



2022

Impact Report

CELEBRATING



YEARS

ALL PHOTOGRAPHY FROM PFKABAY EXCEPT: SOUTHERN RESIDENT ORCA | © KATIE JONES; GREATER SAGE GROUSE | © LARRY TEMPLE; AND BLACK-FOOTED FERRET | PPH IMAGES/LAMY STOCK PHOTO

2022

Defenders of Wildlife made important progress for imperiled species and vital landscapes across the United States in 2022.



GRAY WOLF | JIM CUMMING/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Lawyers successfully challenged the previous administration's decision to delist the gray wolf and restored critical federal protections under the Endangered Species Act. This latest triumph in court is part of our ongoing battle to protect and restore gray wolves throughout their historical range and shield them from **persecution** by extremist legislators in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.



TWO NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES | © SEA TO SHORE ALLIANCE/NOAA

Lobbyists worked around the clock to expand funding for wildlife conservation in the FY2022 federal spending bill, which included \$31 million (a 44% increase) for the Bureau of Land Management's Threatened and Endangered Species Program, \$2.5 million (an 81% increase) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services' Nonlethal Initiative to prevent human-wildlife conflicts and \$21 million (a 320% increase) for North Atlantic right whale conservation.

GLASS FROG | © ANDREW DUBOIS/CC BY-NC 2.0



Policy Experts played a crucial role in securing international trade protections for 100 species of sharks and rays, all 158 species of glass frogs and 73 species of reptiles, including 21 species of desert horned lizards, at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Panama.

Field Teams worked tirelessly to protect and restore imperiled species across the country. From Florida manatees and red wolves in the Southeast to belugas and grizzly bears in Alaska, Defenders' conservation experts were on the ground saving species that need our help to survive and thrive.



GRIZZLY BEAR | HARVEY HERGETT/USFS

OKFENOCKE INWR | ©RUNNING WILD MEDIA



GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER | STEVE MASS/OWSKI/FWS

Conservation Innovation Experts published more than 10 peer-reviewed studies on topics that include the Cook Inlet beluga whale, golden-cheeked warbler, global parrot biodiversity, the Endangered Species Act, the effects of mountaintop removal mining on endangered species, the ecological importance of panthers and the implementation of "30x30" – the globally recognized goal to which President Biden committed the U.S. to conserve 30% of our imperiled lands and waters by 2030.

THANK YOU

Defenders celebrated our 75th anniversary in 2022—an exciting milestone that we attribute to our unwavering dedication to our wildlife conservation mission.

From helping to pass the Endangered Species Act and other bedrock conservation laws to leading the advocacy on the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park and other parts of the West, Defenders is proud to inspire, lead and ultimately celebrate some of the most consequential conservation wins for wildlife and wild places. It is wonderfully fitting that we also mark 2022 as a year when we successfully defended, yet again, the original focal species and symbol of our organization, the gray wolf. While the future for gray wolves and many other species remains uncertain, we will never stop fighting to protect the imperiled wildlife that need us and to restore vibrant and balanced ecosystems.

Our mission is more important than ever due to the escalating biodiversity and climate crises. Defenders is determined to build on our accomplishments and seize new opportunities to address these

challenges through our multifaceted approach to conservation. We focus on developing innovative and science-based solutions, coordinating on-the-ground species and habitat restoration, promoting human-wildlife coexistence, protecting and strengthening our bedrock environmental laws, investing in impactful collaborations and partnerships, building a more diverse and powerful conservation movement and challenging attacks on wildlife through advocacy, policy and litigation.

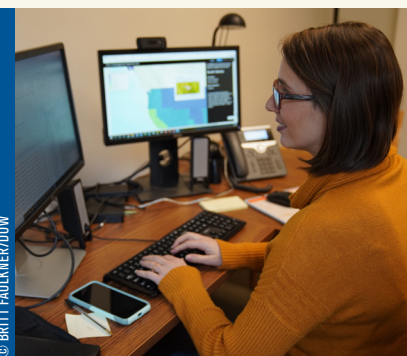
Defenders' continued success is made possible with the generous support of loyal members and donors like you. We are making a lasting difference for the imperiled species and wild places that are counting on us and, together, we will continue our record of success for the *next* 75 years, and beyond. Thank you for your partnership and commitment to our critical mission.

