

# Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin [October 11, 2021]



*Our weekly bulletin collects and digests news of the past week.*

*Contributions welcome.*

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## **NEWS ITEMS AND ARTICLES**

NRDC: [Biden restores protections for three national monuments](#)

*In a hard-won victory for Indigenous Peoples and environmental groups, President Biden signed proclamations to reinstate the original boundaries of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments and restore protections to the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.*

UN Environment Program: [What you need to know about the UN Biodiversity Conference](#)

*World leaders are gathering in Kunming, China and virtually for the first phase of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP-15) to agree on a new set of goals for nature over the next decade. The second phase will be held in April-May 2022 due to the pandemic. Nature and biodiversity loss are accelerating a triple planetary crisis, along with climate change and pollution waste, threatening an estimated 8 million plants and animals with extinction.*

Reuters: [Greenpeace calls for end to carbon offsets](#)

*Carbon offsets are allowing the world's biggest polluting companies to offset their emissions by buying credits from projects that reduce or avoid the release of climate-warming CO<sub>2</sub> elsewhere, such as mass tree plantings or solar power farms, which could be worth \$50 billion by 2030 according to a task force created to scale up the market.*

Nature: [Francis Collins to step down at NIH: Scientists assess his legacy](#)

*Collins was expected to step down when Donald Trump took office as US president in 2017; most new presidents since 1971 had picked their own agency head. Trump's anti-science campaign rhetoric had alarmed researchers, and Collins wanted to continue to provide leadership at a time when the future of science seemed in peril.*

*The Seattle Times:* [Swiss-backed project aims to avert “new Cold War” in science](#)

*Concerns about a “new Cold War” over science and technology are a major reason behind the creation of a new think tank that looks out for future advances and development — so that the whole world can benefit, not just rich countries. The newly created Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator, or GESDA, a Swiss government-backed project aims to bridge government policy and science in an international city known for both.*

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

*Indiana Environmental Reporter:* [State, federal agencies take case-by-case approach to waterway jurisdiction](#)

*Indiana’s wetland laws have a complex history. A federal court ruling has further complicated the process for landowners to determine whether wetlands on their property fall under federal jurisdiction or more lenient state jurisdiction. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management said they will approach jurisdictional determinations on a case-by-case basis.*

*WFYI Indianapolis:* [Two prominent Indiana environmental group leaders will resign](#)

*Jesse Kharbanda, Hoosier Environmental Council executive director, and Natalie Johnson, executive director of Save the Dunes, both announced they’re stepping down this week. The two are stepping down for personal and career reasons and will continue their positions until successors are named.*

*AP News:* [2nd spill in weeks at US Steel plant prompts precautions](#)

*The US Steel Midwest plant detected a spill on a Lake Michigan tributary last Thursday morning, the second spill in less than two weeks. Indiana Dunes National Park closed access to the lake on Thursday as a precaution, but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had no immediate comment on the spill.*

*IndyStar:* [Lilly recalls diabetic drug made at Indianapolis facility](#)

*Eli Lilly and Co. has recalled a batch of Glucagon Emergency Kits manufactured at an Indiana plant cited by federal regulators early this year for quality-control and sanitation problems. Lilly recalled the drug after a report that a patient still developed a seizure after using it.*

## **OPINION AND ANALYSIS**

*CarbonBrief:* [The lack of diversity in climate-science research](#)

*Biases in authorship make it likely that the existing bank of knowledge around climate change and its impacts is skewed towards the interests of male authors from the global north. This can create blind spots around the needs of some of the most vulnerable people to climate change, particularly women and communities in the global south.*

*Mongabay:* [On Indigenous Peoples’ Day, celebrating Earth’s unsung environmental stewards](#)

*In the U.S., and across the world, the traditional knowledge and active participation of Indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation efforts has been shown to be highly effective in safeguarding high conservation value areas — at a fraction of the cost of*

other conservation measures. This is especially so when their land and resource rights are recognized. From 2000 to 2012, for example, Indigenous lands in the Brazilian Amazon experienced 0.6% deforestation, compared to 7% outside of them.

EuroScientist: [Why should researchers get involved in science policy?](#)

*On top of the rewarding influence on current matters and the practical implementation of scientists' work, they can benefit from the expansion of their professional network and the increase of the public visibility of their field of research. All these aspects can be wielded to improve the working conditions and prospects of fellow scientists, while also engaging the public with scientific research and clearly demonstrating its importance. The authors then list the dos and don'ts of sharing research with policymakers.*

EOS: [Adapting to receding glaciers in the tropical Andes](#)

*Socioeconomic conditions, demography, environmental history, government policies, and cultural beliefs all influence vulnerability in tropical mountain environments. Given this complexity, measures to adapt to and mitigate effects of dwindling tropical glaciers should be based on multidimensional and interdisciplinary strategies for research and resource management.*

## **TAKE ACTION AND RESOURCES FOR ACTIVISTS**

NRDC Action Fund: [Sign now: This is our best chance to avert climate catastrophe](#)

*Congress is debating critical budget reconciliation legislation, and we need to ensure that the bill fully delivers the bold action we need on climate change, clean energy and electric vehicles, safe drinking water, and equitable job creation—key elements of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda.*

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*Our CSIU news bulletin is intended to provide a brief update on recent news, editorials, as well as action items related to science integrity and science policy. Note that editorial pieces and action items are assembled from a variety of sources and organizations; they do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy priorities of Concerned Scientists @ IU. This week's news bulletin was compiled by CSIU member Christoph Irmscher of IU's Department of English and by ASIU member and biology sophomore Rose Schnabel, an aspiring science writer. If you'd like to volunteer—or if you have additional links you'd like to share for future bulletins, send them to Christoph at [cirmsche@indiana.edu](mailto:cirmsche@indiana.edu).*

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