



Defenders of Wildlife

# ANNUAL REPORT

2007

CELEBRATING  
**60 Years**  
OF WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION



## DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

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

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# Defenders in 2007

Sixty years ago, Defenders of Wildlife got its start. Looking back over those six decades, our accomplishments are nothing short of extraordinary. From securing protections for whooping cranes, Florida panthers and other imperiled species with the Endangered Species Act, to shielding dolphins from tuna nets, to restoring wolves in Yellowstone—together with our supporters, we have made an enormous difference. In September we celebrated this milestone with a gala dinner

highlighting our achievements and honoring conservation heroes like Harvard professor Edward O. Wilson and U.S. Representative George Miller.

Over the decades, our fortunes have ebbed and flowed on Capitol Hill—and 2007 began what will hopefully be a

turnaround for conservation. The shift in leadership in Congress has allowed us to change our legislative strategy from defense to offense. Where once we faced adversaries leading key conservation committees, today we have champions—legislators who believe that wild animals such as wolves, wolverines and polar bears deserve a future on this planet.

We capitalized on the new environment in Washington on a number of fronts. On what is the most pressing conservation challenge of our times, global warming, we organized a symposium of leading experts on the impacts of global warming on wildlife. In addition, our staff scientists produced a series of monthly reports examining the threats to species in the Arctic, a region on the frontlines of global warming. And our staff worked closely with legislators to craft a bill—the Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act, which passed the House of Representatives—that would help wildlife cope with a warming planet by spurring research and the development of a national global warming strategy.

We also worked with our allies on Capitol Hill to take the first steps to amend the federal Airborne Hunting Act of 1972, to clearly outlaw Alaska's unjustified and cruel practice of aerial wolf hunts. We secured a restraining order in Alaska that blocked the state from

paying bounties to people to kill wolves. Sadly, for now aerial hunting in the state continues.

Wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains may face similar pressures in the aftermath of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal this year to remove this population from the endangered species list. Key officials in Idaho and Wyoming are hostile to wolves, and their plans for managing delisted wolves in their states would undermine the ongoing recovery effort. One of their goals is to eliminate more than half of the wolves on the ground today. This would be a dangerous step backward for wolves, and we plan to challenge a delisting decision in court as a result.

Defenders' legal department argued the case for other wildlife on myriad fronts, including our nation's highest court. For only the second time in Defenders' history, we argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, this one to protect endangered species in Arizona from development. While a narrow majority of the court ruled against us, our determination to protect pygmy owls and other endangered wildlife is undiminished.

Our communications team worked to educate the public on many critical issues from global warming to national wildlife refuges, and received high acclaim for their work. Our series of global warming video public-service announcements won an O'Dwyer award for excellence in public communications. Also in 2007, our quarterly magazine, *Defenders*, won an award as one of the country's best nonprofit publications.

On the ground, in the courts and the halls of Congress, Defenders has made a difference for wildlife. We can all take pride in what we have accomplished together these past 60 years. But we also have to look to the future, toward environmental threats that surpass all that have come before and have the potential to seriously alter the landscape on which wildlife and humans depend. In a rapidly warming world, the significance of our work has never been greater. With your help, we look forward to taking on this challenge and celebrating many more happy anniversaries.



Victor Sher  
Chair, Board of Directors



Rodger Schlickeisen  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Victor Sher and  
Rodger Schlickeisen





# About Defenders of Wildlife

## 60 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

In 2007, Defenders of Wildlife celebrated a major milestone: six decades of advocacy for wildlife. Looking back from our current vantage point as one of the country's largest and most effective conservation groups, it's hard to believe we started in 1947 with one full-time staff person and 1,500 members. Back then, we were Defenders of Furbearers, focusing our efforts on protecting coyotes and other predators from poisoning and trapping.

Over the years, our mission expanded to include the conservation of all native animals and plants in their natural communities, and our name changed to reflect that broader focus. From one staffer, we've grown to more than 150 scientists, lawyers, policy experts, educators and economists in more than a dozen locations throughout North America. And our roster of supporters has passed the 1 million mark, putting us in the top tier of national environmental advocacy groups.

In the 60 years since our founding, we've witnessed and participated in some of the most heart-wrenching and hopeful moments of wildlife advocacy. And with the help of our supporters, we have made a lasting difference for the world's wild animals and plants. Among the creatures we've helped protect:

### **WOLVES**

Defenders of Wildlife played a leading role in efforts to reintroduce this keystone species to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho in 1995. Now, more than a decade later, wolves are thriving in the northern Rockies and the ecosystem is coming into a healthier balance. Defenders has also worked over the years to restore healthy populations of wolves in the Southeast, Southwest and Great Lakes region. Our pioneering work with local residents in these areas has helped reduce conflicts and ease the wolves' return.

### **GRIZZLY BEARS**

Grizzly bear numbers have tripled in the Yellowstone ecosystem during the past 30 years, a hopeful sign for these powerful and inspiring creatures. Defenders played a key role in this comeback through The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Grizzly Compensation Trust, created in 1997 to compensate ranchers for livestock losses to grizzlies. We have also provided bear-resistant garbage dumpsters and installed electric fences to curb conflicts between humans and bears.



© PAUL MILES JR./ARND BRONKHORST.COM (CAPTION)

With the help of our supporters, we have made a lasting difference for the world's wild animals and plants.

**Opposite page:**  
**bald eagle**

**Left: Mexican wolf**

### **DOLPHINS**

Defenders led the fight in the 1980s and 1990s to ban large-scale driftnets on the high seas—nets that had been killing dolphins and other species during tuna-fishing operations. Defenders also pressed tuna producers to stop selling tuna caught by encircling dolphins, which were drowning in the nets, and to require labeling of tuna caught without encircling dolphins as “dolphin safe.”