Jamie Rappaport Clark
President and CEO

John Dayton
Board Chair

CENTER FOR CONSERVATION INNOVATION

This year Defenders' **Center for Conservation Innovation (CCI)** celebrated its 5th anniversary and the appointment of a new director, Dr. Lindsay Rosa. As a central pillar of our vision for wildlife conservation, CCI plays an essential role in some of Defenders' most important goals and accomplishments by providing technical and scientific expertise and analyses. The conservation scientists, application developers and policy analysts on the CCI team work tirelessly to advance innovative, science-based solutions to the urgent conservation challenges we are facing.



© BRITT FAULKNER/DOW



CACTUS FERRUGINOUS PYGMY OWL | © SKY JACOBS

For 75 years, Defenders of Wildlife has been a leading voice for the conservation of North American wildlife dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural habitat. Our team of policy, legal, science and advocacy experts work at every level from the federal government to the fields, forests and water where wildlife live. We work to transform policies and to craft innovative and enduring conservation solutions guided by three conservation imperatives:

- *Prevent* species and their habitats from becoming imperiled,
- *Protect* endangered and threatened species and their habitats and
- *Restore* the health of once-vulnerable species and their habitats.

Guided by these goals and thanks to your generous support, we were able to achieve many significant victories in 2022.

WHO
WE ARE

PREVENT

Our highly effective coexistence program celebrated another successful year providing communities with essential tools and techniques to reduce human-wildlife conflicts and help people share the landscape with wildlife. Our electric fence incentive program completed its **500th** fencing project to prevent conflicts with bears and other predators, while our brown bear coexistence program on the Kenai Peninsula expanded to include southeast **Alaska** in partnership with the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. In addition, we helped Florida landowners install 10 more predator-resistant enclosures—building acceptance for the iconic Florida panther as it struggles to recover.



RUSS TALMO INSTALLING ELECTRIC FENCE | © CONSERVATION MEDIA



RANGE RIDERS TRAINING WORKSHOP | CRAIG MILLER/DOW

With the highly anticipated reintroduction of gray wolves to Colorado in 2023, Defenders is rapidly expanding our coexistence program in this state. We initiated wolf-livestock conflict reduction projects with multiple ranchers – hiring range riders, organizing volunteers to watch livestock overnight, providing turbo-fladry and hosting a five-day ranching workshop. As a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group, we also helped to shape recommendations for the state’s reintroduction and management **plan**.

In our ongoing effort to promote coexistence with Mexican gray wolves in Arizona and New Mexico, we began 11 new range rider projects and renewed our sponsorship of 12 field technician positions for graduate students, who are trained to assist with monitoring and conflict prevention, camera surveillance, population counts, veterinary examinations and cross-fostering captive pups into wild-born litters.

In a victory for native pollinators, we **successfully challenged** a 2020 court decision that prevented insects and other invertebrates from being protected under the California ESA. As a result, California was granted permission to restart the listing process in response to our 2018 petition to list four species of native bumble bees as endangered in the state. Bumble bees are essential in maintaining ecosystems and agriculture, but more than one quarter are at risk of extinction in North America.



FRANKLIN'S BUMBLEBEE | JANET HORTON/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



GREEN SEA TURTLE | JOHN BURNS/NOAA

We succeeded in preventing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from allowing **dredging activities** at Wilmington and Morehead City harbors in North Carolina during spring and summer months, when all five sea turtle species breed and nest along the coast and many fish species, including the endangered Atlantic sturgeon, rely on area estuary and spawning sanctuaries.

In response to our legal action, a federal judge reinstated a **moratorium** on new coal leasing on public lands, halting all coal leasing on federal lands until the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completes a more sufficient environmental analysis. This is an important victory for wildlife, waterways, communities and the climate.



