

Endow-Bio, Inc., the First National Endowment for Biodiversity, has closed down. After several years of hard work, we have failed to gain much traction with the public. Foundations, academic biologists, NGO conservationists, students, media outlets, whether invited to cooperate by letter, by email, by website, by listserv, or by press release simply failed to support our idea. We loved this idea, but the public did not embrace it. So we have zeroed out our accounts, passed all the remaining money on to Prairie Biotic Research, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) public charity that was one of our 2014 agencies, to further support field biological research by graduate students. We give special thanks to Elizabeth Luster of On Shore Foundation, the sole foundation that supported our efforts, and to Amy Hubbard whose personal gift was a great inspiration. Our hope is that some new group of energetic people will further these values through a new enterprise. Please support some of the fine organizations listed in our directory.

In service to you,

Andrew H. Williams, Founder & President

Sept. 30, 2015

Endow-Bio, Inc. points of interest:

1. Our mission is very broad because Endow-Bio helps other nonprofits and government agencies further their varied and generally rather narrow missions.
2. Endow-Bio is built on a cooperative, rather than the familiar competitive, business model. We think that if cooperation were held in higher esteem in our society, and competition were valued a bit less, then we'd all be happier.
3. Endow-Bio is an all-volunteer nonprofit. Most other conservation nonprofits have paid staff, which drives their costs of operation up and erodes the percentage of your gift that goes to do what you want done.
4. Endow-Bio nurtures democratic values. Our members vote on where our Program funds at year end go — the percentage that goes to each of several organizations for which we have been fundraising throughout that year. Why does this matter? We've set up this structure so the richest person has no greater influence on the outcome than the poorest person. We empower the common person, which we take to be the quintessential democratic ideal.
5. We have chosen egalitarianism. Endow-bio has no membership fee schedule according status and privileges to varying levels of donor support. We treat every member with the same respect and offer the same privilege to every member. You can participate fully in Endow-Bio with the sacrifice of as little as \$1.00.
6. Endow-Bio is the First National Endowment for Biodiversity. With every gift, our members are contributing to an endowment to allow us to do yet more in the future, even as we are doing something today. The current crisis of biodiversity is the distillate of all our environmental problems, which are all

worsening as human population increases. At Endow-Bio, we value biodiversity itself. It is morally wrong to cause species to go extinct. And let's save something for our children's children — some wild places and as many species as possible to enrich their lives with beauty, wonder and ideas! This biocentric value and this anthropocentric value have both underlain conservation since its beginning. No doubt there will be much work to do in the future so we are preparing, today, to support that future work.

7. Endow-Bio does not offer promotional items such as mugs or hats to lure donations because this costs something, and so it dilutes the value of each donation. We use more of your money to do the work that prompted your donation.

8. Simplicity is a virtue. By keeping our business very simple, we believe we can accomplish a great deal more than if we let our operations become complicated.

Our success is the establishment of a simple and inexpensive social mechanism to promote greater civic involvement in conservation. How much we can accomplish is largely up to you.