long as they think the U.S. turns a blind eye to illegal hiring.
- H.R. 1241 would end the visa lottery, a program that grants over 50,000 green cards every year by a random, computerized lottery.

These two modest reforms are popular and were among the recommendations of the last bipartisan U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform. Passing them alone would not achieve sustainable immigration levels, but they would give us a good start. Our dialogue about growth must include sensible legislation so that we may be on a path to real solutions.

Trump is definitely aggressively going after mass immigration, which was a weak area for the Democrats in the 2024 election. But these efforts are clearly not from the "reduction of numbers" point of view. Trump is also proposing a gold card which he would offer to European countries to encourage people to move to the U.S. if they are able to pay the accompanying fee. He is also articulating a weaponized xenophobia which distracts the discussion from where it needs to be - on creating sensible policies for reducing the numbers of both illegal and legal immigration. A population approaching 350 million Americans is just not sustainable. The discussion becomes very personal and emotional for many because it focuses on the ruthless deportations we hear about in the media. We should, instead, focus on how sustainable immigration policies help the U.S. begin to reduce its population and the resulting benefits to both Americans and wildlife.

No president has ever dared discuss the principles of a steady-state economy as mentioned in number 2. We have been spoon-fed growth as the epitome of progress. It has never been framed as one of the keys to our own destruction because it does not take into account that the carrying capacity of the earth is limited. One may need a degree in economics to fully comprehend the principles of a steady-state economy, but basically it requires two things, both extremely

difficult to achieve: a population with steady numbers and a reliable stock of natural resources. This would help to achieve balance more in line with ecological realities with a goal of sustainability.

Skipping ahead to number 5, the spending on defense has generally increased during both Democrat and Republican administrations, although there are new plans in Trump 2.0 to decrease defense spending by 580 million. Because the total proposed defense budget for 2025 is 849.8 billion dollars, these cuts, representing a mere .06% reduction, are not likely to make a dent in the environmental impact of devoting so many resources to the building and running of defense machinery.<sup>11</sup>

As for number 6, the state of journalism has been abysmal for years. Agenda-based 'journalism' came on the scene after the FCC repealed the Fairness Doctrine in 1987 during the Reagan presidential era. This doctrine must be reinstituted so that the American people can get unbiased news once again. If we all had access to nonpartisan, impartial reporting without pundits inserting their opinions during news broadcasts, we could act in a more united way. "This long-established doctrine required broadcasters to adequately cover issues of public importance and to provide a balanced presentation of controversial viewpoints." 12

The right-wing media was able to get a stronghold on radio and television broadcasting, as exemplified by Rupert Murdoch's purchasing of Fox News in 1987. By just changing the channel or the algorithms on social media, now, one can get completely different stories depending on whether a news organization leans right or left. Furthermore, the news should not be a business. It is a public service and needs to go back to the days when it was mandated to offer free airtime to political candidates. Selling the news to get higher ratings and sell more advertising interferes with telling people a uniform truth about what is really happening.

Number 7 is one that Trump has made clear he thinks is not a problem at all. He has always treated the White House as his personal powerhouse and is not interested in allowing either the judicial branch or the legislative branch to interfere with the power he is currently wielding from the Oval Office.

#### DEEP CUTS TO FEDERAL AGENCIES

The deliberate obliteration of the institutions charged with protecting our natural heritage should have everyone concerned about wildlife up in arms. With all the threats faced by wildlife and wildlands – the last thing they need is the gutting of the jobs of

those professionals whose mandate is to manage public lands. We desperately need staff to monitor endangered species, conduct controlled burns, conserve wildlife habitat, conduct education programs, manage visitors who overwhelm our national parks and control invasive species. On their best days, the Forest Service and National Park Service were understaffed and unable to keep up with the overwhelming demands of the job. Now with 3,400 jobs cut from the Forest Service, we can see a pathway to privatization and an invitation for developers to rev up their bulldozers.<sup>13</sup>

In February of this year, Trump cut 1,000 jobs from the National Park Service. In 2023, 325.5 million visits to national parks had to be managed by those who have devoted their careers to protecting our national treasures. Who will manage the visitors now? Our national parks seem destined to become a littering free-for-all, with even more traffic jams and overcrowded campgrounds. We can't allow this degradation to happen on our watch. 14,15

There is no real equivalent to the extreme importance of protecting our natural world. One could say it's like seeing an old community theatre close and the loss that would be felt by many. Imagine no local place for good theater or films. But nature isn't just useful and entertainment in the form of hiking, fishing, and camping. It isn't just for building communities which it does especially in and around our national parks. Nature is an essential part of our welfare. It is critical to life on Earth. Without nature, we would not have oxygen, rain, or rivers. There would be nothing to offset the industrial emissions caused by human activity. The natural world inspired native peoples to wrap their world around the principle that what we do to mother nature, the web of life, we do to ourselves. But where there is money to be made, the environment takes a back seat. Forests are living breathing ecosystems, and we convert them into lumberyards to meet the demand of our growing numbers. We do so at our own peril. We are disconnected from the earth's role in our lives as indicated by the fact that even our national parks must contend with litter. Rachel Carson wrote her seminal work Silent Spring in 1962. In it she warned about the dangerous insecticides which were killing off our birds. Yet pesticide companies and the lawn care industry which uses them still thrive.

