

**SAY CHEESE:** A new Instagram filter may help rangers at national parks (bottom) prevent dangerous interactions between visitors and wildlife like grizzly bears (below).



## Keep Your Distance

**WYOMING'S YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND Teton National Parks** support wolves, bison, bears, elk and bald eagles—plus a constant influx of people who want to snap the perfect photo of them. To prevent dangerous visitor-wildlife

encounters in wilderness areas, where it can be difficult to gauge an animal's distance, the Jackson Hole Travel & Tourism Board has unveiled a new Instagram filter called Selfie Control. Users open the filter, select their subject and align the animal's outline with an icon appearing on screen. If the real animal is larger than the icon, the photographer is too close. Bears, for example, need 100 yards of space, while moose and elk require 25 yards. The filter is also ready for export—it's downloadable and customizable for other destinations. —LINDSEY LILES

BY THE NUMBERS

# 20,426

**Acres making up TNC's Independence Creek Preserve in West Texas, which became the newest National Natural Landmark in July 2024 in recognition of its impressive biodiversity.** Located in the Chihuahuan Desert, the preserve encompasses rugged canyons, flattop mesas, Native American rock art and the eponymous Independence Creek, a key tributary of the Pecos River.

# 2.3

MILLION

**Trees planted in northern Minnesota in 2024 as part of an effort to boost the diversity and resilience of the Northwoods.** Including this record-breaking year, TNC has planted more than 10 million trees in this region over the past two decades, providing habitat for wildlife and helping to keep air and water clean for generations to come.

# 4,409

**Acres of land newly protected in the South Carolina Lowcountry.** One of the latest acquisitions includes Gregorie Neck, a former residence and one of the largest undeveloped waterfront properties in coastal South Carolina. Sandwiched between the Coosawhatchie and Tulifinny rivers, the acreage, which is now subject to a conservation easement, increases the amount of protected green space connected to the Savannah River Basin.

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## A New Path

**A NEW SEGMENT OF THE 1,500-MILE SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL**

Memorial Trail has opened on property purchased by The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey's Warren County. Shifting the 9/11 Trail—which links sites in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.—to the 42-acre parcel moves it off a busy road and through a safer, more natural setting.

Along with rerouting the trail for nearly a mile through field and forest, TNC worked with community members to restore the stone hearth of an old farmhouse on-site to create a memorial honoring four local residents killed in the terrorist attacks. "The project aligned perfectly with TNC's ongoing land protection and river restoration efforts in the area," says Eliot Nagele, director of lands for TNC in New Jersey. "It allowed us to engage the community extensively, which is essential to successful conservation work." —P.L.

**IN MEMORIAM:** The 9/11 Trail sponsors a range of events throughout the year designed to honor the fallen while fostering a sense of community.



**CLIMATE CONSEQUENCES:** A new study shows that climate change can magnify the impacts of agriculture (like soy production in Brazil, above) on the environment.

## Growing Impacts

**CLIMATE CHANGE IS MAKING EVERYTHING** more complicated—including the prospect of a more sustainable food system. A new study, published in the journal *Science*, underscores how climate change might magnify agriculture's environmental impacts.

In a comprehensive analysis, scientists from China's Chongqing University and more than a dozen other research institutions—including The Nature Conservancy—highlighted pain points for the future of food production. Climate change is likely to shrink yields, increase pollution due to fertilizers and intensify damage from pests and erosion. These changes could

lead to more chemical use, a push to clear more lands for farming and even increased emissions of the greenhouse gases that drive climate change.

But there are ways to mitigate these impacts, says Joe Fargione, TNC's North America science director and a coauthor of the study. The Conservancy is already investing in regenerative agricultural practices like cover crops, prairie strips and agroforestry, which can reduce agriculture's impacts and build climate resilience while also sequestering more carbon. "The challenges we identified aren't totally new," he says. "We need to double down on known solutions." —KIRSTEN WEIR