

NOVEMBER 2016

Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center





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The contents of the material we include in our newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center. We collect information from sources that are from other organizations, the web, news feeds, and/or other sources. We choose articles that are in the related field of education and conservation.

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A note from
Camilla H. Fox- Founder & Executive Director Project Coyote

Compelling new book

Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History

“No other wild animal in American history has suffered the kind of deliberate, and casual, persecution we have rained down on coyotes...there is something perverse in the government, and society, marking a species for death, setting it outside the bounds of even our wildlife protection laws.”

~ Dan Flores, “Stop Killing Coyotes”, New York Times (Aug. 11, 2016)

Looking for the perfect holiday gift? Look no further...

Project Coyote is delighted to have an ally in Dan Flores, an American writer and historian who specializes in cultural and environmental studies of the American West. Dan is the bestselling author of Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History.

Coyote America provides a uniquely multilayered and sensitive account of one of America’s most misunderstood animals. His engaging narrative style brings the plight of the coyote to mainstream America. His artistry has won high praise from the New Yorker, the Christian Science Monitor, and National Geographic.

Because Dan’s writing inspires more Americans to champion the coyote, we have welcomed him into our pack as a Project Coyote Ambassador which we will announce at our holiday benefit on December 15th where Dan will be one of our special guests.

Generously, Dan will offer a hardcover, first edition signed copy of Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History to supporters who donate \$100 or more to Project Coyote.

Your donation will not only support Project Coyote’s education programs and our campaigns to stop wildlife killing contests, trapping, poisoning, and lethal management practices; your donation will entitle you to receive a signed, hardback first-edition copy of Coyote America, one of the most historically accurate and ethically responsible portrayals of coyotes in American popular culture.

Thank you for your continued support of North America’s native Song Dog, Project Coyote · projectcoyote.org
P.O. Box 5007 · Larkspur, CA 94977 · info@projectcoyote.org

Sixth mass extinction?

Two-thirds of wildlife may be gone by 2020: WWF

By Ben Westcott, CNN

More than two thirds of the world’s wildlife could be gone by the end of the decade if action isn’t taken soon, a new report from the World Wildlife Fund revealed on Thursday.

Since 1970, there has already been a 58% overall decline in the numbers of fish, mammals, birds and reptiles worldwide, according to the WWF’s latest bi-annual Living Planet Index.

If accurate, that means wildlife across the globe is vanishing at a rate of 2% a year.

“This is definitely human impact, we’re in the sixth mass extinction. There’s only been five before this and we’re definitely in the sixth,” WWF conservation scientist Martin Taylor told CNN.

“It’s because we’re using so much of the planet and we’re destroying so much of (these animals’) habitat.”

In the report, the rapid extinction is blamed on habitat loss, over exploitation of resources, pollution and climate change.

Wetlands, lakes and rivers were the worst hit since 1970, seeing an 81% decrease in their species population -- about 4% a year.

A threat to our future

Among the species mentioned in the report are elephants, whose numbers have fallen by a fifth in ten years, as well as sharks and rays, a third of whom face extinction from overfishing.

Taylor said the deaths of animals and fish across the globe weren’t just a threat to biodiversity but could see humanity threatened as well.

“Governments (need) to take action to halt the slow death of the planet because it isn’t just affecting wild species it’s affecting us too. This is a threat to our future as a species, what we’re doing to the planet,” he said.

“We only have one planet if we screw it up then we’re gone.”

To prevent a sixth mass extinction, Taylor said governments must take immediate action to cut down on emissions and

habitat destruction.

“There’s a lot people can do even if they’re not wealthy or living in wealthy countries, such as using renewable energy, looking for certified sustainable products and most particularly talking to your members of parliament ... saying you want strong environmental laws,” he said.

The report was compiled by monitoring trends in 14,152 populations of 3,706 different species of vertebrates, including fish, mammals and birds, across the world.

Report findings criticized

Despite agreeing with its overall findings, some conservationists have criticized the report’s results, saying it could be “misleading.”

