

There was no sugarcoating the crisis wildlife faced from the Trump administration and Congress during 2018, including brazen attempts to roll back essential protections provided by the Endangered Species Act (ESA), moves to open great swaths of our public lands to oil drilling and an Interior Department fixated on selling out and selling off our wildlife and wild lands.

In opposition, Defenders of Wildlife delivered a strong, unified response to the administration's assault on wildlife, public lands and climate policies. We adamantly defended the ESA—the cornerstone of our nation's commitment to preserving life on Earth—from countless attacks, fought to protect vulnerable species and their habitats on public and private lands, expanded our use of data and technology to improve endangered species restoration, opposed legislative attacks on conservation and promoted essential wildlife-friendly renewable energy development.

Defenders remains a fierce and determined advocate for imperiled wildlife and habitats. Thank you for all you do to support us so that we can stand up for wildlife. Together, we will successfully ensure a rich, natural heritage for generations to come.

Judith Posnikoff, Chair and
Jamie Rappaport Clark, President and CEO

RED WOLF © SETH BYNUM/PPZ/ALUS. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



2018
ANNUAL REPORT



2018 DEFENDERS HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few examples of what we accomplished this year with your help.



We released **27** scarlet macaws in the Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve in Mexico, which now has the second-largest wild population of this highly imperiled bird, a total of **157**.



Our Wolverine Watch program celebrated its 4th year with **140** volunteer scientists documenting wolverines, fishers, lynxes and—for the first time—wolverine kits in the Bitterroot National Forest.

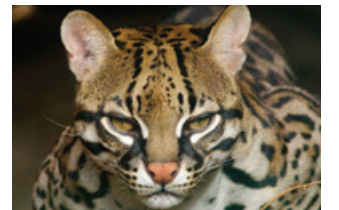


We collaborated with local partners on more than **100** projects to prevent conflicts with grizzly bears and wolves in the West, including range riders to guard livestock, electric fences to secure chicken coops and other attractants, and bear-resistant garbage containment for residential areas and food storage lockers in campgrounds.

Heeding our objections, the U.S. Forest Service reduced the size of a proposed old-growth timber sale in Tongass National Forest by **90%**—protecting thousands of acres of habitat for wildlife like wolves, northern goshawks and brown and black bears.



2,801 scientists signed a Defenders testimonial that a U.S.-Mexico border wall would devastate the borderlands ecosystem—home to ocelots, gray wolves, butterflies and ferruginous pygmy owls.





PREVENT PROTECT RESTORE

Guided by three conservation imperatives to **PREVENT** species and their habitats from becoming imperiled, to **PROTECT** endangered and threatened species and their habitats, and to **RESTORE** the health of once-vulnerable species and their habitats, Defenders of Wildlife fought fiercely in 2018 against the current Congress and administration's assault on wildlife, public lands and climate policies.

With your help in 2018 we:

- Protected the Endangered Species Act (ESA) from more than 110 attacks
- Fought for vulnerable species and their habitats on public and private land
- Expanded our use of data and technology to improve endangered species restoration
- Helped to promote wildlife-friendly renewable energy development to help slow climate change

PREVENT

species and their habitats from becoming imperiled

Coexisting With Wildlife

In 2018, Defenders continued to lead the fight for nonlethal management of wildlife across the United States. Our workshops for ranchers in Arizona, California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington showcased time-tested tools and techniques to ensure that wolves and grizzly bears can coexist on our shared landscape. We promoted the effectiveness of nonlethal techniques at a briefing on Capitol Hill organized by Defenders and Sen. Cory Booker (NJ). Our work is paying off: Wildlife Services, the agency tasked with predator control, traditionally relies on lethal control, but now it has its first-ever federal nonlethal-control agent in Montana.

Safeguarding Public Lands

To protect the endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly, cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, ocelot and more, we filed lawsuits against the Trump administration for waiving federal environmental laws to construct a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. We are further challenging the Bureau of Land Management's decision to issue oil and gas leases on 10 million acres in the western Arctic in Alaska, a highly sensitive, ecologically important area for migratory birds, wolverines and grizzly bears. We are also fighting to stop a shortsighted, destructive scheme to sell out the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development and prevent oil exploration

that would occur during polar bear denning season, when heavy seismic-testing vehicles could run over dens, crushing mother bears and cubs.

