

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Postal Service Spotlights Endangered Species

What: The U.S. Postal Service will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by issuing a pane of stamps featuring 20 photos of different endangered animals.

The first-day-of-issue event for the Endangered Species Forever stamps is free and open to the public. News of the stamps is being shared with the hashtags **#EndangeredSpeciesStamps** and **#ESA50**.

Who: **Peter Pastre**, vice president, government relations and public policy, USPS
Martha Williams, director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Joel Sartore, National Geographic Explorer and photographer

When: Friday, May 19, 2023, at 11 a.m. MT

Where: National Grasslands Visitor Center
708 Main St., Wall, SD 57790
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nebraska/recarea/?recid=10639>

RSVP: Dedication ceremony attendees are encouraged to RSVP at usps.com/endangeredspecies

Background:

The stamps showcase photographs of endangered animals found within the 50 states and U.S. territories, as well as two North American species living near U.S. borders.

The 20 images are from thousands in National Geographic Explorer and photographer Joel Sartore's "National Geographic Photo Ark," a project to document every species living in the world's zoos, aquariums and wildlife sanctuaries, inspire action through education, and help protect wildlife by supporting on-the-ground conservation efforts.

On Dec. 27, 1973, President Richard Nixon signed the ESA into law, following a unanimous Senate vote. In the 50 years since, other nations worldwide have emulated the pioneering U.S. initiative. The ESA provides a framework to conserve and protect endangered and threatened species and their habitats both domestically and abroad.

Under the ESA, more than 1,670 U.S. species and 698 foreign species are safeguarded to increase their chances of survival. Scientists estimate that hundreds of species have been rescued from the brink of extinction in the United States since the ESA began. A species found to need protection is listed under the ESA as either threatened or endangered, the latter defined as "in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range."

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the [Postal Store](#) at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through [USA Philatelic](#) or at Post Office locations nationwide.

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Please Note: The United States Postal Service is an independent federal establishment, mandated to be self-financing and to serve every American community through the affordable, reliable and secure delivery of mail and packages to nearly 165 million addresses six and often seven days a week. Overseen by a bipartisan Board of Governors, the Postal Service is implementing a 10-year transformation plan, [Delivering for America](#), to modernize the postal network, restore long-term financial sustainability, dramatically improve service across all mail and shipping categories, and maintain the organization as one of America's most valued and trusted brands.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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