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Dr. Jacob Malcom leads the Center for Conservation Innovation at Defenders of Wildlife, where the team works at the intersection of data, technology, and policy to pioneer innovative, pragmatic conservation solutions, especially under the Endangered Species Act. He is the author of dozens of peer-reviewed papers, working papers, web applications, and other technical products relating to conservation. He is a member of the Policy Tools and Methodologies Task Force of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and is an affiliate faculty member at George Mason University's Department of Environmental Science and Policy.

Before joining Defenders in January 2015, Dr. Malcom was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Connecticut, and earned his Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior from the University of Texas at Austin in 2013. From 2000-2008, he was a field biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in New Mexico and Arizona, during which time he completed his Bachelor's degree in Conservation Ecology at Prescott College. He grew up in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and now resides with his wife and daughter near the intersection of the Potomac River and Appalachian Trail in Maryland, where they spend free time enjoying the area's biodiversity.