There's an App for That

Defenders is the only major wildlife organization developing web applications that make it easier to find and use data to inform conservation decision-making. The habitat connectivity model we created this year for desert tortoises in the Mojave Desert combines satellite imagery with other data at a resolution 1,000 times higher than other maps. Used in combination with the habitat suitability model we created in 2017, land managers can avoid actions harmful to desert tortoises.

Facing Climate Change

Research we are conducting on Long Island, NY, aims to understand residents' perceptions of solar energy and address any barriers to development. Proving solar energy can work even on densely populated Long Island will provide a model for many other parts of the country. And as the Trump administration abdicates our country's leadership on climate change, Defenders experts advanced collaborative wildlife adaptation planning on public lands, including exploration of the effects of hurricanes on wildlife habitat and the role of ecosystems in storm protection.

CACTUS FERRUGINOUS PYGMY OWLS © PAUL BANNICK/WWW.PAULBANNICK.COM



PROTECT

endangered and threatened species and their habitats

Thwarting Attacks

Defenders scored major victories by defeating more than 110 anti-ESA add-ons to legislative bills, while also ensuring that several anti-wolf riders were rejected. When the Trump administration moved to abruptly eliminate protections for birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)—which for decades compelled energy industries to adhere to commonsense measures that prevented harm—we sued the federal government. Then we headed to Capitol Hill to educate legislators on the critical role the MBTA plays in minimizing industry impacts to migratory birds and to shore up support.

Pollinator Protection

We thwarted a provision in the 2018 Farm Bill that would have allowed the pesticides industry to poison pollinators and hundreds of endangered and threatened species. We labeled it the “Poisoned Pollinators Provision” to emphasize its toxicity and waged a successful campaign against it that included direct lobbying meetings, grassroots letter-writing, action alerts and targeted media.

Fighting for Izembek

We exposed the Trump administration’s nefarious backroom deal to hand over public land in Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska for a road through the heart of a globally recognized wilderness

wetlands—critical feeding grounds for tens of thousands of migratory birds. Alaska brown bears, caribou, wolves, wolverines and foxes roam this wild landscape, while the refuge’s coastal waters are alive with sea otters, harbor seals, threatened Steller sea lions and all five Pacific salmon species. We generated extensive coverage in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and on CNN, putting a spotlight on Izembek and positioning Defenders as a leader in the fight to preserve wild places.

Science-based Solutions

Leading nationwide efforts to conserve wildlife on national forests, we engaged with the U.S. Forest Service to secure science-based and climate-smart forest management practices to benefit grizzly bears, gray wolves, lynx, wolverines, native trout, Pacific salmon, spotted owls, bighorn sheep, beavers, bison, sage-grouse, bumblebees and other at-risk species.

Safeguarding Endangered Species

We petitioned the National Marine Fisheries Service and won ESA protections for the oceanic whitetip shark and the giant manta ray—both imperiled by overfishing and fisheries bycatch. And new research we funded using drones to map polar bear maternal dens in the Arctic will be used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect denning areas from development.



BISON © SANDY SISTI

RESTORE

the health of once-vulnerable species and their habitats

Wolf Wins

We won two pivotal court cases—one for Mexican gray wolves in the Southwest and one for red wolves in the Southeast—when the courts ruled that FWS was violating its ESA mandate to recover these critically imperiled species. In the Northern Rockies, we defeated an Idaho state agency proposal to allow the hunting of denning wolves. We also joined with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute to advance red wolf research and discuss future reintroduction opportunities.

