



2013
annual
report

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

IS A NATIONAL, NONPROFIT

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION

DEDICATED TO THE

PROTECTION OF ALL NATIVE

WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN

THEIR NATURAL COMMUNITIES.



Jamie Rappaport Clark, *President & CEO*

Annual Report Staff
Editor: Heidi Ridgley
Designer: Cameron Zotter
Writer: Cherie Wasoff

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1130 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-4604
202.682.9400

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DEFENDERS IN 2013

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND PRESIDENT

It's been an exciting and eventful year at Defenders of Wildlife, as we pursue our ambitious "prevent, protect, restore" vision to ensure a future for imperiled native species and habitats. Our staff's unrelenting work on the ground, in the courts, before Congress and with the administration has been made all the stronger thanks to our dedicated members and supporters.

This year, we worked hard to defeat the misguided proposal to delist gray wolves throughout most of the country. On behalf of our members and supporters, we spoke out repeatedly as scientists, wildlife policy experts and grassroots advocates. We mobilized hundreds of people to turn out for public hearings and generated hundreds of thousands of comments opposing delisting. And even as we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), our country's indispensable law for protecting threatened and endangered wildlife, we continued to combat anti-ESA initiatives in Congress. We believe politics and short-term economic gains should never determine the fate of endangered species.

Thanks to our supporters' extraordinary commitment, we achieved a number of victories for wildlife. Our partnerships to promote nonlethal tools that prevent wolves, grizzly bears and other predators from preying on livestock continue to demonstrate success. Our efforts to protect California condors from lead poisoning resulted in California's precedent-setting law to ban lead ammunition. Our cutting-edge work to safeguard sage-grouse highlighted the serious flaws in the land-use planning process for tens of millions of acres of federal land, while offering a conservation-focused way forward. And after years of Defenders leading the charge, the Obama administration released the country's first-ever climate adaptation plan.

We are sincerely grateful to those of you whose generosity and participation allow us to succeed in our mission. Your passion and commitment fuel our work every day. Rest assured, Defenders will not give up in our efforts to protect the imperiled wildlife, habitats and ecosystems that matter so much to us all.



Winsome Dunn McIntosh
Winsome Dunn McIntosh
Chair



Jamie Rappaport Clark
Jamie Rappaport Clark
President & CEO



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ABOUT DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Imagine a North America where ecosystems are restored and healthy—where thriving populations of wolves howl throughout the Rockies, Pacific Northwest, Great Lakes and the Southwest, where wild bison roam more freely in large expanses of the Great Plains, Florida panthers move in genetically healthy numbers through prime habitat in Florida and polar bears rear their young on solid Arctic ice.

For more than 65 years, Defenders of Wildlife has been a leading force for the protection of imperiled native plants and animals in their natural habitats throughout North America. We are driven

by the belief that wildlife and the natural world deserve responsible stewardship. Our dedicated policy, legal, science and advocacy experts work with communities on the ground; with local, state, national and international policymakers; and in the courts, achieving innovative and enduring solutions to conservation challenges.

Together, we work to ensure that future generations enjoy the full natural heritage that North America has to offer: thriving wildlife populations, with healthy forests, grasslands, mountains, deserts and waters sustaining us all.

Three conservation imperatives guide Defenders' work:

**PREVENT
species and
their habitats
from becoming
imperiled.**

**PROTECT
endangered
and threatened
species and
their habitats.**

**RESTORE
the health of
once-vulnerable
species and
their habitats.**



Developing Renewable Energy Without Threatening Wildlife and Habitats

Developing renewable electricity from sun and wind is critical to battling climate change and the pollution that results from burning fossil fuels. Defenders is a leading advocate for our nation's transition to clean energy, and we work to ensure that projects are "smart from the start." With thoughtful up-front planning that guides proposed renewable energy projects away from sensitive habitat, projects can avoid or minimize harm to imperiled wildlife and natural habitats.



This year, the Obama administration announced ambitious plans to generate 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy on public lands by 2020. With these lands providing essential habitat for more than 600 endangered species, our work to responsibly locate and design these projects is crucial.

Smart planning and siting is particularly important for large-scale, solar-energy projects on desert landscapes. While deserts may seem like ideal sites, numerous imperiled species, including the threatened desert tortoise, have evolved to thrive in this harsh, extreme environment. Desert tortoise populations have decreased 90 percent since the 1950s, so responsible stewardship that steers proposed projects away from key and irreplaceable habitat is essential for their survival.

This year, after long-term opposition by Defenders, plans for the poorly located and designed Calico solar project in the California desert were abandoned. This massive project would have included approximately 30,000 25-kilowatt solar dishes on some 4,000 acres of public land, including high-quality habitat for desert tortoises, burrowing owls, Mojave fringe-toed lizards, golden eagles, bighorn sheep and other species. Bowing to relentless pressure from Defenders, the developers finally surrendered their license for the project in June—averting serious environmental harm to the tortoise and other sensitive species.



