



2006 DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE ANNUAL REPORT



DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Defenders of Wildlife is a national, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities.

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Yellow-headed Amazon parrot

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DEFENDERS IN 2006

This year will be remembered as a major turning point in the battle to protect wildlife and natural places for future generations. We saw the assault on our conservation heritage—attempts to dismantle key conservation laws, open our coastal waters and wildlife refuges to drilling, underfund and undercut regulations to protect wildlife—reach a peak in 2006. But with the help of our supporters and allies, we were able to repel the worst of the onslaught. What's more, the end of the year brought a change in congressional leadership that should have anti-conservationists in retreat in 2007 and 2008.

Of necessity, much of our time and energy in 2006 was spent resisting attacks by anti-conservationists on Capitol Hill. Perhaps most significantly, against the odds we managed to keep a dangerous dismantling of the Endangered Species Act—our premiere wildlife conservation law—from passing Congress. In addition, we again successfully repelled big oil's drive to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. Proposals to sell national park and forest land for commercial and industrial exploitation were also killed, as was an effort to eliminate the 25-year-old ban on drilling off our fragile coastlines. Unfortunately, a bill permitting oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico passed in the closing days of the 109th Congress—we were lucky this legislation was not quite as bad as it could have been. Quite frankly, the fact that we repelled much of the assault on our precious resources is nothing short of miraculous.

The courts offered a better venue for advancing our cause than did Congress. Our crack legal team won many significant battles. To name just a handful, favorable court rulings stopped dangerous pesticides from entering the market; reinstated federal protections for roadless national forests originally adopted by the Clinton administration; and protected much of the remaining winter habitat of caribou.

In 2006, we expanded our efforts to protect wildlife habitat along the U.S.-Mexico border. We released a major report documenting the environmental impacts of federal immigration policies in the borderland regions of the Southwest—the first analysis of its kind. We used the report's findings to educate government officials in an attempt to shape immigration policy that keeps both the U.S. border and border wildlife safe.

We also strengthened our on-the-ground resources to work with local leaders, community groups and state agencies. We placed field organizers in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Pennsylvania to mobilize grassroots support for conservation efforts. We joined with Alaskans for Wildlife to gather tens of thousands of signatures to place a measure on the 2008 Alaska ballot banning the practice of gunning wolves from aircraft. We also provided crucial technical assistance to state officials on implementing their wildlife action plans, and launched a new program to assist land trusts with helping private landowners protect valuable wildlife habitat.



Caroline D. Gabel and Rodger Schlickeisen

Our base of support grew significantly in 2006. The number of Defenders' online activists reached 425,000 and showed their commitment to conservation by sending nearly one million e-mails, faxes and letters to members of Congress and other decision makers. And our regular membership topped the half-million mark—a major milestone that demonstrates the wide appeal of our creative, results-oriented approach.

Educating the public was high on our 2006 agenda. We released our third annual *Refuges at Risk* report, which this year examined the impacts of global warming on wildlife refuges, and we published ground-breaking reports on grizzly bears and wolves. We produced public service announcements on the Endangered Species Act that were heard and seen by millions of radio listeners and television viewers, and we launched a billboard campaign spotlighting the plight of sea turtles in Mexico.

Without your generous support, we would not have been nearly as successful as we were in holding the line against forces that would squander our most precious wildlife resources. For that we are enormously grateful. We have much to look forward to in the coming year as a new and hopefully more conservation-oriented Congress begins its work. Your continued help in the weeks and months ahead will be as important as ever as we seize this new opportunity to promote a renewed commitment to protecting America's imperiled wildlife and wild lands for future generations.

Caroline D. Gabel
Chair, Board of Directors

Rodger Schlickeisen
President and CEO

ABOUT DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Founded in 1947, Defenders of Wildlife is one of this country's leaders in science-based, results-oriented wildlife conservation. Our goal is to defend, protect and restore native wildlife and habitats. We represent more than half a million people nationwide who want to save wild places and the imperiled animals that live there. With the support of these conservation-minded citizens, our staff of more than 140 wildlife biologists, educators, advocates, economists and attorneys works:

- **On the ground** in local communities, developing practical, innovative programs that protect and restore key species and habitats — while addressing the concerns of people who share the land and its resources.
- **With state, national and international policymakers** to secure laws and policies that protect animals and their habitats.
- **In the courts** establishing legal safeguards for native wildlife and fighting efforts to roll back environmental protections.

DEFENDERS' VICTORIES FOR WILDLIFE

We are proud of our 60-year-long record of conservation achievements. Side by side with landowners, business leaders and public officials, we have played leading roles in:

- **Returning the endangered gray wolf to the northern Rockies.** Defenders worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to bring wolves back to Yellowstone National Park and northern Idaho in 1995, after the animals had been absent for nearly seven decades.
- **Championing and enforcing the Endangered Species Act.** Defenders of Wildlife helped pass this landmark legislation in 1973, and has led efforts to protect and enforce it ever since.



© ALAN & SANDY CAREY/PETER ARNOLD, INC. (CAPTION)

Grizzly bear



Defenders of Wildlife stands out in our commitment to saving imperiled wildlife and championing the Endangered Species Act, the landmark law that protects rare animals and plants.

- **Saving the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** For more than a decade, we have successfully resisted big oil's attempts to open the crown jewel of America's National Wildlife Refuge System to destructive oil and gas drilling.
- **Passing and promoting the State Wildlife Grants Program.** Defenders helped establish this federal program, which has spurred all 50 states to develop and implement comprehensive plans for wildlife and habitat conservation.
- **Restoring native wildlife to the Great Plains.** Defenders played a crucial role in bringing the swift fox and the endangered black-footed ferret back to the prairies of Montana.
- **Protecting dolphins from irresponsible commercial tuna fishing.** Defenders drafted and helped win passage of laws to protect dolphins from injury and death in tuna nets.
- **Curbing the wasteful and dangerous global trade of wild birds.** Defenders helped win passage of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, which restricts wild bird imports to the United States.

ACTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RESPONDING TO THREATS

Safeguarding the Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act is our nation's paramount wildlife conservation law. Since its passage in 1973, the act has helped many creatures—including bald eagles, gray wolves and grizzly bears—come back from the brink of extinction. Despite the act's success in protecting wildlife for future generations of Americans, some politicians have been working to eviscerate it. We used every tool at our disposal during 2006 to safeguard this crucial piece of legislation.

On Capitol Hill

The House of Representatives in late 2005 passed a bill sponsored by Rep. Richard Pombo (R-Calif.) that would have severely undermined existing protections for imperiled wildlife in the Endangered

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Bald eagles

A HUGE LEGAL VICTORY

Defenders, as part of a coalition of conservation groups, won a key battle in 2006 when a federal judge overturned new Bush administration rules that allowed pesticides to enter the market without considering their potential impact on endangered species. Pesticides are one of many perils to rare birds, mammals and other species, and their effects on wildlife need to be carefully examined before they are used. It was, after all, the banning of DDT, a widely used and dangerous pesticide, that played a key role in the recovery of our national symbol—the bald eagle.



© LUCASSEK/ARND/ARTUREPL.COM

Gray wolves



“Defenders of Wildlife was with me every step of the way in the fight to stop Rep. Pombo from undermining the integrity of the Endangered Species Act. The group’s policy expertise, advocacy skills and leadership were invaluable in keeping one of the nation’s most effective wildlife laws intact.”

—Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-W.V.)
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee

JAMIE RAPPAPORT CLARK

Executive vice president Jamie Rappaport Clark helped spearhead Defenders’ efforts to safeguard the Endangered Species Act in 2006. A former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Clark was one of a select group of experts invited to participate in discussions on improving the act requested by members of Congress.



© JIM CLARK

Species Act. We launched a major campaign in 2006 to persuade the Senate not to move on this or other legislative attempts to dismantle the act. Through face-to-face meetings and advertisements in Capitol Hill newspapers such as *Roll Call* and *The Hill*, we educated senators on the many benefits of the act and the risks inherent in tampering with it. With the help of key Republican and Democratic allies, we succeeded in keeping the Senate from passing Endangered Species Act-related legislation, and the ill-conceived Pombo bill expired when Congress adjourned in December.

Mobilizing Grassroots Support

Defenders reached out to members, supporters and the public at large to spur support for protecting the Endangered Species Act. Our field staff organized and participated in scores of events and conducted informational talks for groups around the country. Our Internet team sent out regular e-mail alerts and updates on the status of legislation on Capitol Hill, generating tens of thousands of constituent commu-

nications, and encouraged citizens to sign petitions on our special Web site, www.SaveESA.org. Our communications department created background information and fact sheets, along with print advertisements and radio public service announcements that reached millions of people across the country. Together, these efforts helped produce a groundswell of grassroots support for the act.

Working Toward Solutions

Defenders was one of 24 organizations invited to participate in a dialogue requested by key Senators on how to make the Endangered Species Act more workable for those required to comply with it and more effective at recovering species on the edge of extinction. Defenders’ science and policy experts recommended greater emphasis on species recovery plans and incentives to encourage private landowners to conserve wild lands. The report produced as a result of the dialogue provided a number of valuable ideas to help shape future attempts to improve the act.



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FINDING CLEAN ALTERNATIVES

Defenders is a founding member of the Expose Exxon Campaign, a collaboration of 17 of the nation's largest environmental and public interest advocacy groups working together to pressure ExxonMobil to take meaningful action on global warming and find cleaner energy solutions. More than 130,000 supporters have agreed to boycott the company's products until it abandons its anti-conservation agenda.



Saving the Wild: At Sea and on the Land

In 2006, big energy companies and their allies in Congress made a major push to reverse a 25-year-long moratorium on new oil and gas drilling off our coasts. Their proposals to open vast areas offshore to development threatened not only whales, sea turtles, fish and other marine wildlife, but also our coastal heritage. In addition, the lengthy assault on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge continued as big oil's advocates in Congress tried again to open this pristine wildlife haven to destructive drilling. Defenders fought the anti-conservationists on both fronts, urging legislators to support cleaner, more efficient energy solutions that give wildlife a chance.

Marine Wildlife and Coasts in Jeopardy

Defenders mobilized thousands of activists to block separate bills in the House and Senate proposing to dramatically expand offshore drilling along America's coasts, and vastly increase the risk of oil spills and toxic pollution. Despite our efforts, in June the House passed a bill that would grant oil companies access to thousands of square miles of formerly protected areas on both the Atlantic and Pacific

Proposals to open vast areas offshore to energy development threaten not only sea turtles and other marine wildlife, but also our coastal heritage.



Oil rig in Gulf of Mexico

coasts. Weeks later, a second blow came when the Senate approved legislation that, while less expansive than the House measure, would still allow drilling in more than 8 million acres of marine wildlife habitat in the Gulf of Mexico. Before adjourning in December, Congress approved the less sweeping but still damaging Senate version of the bill—a parting gift from the 109th Congress to big oil.

The Battle Goes on in the Arctic

For more than a decade, drilling proponents in Congress have made annual attempts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to development. Each time, Americans have voiced their strong objections to defiling this 19.8-million-acre wildlife refuge, and the proposals have failed to become law. In 2006, big oil's advocates used legislative tricks to pass separate Arctic refuge drilling bills in both the House and Senate. But, thanks in part to more than 70,000 e-mails, letters, faxes and phone calls from Defenders' supporters, drilling proponents were unable to muster the votes to gain final passage of Arctic drilling in this Congress, and the refuge remains intact. Defenders will continue to make protection of the Arctic refuge and its wildlife a high priority in coming years.

Staff Profile

Laurie Macdonald
Florida Director



© JAY ALEXANDER

Laurie Macdonald brings both passion and more than two decades of experience in science and conservation biology to her work as director of our Florida office. "I'm a wildlife zoologist by training," she says, "and on a personal level I have a strong sense of the need for wilderness and places for wildlife to live freely." Defenders, Macdonald says, "gives me a wonderful way to combine science and advocacy every day in my work."

Working in Florida provides Macdonald and her team with both opportunities and challenges. The state is among the country's richest in its diversity of wildlife and habitats, and is home to such charismatic species as panthers, manatees and black bears. But it also has the second-highest human population growth rate in the nation, and development is pressing in on the habitat of these creatures. "Avoiding human-wildlife conflict has also become extremely important work in wildlife conservation today," says Macdonald. "We need to help people understand how to coexist with wildlife—even if they're panthers or bears."

