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MyLine:Column



Organizations raising awareness of polar bear plight

*Date published: 6/5/2007*

I USED TO think of bears as my favorite type of animal. I had a massive collection of teddy bears spread out in my room. It got to the point that when it came to the bear family, I felt that I needed to know everything. Eventually, my parents teased me about how I was never going to get girls because of it.

Remembering that makes me laugh, but ultimately they didn't have anything to do with my changing. As I got older, my bear obsession changed drastically. Little by little, I stopped caring for the bears that I had loved and stopped reading books about them. I threw away my teddies and got rid of my drawings.

So now, after years of living life without caring about bears, the news that the great polar bear, ruler of the North Pole, may be put on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species list worries me.

The polar bear's habitat, due to the climate's rising temperature, is disappearing. They are either drowning or dying of starvation because they need the ice to sit on and hunt for their prey. If there is no ice to sit on to hunt, then there is no ice to sit on. Period.

It is simply saddening to think of an animal in the middle of an endless sea, swimming to its imminent death.

Since 2005, the Center for Biological Diversity, Natural Resources Defense Council and Greenpeace have been petitioning the government with increasing pressure to add polar bears to the endangered species list. I guess that's one of the problems in having a bureaucracy: Since it is so big, everything that has to get done moves at a really slow pace.

I won't complain too much, since things are now under way--and besides, Greenpeace is absolutely crazy when it comes to getting its point across. I love them for that.

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