Securing Safe Skies for Condors and Eagles

While Defenders supports the responsible development of wind energy, we are fighting to ensure that imperiled species remain safe from wind turbines. Defenders and our partners filed suit against the Bureau of Land Management to protect endangered California condors and golden eagles from a poorly sited, large-scale wind-energy project in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, after efforts to encourage redesign failed. The project would install wind turbines across more than 12,700 acres of key corridor habitat for migratory birds, threatening these birds with “death by turbine.” Telemetry monitoring shows California condors fly in the project area, which is also used by eagles. We believe that birds, bats and other species can thrive along with wind-energy development when it is planned and sited responsibly to avoid impacting imperiled species. This project clearly fails that test.

Saving a Charismatic Ambassador of the Sagebrush Sea

Known for their flamboyant spring mating dances, greater sage-grouse rely on the vast western grasslands, known as the “sagebrush sea.” The birds were so plentiful in the mid-20th century that westerners reported skies darkened by their flocks.



The sage-grouse now occupies little more than half of its original range, and current populations are estimated at less than 10 percent of historical levels. As Rachel Carson noted in *Silent Spring*, the federal government’s destruction of sagebrush decades ago, in favor of non-native forage crops for livestock, set a major decline in motion. While the war on sagebrush is generally behind us, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which manages more than half of the species’ remaining habitat, continues to approve land uses that degrade sage-grouse habitat—from oil and

gas drilling to transmission corridors and more.

Hundreds of other species of conservation concern share the sage-grouse’s habitat, and Defenders is working intently to secure the future for all of these species. As the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers listing the sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act, we are playing a leadership role in analyzing the serious flaws in the BLM land-use planning process for the sage-grouse and in recommending a more conservation-oriented way forward. We continue to press for the BLM to enact restrictions on the use

“Greater sage-grouse are icons of the American West and indicators of healthy sagebrush steppe. Protecting these birds will help conserve a vital landscape and all its inhabitants.”

*Mark Salvo, Defenders' Director
of Federal Lands Conservation*



of sagebrush habitat and to designate new protected areas for sage-grouse and other species. We are also working with Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a credible state conservation plan for the species.

Gaining Traction on Climate Change Adaptation

Humans are clearly accelerating climate change and we need a serious effort to reduce its potentially devastating effects. Defenders has led the way to ensure that government land and resource management programs are improved to effectively address and cope with climate changes like increased temperatures, floods, droughts, loss of sea ice, sea-level rise and movement of species in response to these impacts.

Defenders played a major role in advocating for the Obama administration's recently released National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy—the first intergovernmental climate adaptation plan of its kind in the United States. It provides a blueprint for federal, state and tribal fish



and wildlife managers to work collaboratively in safeguarding wildlife from the impacts of climate change. We also worked tirelessly to ensure adequate funding for the strategy and continue to effectively engage with the administration to achieve the completion of a solid adaptation strategy.

Defenders' critical leadership role in wildlife climate change adaptation was recognized this year with the appointment of a member of our senior staff to the federal advisory committee for the Department of the Interior's climate change science programs. This committee will shape the development and implementation of new programs for the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science

Center, which was created to provide natural resource managers with critical information needed to respond effectively to climate change.

Defenders' leadership on climate adaptation and our lobbying efforts during House and Senate appropriations negotiations also paid off this year when the Hurricane Sandy supplemental emergency funding bill became the first spending bill to include future-oriented, climate resilience considerations for rebuilding damaged coastlines. The enacted bill included \$360 million for the Department of Interior to increase resiliency of coastal habitat and infrastructure to withstand future storms, making it the largest appropriation for climate adaptation in U.S. history.

Joel Sartore



Defenders' board member Joel Sartore is a man with a mission. An award-winning photographer and 20-year contributor to *National Geographic* magazine, as well as a speaker, teacher and author, his assignments have taken him to every continent and to the world's most beautiful and challenging environments, from the high Arctic to the Antarctic.

His interest in nature started in childhood, when he learned about the very last passenger pigeon from one of his mother's *Time-Life* picture books. Today, he is focusing on photographing the rarest of the rare of our planet's wildlife to show what's at stake and to get people to care while there's still time. He has photographed more than 2,650 species to date.

Joel is particularly interested in the important work Defenders is doing to protect endangered species such as the black-footed ferret and Mexican gray wolf and our broad approach to securing and restoring functioning ecosystems. "Both people and wildlife need clean air and water and healthy landscapes such as forests, marshes, coastlines and prairies to survive and thrive," he says. "We can't destroy one species and ecosystem after another and not affect humanity. Defenders' board, staff and members understand that when we save imperiled species, we save ourselves."

Protecting the Endangered Species Act

This year, Defenders marked the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)—an occasion to remember the enduring impact committed citizens and their representatives can make when we join together to demand a better future for our imperiled species and ecosystems. More than 1,400 species have been listed since the ESA's inception and more than 99 percent of them still have hope for recovery.



Since the ESA's enactment, Defenders has worked tirelessly in support of this landmark law, the strongest federal environmental law on the books today. Most Americans continue to support the protection and recovery of imperiled species, but climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, and reckless energy development threaten to reverse many of our conservation gains. Frequent congressional attacks on individual species and on the act itself, along with recent severe funding cuts for wildlife conservation in general, pose profound threats to the effectiveness and integrity of the ESA.

Defenders is not surrendering. We have successfully thwarted numerous attempts on Capitol Hill to pass anti-ESA initiatives and to dramatically slash funding for conservation programs. Our tremendous depth of experience and expertise on the ESA has earned us a respected and crucial role in educating members of Congress and their staffs on the fundamental conservation values and policies reflected in the ESA.