Macdonald serves on state and federal councils that are working to protect the rare Florida panther, manatee, bear and gopher tortoise. She is proud to have helped establish Florida's public land acquisition program—the largest in the country. But perhaps closest to her heart is her work to save the gopher tortoise—the species she studied for her master's degree. Tortoise burrows are home to hundreds of other species, but development has erased much of their habitat and literally buried alive these endearing animals.

As an antidote to the stresses of managing an office and working to protect wildlife, Macdonald finds renewal in nature. "I simply can't get enough of exploring outdoors and being in my favorite places," she says. You can find Macdonald re-energizing by cycling, kayaking, backpacking or just relaxing and enjoying the natural places she is working to protect.



Restoring a Keystone Species

The return of the gray wolf to the American West is one of our country's greatest conservation success stories—and one of Defenders' proudest achievements. But wolves still face serious threats in many parts of the country. Alaska, for example, continues to permit the use of airplanes to chase and kill wolves. And hostility toward wolves persists in the lower 48 states, especially in ranching communities—even though a recent study shows that only one in 1,000 cattle deaths is caused by a wolf.

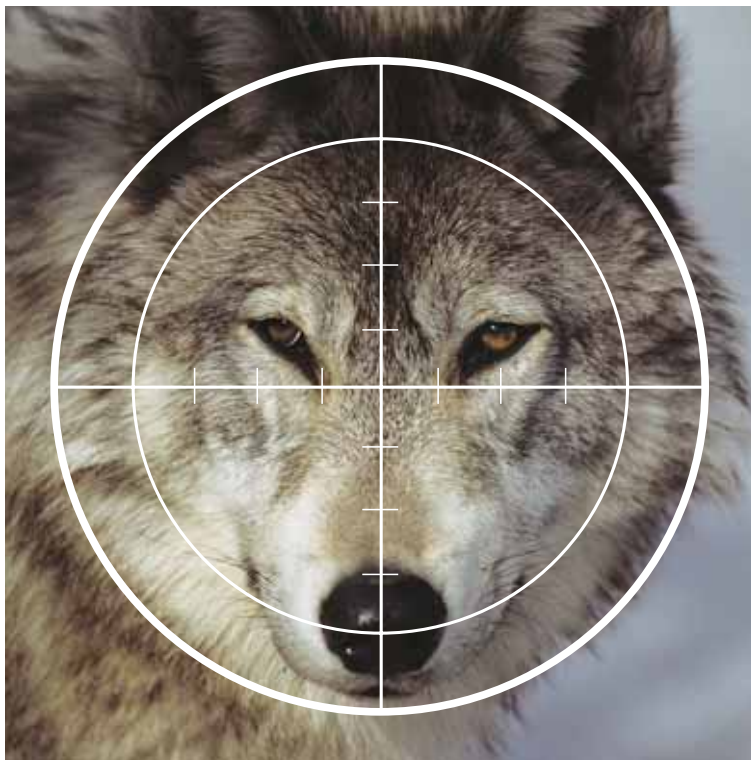
We have a long way to go in helping gray wolves make a full comeback. But with science, legal efforts, grassroots action and education, Defenders will continue to champion the recovery of this remarkable species.

Rallying Support to End the Alaskan Slaughter

For another year, Alaskan officials continued to sanction the astonishingly cruel practice of using airplanes to chase and kill wolves. In 2006 alone, more than 152 wolves were gunned down in this way. And even more stunning, the Alaska Board of Game set out to expand the scope of aerial gunning, which could reduce wolf populations to less than 10 percent of their original numbers in some areas.

In response, Defenders teamed with the Alaska Wildlife Alliance to file suit against the state's aerial wolf-killing programs. We also supported the efforts of Alaskans for Wildlife to gather nearly 57,000 signatures to place a measure banning the aerial gunning of wolves and bears on the state's 2008 ballot. At the federal level, Defenders sought to amend the Airborne Hunting Act to stop this practice once and for all. Thousands of activists signed our petition urging the Bush administration to help stop this killing.

For another year, Alaskan officials continued to sanction the astonishingly cruel practice of using airplanes to chase and kill wolves.



LEFT AND RIGHT: © JIM BRANDENBURG/IMMEDIATE PICTURES

Wolf Killing Plan Stopped in Idaho

After more than 40,000 Defenders' supporters wrote to federal officials opposing a state-sponsored plan to kill as much as 75 percent of the wolf population in part of Clearwater National Forest, the government rejected the plan. Idaho officials argued that wolves were killing off elk, but the state's own scientific data did not support the claim. The Bush administration has proposed turning over responsibility for wolves in the northern Rockies to the states, and Idaho's legislature has been openly hostile toward wolves. Defenders will monitor the management of wolves in the state and move forward with litigation if we see that Idaho's actions are jeopardizing the continued recovery of wolves.

Board Profile

Adelaide Park Gomer



© ALICIA WITTING

“Communications is at the core of educating people about the environment and the crises we’re facing today,” says Adelaide Gomer, chair of Defenders of Wildlife’s board communications committee. She has been a member of Defenders’ board since 2003 and the chair of the committee since 2005. In this capacity she has guided and supported Defenders’ communications and media strategy.

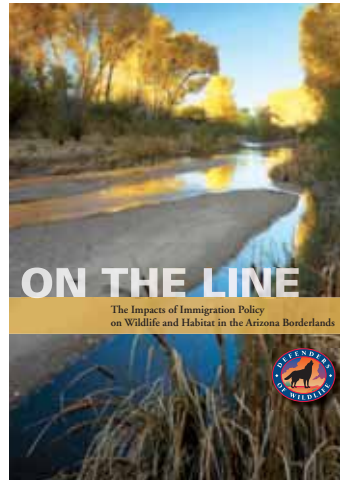
Gomer is vice president of the Park Foundation, Inc., a private foundation that supports higher education, quality media and protection of the environment. Her key focus is the media program, which aims to raise public awareness of critical environmental, political and social issues to foster a more informed electorate. She believes the media landscape has changed dramatically, with the Internet and blogging playing a much more significant role in communications in recent years. Gomer has encouraged Defenders to look at new ways to reach people both inside and outside the mainstream media. She feels that “Defenders is doing a great job in mobilizing online activists and using public service announcements to make complex and critical issues like the Endangered Species Act and global warming relevant to our everyday lives.”

