



NATURE'S VOICE

For the 3 million Members and online activists of the Natural Resources Defense Council



DIANE MCALLISTER/NPL/MINDEN PICTURES

Mountain lion and cub

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▶ **NRDC works to safeguard the earth—its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends.**

Victory

CA LEADS ON CLIMATE ACTION

A suite of strong climate-action laws signed by Governor Gavin Newsom continues California's leadership on the transition to clean energy while also tackling the critical issue of energy affordability. The legislation not only puts the state on track to achieve its goal of net-zero emissions by 2045; it contains provisions to directly reduce electric bills while also unlocking deeper cost savings by enabling the state's utilities to participate in a regional electricity market, which stands to benefit the entire Western region as well.

SAFER FISHING GEAR SUCCEEDS

Full-scale testing in California's commercial Dungeness crab fishery has shown that whale-safe ropeless fishing gear is not only good for ocean wildlife, but it's good for fishers, too. The gear performed with almost 100 percent reliability at a time when the fishery would normally be closed to protect species such as humpback whales, blue whales, and Pacific leatherback sea turtles from entanglement. Says NRDC Senior Scientist Francine Kershaw: "This provides the strongest evidence yet that ropeless fishing gear is a viable solution to end lethal entanglements."

WORLD COURT MAKES HISTORY

In a landmark move, the International Court of Justice has issued an advisory opinion that could pave the way to hold major emitters of climate pollution accountable under international law. Students from the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, which has been on the front lines of the climate crisis, brought the case. Says Yamide Dagnet, International senior vice president at NRDC: "The students of Vanuatu dared to dream big, and it paid off with what could end up being one of the most important milestones in the global climate fight."

EPA GOES AWOL ON CLIMATE POLLUTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) appears poised to reverse its 2009 finding that climate change threatens human health and welfare, an about-face under the Trump administration that would scuttle the agency's ability to limit the pollution driving the climate crisis. As *Nature's Voice* goes to press, the EPA is steamrolling ahead to repeal the landmark "endangerment finding" despite overwhelming scientific and public opposition. More than 50,000 NRDC Members and activists alone submitted public comments opposing the agency's dangerous plan.

"The EPA's irrational and rushed process stands to leave Americans exposed to the worst climate impacts just as we are all witnessing the devastating effects of the escalating climate crisis," says Meredith Hankins, federal climate legal director at NRDC. "Reversing the endangerment finding is clearly against the law, and if the EPA follows through, we will see them in court."

NRDC and our coalition partners filed more than 500 pages of comments detailing the myriad legal, scientific, and technical flaws with the EPA's plan. At the same time, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine issued its latest findings and concluded that the evidence to support the endangerment finding has only grown stronger since the EPA originally decided it and is now "beyond scientific dispute." Yet the day after the comment period closed for the public to weigh in on the EPA's proposal, President Trump left little doubt about where his administration stood. In a speech before the United Nations General Assembly, Trump called climate change "the greatest con job ever perpetuated on the world" and assailed the global shift toward renewable energy. That hasn't stopped more than 190 other nations from pledging to do their part to address the climate crisis as part of the landmark Paris agreement.

As seismic as rescinding the endangerment finding is, it is but one battlefield in the Trump

administration's wholesale assault on our climate progress and clean energy. For more about how NRDC is fighting back, see the Campaign Update on the next page.



The administration is doubling down on climate denial despite evidence "beyond scientific dispute."

SPECIAL REPORT

Robert Redford's Environmental Legacy Hailed

Among the outpouring of tributes that marked the passing of legendary actor, director, and activist Robert Redford were scores from NRDC staff, past and present, who had experienced firsthand the NRDC trustee's passionate commitment to the environment. Voicing the sentiments of many of his colleagues, President and CEO Manish Bapna remarked: "The environmental movement has lost a giant. Nobody has done more to shine a light on the most important environmental issues from the dawn of the environmental movement in the 1970s through the biodiversity and climate crises of today."