We also continue to target efforts to specific species, most notably our ongoing work to prevent the proposed elimination of ESA protection for most gray wolves in the lower 48 states. Defenders played a key role in the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park and Idaho in the 1990s. As a result, wolves were well on their way to recovery across parts of their historical range in the West, although significant areas of suitable habitat remain unoccupied. Then in an unprecedented attack on the ESA in 2011, Congress stripped the species of ESA protection in some western states, leading to a

resumption of the hate-inspired war on wolves waged by early settlers.

Now the Obama administration is proposing to prematurely wash its hands of wolf recovery by removing the remaining federal protections for gray wolves throughout most of the lower 48 states. In response, Defenders mobilized members of Congress and our members and supporters. We generated more than 250,000 public comments opposing delisting. We also trained and mobilized more than 1,000 wolf supporters to show up and testify at wolf delisting public hearings.

Gray wolf recovery is clearly not complete, and Defenders will continue to use all the resources at its disposal to defeat this delisting proposal.



GRAY WOLF © HANK PERRY

Educating and Organizing for a Strong Endangered Species Act

In 2013, Defenders:

- Provided “ESA 101 Boot Camp” educational briefings and materials to House and Senate staff.
- Launched our new conservation crossroads campaign (www.defenders.org/crossroads) to help citizen grassroots activists convey their support for a strong ESA to members of Congress and the administration.
- Organized a fly-in Capitol Hill lobby day for ESA citizen activists from across the country, who participated in more than 70 meetings on the Hill with legislators from both parties.
- Published numerous white papers and submitted extensive public comments to FWS and others in the administration on innovative ways to implement the ESA more effectively and efficiently.

Standing Up for Pristine Wilderness in Our National Wildlife Refuges

Defenders’ work to protect key public lands that are of significant value to wildlife contributed to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s heroic decision to reject a proposed road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Izembek contains world-renowned wetlands and is home to wolves, bears, caribou and the world’s sole population of Pacific black brant. The contentious road proposal was previously rejected by the Clinton administration and resurfaced in legislation in 2009, requiring the interior secretary to determine

whether the proposed road was in the public interest. Defenders made rejection of the road its top National Wildlife Refuge System priority because of the irreparable harm it would have done to this magnificent refuge and the terrible precedent it would have set for development in wilderness areas and in the refuge system.

Reforming Wildlife Services

Wildlife Services is a little-known U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agency with an enormous lethal impact on predators. Ostensibly, the agency’s

“Wolves are vital to the health of ecosystems. When we give wolves our best effort, they return the favor by making landscapes healthier for everyone.”

Eva Sargent, Defenders' Southwest Director

Liberty Godshall



When Defenders' board member Liberty Godshall turned 50, she knew how she wanted to celebrate: by fulfilling her dream of watching wolves in Yellowstone National Park.

“Yellowstone changed me,” says the writer and political activist. “When I first heard a wolf’s howl, I found something deep inside me I didn’t know I had lost,” she says. “Nature can and should be touched. Otherwise, we only experience it as it’s disappearing. My time in Yellowstone made me want to protect our last best places where nature can howl and bloom.”

Liberty’s ever-increasing desire to preserve the wild led her to Defenders. The directness of our mission to protect native wildlife and habitats resonated with her, and Defenders’ science-based approach made sense. Becoming more involved seemed a natural next step.

While Liberty frequently returns to Yellowstone from her home in California to see the wolves that inspired her, she takes a wider perspective on the need for Defenders’ work. “A healthy planet supports healthy wildlife and human life,” she says. “You can’t disentangle them. It’s a core issue that goes beyond politics.”

mission is to reduce wildlife-human conflicts, but tragically it has a heavy bias for lethal control of predators like wolves.

Defenders’ efforts to reform Wildlife Services is vital to our wolf-conservation mission. The agency’s lethal-removal services are subsidized with state and private landowner funding and often are undertaken on public lands to protect grazing livestock. The agency is responsible for about one-third of the wolves killed in western states each year.

This destruction of a key apex predator like the wolf is for the most part avoidable since effective nonlethal methods are readily available. Yet, the agency clings to its outdated lethal-control approach.

Defenders is promoting management models and nonlethal control methods that enable predators and livestock to coexist. Most recently, we succeeded in getting the USDA Office of the Inspector General to agree to conduct an audit of the Wildlife Service’s budget and predator-control program, finally pulling its wolf-killing operations out of the shadows.

Ensuring a Future for Mexican Gray Wolves

Poisoned, shot and trapped nearly out of existence last century, Mexican gray wolves are barely hanging on. Only 83 individuals exist in the wild, according





MEXICAN GRAY WOLF (CAPTIVE) © JOEL SARTORE

to the most recent population estimate, and they face serious problems caused by inbreeding, which is inevitable within such a small population. This animal's future rests in retaining continued protection under the ESA and in implementing a science-based recovery plan.

The Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area has been designated for the wolf in Arizona and New Mexico, but only a few captive-bred wolves have been released in the wild in the last several years to boost genetic health and to help grow the population. FWS has also dragged its feet on establishing additional populations outside the Blue Range that are critical to recovery. This beleaguered wolf needs much more from FWS—and fast.