Habitat Restoration

After three years of concerted advocacy effort, we scored a win for the shrinking Salton Sea and the millions of migratory birds that depend on it when California finalized a 10-year plan to improve 25,000 acres of habitat. Our work to expand prairie dog colonies—essential for reintroduction of the endangered black-footed ferret—continued with the installation of 150 more burrows at the American Prairie Reserve in eastern

Montana and the translocation of 38 prairie dogs from an adjacent ranch. We hand-dug 300 new burrows and relocated 358 prairie dogs to expand colonies at Lower Brule Indian Reservation in South Dakota, the site of a struggling black-footed ferret population. Funding we secured also helped the Blackfeet tribe to restore wild bison in Montana, where the bison have access to historical migration routes in Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest and Glacier National Park. And we leveraged \$1 million of funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure farmers and ranchers improve and protect habitat for eastern hellbenders, the continent’s largest salamander.

Expert Analysis

Our analysis of ESA recovery planning found that a quarter of listed species lack recovery plans and that half of the plans that do exist are more than two decades out of date. We are now developing a model for web-based recovery plans that are easy to update as status and threats change.

BLACK-FOOTED FERRET © JOEL SARTOREWWW.JOELSARTORE.COM



FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2018, Defenders of Wildlife’s more than 1.8 million members and supporters contributed more than \$43 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.

SOURCES OF FUNDS

Grants and Contributions	\$28,498
Bequests, Trusts, and Split Interests	\$8,736
Income from Investments, Annuity Reserve Funds and Trusts	\$823
Royalties and Other Earned Income	\$1,371
Contributed Services	\$4,059

Total Revenue	\$43,487
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USES OF FUNDS

ESA	\$9,259
Key Species	\$11,772
Habitat	\$8,749
Fundraising	\$951
Management and General	\$4,739

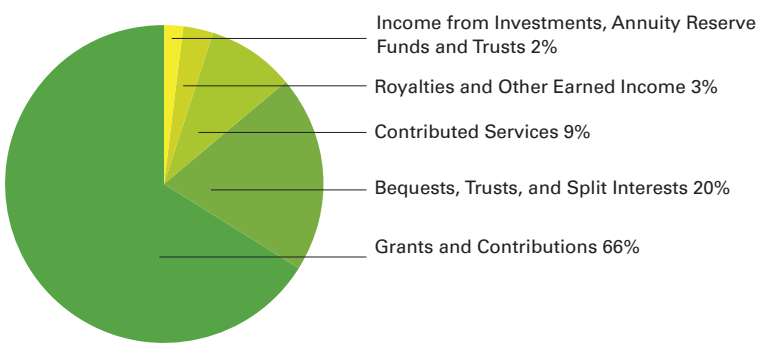
Total Expenses	\$35,470
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Change in Net Assets	\$8,017
Net Assets, Start of the Year	\$30,966

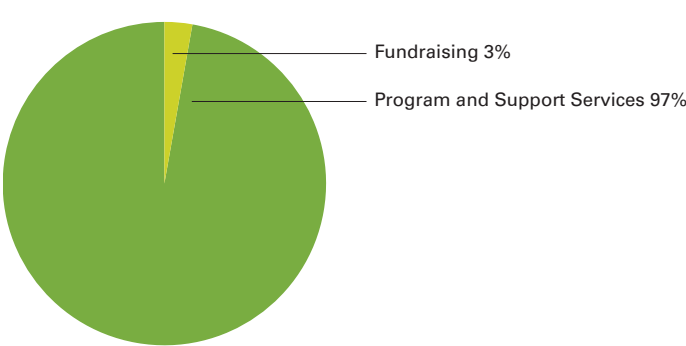
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$38,983
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Dollars are in thousands.

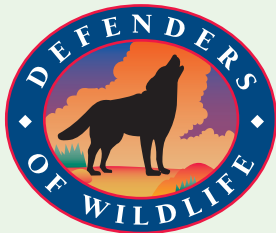
2018 SOURCES OF FUNDS



2018 USES OF FUNDS



IZENBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE © NATPAR COLLECTION / ALAMY STOCK 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