Now that personnel, already saddled with the enormous task of managing our national forests and parks are being fired in record numbers, their fate is directly connected to ours. While cutting federal jobs designated to protect natural areas has an obvious detriment to wildlands, just because a government sets

up a goal of environmental protection, it doesn't make it achievable. The Biden administration had great rhetoric when it came to promising more wildland protection. President Biden did this in an attempt to combat the daunting challenges of climate change. He and his administration were following the guidelines of the Power of Land Conservation to Address the Climate Crisis. <sup>16</sup> It is true that undeveloped tracts of land act as a carbon sink to help mitigate each year's increase in carbon gases. The 30 X 30 project on paper was something every progressive politician could get behind. Protecting 30% of land in America by 2030 is an admirable if lofty goal. Doesn't the title of this plan, "Conserving and Protecting America the Beautiful" sound wonderful?

In practicality it was set up to fail because it doesn't take into account both population growth and who owns the lands needing protection.

"The complete absence of any acknowledgment of human population growth in this report raises suspicion that population is being deliberately elided rather than recognized as a factor in land conservation. Today only about 12 percent of the U.S. land area enjoys some form of protection, as does 26 percent of the area of ocean under American jurisdiction. The 12 percent figure is the result of two centuries of interaction between demographic, conservation, economic development, and market forces. In one sense, the idea that the aggregate area of conserved lands can be almost tripled almost overnight (in under a decade) from 12 to 30% – to an area equal to twice the size of Texas – seems utterly far-fetched. It would require enormous and unprecedented participation by millions of private and rural landowners, who collectively own about 60 percent of the land in the United States."17

But the lofty promises of 30 X 30 by the Biden administration at least show a positive intent. Now they are being rescinded completely.

# THE DEMISE OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

By halting funding for the National Science Foundation, established in 1950, Trump has further paralyzed the future of some endangered species.

Nick Gladstone, a cave biologist for nearly a decade, was a lead recovery biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service studying rare beetles and spiders in central Texas.<sup>18</sup> He is one of more than 400 probationary employees fired at the agency this month.

"Without my position filled, these species will be neglected for years to come," Gladstone said. He said his firing left these species, among the most at risk under the Endangered Species Act, in particular danger due to the difficulty in finding and protecting them as their habitats face threats from development.<sup>19</sup>

The Endangered Species Act is 51 years old. Designed to prioritize lands for the protection of wildlife, the Trump administration is circumventing its jurisdiction and giving priority to mining interests by declaring a national energy emergency.

According to the NGO Defenders of Wildlife, "The Endangered Species Act is America's most effective law for protecting wildlife in danger of extinction. Nearly all species listed under the ESA have been saved from disappearing forever and hundreds are on the path to recovery. Yet anti-wildlife members in Congress have launched an all-out assault on the ESA and the species under its protection. In the 118th Congress, over 110 pieces of legislation have been proposed that would undermine the ESA or weaken protections for imperiled wildlife."<sup>20</sup>

The Montana Free Press further states that "Section 5 of Trump's Declaring a National Energy Emergency directs all federal agencies with energy projects to use emergency consultation rules to resolve any Endangered Species Act issues.<sup>21</sup> Section 6 revives a 1979 committee known as the God Squad to meet quarterly and consider any lawful applications from agencies, state governors or permit applicants needing exemption from Endangered Species Act regulations. Another section directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use its special permitting provisions to override Clean Water Act regulations."<sup>22</sup>

The Trump administration is claiming that "The integrity and expansion of our Nation's energy infrastructure - from coast to coast - is an immediate and pressing priority for the protection of the United States' national and economic It is imperative that the Federal government puts the physical and economic wellbeing of the American people first."23 The current administration is declaring a war on wildlife, climate change and our public lands with these new, sweeping policies. Our newly degraded public lands will become available for mining companies to exploit. It will put more dollars in the pockets of the already wealthy and that is their objective. That is what they paid for. For a cool \$445,000,000 in donations to Trump's 2024 campaign, the fossil fuel industry is getting what they want, access to exploit our public lands for profit.<sup>24</sup>

#### **DEFUNDING THE EPA**

The EPA was established just after Earth Day in

1970 by a very different kind of Republican, President Richard Nixon. Nixon signed many pieces of environmental legislation into law. Nixon outlined quite a different agenda than Trump 2.0. With Lake Erie burning, the country was ready to have companies regulated and health restored. He presented the House and Senate a groundbreaking 37-point message on the environment. These points included:

- requesting four billion dollars for the improvement of water treatment facilities;
- asking for national air quality standards and stringent guidelines to lower motor vehicle emissions;
- launching federally-funded research to reduce automobile pollution;
- ordering a clean-up of federal facilities that had fouled air and water;
- seeking legislation to end the dumping of wastes into the Great Lakes;
- proposing a tax on lead additives in gasoline;
- forwarding to Congress a plan to tighten safeguards on the seaborne transportation of oil; and
- approving a National Contingency Plan for the treatment of oil spills.<sup>25</sup>

These points eventually became incorporated into the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has accomplished many things in the decades since it began. It worked on emission standards under the Clean Water Act of 1972, the Safe Drinking Water Act. It helps to fight for the Endangered Species Act, administers the Superfund program to address hazardous waste sites, protecting human health and the health of wildlife.