For years, Defenders has focused on ensuring effective federal protections for this critically endangered gray wolf subspecies. We play a key role on FWS's Mexican gray wolf stakeholder recovery team, providing policy expertise and advocating for the best science to guide recovery planning. Defenders, our conservation partners and conservation biologists have identified additional wolf habitat in the Grand Canyon area of northern Arizona and southern Utah, and in the southern Rockies in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. These populations would then need to be linked together by dispersing wolves. Defenders is fighting a proposed FWS rule that would remove dispersing wolves, and we are advocating for the release of more captive wolves to provide greater genetic diversity within the wild population.

Defenders also is heavily involved in promoting coexistence projects for the Mexican gray wolf. The

MEXICAN GRAY WOLVES BY THE NUMBERS

- 83** In the wild
- 17** Pups born in 2013 that survived into their first year
- 5** Breeding pairs
- 54** Illegally killed since 11 wolves were reintroduced in 1998
- 4** Illegal killings in 2013
- 4** Prosecutions for killing this endangered species since 1998

White Mountain Apache Tribe, whose 1.6 million acres of tribal land links the current recovery area to potential new habitat, has worked with us for more than a decade on conservation projects for the wolf. Recently, we helped the tribe set up motion-sensor cameras to monitor wolf locations and start a range-rider program to minimize wolf interactions with livestock. We are also working with ranchers and FWS to design and implement a new incentive program to encourage ranchers to use effective tools and techniques for raising livestock in wolf territory.

Eliminating an Unnecessary Threat to California Condors

Watching North America's largest bird soar in our western skies is an awe-inspiring spectacle. Only about 200 California condors live in the wild today—up from a mere nine in 1985. Yet this magnificent bird's recovery continues to be severely hampered by human impacts, mainly lead poisoning. When hunters leave behind parts of animal carcasses shot with lead ammunition, condors and other scavenger species consume a toxin-laden feast of lead bullet fragments. The adverse effects include blindness, anemia, seizures and death. In 2013, a record number of California condors were treated for lead poisoning. To address this threat and give the birds a chance to survive, Defenders and two conservation partners began an all-out effort that resulted in landmark legislation in California that will ultimately ban the use of lead ammunition for hunting. We will continue to advocate for similar legislation throughout condor range and on key public lands.

Keeping Beaches Safe for Turtles

This year, when some members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation backed a bill to reverse hard-won progress to protect imperiled wildlife from reckless off-road vehicles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Defenders stepped into action with an aggressive campaign. It included radio and print ads to give the local community a voice in



keeping protections in place and urged local activists to contact their elected officials, resulting in a win for Cape Hatteras and its wildlife.

Protecting nesting sites from off-road vehicles is critical for the five species of endangered or threatened sea turtles that rely on Cape Hatteras beaches. Newborn sea turtles face a long and perilous journey under the best circumstances. They are already vulnerable to predators like birds and crabs on shore and fish and other marine life at sea. Adding the unrestricted use of off-road vehicles along their nesting habitat was a recipe for disaster.

After years of successful litigation by Defenders, the National Park Service finally began enforcing rules to restrict off-road vehicle use at Cape Hatteras in 2012. The difference was immediate, with record-breaking numbers of sea turtle nests counted along the seashore in 2012 and 2013.

Even more sea turtle species nest on the shores of Mexico. This year, Defenders successfully worked with the Mexican government to improve legal protections for sea turtles and their nesting habitats. Past protections banned the harvesting of turtles and their eggs, but we helped secure the adoption of regulations that extend to protecting habitat and limiting off-road vehicle usage and other advances.

Restoring an Iconic Cat

Jaguars used to roam the southwestern United States, and—based on sightings in southern Arizona over the past couple of years—some still do. Defenders played a key part in persuading FWS to prepare a recovery plan for this magnificent native species,

and we continue our efforts to restore the cats throughout their northern range.

Recently, Defenders compelled the Forest Service to complete a more thorough analysis of the impacts of multiple mining projects on jaguars in the Patagonia area of Arizona—an important corridor for jaguars and ocelots, another imperiled cat. And, on private ranches around Mexico's northern jaguar reserve, Defenders continues to deploy remote trail cameras to catch images of jaguars. In addition to contributing valuable scientific information about the cats, the program financially rewards ranchers and communities for capturing images of jaguars, an incentive for increased tolerance and acceptance of these cats.

Protecting Old-growth Forests

Central to the Pacific Northwest's old-growth forests, "O&C lands" comprise 2.6 million acres of federal forests in the heart of Oregon. These lands are home to numerous imperiled species, including the iconic northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet. The location of these lands makes them a key wildlife corridor linking wildlife populations north to south and east to west. Ignoring the hard lessons learned from unsustainable logging in the 1970s and 1980s, Oregon politicians and members of Congress are pushing legislation that would dramatically accelerate logging on O&C lands and severely undermine bedrock environmental laws like the ESA and the National Environmental Policy Act. In response, Defenders has taken the lead in rallying

a coalition of Oregon and national environmental groups and has provided a detailed analysis of the proposed legislation's damage to the ESA and to this important old-growth habitat. We have expressed our concerns to members of the Oregon congressional delegation and have garnered broad and strong support within the conservation community. We will be unrelenting in our quest to improve or block damaging O&C legislation and to uphold and protect the ESA.