MONTANA WITH YELLOWSTONE RIVER | ANN BOUCHER/BLM

PROTECT

Defenders won a huge victory for gray wolves when we successfully challenged the previous administration's delisting decision. A federal judge **ruled in our favor**, restoring ESA protections for a large proportion of gray wolves in the lower 48 states. We have been a leader for decades in protecting and restoring this iconic species and will continue to fight to secure federal protections for *all* gray wolves.



GRAY WOLF | JACOB FRANK/NPS

Defenders secured critical legal wins for the endangered North Atlantic right whale. A **federal court ruled** that the National Marine Fisheries Service violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act by failing to reduce lethal threats from the lobster fishery. Another federal court **reinstated** a seasonal prohibition on lobster fishing with vertical lines in federal waters off Maine. In addition, the federal government responded to our legal petition and subsequent lawsuit with a **proposal** to expand the boundaries and timing of seasonal no-speeding zones along the East Coast to protect right whales from vessel strikes. With less than 340 right whales left in the wild, Defenders is fighting tirelessly to end deadly lobster gear entanglements and vessel strikes that are driving this species toward extinction.



BROWN BEAR CUBS | KAR PHOTOGRAPHY/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

We delivered a big victory for brown bears on Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska when the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals **decided** to uphold a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) rule from 2016 that prohibits brown bear baiting on the refuge.

In response to our lawsuit, FWS **agreed to revise** the critical habitat designation for the threatened Florida manatee, which had not been updated since the species was listed in 1976. Lack of access to **warm-water habitat**, along with lack of food caused by water pollution, is causing manatees to die in record numbers. Defenders also **sued** the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to protect manatees from water pollution that destroys seagrass, the manatee's primary food source. To prevent another mass starvation event, Defenders helped compel agency action to implement a supplemental Florida manatee feeding program and helped to secure increased state and federal funding for manatee response, rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

In a victory for California desert wildlife and public lands, a federal judge **ruled in our favor** to prevent the BLM from allowing Cadiz, Inc., to drain ancient aquifers under the Mojave Desert with a pipeline crossing Mojave Trails National Monument and other protected public lands in southeastern California. This misguided project would have dried up irreplaceable desert water sources so crucial to wildlife, including the desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, Mojave fringe-toed lizard and kit fox.



DESERT TORTOISE | © MATE RATHBUN



DESERT NWRI | SHARON SCHAEFER/FWS

Defenders successfully defended Desert National Wildlife Refuge from encroachment by the Air Force. Thanks to our advocacy, the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act did not include any language to expand Nellis Air Force Base onto the refuge or alter the jurisdictional management regime – leaving the refuge untouched.

Defenders fought to secure federal protections for imperiled species. As a result of our numerous legal actions and petitions, FWS submitted proposals to reclassify the northern long-eared bat from threatened to **endangered**, to re-list the cactus ferruginous pygmy owl as threatened and to list the **tricolored bat** and two populations of the lesser prairie-chicken under the ESA. FWS also restored candidate species protections for the wolverine and agreed to conduct a new ESA review of the California spotted owl after denying federal protections in 2020.



TRICOLORED BAT | © PETE PATTAVINA/FWS

RESTORE

Thanks to years of Defenders' grassroots advocacy and legal action,

the red wolf program is back on track. FWS **released 11** more red wolves into the wild in North Carolina in 2022 with an additional 10 scheduled for release in 2023. Wild releases have boosted the number of breeding pairs in the wild and led to the **first litter** born in the wild since 2018. This is incredible news for a critically endangered wild population that had shockingly dwindled to single digits because of mismanagement, vehicle strikes and poaching.



RED WOLVES | © ROBERT WILCOX

Defenders marked another successful year supporting tribal initiatives to **restore bison** to tribal lands through a “quarantine-to-restoration” program that began in 2019 to save Yellowstone bison from slaughter. We helped with the transfer of 56 Yellowstone bison to the Yakama Nation in Washington and Modoc Nation in Oklahoma and helped transfer 28 Yellowstone bison to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana – the sixth successful transfer of bison to the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck since 2019.