Growing up in Ithaca, New York, a small college town, Gomer has always loved nature, and it continues to be the foundation for her spiritual life. She realized the connectedness of all natural phenomena when she took a course in ornithology at Cornell University in the early 1990s. “Bird migrations show us that ecosystems must be maintained and kept intact in order to support wildlife, and that damage to one component impacts another,” she says. The lesson she has learned and hopes to pass on to the next generation—including her daughter and 14-month-old granddaughter—is that “what we do to our planet, we do to ourselves.”

Cactus-ferruginous pygmy owl

© TOM NEZAVIRED

We do not have to sacrifice America's natural
In 2006, Defenders stepped in and stood up



Protecting Wildlife on the Border

The borderlands region of the Southwest is brimming with wildlife refuges, national parks and spectacularly beautiful wilderness areas that provide essential habitat for jaguars, bears, bighorn sheep, pygmy owls and Sonoran pronghorn. Defenders worked to educate the public and government officials about ways to promote national security without sacrificing wildlife and wild lands along the border.

Raising Environmental Issues

In February, Defenders released *On the Line: The Impacts of Immigration Policy on Wildlife and Habitat in the Arizona Borderlands*. This 42-page report was the first comprehensive analysis of the significant environmental damage occurring along the U.S.-Mexico border from illegal immigration and U.S. Border Patrol activities. It spotlighted the toll of current immigration policy on both people and wildlife, and offered recommendations for integrating wildlife protection into border security plans.

Our report and the ongoing work of our Arizona field office helped boost media coverage of border environmental issues in 2006. Defenders' staffers were interviewed for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," a feature piece on a local CBS affiliate, and a cover story in the *Tucson Weekly*. We also were quoted in *National Geographic Online*, *Grist* magazine, *EcoAmericas* and several other publications.

On Capitol Hill

Defenders' government relations staff met with key legislators to review the findings and recommendations from *On the Line*.

We succeeded in raising wildlife concerns in the congressional debate about immigration reform. Unfortunately, Congress passed a bill mandating construction of a 700-mile-long fence along the Mexican border—a fence that would block key migratory corridors for wildlife and disturb sensitive desert habitat. The new Congress appears willing to revise this inflexible mandate, and we will continue to advocate for alternative barriers and high-tech surveillance and communications equipment, so that both the U.S. border and border wildlife stay safe.

Keeping Wild Forests Roadless

Defenders celebrated a huge win when a federal court rejected the Bush administration's decision to abandon federal protections for America's wild forest lands. The court reinstated a Clinton-era regulation—the "roadless rule"—that protects more than 50 million acres of national forests from road building, logging and other destructive development.

The roadless rule was initially adopted after more than 600 public hearings and 2.5 million public comments, almost all of them in favor of the plan. Supporters noted that many imperiled species, including grizzly bears, wolves and lynx, depend on roadless national forest land. Despite this overwhelming public support for the rule, the Bush administration repealed it shortly after taking office in 2001. Defenders teamed with 19 conservation groups and four states to sue the government for reversing the roadless rule. The court sided with conservationists, ruling that the administration had violated the law by not considering the environmental consequences of its action.

heritage to ensure our national security.
for wildlife on the borderlands.

Uncompaghre National Forest, Colorado



© TERRY DONNELLY

Saving Woodland Caribou

Few people are lucky enough to see a woodland caribou in its last stronghold in the contiguous United States—the Selkirk Mountains of Idaho and Washington. Only about 35 of these endangered animals—wild cousins of the reindeer—remain in a few isolated areas of the Selkirks.

But now, the woodland caribou has a better chance of survival thanks to a court ruling that will protect much of its winter habitat. In September, a U.S. District Court judge in Washington state, in response to a request from Defenders and five other conservation groups (including the Idaho Conservation League and the Selkirk Conservation Alliance), restricted snowmobile use in many of the last areas where caribou still roam in the lower 48 states. This was a major victory for one of the most critically endangered mammals in the United States.

NORTH OF THE BORDER

Defenders of Wildlife-Canada led efforts that convinced the Alberta government to suspend grizzly bear hunting in the province for three years. We helped launch BearSmart projects that will reduce conflicts between grizzly bears and people. And we worked with area ranchers to encourage nonlethal methods to reduce predation of livestock by wolves.

Staff Profile

Michael Senatore
Senior Legal Director



© KRISTA SCHLYER

Protecting endangered species from pesticides, preventing the destruction of Sonoran Desert habitat, safeguarding gray wolves—all of these accomplishments are in large part the work of Mike Senatore and his legal team. “Litigation is front and center to our strategy to protect wildlife and habitat,” says Senatore. “But we’re smart about how and when we litigate, and we use it as a last resort, after we’ve exhausted all other approaches to solving a problem.”

The law wasn’t Senatore’s original career choice. “I’ve always been interested in the outdoors—wildlife in particular—and I went to college with the intent of becoming a wildlife biologist,” recalls the Massachusetts native. After earning a bachelor’s in biology at the University of Maine, he decided scientific research wasn’t for him. “I wanted to do something where I felt I could have a more direct, immediate impact,” he says. “I came to the conclusion that the best way to do that is to work through the legal system.”

He earned a law degree at Suffolk University Law School in Boston, and worked for the National Wildlife Federation and in private practice before joining Defenders in 1996. Defenders’ litigation practice has grown in scope since Senatore took over the department in 2004, and now consists of five staff attorneys and one legal fellow. With endangered species and habitats under threat around the country from development pressures and Bush administration policies, Senatore hopes to put more attorneys in the field to work more closely with Defenders’ staff on the ground.

The legal team has had many victories in recent years, and one of Senatore’s proudest achievements is helping protect the Canada lynx. It took more than 10 years and at least four trips to court, but ultimately Senatore and his team—together with Defenders’ board member Eric Glitzenstein and a coalition of other conservation groups—succeeded in forcing the Bush administration to list this rare wild cat as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. “There’s nothing more gratifying than being able to practice law on behalf of imperiled species and habitat,” he says.