Indeed, in 2024, NRDC celebrated Redford's 50 years of service as a trustee, during which he was



instrumental in transforming a "pretty nerdy, pretty technical" fledgling organization with zero membership (as recalled by former president Frances Beinecke) into an international environmental powerhouse, supported by 3 million Members and online activists. Along the way, Redford helped win protections that would preserve some of the country's most magnificent wild places, advocated for the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement, and led the charge against the anti-environment onslaught of the first Trump administration.

For more, check out the special edition of *Nature's Voice* celebrating Redford's 50 years as an NRDC trustee: nrdc.org/redford

The environmental campaigns and victories featured in *Nature's Voice* are all made possible through your generous support.

You can help NRDC defend the environment by making a special contribution:

[NRDC.ORG/GIVE](https://nrdc.org/give)

AS TRUMP-AGENDA COURT BATTLES RAGE, NRDC GIRDS FOR MORE

As a lifelong Westerner, Michael Wall has witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of wildfires, and he can't help but draw parallels to the sheer destructive force that is the second Trump administration. Except, of course, as NRDC's chief litigation officer points out: "There's nothing natural about this calamity. This is arson." The match? Project 2025, the industry-funded blueprint that laid out how a second Trump administration might go about waging a scorched-earth campaign against our climate progress and environmental protections. Even as Wall and his litigation team knew what was coming, the relentlessness of the onslaught has left them with little time to catch their breath. On top of a full docket of active lawsuits, they're preparing to file even more litigation as the administration charges ahead with its next wave of anti-environment attacks, prompting NRDC to launch a special emergency fund to fuel our across-the-board fight against the Trump agenda in 2026.

"That's the thing about tough battles," says Wall. "They're how you prove your mettle. I may despise what this administration is attempting to do, but I get to watch some of the best environmental litigators in the country at the top of their game fighting back." Here's a look at some of NRDC's major Trump-agenda lawsuits thus far, and the rapidly developing threats our lawyers are keeping a close eye on. *To make a special contribution to help support NRDC during the critical year ahead, visit nrdc.org/give.*

We're suing for **CLIMATE & CLEAN ENERGY**

Perhaps nowhere is the influence of the fossil fuel industry more blatant than in the Trump administration's unceasing attacks on renewable energy and attempts to shackle us to more dependence on climate-busting oil, coal, and natural gas. NRDC is in court challenging the administration's rule



Clockwise from top left: Defending the landmark Roadless Rule is vital to the protection of more than 50 million acres of our national forests; NRDC has sued to block Trump's order attempting to open 625 million acres of our coastal waters to drilling; As health risks grow, NRDC is fighting to rein in the use of neonic pesticides.

halting the enforcement of updated fuel-efficiency standards that would avoid burning 70 billion gallons of gasoline (and save U.S. drivers \$23 billion at the pump), and to stop the administration from delaying tough limits on the oil and gas industry's rampant methane pollution, a potent greenhouse gas. We're also fighting to restore an additional \$4 billion in illegally frozen funds allocated to build out a nationwide network of EV charging stations; stop the



administration from forcing old, expensive, heavily polluting coal-fired power plants to keep operating; and defend landmark laws in Vermont and New York that hold polluters financially accountable for the adaptation necessary to address the adverse effects of climate change.

What we're watching: The EPA's plan to torpedo the "endangerment finding," which would undercut the very basis of the agency's authority to limit

"That's the thing about tough battles: they're how you prove your mettle."

climate pollution (*see related article on the front page*). "No matter what the fossil fuel industry might want, the EPA can't just wish away scientific consensus and arbitrarily decide climate change doesn't pose a risk to our health," says Wall.

We're suing to save **WILD PLACES & WILDLIFE**

It's not just "drill, baby, drill"—from logging to mining, the Trump administration is determined to unleash a frenzy of industrial extraction across our public lands and wild oceans, often under the guise of bogus Trump-declared "emergencies." NRDC's first lawsuit against the current administration targeted the president's executive order that revokes protections for 625 million acres across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic Oceans and the Gulf of Mexico. We're also in court challenging the administration's dismissal of the risks posed by fossil fuel development in the gulf to already-imperiled species, such as the critically endangered Rice's whale. What's more, we're defending the protections that more than 150,000 NRDC Members and activists helped win in 2024 for the magnificent Special Areas of the Western Arctic, which include vital habitat for a stunning array of wildlife, from polar bears to caribou.