SWIFT FOX KITS | © ROSHAN PATEL/SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL ZOO AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE

Celebrating our third year of a collaborative program with the Aaniih and Nakoda Tribes and others to restore swift foxes to the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana, Defenders helped with the release of 28 more swift foxes. With over 100 foxes reintroduced through this program, monitoring efforts show that they are reproducing in the wild—a critical measure of success for a self-sustaining population.

Defenders continued to lead the way for conserving and recovering the endangered **black-footed ferret**, supporting the black-footed ferret survey for the Fort Belknap Indian community. Thirty-six ferrets were vaccinated against sylvatic plague and two dozen kits were released in the wild.

Defenders helped to bring hope for recovery for the endangered military macaw, adding **11 fledglings** to a growing wild population in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, that is under pressure from habitat loss and poachers for the illegal pet trade. According to our recent **report**, the 2008 parrot trade ban that Defenders fought to achieve is working. Preventing more than 30,000 parrots from being illegally trapped each year, the trade ban has resulted in a 47% decrease in the illegal trade of parrots and an 88% decrease in U.S. seizures of Mexican parrots.



MILITARY MACAWS | DENISE CAMPBELL/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

As a result of a Defenders lawsuit, BLM rescinded the previous administration's plan that opened most of the 22 million acres of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to oil and gas drilling and removed protections for important wildlife habitat. Protections have now been restored for nearly half of the reserve's pristine lands, which are vital habitat for shorebirds, denning polar bears and tens of thousands of caribou in the Teshekpuk caribou herd. Our new **storymap** illustrates why the reserve is so important to wildlife.



CALIFORNIA SEA OTTER | DAVID LEDIG/BLM

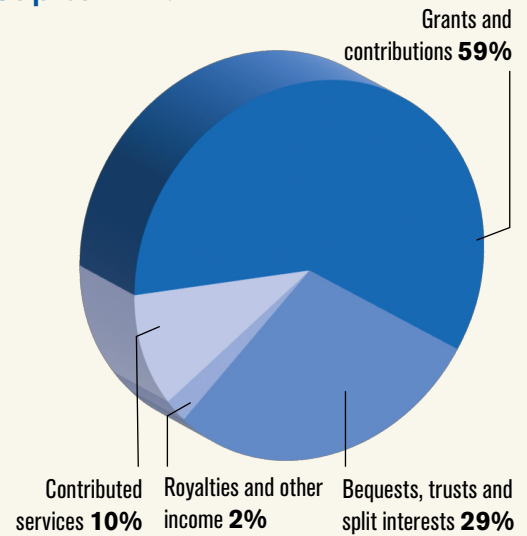
Defenders marked the 20th anniversary of our Sea Otter Awareness Week. In celebration of this milestone, we sponsored state legislation, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, that formally recognizes the event's anniversary and acknowledges the vital role that sea otters play in California's nearshore ecosystems. This annual celebration provides a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the important role sea otters play in maintaining ecosystem health, our need to coexist with sea otters and the efforts of Defenders and others in advancing sea otter conservation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2022, Defenders of Wildlife's nearly 2.2 million members and supporters contributed more than \$41 million for wildlife and wildlife habitat. This figure includes all those who generously donated their time and expertise. The steadfast support of our donors allows Defenders to sustain our program and public education efforts in the field, the courts and on Capitol Hill.