Jamie Rappaport Clark,
President and CEO

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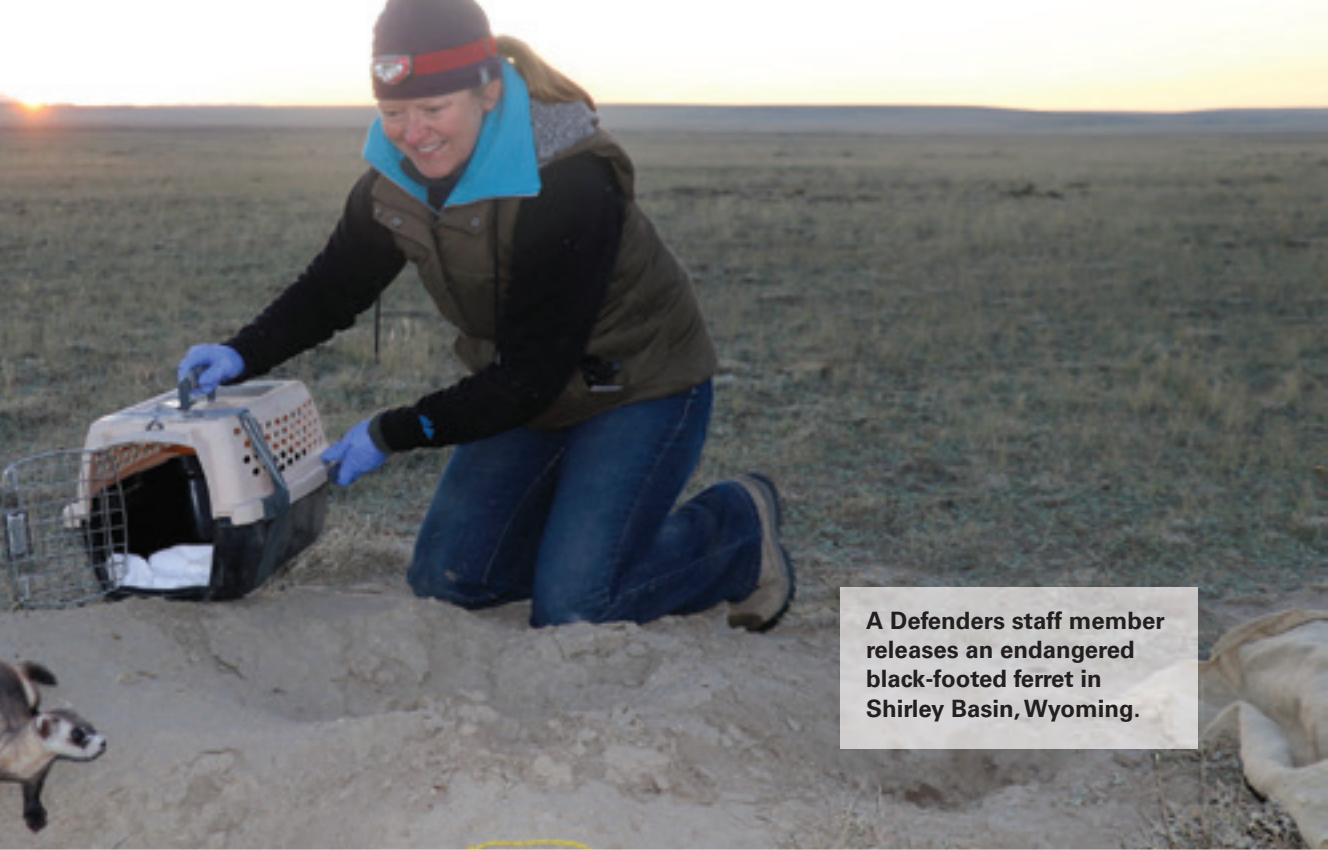
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97%

Defenders of Wildlife
spending directed toward
protecting imperiled
North American species
and habitat



A Defenders staff member releases an endangered black-footed ferret in Shirley Basin, Wyoming.

WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to support Defenders of Wildlife and protect our imperiled wildlife. To learn more or make a donation, please contact us at **1-800-385-9712**, visit **defenders.org/donate** or choose one of the options below.

- Become a LEADERSHIP COUNCIL member with a single donation of \$1,000 or more and enjoy more personal involvement with Defenders. **Defenders.org/leadershipcouncil**.
- Check with your personnel office or that of your spouse/partner about your company’s CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS program or visit us at **Defenders.org/matching**.
- 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**.
- Ask about EARTH SHARE 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

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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: **www.defenders.org/legacy**.