Donor Profile

Dwight and
Kimberly Lowell



© RODGER SCHLICKSEIN

“We respect Defenders for its muscle, continuity and unwavering commitment. It’s the most important organization in this country focused on protecting endangered species and large predators,” say Dwight and Kimberly Lowell. Supporters of Defenders of Wildlife for more than 20 years, they are especially passionate about wolves. This past year, the Lowell’s generous support enabled Defenders to work extensively in Idaho, Montana and the Southwest to protect wolves and strengthen community support for wolf recovery.

The Lowells worked for 30 years in the business world, Dwight in financial services and Kimberly in advertising. In 2002, they retired to Montecito, California, where they live on a hillside overlooking the Pacific with their beloved adopted dogs, Chrissie and Buster. Kimberly now devotes much of her time to volunteering at a local animal shelter, and Dwight is using his financial expertise to build a portfolio that will support wolf conservation and their other passion, shelter dogs, over the long term.

“Every time I see a picture of a wolf, I get goose bumps,” says Dwight. “They are magnificent creatures, and science genetically links wolves with dogs. When I look at my dogs, it’s difficult not to see the connection.” Dwight comes from a family with a long history in conservation and animal welfare. His great-grandmother started one of the first animal welfare organizations in the country in Philadelphia, and his parents founded a humane society in Hilton Head, South Carolina, in the 1970s.

The Lowells recognize the critical role wolves play in keeping ecosystems in balance and saw first-hand the impact wolves are having on the Yellowstone ecosystem when they visited the park with Defenders in 2003. “If we lost wolves, there would be a vacuum,” says Dwight. “It would be just criminal if they weren’t around. I admire, respect and love them more than any other creatures. I want to do my part to help wolves repopulate.”



PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

Defenders of Wildlife has mastered the art of working with government officials, farmers, livestock owners, business people and other conservationists to develop creative solutions to conservation challenges. This creative consensus-building is behind the success of our many initiatives, including the protection of red and gray wolves and grizzly bears.

Helping Ranchers Help Wildlife

Defenders is widely recognized for its use of economic incentives to promote protection of endangered species on private lands, thanks to The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Wolf and Grizzly Bear Compensation Trusts. Defenders spent more than \$189,000 from the trusts in 2006 to reimburse ranchers who lost livestock to wolves or bears. We also continued to collaborate with private landowners to prevent conflicts before they occur. We spent more than \$97,000 in



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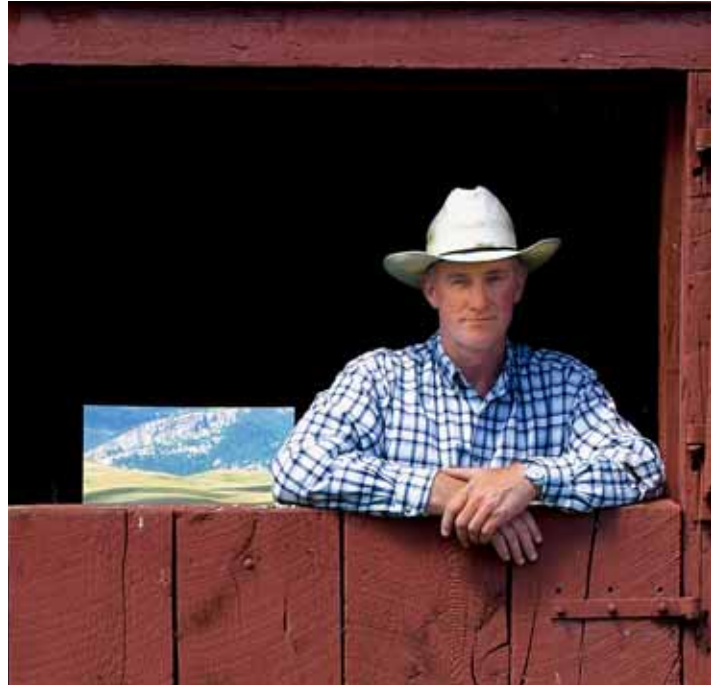
Grizzly bear

2006 on proactive projects to protect cattle and sheep from attacks and prevent conflicts with humans, including building electric fences near Glacier National Park and the Gila National Forest, and buying bear-resistant garbage bins for Indian tribes. Since 1999, Defenders has invested more than \$611,000 in more than 170 proactive projects throughout the United States and Canada.

Saving California's Grasslands

Defenders helped bring together government agencies, ranchers and environmentalists in California to preserve private rangelands in and around the Central Valley. The rangeland resolution, a document drafted by Defenders, established principles for conserving grassland in this area. The resolution was endorsed by the California Cattlemen's Association, California Rangeland Trust, California Farm Bureau, conservation groups and others. These groups, often at odds with each other in the past, were united by their desire to preserve open spaces and support good stewards of the land.

Defenders works with ranchers, farmers, business owners and others to develop creative solutions to conservation challenges.



© DAL WEITZEL

RED WOLVES BRING TOURISM DOLLARS

In May, Defenders joined with local conservation groups in North Carolina to host a meeting on red wolf ecotourism. The meeting was prompted by a recent Defenders-sponsored study showing that tourists vacationing at the popular Outer Banks beaches are willing to spend money to visit nearby red wolf territory. Community leaders, landowners, business owners and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives discussed how to take advantage of ecotourism opportunities in this region. We are grateful to the Alex C. Walker Educational and Charitable Foundation for supporting this work.

Red wolf



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Staff Profile

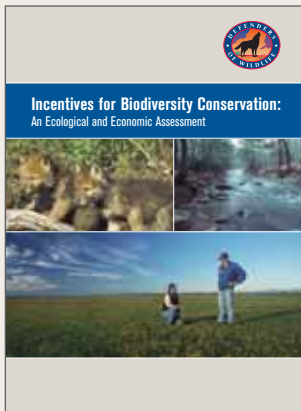
Frank Casey
Conservation Economics
Program Director



© KRISTA SCHLVER

Frank Casey joined Defenders in 1999 to work on landowner incentives for the conservation of wildlife. In 2002, Casey was named director of Defenders' conservation economics program to bring a message to community leaders, landowners, other conservation groups and businesses: "Economic considerations need to play a central role in wildlife conservation. As natural resources become scarce, we need to understand that they have a dollar value and that their loss has a cost—an actual impact on the economy."