“That’s a fairly silly kind of number to report,” said Stuart Pimm, the Doris Duke Chair of Conservation Ecology at Duke University, referring to the overall 58% decline in wildlife populations.

“It mixes what’s going on in the ocean with what’s going on in the land. It mixes studies of bird populations in Europe with mammal populations in Africa. It has very few data points in South America.”

But Taylor said the WWF had been “transparent” about the variability in their data.

“There’s always going to be criticisms, we know that there’s a lot of variability in the data and that’s all expressed quite openly in the report itself ... we know that this not an easy task to try and aggregate numbers across an entire planet,” he said.

Anthony Barnosky, Stanford University’s Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve executive director, said it was important to note the report said two thirds of individual animals would disappear, not two thirds of species.

“I don’t think I would quibble with the trend they’re pointing out. We’re losing individuals of species and geographic ranges at a really rapid rate,” he said.

“If you keep that up, extinction of lots of species is inevitable.”

On Wednesday, 21 September, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 2494, sending it to President Obama’s desk for his signature, at which point it will become law.

The U.S. Senate has declared enough is enough when it comes to illegal wildlife trade, passing the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act (also known as H.R. 2494).

The bipartisan bill — which has been championed by Sens. Chris Coons (D-DE) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) — was unanimously approved on Thursday night.

“The passage by the Senate of the Coons–Flake bill comes at a time when there is intensified resolve by the global community to stem the scourge of poaching and illicit trafficking of wildlife products,” said Jimmiel Mandima, African Wildlife Foundation’s director of U.S. government relations. “This bill affirms the U.S. government’s commitment to maintain leadership to dissuade wildlife crime and disrupt regional and global transnational organized criminal networks.”

The END Act seeks to protect the remaining populations of species like elephants and rhinos that are currently threatened by poaching. It is designed to foster a collaborative, inter-agency approach to combating wildlife trafficking and to assist range countries in the implementation of national wildlife anti-trafficking and poaching laws. It will now go to the House for approval. “I congratulate the Senate for this bold step and hope the House will affirm the same to curtail poaching and trafficking while enhancing safety and improved human well-being for local communities in Africa and the world over,” said Mandima.

UPDATE:

On Friday, 7 October, President Obama signed the END Wildlife Trafficking Act, an important step in the fight against wildlife crime.

Washington wolf killed in Montana after 1,100 km journey across Idaho, B.C.

Published on: October 25, 2016 · Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — U.S. wildlife officials say a grey wolf that left its pack in northeastern Washington trekked more than 1,100 kilometres across Idaho and Canada before being shot in central Montana last month.

The Spokesman-Review reports the Washington Fish and Wildlife Department captured the male wolf in February and fitted it with a GPS tracking collar.

The wolf, which originated in the Huckleberry Pack, started wandering into Idaho in June.

It then headed into British Columbia, where it crossed Lake Koocanusa before travelling southeast into Montana in July.

The wolf’s journey came to an end in Judith Gap, Montana on Sept. 29 after it was killed by a federal wildlife officer, who had responded to a report of a wolf attacking sheep.

Wolves are protected by state endangered species rules in eastern Washington but can be hunted and trapped in Montana and Idaho

EMAIL:

Thank You

Dear Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center, I recently went on one of your tours, and I was astounded at the beauty and inspiration of your organization. There have been few times in my life where I have been so touched and so filled with hope. Hope for a world where people are aware of the impact they have on the world. Hope for a world where people are willing to work for change. Hope for a world of people like you. Despite the dramatic nature of this message so far, it is the truth. Your organization is like the embodiment of a dream for me; you deserve to have appreciation and thanks shown to you. My goal in life is to become a voice for the animals who have no voice in our government, and my goal is to change the system from the inside. I hope that organizations like yours stay committed and become more a thing of the norm. All I can do now is show my appreciation for people like you and work hard to be successful in achieving my goals. So, you have my utmost thanks for the work that you do, and I hope you continue to fight to be a voice.

