



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Public release of California Condors will be held Saturday, Sept. 29, at Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

VERMILION CLIFFS, Ariz. –Three California condors will be released to the wild in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument in northern Arizona at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 29. The public is welcome to observe the release from a viewing area where spotting scopes will be set up and experts will be available to answer questions.

The release coincides with National Public Lands Day, the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands. National Public Lands Day involves the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies, along with state and local governments and private groups.

- **Driving directions:** Take Highway 89A from Kanab or Page to the Vermilion Cliffs (from Flagstaff take Highway 89 to Highway 89A). Turn north onto BLM Road 1065 (a dirt road next to the small house just east of the Kaibab Plateau) and continue almost 3 miles.
- **Bring:** Spotting scope or binoculars, sunscreen, water, snack
- **Details:** Informational kiosk, shade structure, and restroom at the site.
- **Map:**
<http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/az/images/vermilion.Par.56471.File.dat/VermilionCliffsMap.pdf>

This will be the 17th annual public release of condors in Arizona since the condor recovery program began in 1996. Condors are hatched and reared in captivity at The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho, and transported to Arizona for release to the wild. Condors also come to the release site from the Oregon Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo, and San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

Currently, 76 condors are in the wild in the rugged canyonlands of northern Arizona and southern Utah.

“After this release, we will have 79 condors in the wild in just this one region,” said Chris Parish, head of The Peregrine Fund’s condor recovery operation in Arizona. “As a young man working on a cattle ranch in the condor’s historical range in the 1980s, I would never have thought this possible. Here’s to the next 79.”

The world’s total population of endangered California Condors is 416, with a total of 231 in the wild in Arizona, Utah, California, and Mexico. Condors were reduced to just 22 individuals in the 1980s when the program was begun to save the species from extinction.

The recovery effort is a cooperative program by federal, state, and private partners, including The Peregrine Fund, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Strip Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, Grand Canyon and Zion national parks, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Kaibab and Dixie national forests.

For more information about California Condors in Arizona:

<http://www.peregrinefund.org/condor>

<http://www.peregrinefund.org/subsites/condor-cliffs-org/?s=cc.o>

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