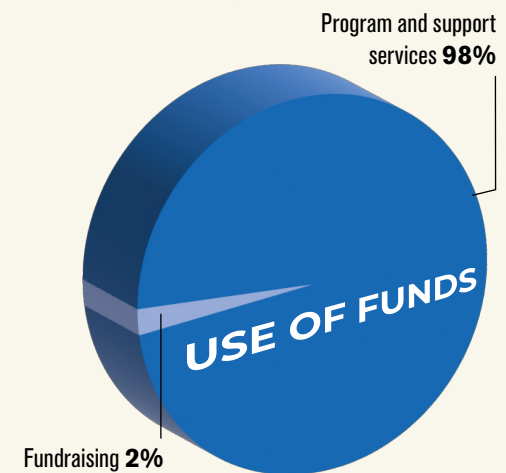
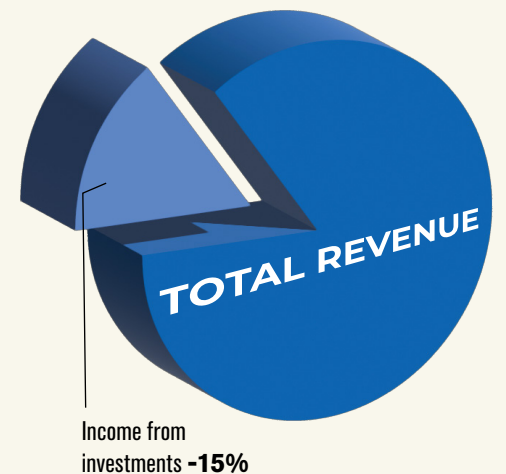
2022 SOURCES OF FUNDS

Grants and contributions	\$28,946
Bequests, trusts and split interests	\$13,928
Income from investments, annuity reserve funds and trusts	(\$7,495)
Royalties and other income	\$744
Contributed services	\$5,047
Total Revenue	\$41,170



USES OF FUNDS

Biodiversity conservation	\$18,970
Constituency mobilization	\$16,528
Fundraising	\$1,029
Management and general	\$6,354
Total Expenses	\$42,881
Change in net assets	(\$1,711)
Net assets, start of year	\$45,144
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$43,433



Dollars are in thousands.



BOTH PHOTOS: BISON RETURN TO FORT PECK INDIAN RESERVATION | © TED WOOD/THE STORY GROUP

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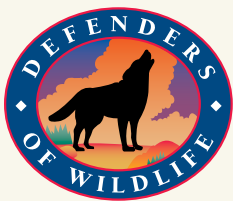
There are many ways to support Defenders of Wildlife and protect our imperiled wildlife. To learn more or donate, contact us at 1-800-385-9712, visit [Defenders.org/donate](https://defenders.org/donate) or choose one of the following options.

- ▶ Transfer appreciated assets directly to Defenders and maximize potential tax benefits. [Defenders.org/donate-stocks-help-save-wildlife](https://defenders.org/donate-stocks-help-save-wildlife)
- ▶ Become a **Leadership Council** member with a single donation of \$1,000 or more and enjoy more personal involvement with Defenders. [Defenders.org/leadershipcouncil](https://defenders.org/leadershipcouncil)
- ▶ If you are 70.5 or older, roll over a portion of your **IRA** to benefit wildlife. Remember, these gifts must come directly from your IRA account. [Defenders.org/planned-giving/gifts-your-retirement-plan](https://defenders.org/planned-giving/gifts-your-retirement-plan)
- ▶ Get started on a contribution from your **donor-advised fund** [Defenders.org/donor-advised-funds](https://defenders.org/donor-advised-funds)
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- ▶ Become a **Wildlife Circle** member with a donation of \$100 to \$999 and be a key partner in our work to protect wolves and other wildlife.
- ▶ Join Defenders' **Wildlife Guardians**, our monthly giving program, and make your donations easily and automatically through a credit card or checking account. [Defenders.org/wildlifeguardians](https://defenders.org/wildlifeguardians)
- ▶ Ask about **EarthShare** where you work and designate Defenders of Wildlife (CFC #10624) for all or part of your gift.
- ▶ Include Defenders as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or other estate plan, and leave a lasting mark on wildlife and the world by helping us continue our conservation work. You can specify that Defenders receives a certain percentage, dollar amount or residuary share of your estate. To include Defenders in your will or other estate plans, provide the following language to your professional advisor: "I bequeath (percentage, residuary share or specific amount or asset) to Defenders of Wildlife (Tax ID: 53-0183181), 1130 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036." We can also help you structure life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities or charitable trusts that support wildlife while providing income and tax advantages for you and your loved ones. Call us at **1-800-915-6789**, email legacy@defenders.org or visit: [Defenders.org/legacy](https://defenders.org/legacy).

WAYS
TO GIVE



DAM BAILEY/ISTOCK PHOTO



DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE is a national nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities.

