



2015 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARDS DINNER

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 | THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Award Recipients and Speakers

Mike Finley, Legacy Award

(Presented by Todd Wilkinson, Journalist and Author of *Last Stand: Ted Turner's Quest to Save a Troubled Planet*)
Mike Finley spent 32 years managing natural and cultural resources with the National Park Service in diverse geographical regions of the United States ranging from Alaska to Texas. He was Superintendent of Yosemite National Park, Everglades National Park and Assateague Island National Seashore, and was Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park for seven years, including during the reintroduction of wolves to the Park twenty years ago. Mike is currently President/Treasurer of the Turner Foundation and serves on the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

U.S. Representative Raúl M. Grijalva, *Spirit of Defenders* Public Service Award

(Presented by U.S. Representative Jared Huffman)

Representing Arizona's 3rd Congressional district, Raúl Grijalva is a member of the Committee on Natural Resources and is a Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulations, which oversees 600 million acres of federal land. As Chairman of the Subcommittee in the 111th Congress, Raúl played the leading role in creating a permanent National Landscape Conservation System within the Department of the Interior and fought successfully to address the maintenance funding shortfall of American public lands. As Ranking Member, his main priorities include protecting wilderness areas and endangered species, defending the Grand Canyon from the threat of expanded uranium mining, and pursuing overdue reforms of the General Mining Law of 1872. He has made effective oversight of oil and gas drilling a hallmark of his time in Congress.

Dr. Clait Braun, *Spirit of Defenders* Science Award

(Presented by Mark Salvo, Senior Director for Landscape Conservation, Defenders of Wildlife)

Dr. Clait Braun is a retired wildlife biologist who remains a leading ornithological expert and steadfast advocate for sage-grouse and other wildlife. Dr. Braun was active in wildlife research and management activities from 1973 through 1999 and was among the key scientists responsible for identifying the Gunnison sage-grouse as distinct from the greater sage-grouse. He has prepared internal reviews for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, written external reviews for other state wildlife agencies and conservation organizations, and published over 300 peer-reviewed articles on sage-grouse and ornithology.

The Family of Larry Haverfield, *Spirit of Defenders* Citizen Advocacy Award

(Presented by Joel Sartore, National Geographic Photographer and Defenders' Board member)

Larry Haverfield was a lifelong Kansas rancher and conservationist who passed away in September 2014. With his wife, Bette, he stood up for native wildlife again and again, changing livestock grazing practices to mimic the way bison once roamed the prairie, stopping several trespass poisoning attempts, and becoming hosts to endangered black-footed ferrets by volunteering their ranch as a recovery site. They also refused to obey a 1901 Kansas law requiring landowners to kill all prairie dogs on their private property and successfully defended their efforts in the Kansas courts. As a result, he and his wife Bette not only benefited from a financially successful ranching operation, but also turned their 10,000 acre ranch into possibly the most wildlife-abundant spot in western Kansas. The prairie dog colonies – the largest in Kansas – provide abundant food or shelter to abundant swift fox, burrowing owls, ferruginous hawks, golden eagles and much more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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or visit our website at www.defenders.org/awardsdinner