In the seven years since then, Casey and his team have analyzed the economic value of at-risk species and habitats including the California sea otter, red wolves in North Carolina, Canada lynx in Montana and Maine, and river otters in New Mexico. The program is currently helping states evaluate the economic benefits and costs of implementing their wildlife action plans, and Casey has just completed a report, *Incentives for Biodiversity Conservation: An Ecological and Economic Assessment*.



An Ecological and Economic Assessment, that measures the impacts of incentives on habitat conservation and at-risk species. Thanks to the work of Casey and his team, private landowners are now considering the economic benefits from wildlife-based eco-labeling, and Defenders has issued a set of recommendations to strengthen incentives under the Endangered Species Act and improve conservation programs in the next Farm Bill.

In addition to his work at Defenders, Frank serves on several resource conservation advisory boards and is on the board of directors for the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture. He has a master's degree in agricultural economics from Cornell University and a doctorate in food and resource economics from the University of Florida.



© JULIA MICHALKO/DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

PLANNING FOR WILDLIFE

With the proper resources and information, state governments and local communities can play leading roles in safeguarding wildlife and habitat. Defenders is committed to assisting and encouraging locally based conservation efforts. Our efforts in 2006 included working on state wildlife action plans and launching a new program to support local land trusts.

Putting Sound Strategies in Place

Each state and U.S. territory last year completed its own wildlife action plan, and in 2006 Defenders produced a report evaluating those plans with the help of a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The report, *Conservation Across the Landscape: A Review of the State Wildlife Action Plans*, concluded that 12 states are top-quality and provide excellent models for other states. We distributed the report at a public briefing in Washington, D.C., attended by 50 representatives of federal agencies and other conservation groups. We also shared the report with the directors of all 50 state wildlife agencies.

Pacific Northwest rain forest



We are now helping several states implement their plans, including a blueprint for Florida's wildlife and a coordinated, efficient system for monitoring species, habitats and conservation in Oregon and Washington.

Making Land Trusts Stronger

Local land trusts across the country have done a remarkable job protecting farm and forest land, scenic values and open space—but they still face many challenges. In 2006, Defenders launched the Living Lands project to improve the capacity of local land trusts to conserve and restore native wildlife and habitat.

Land trusts are nonprofit organizations that work with private landowners who wish to establish permanent protections for farms, forests and undeveloped areas. In collaboration with the Land Trust Alliance and the Biophilia Foundation, Defenders started the Living Lands project to provide these trusts with technical and financial assistance as well as training. The program's goal is to help them determine where to work to protect wildlife and how to work to restore and manage native habitats.

Green-cheeked Amazon parrot



© UNIV. M. STONE/NATUREPL.COM (CAPTION)

WORKING ACROSS BORDERS

Bear paws, leopard skins, wall trophies, boots, exotic pets...all of these are found in the black market wildlife trade, now a multi-billion dollar global industry. For the health and well-being of both people and native animals, Defenders is determined to help put a stop to the illicit and harmful trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

Stopping Disease and Helping Wild Birds

As the spread of avian flu continued to make headlines, Defenders stepped up its efforts to ban the import of wild birds into the European Union—the largest remaining market for wild birds. Our goals were both to conserve threatened species and to protect humans from avian-borne diseases. In Belgium, we co-hosted a workshop to educate European officials on the risk of introducing diseases through the wild bird trade. As a result of these and other efforts, the European Union is now considering restricting or prohibiting this trade. In Mexico, Defenders was asked by the world's largest ornithological organization to help draft guidelines on the avian flu threat. We are now urging Mexican officials to ban all imports of wild birds for the pet trade.



A bus-stop ad featuring a soccer star urging Mexicans to protect sea turtles.

Protecting Parrots

Prized for their brightly colored feathers and charming vocal abilities, millions of wild parrots are caught and sold as pets each year, and today they are the most endangered family of birds in the world.

Defenders is working in the United States and beyond to halt trade in wild-caught parrots. We distributed tourist guides to airports and border posts throughout Mexico urging travelers not to buy parrots while in the country. We also completed a landmark report on the illegal parrot trade that highlighted the capture and mortality rates of most of the 22 species of parrots in Mexico, threats that are driving many of these species to extinction. The report will be the basis for a campaign to urge Mexican officials to ban the country's domestic and international parrot trade.

Helping Sea Turtles

Six of the world's seven species of sea turtles use Mexico's beaches for nesting, and they are all in jeopardy. In 2006, Defenders worked on several fronts to save sea turtles. We launched a bus-stop ad campaign against the trade and consumption of

sea turtles with prominent soccer stars as spokespeople. We continued our award-winning weekly radio show, *Supervivencia* ("Survival"), which spotlights the plight of these endangered reptiles. We published our fifth in a series of comic books on the human health risks of eating sea turtle meat. More than 40,000 of our sea turtle comic books have been distributed throughout Mexico and Latin America.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

Without education we have no awareness, and without awareness we have no action. Education is fundamental to all our programs and activities to save wildlife. In 2006, we released important reports on bears, wolves and refuges; we ramped up our online outreach efforts; and we created and distributed a suite of public service announcements.

Reporting on Wildlife

Refuges at Risk

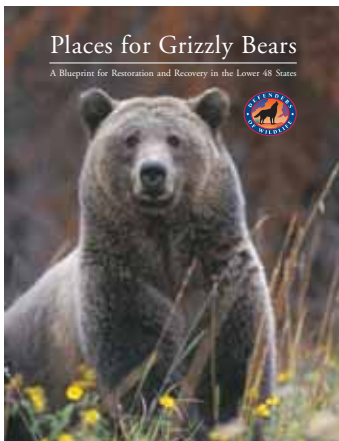
Our third annual report on America's most endangered wildlife refuges focused on global warming. Warming brings with it rising sea levels, spreading of invasive species, melting glaciers, eroding shorelines and changing rainfall patterns, among other problems. As such, it is the single greatest threat to all 545 refuges throughout the country. The take-home message of our 2006 report was that the federal government must immediately begin to plan for and, where possible, combat the effects of global warming at refuges. Our report not only garnered attention on Capitol Hill, it won an award from the Natural Resources Council of America.