Barbara Doolin



Defenders' donor Barbara Doolin of Dallas vividly recalls the "aha! moment" that cemented her interest in wildlife conservation.

"I was in a zodiac in Baja, Mexico, and saw a gray whale at close range," she says. "The experience felt so unexpectedly personal."

The same trip sparked a lifelong journey with birds when she spotted a parasitic jaeger in the wild. Since then, Barbara's passion for wildlife has taken her to places she never even imagined. "I've met fellow birders who have seen birds that are now extinct," she says. "I've seen tracts of illegally cut land, and learned from my guide that primary forest existed there only a year before. And, on that same morning, my group rediscovered a bird that hadn't been seen in more than 30 years." She fondly recalls a white-chested tapaculo ambling across her shoe on a mountain in southeastern Brazil, and a cock-of-the-rock performing its amazing song and dance before dawn in Peru.

Barbara says she and her husband support Defenders because "the science, the strategies and the values are all there." She reconnected with whales on Defenders' 2013 Alaska trip, and says she was also taken with other Defenders' supporters on the trip. "What impressed me most was the people, and their joy and excitement at whatever came our way." She was also thrilled when the ship's captain pointed out a Kittlitz murrelet, Barbara's first new bird in seven years.

Living with Wildlife

Defenders takes a comprehensive, proactive, science-based approach to helping people and wildlife coexist. Our pioneering wildlife coexistence partnership programs help ranchers and landowners take steps to avoid conflict with wolves, bears and other predators, preventing both the loss of livestock and the removal of wildlife from the landscape. In 2013, Defenders supported 56 coexistence projects in eight states across the country, creating win-win situations for people, imperiled native species and the ecosystems we share.



Partnering to Protect Wolves and Sheep

Wolves typically hunt for wild animals like deer and elk but will occasionally prey on livestock if the opportunity arises. Then, it's a predictable and deadly cycle: Wolves kill livestock, the government orders the wolves killed, new wolves move in to replace the killed wolves, and the debate begins anew about lethal control of native wildlife. In 2007, when a new wolf pack moved into the Wood River Valley of Blaine County in Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains—an area that includes grazing grounds for more than 25,000 sheep each summer—Defenders initiated a program with ranchers and local county commissioners to demonstrate that proactive, nonlethal means of preventing conflicts between wolves and livestock can end the need for wolf-trapping and aerial-gunning by federal agents.

Through this pioneering demonstration project, we have helped numerous ranchers purchase guard dogs, hire range riders, deploy scare devices and use other techniques to keep wolves from sheep. The results testify to the effectiveness of nonlethal tools and the power of committed partnerships: Over six years, only 20 sheep (<.001 percent) have been lost to wolf depredation in the project area. In 2013, no wolves or sheep were lost.

This year, we hosted a workshop attended by representatives from state and federal wildlife agencies, universities, ranches, conservation groups and others on techniques for allowing wolves and livestock to share the landscape. And we are far from done: Other areas in Blaine County need addressing, we recently launched a coexistence project near Yellowstone National Park, and we believe that the Wood River model should be adopted at the national level.



Recolonizing California and the Pacific Northwest

Gray wolves are starting to make a comeback in the Pacific Northwest, a region they called home before shooting, poisoning, trapping and bounty programs eliminated them in the 1900s. Biologists long anticipated that as wolves benefited from ESA protection in the Northern Rockies, and their populations grew, they would reclaim this part of their former range. Now just as wolves are beginning to move into new territory, their future hangs in the balance. Wolf recovery depends on strong, conservation-oriented, state-management plans, continued federal protection under the ESA and tolerance and acceptance by the people who share the landscape with them.

Oregon: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife recently confirmed wolf pups in the newly formed Mt. Emily pack—the state’s seventh known



This map shows where gray wolves currently roam in the Pacific Northwest and areas where they could live.

Good News for Grizzlies

SEELEY LAKE, MONT. — Kenneth Barber came home one day last year to proof that bears could have the keenest nose of any animal on Earth. Drawn in by the sweet smell of insecticide, a grizzly bear had paid a visit to his storage shed, doing a fair bit of damage in the process.

Barber and his wife had planned to put in a garden and buy some chickens. “We did not want to have any further bear problems, so we decided to put in an electric fence, as recommended by a Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks bear biologist,” says Barber. “I received payment for half the cost of the fence, as well as guidance on how to design and install the fence, from Defenders of Wildlife. I might not have gone forward with the project without the cost assistance, and I doubt if the design would have been as effective without the technical assistance.”

After decades of hanging on by a thread in the lower 48 states, grizzly bears are on the road to recovery throughout large portions of their range, thanks to ESA protections and the efforts of wildlife managers, conservation groups and people who live in grizzly country. Today, about 1,800 grizzlies roam in five of the six federal recovery areas—up from a precarious couple of hundred in the 1970s, living in only 2 percent of their historical, continental range.

This is good news for the bears, the ecosystem and conservation advocates, but it makes coexistence efforts that work proactively to prevent conflict all the more important. The largest threat to grizzlies remains human-caused deaths. Bears are drawn to free meals via our garbage, chicken coops, beehives,



fruit trees and other attractants. Besides the obvious safety issues, this can also result in wildlife managers relocating or killing bears.

