

Are cities located next to national parks **less** likely to fund local public land conservation?



The Institute has partnered with two Nicholas School graduate students to answer this question and explore what it means for landscape connectivity and 30x30 conservation goals. Learn more [here](#).

FEATURED PARK



Photos and facts of your favorite parks, one issue at a time

Gulf State Park Alabama

FACT 1: Bounded on each side by Gulf Islands National Seashore, Gulf State Park is a key coastal protected area comprised of **nine** different forest, wetland, and dune ecosystems. Roughly **one-fifth** of Alabama's entire coastal swale and dune system lies within the park.



FACT 2: Gulf State Park is home to one of *only two* remaining populations of the Alabama Beach Mouse. Because of its role in propagating dune plants, this mouse is an indicator species for the dune system's health. As an endangered species, the mouse is one of the 148 listed species in Alabama, **the third most** of any state.

Nominate *your* favorite local, state, or national park [here](#) so our subscribers can learn about it.

PARK PERKS



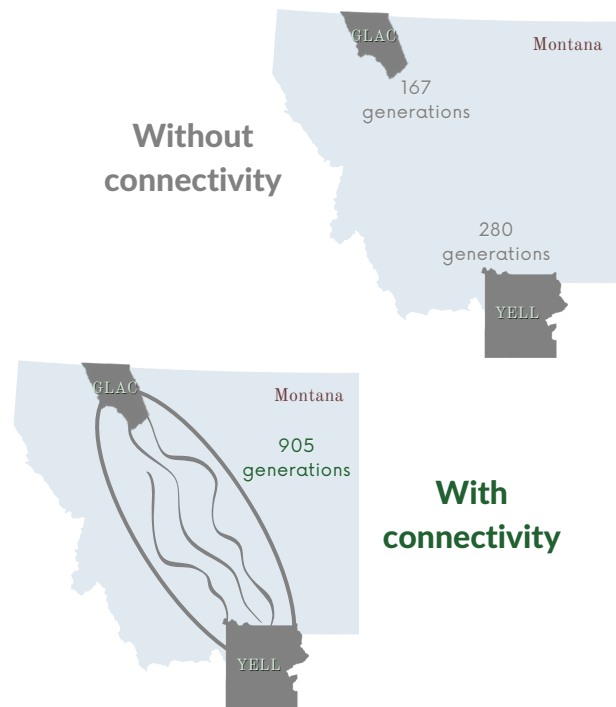
Visualizing key research to show why parks matter

While the spatial extent of protected areas is often emphasized, research suggests that connectivity may be no less important. Published earlier this year in the journal *Scientific Reports*, this week's [article](#) explores the ecological benefits of establishing corridors between North American national parks. Utilizing a model predicting long-term species richness in fragmented habitat, which is known to generally decline over time, the authors performed a statistical analysis assessing the *persistence time* of medium and large mammal species, or the number of generations before half of the species are no longer present in a given park.

Based on the authors' analysis, the persistence time of populations will **significantly increase** if wildlife corridors are created. This analysis does not take other potential conservation measures into account, so it is not a perfect prediction as much as a measure of current population resilience within a given area. Actual population survival over centuries is likely to be highly dependent on human activity and our willingness to implement further conservation measures, such as habitat restoration. The study does, however, suggest that the implementation of corridors between key conservation areas will *bolster* conservation efforts, ensuring that national parks remain centers of biodiversity for generations to come.

Linkage and Persistence

Scenarios predicting species* half-life



*mammals >0.5kg in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks

PLAY GROUND

Why do foresters have so many online passwords?

they manage tons of log-ins

SHUTDOWN PERILS

In addition to protecting our country's natural and cultural landscapes, national parks [generate](#) over **\$50 billion** in annual economic output and support roughly **378,000 jobs**.

[Join](#) the Institute's partner, NPCA, in urging Congress to prioritize our parks.