Alex DeGroote-Duncan



Winter finally arrived this week! The Colorado high country had its first real snowfall and freezing temperatures this week. My attention turns to my houseplants when the outdoor gardens begin their winter sleep. Unusual and easy to grow plants such as succulents and cactus are in my south facing window sills.

One plant is a show stopper, Stapelia grandiflora or sometimes known as a starfish cactus. It’s not actually a cactus but a succulent. It’s also called the carrion flower because of its large stinky blooms. It has upright fleshy stems with no spines. Blooms start out as large green pods. They burst open and look like giant fuzzy starfish and are quite impressive. Fortunately the blooms don’t last very long because they can have a carrion stench. This smell attracts flies and fruit flies.

Stapelia are native to South Africa so they won’t grow outdoors unless you live in a warm, humid climate. This makes them an ideal houseplant. They need full to partial sunshine, regular watering and light fertilization. The smell is easy to ignore and the magnificent blooms make having this plant in your indoor garden worthwhile.

The Jewel of the Annamites

Imagine you're out with a team of biologists doing a survey. You're walking through thick, moist and mountainous forests speaking with local residents trying to paint a more accurate picture of the flora and fauna in the area. You might, at some point, let your mind wander, dreaming you are charting new territory in virgin country as if you were a legendary explorer. Being from America's Rocky Mountains, I've read the accounts of Lewis and Clark. I've been there, lost in thought, wondering what it would be like to see and describe species unheard of back at home. What would it have been like to see, at a local hunter's house, a pair of horns unlike anything you've ever witnessed? It happened in 1992. This was not a new insect, a frog isolated in a remote pond, nor a tiny bird easily hidden from view. This was a mammal that could weigh upwards of 175 to 220 pounds (80-100 kg). This was an animal the size of a deer tucked away so well that western science had no knowledge of its existence. In fact, 24 years after it was described, no biologist has seen this animal in the wild without the aid of camera traps. This was the first large mammal discovered since a new bovine species was described nearly 60 years earlier. And it's in danger of vanishing again. This time for good.

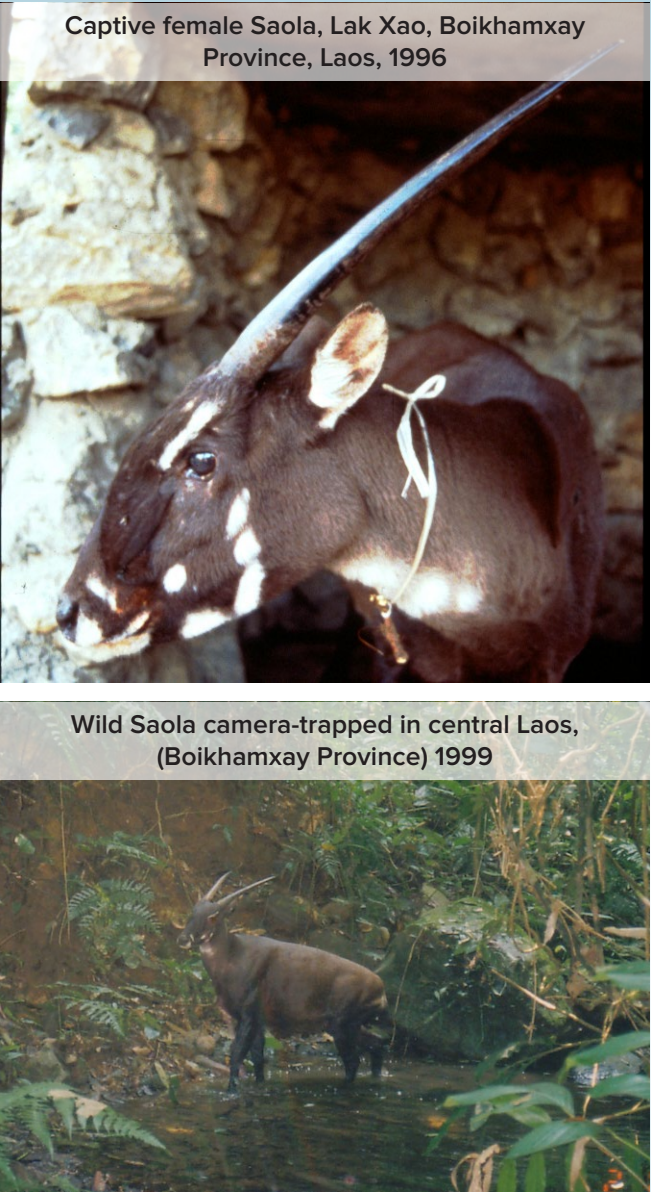
Some call it the Asian unicorn. Although both sexes grow two very long horns the scarcity of the animal and images in profile make it clear why. Saola (pronounced: sow-la) means "spindle horns" in Vietnamese. Saola means *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis* (pronounced: ?) in Latin. Named for it's visual similarity to the African oryx, it's closest relatives are wild cattle and buffalo (the eastern variety), but DNA sequencing showed it to be a species alone and distinct, even a new genus.