Defenders’ electric fencing incentive program, in its third year, is the latest addition to our long-running grizzly coexistence program, which includes education, assistance with bear-resistant garbage containers and campground food-storage lockers, livestock protection dogs, range riders and a compensation program for livestock losses due to grizzlies in the Northern Rockies. In recognition of our program’s success, the state of Montana began including grizzly compensation in its programs in

late 2013, allowing us to target our funds on prevention and coexistence.

By providing people in grizzly country with the appropriate knowledge, tools and assistance, Defenders is reducing human-bear conflict and building greater tolerance for bears on the landscape. Pragmatic coexistence partners like Barber make these solutions possible. After installing his electric fence, he reports, “There have been bears on the property, but they have not gotten into the yard to harass the chickens or partake of the vegetables.”

That’s the kind of win-win outcome we strive to achieve.

pack—further cementing the wolf’s return to Oregon. Defenders helped the state draft what eventually became the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. The plan was carefully crafted to secure restoration of wolves while meeting the needs of residents.

We also offered vital advice on and advocacy for the state’s livestock compensation and wolf coexistence program. Under this program, currently the most forward-thinking of its kind in the country, ranchers who proactively use nonlethal deterrents and best-management practices to protect livestock are eligible for compensation for losses to wolves. Defenders also provided expertise and training for coexistence strategies, including helping to pay for Oregon’s first range rider. Coached by us, state agencies and others, including the Umatilla tribe, are providing citizens with the information needed to adapt to living with wolves.

Washington: Wolf numbers in Washington continue to grow, with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife confirming at least nine packs. These wolves have dispersed from nearby states and Canada—offering important genetic exchange. Defenders worked with the state over a three-year period to develop a comprehensive, science-based, wolf-management plan, and we continue to advocate and mobilize our members and supporters to keep the plan strong.

Defenders also continues to promote nonlethal wolf-livestock conflict prevention techniques in the state. We have offered rewards for information leading to the prosecution of poachers and have recently added outreach staff on the ground to build broader wolf

acceptance. Collaborating with communities, ranchers and tribes, we are paving the way for smart, sustainable wolf recovery and working to prevent the weakening of the state’s current wolf-management plan.

California: In 2011, when the Oregon wolf known as OR-7 made his year-long visit to California in the hope of finding a mate, the idea that wolves could one day return to northern California became a real possibility. As the first wild wolf to enter California in nearly 90 years, OR-7 prompted Defenders to begin work to prepare for wolf restoration in the Golden

State. When the California Department of Fish and Wildlife decided to get ahead of the curve and began developing a wolf-management plan to support the conservation of this native species, Defenders participated in the stakeholder meetings. We also testified at California Fish and Game Commission hearings in support of a petition to list the gray wolf under the California Endangered Species Act. With nearly 70 percent of its citizens supporting wolf recovery in a recent survey, California could make healthy populations of wolves and coexisting with livestock a reality.



Bob and Tiese Quinn

Bob and Tiese Quinn’s love of the wilderness has led them on many horseback trips through the Golden Trout Wilderness, South Sierra Wilderness and Dome Land Wilderness. At one point they owned a pack station where they brought clients into the wilderness. They also helped injured hikers and those poorly equipped for the terrain or changeable weather.

But it was their concern for wolves and other imperiled wildlife that led the Quinns to Defenders in 2003. Members of our President’s Council and Wildlife Legacy Society, Tiese and Bob soon decided to include plans in their estate to help ensure a brighter future for America’s wildlife.

“At first we simply included Defenders as a beneficiary in our will,” says Tiese. “Then we started establishing charitable gift annuities with Defenders—we now have 10—to help build up our future retirement income. These annuities are a win-win benefit for us and the wildlife we cherish.”

Tiese has traveled much of the world, but has a special love for the American West. Today she and Bob, along with their Australian shepherds, live in Ojai, California. Tiese is especially respectful of the Native American blood she inherited through her father’s family. “Wolves are my totem,” she says, describing the spirit animal helpers that impart faithfulness, inner strength and intuition as adopted by Native American tribes.

Wyss Foundation



In 1998, Hansjörg Wyss established the Wyss Founda-

tion to help communities, land trusts and landowners forge new partnerships and implement innovative strategies. The goal was to protect some of the country's most iconic landscapes—from the Crown of the Continent in Montana to the Arizona and New Mexico borderlands—and to ensure they remain open and accessible to all.

The Wyss Foundation has invested more than \$175 million to help local communities, land trusts and nonprofit partners conserve nearly 14 million acres in the West for future generations to explore and enjoy. The Wyss Foundation has been a strong supporter of Defenders' work to conserve habitat in the American West for species from bison and black-footed ferrets to grizzly bears and the Canada lynx.

"Defenders helps conserve and restore the open lands and waters that are essential to wildlife survival," said Molly McUsic, president of the Wyss Foundation. "With climate change and development adding growing pressure on wildlife, the protection of large, unbroken expanses of habitat is more important than ever."

Giving Bison a Place to Roam

In August, Defenders played a key role in reestablishing a second herd of wild Yellowstone bison to their former Great Plains habitat at Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana. The 34 bison came from nearby Fort Peck Indian Reservation's new wild herd, which was established with bison from Yellowstone National Park a year earlier with crucial financial and logistical help from Defenders.