Places for Grizzly Bears

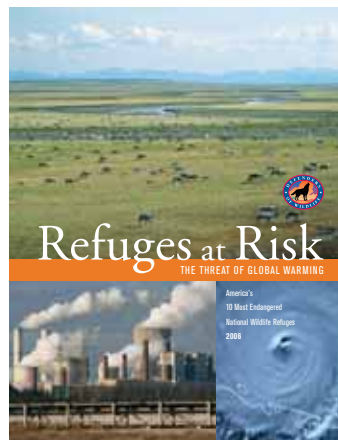
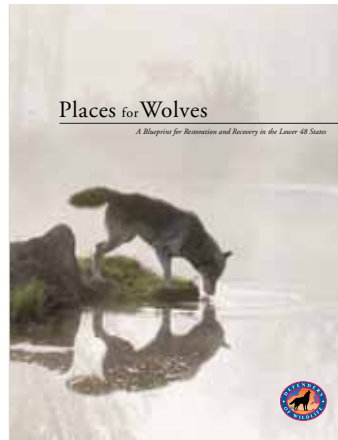
There are fewer than 1,400 grizzly bears left in the lower 48 states, according to *Places for Grizzly Bears*, our report released during Bear Awareness Week in May. The report discussed the unique characteristics of each of the five remaining grizzly populations, outlined current threats such as illegal killing and oil and gas drilling, and offered solutions to aid grizzly recovery throughout the northern Rockies and the Pacific Northwest.

Places for Wolves

The gray wolf's recovery in the Rockies and the Great Lakes is a testament to America's commitment to protecting our natural heritage. Released in 2006, *Places for Wolves* examined the status of wolves throughout the country, and offered a blueprint for their continued recovery in the lower 48 states. The report assessed the recovery potential in seven specific places in the United States, and outlined recommendations to save wolves, including increasing incentives for landowners.



Our education efforts in 2006 featured ground-breaking reports on national wildlife refuges, wolves and grizzly bears, along with broadcast and print ads.



CONGRESSMAN POMBO'S BILL weakening the Endangered Species Act has passed the House. It creates big loopholes allowing pesticide use regardless of the potentially deadly effect on endangered wildlife.

We are Americans. We Protect What's Ours.

That's why we passed the Endangered Species Act over 30 years ago. That's why we need it today.

Senators, Stop Congressman Pombo's bill weakening the Endangered Species Act.

Our children and grandchildren deserve better.

For more information, please visit

www.SaveESA.org



Conducting Outreach in Communities

Our outreach program had notable success in educating and mobilizing Defenders' members and activists as well as reaching out to new constituencies in Colorado, California, New Mexico and Arizona. In the East, we opened a new office to expand our efforts in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. One key project involved training volunteer activists through a citizen advocacy academy utilizing a new citizen advocates' handbook.

Reaching Out Online

Defenders' community of online supporters continued to grow at a rapid pace in 2006: By year's end more than 425,000 people across the country were regularly receiving our alerts and newsletters. These activists made a powerful difference, sending more than 924,000 e-mails and more than 174,000 faxes to decision makers on important wildlife issues such as Arctic drilling, endangered species protections and aerial gunning of Alaska's wolves. In August, more than 20,000 of our activists sent messages to the Environmental Protection Agency, helping to spur the agency's proposal to ban

carbofuran, a pesticide that has killed millions of birds. Defenders' online supporters also aided our cause in many other ways, from submitting personal stories and photos on the importance of endangered species protections, to writing letters to newspaper editors on conservation issues, to volunteering their time to save wildlife on the ground.

Taking to the Air

Defenders produced and released three public service announcements (PSAs) to more than 800 radio stations around the country in 2006, urging Americans to support a strong Endangered Species Act. Nearly six million radio listeners heard the PSAs in cities such as Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; Seattle; Las Vegas; Phoenix; Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio; Gainesville, Florida; and Rapid City, South Dakota. After the PSAs aired, more than 195,000 individuals visited our Endangered Species Act Web site, www.SaveESA.org, and we received more than 61,000 responses to our action alerts. In addition, about 400 copies of the ads, which were created with support from The Park Foundation, Inc., were downloaded from our Web site.

DEFENDERS ON THE MAP

A sampling of Defenders' many conservation actions and achievements in 2006.

● *Defenders field offices*

MONTANA

- Completed 15 projects with private landowners, governmental officials and tribal agencies to protect grizzly bears by preventing conflicts between bears and humans.
- Helped the Assiniboine and Sioux people of Fort Peck Indian Reservation acquire additional pasture to nearly double the size of the tribe's bison refuge.
- Prevailed in a federal lawsuit directing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to re-evaluate its decision to not list the wolverine under the Endangered Species Act.

OREGON

- Helped establish the Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center to assist farmers and other landowners in protecting wildlife and habitat on private lands.

COLORADO

- Helped convince the Colorado Division of Wildlife to lengthen a proposed seasonal ban on shooting of prairie dogs on all federal lands.
- Together with many partners, offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for poaching two lynx in western Colorado.

CALIFORNIA

- Helped secure an \$80 million increase in the Department of Fish and Game's wildlife conservation budget.
- Played a key role in passing a bill that provides new safeguards and expanded research funds for sea otters.
- Won a lawsuit protecting 860,000 acres of vernal pool habitat, which provides crucial food and shelter to 15 imperiled plant and animal species.

ALASKA

- Played a key role in protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from congressional attempts to exploit it for oil and gas development.
- Assisted Alaskans for Wildlife and other local groups in fighting a state-sponsored program to shoot hundreds of wolves and bears from airplanes.

IDAHO

- Won a lawsuit that protects endangered woodland caribou by reducing snowmobile use in the Idaho panhandle region.
- Led a national campaign to stop Idaho officials from killing 75 percent of the wolves and their offspring in part of Clearwater National Forest.

WYOMING

- Intervened to oppose the state of Wyoming's lawsuit demanding the removal of wolves and their offspring outside national parks.