The EPA is critical to the quality of life and wellbeing of both people and wildlife. Deregulation is now the name of the game. Trump is making sure no one is getting in the way of development and has fired 1,155 EPA scientists. He has also dissolved the agency's office of research and development. Gas mask companies should also fair well during the Trump administration for our air is sure to be more polluted. Beyond that, the further threat to human health is exemplified in the efforts of the Trump administration to reverse the Endangerment Finding. These are rules that the EPA follows, based on scientific findings that continued carbon emissions and industrial pollutants are harmful to human health. By reversing this, they would no longer have to protect human health by restricting pollutants from industry. "President Trump's efforts to reverse the

Endangerment Finding comes straight from Project 2025 – the infamous policy playbook crafted in part by Russell Vought, the new head of the White House's Office of Management and Budget. Targeting the Endangerment Finding is extreme, dangerous, and puts the important benefits mentioned above at risk. It also goes well beyond anything the first Trump administration undertook."<sup>26</sup>

One might not think of wildlife when hearing about the gutting of yet another agency, USAID. But this government agency, The U.S. Agency for International Development, oversaw the policing of illegal wildlife trade. Rhinos, elephants, and pangolins among others still exist because of their efforts, now they are left to the jaws of market-driven extinction without a protector.<sup>27</sup>

## BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS WHICH WILL DESTROY WILDERNESS

"Drill baby drill" is coming home to roost. Where mining interests see dollar signs environmental groups see future disasters for the largest remaining wildlife refuges on earth. With kind sounding names like the "Pet and Livestock Protection Act" proposed by Republican Representatives Boebert and Tiffany, wolves will be once again on the chopping block.<sup>28</sup>

These bills are coming fast and furious, giving those who care about wildlife little time to find out about them, let alone find time to organize. That is part of the strategy. Sell to the highest bidder, reap the profits and wildlife be damned. On April 9, 2025, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is considering these bills that would "hand more power to the mining and coal industries—gutting environmental protections, threatening public health, and giving away our public lands to the worst corporate actors."

- S. 544 (Mining Regulatory Clarity Act) would give mining companies unlimited control over public lands, allowing them to dump toxic waste and build infrastructure like roads and pipelines without meaningful oversight. It would weaken already outdated mining laws and threaten clean water, Native lands, and critical ecosystems.
- S. 362 and S. 239 would mandate the approval of a massive expansion of the Bull Mountains coal mine in Montana—one of the largest coal mines on public lands—despite ongoing environmental reviews, court orders, and widespread local opposition. The mine's owner, Signal Peak Energy, has a long history of criminal convictions and corporate

scandals. The expansion would unleash an estimated 375 million tons of carbon pollution and threaten water resources and ranching communities in the Bull Mountains.<sup>29</sup>

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF DEFUNDING NOAA

Trump is making deep cuts to the agency which operates the weather satellites which help predict the weather and monitor what is happening with the climate. One out of every four jobs is being cut. This is an obviously dangerous situation for people as it will make everyone in the path of a storm less knowledgeable about where or when it will hit. But it is also harmful to wildlife. NOAA also conserves and manages our marine ecosystems on both coasts.<sup>30</sup> Oceanic National and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources as the Nation's authoritative environmental intelligence agency."31

Coastal economies are inextricably tied to healthy marine ecosystems. Weather warnings provided by NOAA kept fishermen safer, too. Cutting funds to NOAA puts this all in jeopardy.

### **CONCLUSION**

The grim state of the environment in 2025 doesn't mean it was perfect before Trump took office, or that one political party is to blame for the downward slide we have been in for some time. It does, however, mean that the brakes are coming off on this runaway train of destruction. While we must not hold up previous administrations as perfect, by comparison to Trump 2.0 they did a stellar job of at least keeping wildlife protections in place and the agencies in charge with their protection funded. They kept the forces of development at bay. Now by all measures, things are getting so much worse. This was the intention all along. There is no verbal or written intention of Trump 2.0 to do anything other than line the pockets of the already wealthy with money tainted by the carcasses of innocent wildlife. We must ring the alarm bells as loudly as we can and use Dr. Suess's character the Lorax as our example of the fight now before us. *The* Lorax spoke up to save the Truffela trees, and now that everything from wolves, to our beloved National parks are on the chopping block, we must advocate for the very environment on which so many species depend. This includes our unsustainable and growing numbers now nearing 350 million.

### **NOTES**

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NOTE: The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of NPG, Inc.



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