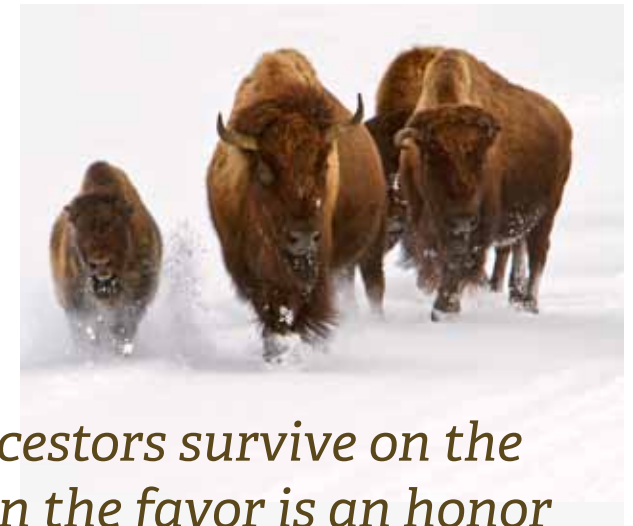
When bison opponents went to court to prevent these transfers, Defenders intervened. The Montana Supreme Court ruled in favor of bison, and the first transfer to Fort Belknap finally went forward. We continue to help the reservations expand their ability to accommodate larger herds, following scientific recommendations on the population size needed to preserve the species. We have aided Fort Peck in acquiring grazing rights to an additional 4,000 acres, bringing its current bison range to 24,000 acres, and we have provided funding to both reservations for stronger fencing to help manage the herds.

These bison transfers to tribal lands offer a new model for wild bison conservation that could be adopted at select sites across the Great Plains. While most all bison today contain traces of cattle genes and are from long-captive herds, these Yellowstone

bison are descendants of the last 23 pure, wild bison known to exist in the wild in the late 1800s after market hunters nearly drove the species to extinction. This makes them key for wild bison restoration efforts.

Helping Polar Bears in a Warming World

Rising temperatures are melting the Arctic sea ice that polar bears depend on for hunting seals and denning, forcing the bears to look on land. Listed as threatened under the ESA, the polar bear will have an even more difficult chance at survival unless we reduce human-polar bear conflicts and the bear fatalities that can result. To keep both people and



"The buffalo helped our ancestors survive on the prairie. To be able to return the favor is an honor for our community." **Mark Azure**, Fort Belknap Tribal Council President

this imperiled species safe, Defenders works closely with the Alaska Native Nanuuq Commission, FWS and others on deterrent programs in Alaska to help communities coexist with polar bears. For example, we are working with partners to fund renewable-energy cooled food-lockers in Kaktovik, Alaska, to keep polar bears from being lured into communities by the smell of food, and, importantly, from associating people with food. Renewable energy allows us to keep bears and communities safe without contributing to carbon-based emissions.

Among other efforts, Defenders is working to increase emergency clean-up preparedness in the event of an oil spill in polar bear habitat. We are helping to fund the equipment needed to clean oil-soaked polar bears and their cubs. We also continue to advocate for polar bears in the courts to ensure that federal agencies take climate change and carbon emissions into account, as required by the ESA, when deciding on development activities in polar bear habitat. This year, Defenders' legal work led to a judge ruling that polar bears hunted by sportsmen in other countries could no longer be imported into the United States as trophies. We will continue to defend this important ruling, now under appeal.

Braking for Florida Panthers

Fewer than 160 endangered Florida panthers are left, confined to only a tiny portion of their former range. Roads cut through their habitat in the Big Cypress/Everglades ecosystem, fragmenting territory and forcing the cats to cross highways to meet basic



needs, like finding food and mates. Vehicle collisions therefore remain one of the top causes of death. To address it, Defenders actively opposed construction of a new interchange on Interstate 75—known as “Alligator Alley.” In addition to destroying 10,000 acres of crucial habitat for panthers and other wildlife, the proposed project would have led to suburban sprawl and increased the odds of vehicle collisions with these imperiled cats. We succeeded in stopping the construction.

We also successfully advocated for slower nighttime speeds in “panther zones” and continue to

promote the installation of wildlife underpassages, fencing and improved new, high-tech motion sensors that warn drivers to slow down when large animals are approaching the road. We are striving to provide landowners with incentives for conserving and restoring panther habitat and pursuing other efforts to help panthers move north of the Caloosahatchee River. Defenders' pivotal role on the team that helped develop the Florida Panther Recovery Plan was recognized this year when we were invited to serve on the federal Florida Panther Recovery Implementation Team.

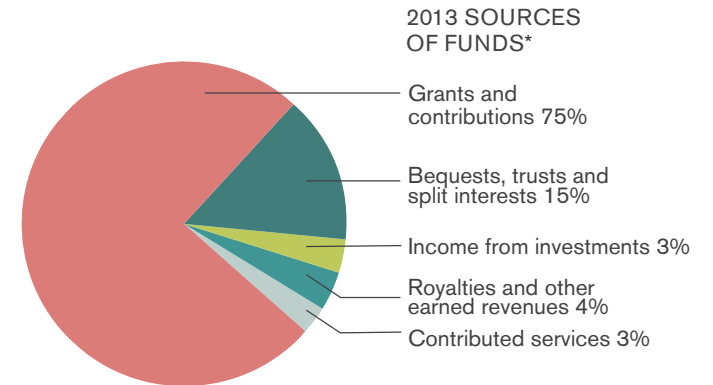
FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ending September 30, 2013

In 2013, Defenders of Wildlife's more than 1.1 million members and supporters contributed more than \$25 million for wildlife and wildlife habitat. Law firms and others 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.