Population estimates range from the tens to the low 200s. This puts them on the IUCN's critically endangered list. According to the Saola Working Group's 2015 annual report: "Few animals are as phylogenetically distinct and so threatened with extinction, yet have so little conservation attention."* What is endangering the Saola? Saola haven't the notoriety to even enter traditional Chinese medicine. This may seem a blessing considering the fate of



Patrol team with wire snares collected in Saola habitat, central Laos (Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area)
Photos by Bill Robichaud

the Vietnamese Javan rhinos (as of 2011 they are extinct). However, the habitat the Saola calls home is littered with snares to capture Muntjac and Sambar deer, as well as civets, which are on the menu. And all is meat to be sold. These snares don't discriminate. Since 2011 the Saola Working Group has collected over 130,000 snares in Saola habitat. It's organized poaching, more than anything else, that could spell the saola's demise. In August and September of 2015 a



Captive female Saola, Lak Xao, Boikhamxay Province, Laos, 1996

Wild Saola camera-trapped in central Laos, (Boikhamxay Province) 1999

team of researchers went to Nakai-Nam Theun, a park in Laos bordering Vietnam. There, along the border, they discovered an area of forest some 3 to 6 miles wide (5-10 km) devoid of nearly all large wildlife. This "empty forest" is not due to subsistence hunting. This is the black market.

The Saola live in the Annamite Mountains of Laos and Vietnam, but not all together. It is believed they live in isolated pockets, inland islands cut off from other Saola. It is feared that even if no more Saola are killed, the species might diminish, cut off from all but close relatives to mate with. This worry has prompted the Saola Working Group to begin planning for a captive breeding program. Of course, Saola are known by residents of the forests. They've even caught a few alive. Martha, a Saola so named by William Robichaud, a biologist fortunate enough to have seen her, was held in captivity in Lak Xao, a town in central Laos in 1996. This beautiful adult female can be seen on a short video clip** At one point, as a man behind Martha is cleaning her pen, she turns her head to the side. At that moment you can see a living unicorn. She didn't last long. Possibly due to lack of nutrition she died in less than three weeks of captivity. What does a Saola eat? How diverse is her diet? How much? Once again in 2010 villagers caught one in the Pho Sithone Endangered Species Conservation Area, also in Laos. They found it in a snare, exhausted. It had probably been trapped for days. This Saola didn't live long enough to be named by a western scientist. Capturing one alive and unharmed seems a daunting enough challenge. Keeping a Saola alive and breeding is another matter. Very little is known about this new species. To figure it all out we must save them first.

**To save the Saola, we've got to stop the poaching.
Sound familiar? It can be done.**

To find out more about the saola and how to save this precious species please go to www.savethesaola.org

You can also read "The Last Unicorn" by William DeBuys. Thanks to Lindsay Renick Mayer from Global Wildlife Conservation.