What we're watching: A massive industrial land (and ocean) grab shaping up in 2026. The Trump administration has set the gears in motion to repeal the landmark Roadless Rule, which prevents destructive logging and roadbuilding across more

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than 50 million acres of our national forests. They’re also taking aim at our iconic marine national monuments, threatening to open up these sensitive, biologically rich havens for ocean wild-life to commercial fishing. And we stand ready to defend such irreplaceable wild gems as Bears Ears and Grand Staircase–Escalante national monuments in Utah from being handed over for corporate plunder.

We’re suing to protect
**CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER
& HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

With key federal agencies now stacked with lobbyists from the country’s dirtiest industries, it’s little surprise that the Trump administration is stymieing, stonewalling, and otherwise scuttling safeguards that protect us from hazardous pollutants. NRDC has sued to block the illegal “opt-out-by-email” exemptions from stronger standards against toxic air emissions that Trump has given to nearly 70 coal-fired power plants, and we’ve intervened in court to defend the historic standards issued under the prior administration to protect drinking water from unsafe levels of six toxic PFAS “forever chemicals.” We’ve also filed a lawsuit against the EPA for failing to eliminate unreasonable risks from the use of highly dangerous flesh-dissolving hydrogen fluoride at dozens of oil refineries across the country.

What we’re watching: 2026 could well be pivotal in the long-running campaign to stop the torrent of neonic pesticides, the widespread use of which has been linked to the precipitous decline of bees and other pollinators. Even as the scientific evidence has continued to mount linking the neuro-toxic chemicals to alarming risks to human health, the EPA has dragged its feet in completing its overdue safety review of neonics. Says Dan Raichel, director of NRDC’s Pollinators & Pesticides program: “Now we have a resolutely anti-science administration in charge. We’re going to be keeping all our options open—including going to court—to hold the EPA accountable for its failure to protect us from these dangerous pesticides.”

Your Membership Support of NRDC Made a World of Difference in 2025

Thanks to your generous donations, here are some of the landmark environmental victories we won over the past year:



BIOMASS PROJECT AXED

Faced with massive public opposition—including more than 37,000 NRDC supporters—backers of a plan to bring the forest-destroying biomass industry to California abandoned the project.



EV FUNDS UNFROZEN

A federal court restored nearly \$1 billion in funds to build a national network of EV charging stations that had been unlawfully frozen by the Trump administration.



HISTORIC MILESTONE IN FLINT

Residents of Flint, Michigan, celebrated the completion of a court-ordered lead-pipe replacement program, ten years after their fight sparked a national reckoning with access to safe drinking water.



HIGH SEAS TREATY RATIFIED

The first-ever international treaty aimed at giving stronger protections to the two-thirds of the earth’s ocean that lies beyond national borders is now in effect.



NEONICS IN THE HOT SEAT

Thanks to a court settlement won by NRDC and our partners, California must begin a public process that could lead to restrictions on the most widespread uses of bee-killing pesticides.



CLIMATE DATA RESTORED

In response to a lawsuit filed by NRDC and our allies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture restored climate-focused webpages it had purged following President Trump’s inauguration while the lawsuit continues.



LANDMARK PROJECT LAUNCHED

A historic partnership between NRDC and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers aims to bring good-paying clean-energy jobs to rural communities hit hard by economic disinvestment.



HARMFUL SEAFOOD BANNED

The United States will no longer allow seafood imports that fail to meet strict standards for protecting whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals, following years of advocacy and legal action by NRDC.

Please help us win even more victories in 2026—both in and out of court—by making a special tax-deductible gift. You can scan here to give, or go online. Thank you!