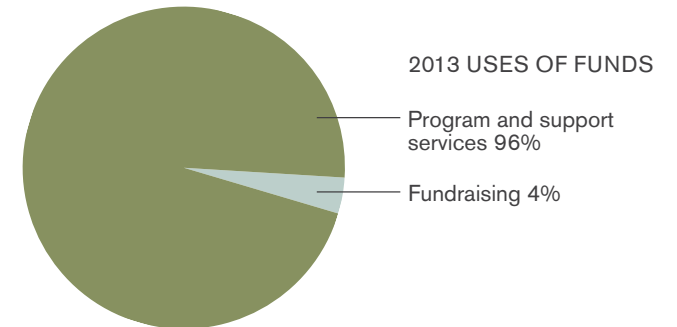
SOURCES OF FUNDS

Grants and contributions	\$25,509
Bequests, trusts and split interests	\$5,073
Income from investments	\$1,045
Royalties and other earned revenues	\$1,368
Contributed services	\$884
Total Revenue	\$33,879



USES OF FUNDS

ESA	\$7,422
Key species	\$11,697
Habitat	\$7,646
Fundraising	\$1,090
Management and general	\$2,708
Total Expenses	\$30,563



Change in net assets	\$3,316
Net assets, start of year	\$22,383
Net assets, end of year	\$25,699

Dollars are in thousands.



Bequests and Life Income Gifts

By including Defenders as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or other estate plan today, you can provide a legacy gift to support our mission well into the future. You can specify that Defenders receives a certain percentage, dollar amount or asset in your estate. Or you can leave specific bequests to family members and friends, and specify that Defenders receives a percentage of the remaining estate value.

To include Defenders in your will or other estate plans, please provide the following language to your professional advisor:

“I bequeath _____ (describe dollar amount, asset to be given or percentage of your residuary estate) to Defenders of Wildlife (Tax ID# 53-0183181), a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia with its principal office at 1130 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 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. If you would like more information, please call us toll free at 1.800.915.6789, email legacy@defenders.org, write to us at Office of Gift Planning, Defenders of Wildlife, 1130 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, or visit: www.defenders.planyourlegacy.org.

President's Council

Donors of \$1,000 or more are recognized as members of the President's Council. This special leadership group provides important support to Defenders' programs and offers opportunities for more personal involvement in the work of the organization. Visit the President's Council website at: www.defenders.org/presidentscouncil.

Wildlife Circle

Members who support Defenders of Wildlife with a donation of \$100 to \$999 are included in our Wildlife Circle. These crucial donors are key partners in our work to protect wolves and other wildlife. In appreciation of their dedicated support, Wildlife Circle members are recognized as a part of our inner circle.

Wildlife Guardians

When you join Defenders' Wildlife Guardians, our monthly giving program, your donations can be made easily and automatically through a credit card or checking account. For more information, visit: www.defenders.org/wildlifeguardians.

Corporate Matching Gifts

Many employers match charitable contributions made by their employees. Companies may match donations made by current employees, employees' spouses and even retirees. Check with your personnel office about your company's program or visit us at: www.defenders.org/matching.

Workplace Giving/Earth Share

Earth Share is a nationwide network of America's leading nonprofit environmental and conservation organizations that raises funds through voluntary payroll deductions at federal, state, city, corporate and private workplaces across the country. Ask about Earth Share where you work and designate Defenders of Wildlife for all or part of your gift. (CFC #10624)

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Finance

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Fundraising Technology & Operations

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Jessica Gibson
Sam Lichtman
Anthony Martin
Wright Smith
Maria Weaver
TJ White
Elizabeth Williams

HEADQUARTERS
1130 17TH Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20036-4604
Ph: 202.682.9400

ALASKA
441 W 5th Avenue
Suite 302
Anchorage, AK 99501
Ph: 907.276.9453

ARIZONA
110 S. Church Avenue
Suite 4292
Tucson, AZ 85701
Ph: 520.623.9653

CALIFORNIA
1303 J Street
Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95814
Ph: 916.313.5800

COLORADO
535 16th Street
Suite 310
Denver, CO 80202

FLORIDA
3637 Fourth Street, North
Suite 230
St. Petersburg, FL 33704
Ph: 727.823.3888

IDAHO
P.O. Box 773
Boise, ID 83701
Ph: 208.424.9385

MEXICO
Bosques de Cerezos 112
Colonia Bosques de las Lomas
Codigo Postal 11700
Mexico D.F.
Ph: 52.55.55.96.21.08

MONTANA
303 W. Mendenhall Street
Suite 3
Bozeman, MT 59715

OREGON
1880 Willamette Falls Drive
Suite 200
West Linn, OR 97068
Ph: 503.697.3222

WASHINGTON
P.O. Box 773
Boise, ID 83701
Ph: 303.440.1021



DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

1130 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036-4604
202.682.9400
www.defenders.org