References and videos that were used for this article: The Saola Working Group's 2015 Annual Report: indd.adobe.com/view/6d15064f-a92d-4afa-bbc2-c32804edbc8b. The Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation video and article by William DeBuys (At 0:33 pause this video and you will see Martha the unicorn): lcaof.org/index.php/note-from-the-field/69-rare-video-of-a-rare-mammal-martha-a-saola. The Saola working group: savethesaola.org. Nature: nature.com/nature/journal/v363/n6428/abs/363443a0.html. Wildlife Conservation Society: programs.wcs.org/laos/Saving-Wildlife/Saola.aspx. International Union for Conservation of Nature: iucn.org/content/collaborating-save-saola-one-world's-most-endangered-species and iucn.org/content/saola-still-mystery-20-years-after-its-spectacular-debut World Wildlife Fund articles and video: worldwildlife.org/videos/working-together-to-save-the-saola, worldwildlife.org/species/saola and worldwildlife.org/stories/saola-rediscovered-rare-photos-of-elusive-species-from-vietnam

Available from TCRAS
Teller County Regional Animal Shelter
tcrascolorado.com · 719.686.7707
NO-KILL shelter in Divide, Colorado



STANLEY
2 year old male/neutered
Black/White Australian Cattle Dog/Terrier, American Pit Bull
Hi. My name is Stanley. I am a sweet boy with lots of play energy. I get along with other dogs, but get a little rowdy when playing, so a meet & greet would be a great idea. I know basic training like sit & down. I would be a great hiking partner. Please come and meet me so we can become friends.

MACKY
12 year male/neutered
Hello. My name is Macky. I am a very handsome sweet boy looking for my new forever home. I came into TCRAS because my human had to move into a smaller home. I get along with other cats and my very good friend was a dog. Come and meet me and I will tell you what a great cat I am.



Want to win a \$300 Apple Gift Card?

For every \$50 you donate, you will be entered for a chance to win. What a great gift this would make. We will send you your lucky drawing numbers via the email we receive from your donation. The drawing will take place December 16th in time for the holidays. See rules and disclaimer at tcrascolorado.com. This year we have been challenged to raise \$9,500 in order to receive Matching Grants of \$9,500. This means TCRAS could raise \$19,000 for the care of the animals with your help. If you donate online, you are eligible for REWARDS from the Give! program based on your donation amount. Rewards are listed at the top of the Give! site. You could get admission tickets, free food, hotel stay and free beer for a year. To donate online and obtain “rewards” for your donation, go to indygive.com/nonprofit/teller-county-regional-animal-shelter/ If you want to send a check and do not want the rewards, make your check payable to: **IndyGive** and mail to TCRAS, PO Box 904, Divide, CO 80814. Make sure to put TCRAS in the reference line and include your email on your check please. Thank you!



Available from San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society
slvaws.org · 719.587.woof (9663) · Non-Profit NO-KILL Shelter



CHABLIS

CHABLIS
4 month old border collie/pit. Mom is a very mellow gray pit, wonderful with children. Adult size perhaps 55 lbs. This litter of 6 has been quite mellow.

ROYAL BABY
This 11-week-old girl pup may be a Great Pyrenees mix but will be a medium size adult.

COWBOY
is a neutered 1 year old, border collie mix “cowboy.” Lots of energy. Loves to play in the dog park with a similar female dog all day long. About 55 lbs.



ROYAL BABY



COWBOY

ADOPTION FAIR
Every Saturday 11am to 5pm
Petco Colorado Springs · 5020 N. Nevada

WINTER WONDERLAND with the Wolves



Join us
for a special
holiday
celebration
Saturday,
December 24th
9-11am

Festivities
include:
breakfast
burritos with
the wolves

Adults \$30
Kids 12 &
under \$15

COLORADO WOLF and WILDLIFE CENTER

Space is Limited · RSVP 719.687.9742 · www.wolfeducation.org · Divide, CO 80814