NRDC.ORG/VICTORIES

Please help us win even more victories in 2026—both in and out of court—by making a special tax-deductible contribution at: [NRDC.ORG/VICTORIES](https://www.nrdc.org/victories)

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NRDC Ratchets Up Pressure on JP Morgan over Dangerous LNG Project

Global banking giant JP Morgan is increasingly feeling the heat over its support of a climate-wrecking liquefied natural gas (LNG) project that threatens to destroy a UNESCO World Heritage site that has been described as the “Serengeti of the sea.” A damning NRDC analysis lays out in stark detail for JP Morgan shareholders the enormous risks posed by Saguaro LNG, the \$15 billion export terminal that troubled company Mexico Pacific wants to build on the Gulf of California. Not only would the project transform this ocean Eden—home to spectacular coral reefs and nearly 40 percent of the world’s marine mammal species—into a fossil fuel sacrifice zone, but it would also emit 5.7 million metric tons of climate pollution annually, the equivalent of adding over a million cars to the road each year.

“Saguaro LNG is the wrong project, in the wrong place, at the wrong time,” says NRDC Senior Attorney Joel Reynolds. “It combines volatile market fundamentals with spiraling costs, shaky contracts, and the wholesale industrialization of an irreplaceable ocean sanctuary. For JP Morgan and its share-

holders, the choice is clear: double down on yesterday’s fuels and risk long-term losses, or pivot to investments aligned with the clean energy future that is already unfolding around the world.”

That message is being amplified in a big way by NRDC supporters. Since launching our campaign last spring to save the Gulf of California from this disastrous project, more than 70,000 Members and online activists (and counting!) have called on JP Morgan as well as Mexico Pacific and other fossil fuel companies to abandon the plan.



Flourishing coral reefs in the Gulf of California

A veteran of NRDC campaigns to protect such wild gems as Bristol Bay in Alaska from the mega Pebble Mine and Mexico’s San Ignacio Lagoon—another World Heritage Site—from a massive industrial salt plant, Reynolds has seen firsthand the power of such public outcries. “When our Members set their sights on saving places we can’t afford to lose—like the Gulf of California—they don’t back down,” he says. “Their active engagement has been critical to NRDC’s success for decades.”

TAKE ACTION

nrdc.org/saguaroLNG

NRDC REMEMBERS

Legacy, Inspiration, and a Most Timely Gift



A childhood experience of bullying instilled in Al Meyerhoff what he later described as “an active dislike of the abuse of power,” and from the moment he graduated from the law school at Cornell University in 1972, he never stopped fighting for the underdog.

As director of NRDC’s public health program throughout much of the 1980s and ‘90s, he brought dozens of lawsuits against chemical makers and won tougher standards on pesticides. He would go on to wage equally impassioned legal campaigns for labor rights, which included winning a historic \$20 million settlement against more than 20 major fashion retailers for their use of sweat-shop labor in Saipan.

“He was a rare combination of intellect, passion,

humor, creativity, and absolute commitment to the public interest,” says longtime colleague and NRDC Senior Attorney Joel Reynolds. “He had a brilliant mind and a heart as big as a Volkswagen.”

Meyerhoff’s remarkable career was cut short when he died in 2008, at 61, after a short battle with cancer. As part of his estate plan with his wife, Marcia Brandwynne, the couple had made a generous gift to NRDC. Yet in light of the rampant abuses of power coming out of the current White House, Brandwynne decided not to wait but to give this legacy gift now to help fund NRDC’s sweeping legal fight against the administration’s attacks on our environment and health. “From his first day in law school until the day he died, Al thought what he did in life was exactly what he should be doing,” says Brandwynne. “I hope his legacy inspires others, now more than ever.”

To make a special gift to NRDC’s litigation fund in honor of Al Meyerhoff, contact Saskya Emmink-Byron at semnick-byron@nrdc.org or (314) 517-1514. To learn more about making your own legacy gift to NRDC, contact Michelle Mulia-Howell at mmulia-howell@nrdc.org or (212) 727-4421.



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NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
40 WEST 20TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10011
WWW.NRDC.ORG/NATURESVOICE
MEMBERSHIP@NRDC.ORG | 212.727.2700

EDITOR IN CHIEF **JASON BEST**
MANAGING EDITOR **LIZ LINKE**
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP **GINA TRUJILLO**



Mountain lion and cub

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