KANSAS

- Assisted two ranchers in their efforts to protect a major prairie dog colony on their lands from state-mandated poisoning, and in their proposal to reintroduce black-footed ferrets.

NEW MEXICO

- Helped secure protection for Valle Vidal, an important wildlife habitat, from oil and gas development.
- With local partners, successfully lobbied the game commission to adopt a plan to restore river otters to the state in 2007.

ARIZONA

- Launched a wolf education and advocacy campaign in Grand Canyon National Park to promote wolf restoration in the region.

ARIZONA, ARKANSAS AND COLORADO

- Co-hosted workshops to bring state transportation officials together with wildlife officials to more tightly link conservation efforts with transportation planning.





CANADA

- Won a three-year suspension of Alberta's annual grizzly bear hunt.
- Inspired Alberta to launch a province-wide educational program to reduce conflicts between bears and people.
- Led a campaign to reduce wildlife deaths on railway tracks after the Canadian Pacific Railway killed a record nine grizzly bears in Banff National Park.

MAINE

- Recruited volunteers to help officials at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge plant native vegetation to benefit the New England cottontail and other shrubland species.

WISCONSIN

- Worked with farmers to restore wildlife habitat and market environmentally friendly potatoes.

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Purchased 15 radio-collars for the Lower Brule Sioux tribe to assist with their swift fox reintroduction program.
- Purchased vaccinations, fencing and other equipment for black-footed ferret reintroduction efforts.

MICHIGAN

- Provided funding to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the purchase of fladry, a non-lethal fencing method used to protect livestock from predators.
- Provided funding for research investigating the use of livestock-guarding dogs as a tool to reduce conflicts between livestock and predators.

DELAWARE/NEW JERSEY

- Took legal action to protect the imperiled red knot and secured a moratorium on the take of horseshoe crabs, a vital source of food for these shorebirds.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Worked with rural communities to begin ecotourism programs to benefit red wolves and local people.
- Urged government officials to adopt a proposed bridge-building plan that bypasses and protects Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, a crucial haven for migratory birds and other wildlife.

PENNSYLVANIA

- Opened a new office in Philadelphia and hired a field organizer to expand our outreach efforts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

MISSISSIPPI

- Provided \$7,000 to create artificial roosts for two rare and imperiled bat species whose natural habitats were damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

FLORIDA

- Helped secure nearly \$1 billion in state funding to acquire and restore habitat, including a 74,000-acre ranch completing a wildlife corridor between Lake Okeechobee and the Gulf of Mexico.
- Secured \$425,000 for state officials to begin retrofitting a bridge crossing in Big Cypress National Preserve where many endangered Florida panthers have been killed.

MEXICO

- Led efforts to update the national law banning commercial and subsistence use of sea turtles.
- Helped to convince the government to set aside a refuge for the endangered vaquita porpoise in the upper Gulf of California.
- Led efforts to get Mexico to stop importing wild birds from countries affected by avian flu.

Mexico City

Philadelphia, PA
National Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

St. Petersburg, FL

FINANCIAL REPORT

for the year ended September 30, 2006

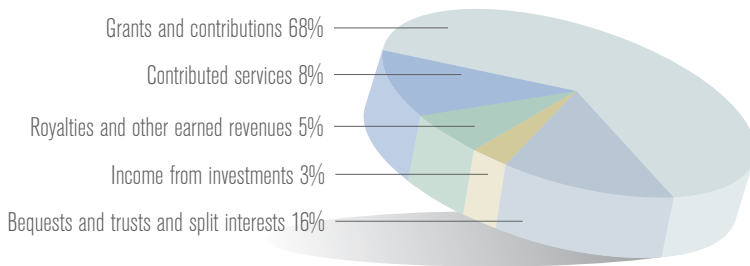
Defenders of Wildlife continued to enjoy the generous support of people who care about wildlife and wildlife habitats. In 2006, contributions grew as a record 502,881 donors gave more than \$30 million to sustain and enhance the efforts of Defenders. Law firms, broadcast media outlets and others generously donated their time and expertise. Because of the extraordinary generosity of supporters who made bequests to Defenders through their wills, we ended the year with a substantial surplus. These funds were recorded too late in the fiscal year to be effectively spent and became part of our financial reserves for future use.

The strong support of our donors allowed us to expand significantly our work to protect endangered species and habitats—activities included in the “Wildlife action” and “Law and legislation” lines at right. We also invested heavily in public service announcements, electronic newsletters, our Web site and our quarterly magazine—efforts included in the “Media and education” category at right.

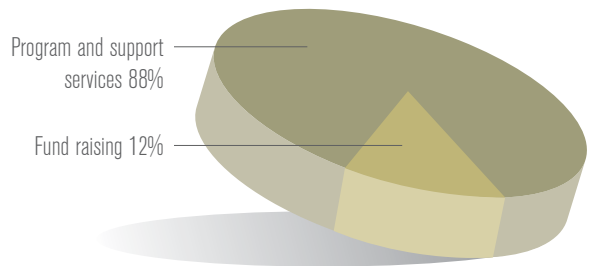
(Financial statements audited by Lane and Company. Copies of our complete financial report are available on request.)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (in thousands of dollars)		
	2006	2005
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
Grants and contributions	21,655	21,335
Bequests, Trusts and Split Interests	5,263	3,808
Income from investments	1,094	901
Royalties and other earned revenues	1,612	1,645
Contributed services	2,628	2,093
Total revenues	32,252	29,782
USES OF FUNDS		
Wildlife action	8,143	7,250
Law and legislation	5,366	4,584
Media and education	8,975	7,558
Membership development	2,092	1,869
Fund raising	3,791	3,355
Management and general	2,816	3,120
Total expenses	31,183	27,736
Change in net assets	1,069	2,046
Net assets, start of year	20,490	18,445
Net assets, end of year	21,559	20,490

2006 SOURCES OF FUNDS



2006 USES OF FUNDS



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our defense of wildlife and critical habitat would be impossible without the unwavering support of our donors. We want to thank each and every one of our more than 500,000 supporters for their commitment during fiscal year 2006 (October 1, 2005-September 30, 2006).



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\$100,000+

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