### **BALD EAGLES**

Our national symbol nearly disappeared from the lower 48 states in the 1960s. But thanks in large part to the protections provided by the Endangered Species Act—landmark

legislation that Defenders helped enact in 1973—bald eagle numbers have rebounded dramatically. In June, the bald eagle was officially removed from the endangered species list, a major conservation achievement.

We take pride in these and many other accomplishments as we pause to review our history. But we're not content to rest on our laurels, especially when perils such as habitat destruction and global warming loom large. In the coming years we plan to redouble our efforts and—working in partnership with lawmakers, citizens and others—help protect wildlife for future generations.





# Actions and Accomplishments

## Polar bear

### RESPONDING TO THREATS

**F**rom global warming to extermination programs to reckless development, the threats to wild animals and plants are legion. Defenders is working locally, nationally and internationally to protect wildlife and ecosystems from a broad array of hazards.

#### CONFRONTING GLOBAL WARMING

Receding glaciers. Record-setting droughts. Drowning polar bears. As the scientific evidence mounts, it's becoming clear that global warming is the greatest environmental threat of our age, and perhaps of our

history. In the decades to come, Defenders' longstanding role as an advocate for wildlife will become even more important as native animals and plants face the perils resulting from rapidly changing landscapes. We have already begun to marshal our resources to help buffer and protect wildlife in a warming world.

In September, Defenders organized a symposium in Washington, D.C., of leading wildlife, science and policy experts to identify steps that must be taken to help wildlife adapt to our changing climate. This symposium—*Innovations in Wildlife Conservation: Reducing the Impact of Global Warming on America's Wildlife*—gave scientists and wildlife managers an opportunity to present the latest findings on global



warming and North American wildlife, and to discuss possible policy responses.

Panels of experts identified key wildlife threats due to changing climate, including range shifts, altered precipitation patterns, wildfires, hurricanes and increased stresses from invasive species and diseases. Additionally, they looked at steps that can be taken to bolster resiliency in wildlife populations by reducing other pressures such as pollution, overhunting and habitat destruction and fragmentation. And finally, the panelists recommended new policy initiatives to protect wild animals and plants and help them adapt to the impacts of global warming.

In the months leading up to our conference, our science team published a series of reports on global warming and Arctic wildlife. Some of the first and most profound impacts of global warming are occurring in the Arctic, where the entire food chain has been shaken by the rapid disappearance of sea ice. Our scientists examined and synthesized the latest research on 10 Arctic species—including polar bears, walrus and red-throated loons—that are emblematic of the changes taking place in this region. The goal of the series of reports, titled *Navigating the Arctic Meltdown*, was to raise public awareness about the plight of these creatures and spark discussion of potential solutions.

Our government relations staff was also busy this year working with members of Congress to help craft legislative responses to global warming. One result of their efforts, the Global Warming Wildlife Survival



© MARTY KATZ

**Defenders' executive vice president Jamie Rappaport Clark addresses participants in a September symposium on global warming and wildlife.**

Act, directs the federal government to consider and act to address the drastic effects that global warming will have on many animals, plants and their habitats. This legislation—which passed the House of Representatives in the summer—is designed to be the cornerstone of a nationally coordinated effort to help wildlife cope with changing conditions in the years ahead.

## STAFF PROFILE

Chris Haney  
Chief Scientist



© KRISTA SCHUBER

In a two-room schoolhouse in Ooltewah, Tennessee, Defenders' Chief Scientist Chris Haney began to see his future unfold. Haney's elementary school teacher, Margaret Halverson, taught him and the rest of his class to catch, band and release birds. And Haney was immediately hooked.

"It was definitely my elementary school teacher that did it. She made me into a nature fanatic," jokes Haney.

Of course, he means "fanatic" in the most positive way—the kind of person who dedicates his life to wildlife science and will go just about anywhere to study it.

The path that unfolded in Mrs. Halverson's elementary class led Haney all over the world. Starting with a doctorate in marine wildlife at the University of Georgia, Haney moved on to study seabirds and fish on Alaska's St.

Lawrence Island. The Exxon Valdez disaster in 1989 led Haney to reconsider life as a traditional researcher.

"I thought, hey, if Alaska can be this spoiled, other places can as well," says Haney.

Intent on broadening the geographic scope of his research, Haney lived intermittently in what was then the Soviet Union to work on a book about how pollution, hazardous materials transport and nuclear contamination could threaten the environmental security of the world's oceans.

In 2004—after stints at Pennsylvania State University, The Wilderness Society and The Nature Conservancy—Haney's passion for wildlife science and advocacy brought him to Defenders. Since then he has worked on a wide array of issues, from toxics, to wolves, to land conservation. He helps determine the

effectiveness and costs of predator-compensation programs and analyze the suitability of government recovery plans for endangered and threatened species.

Most recently, Haney has been tasked with shaping Defenders' scientific strategy for helping wildlife cope with the perils of global warming, which he believes will require tapping into all of the great strengths Defenders has developed over its 60-year history. "The issue is huge and nobody yet has a blueprint on how to deal with adaptations to climate change caused by global warming," Haney says.

But like all his work on behalf of wildlife since the days of fourth grade, the challenge of the job is worth the effort. "Almost every day when you get up you have a sense that what you're working on makes a difference."



© JIM BRANDENBURG/MINDEN PICTURES

## Gray wolves

### SAFEGUARDING WOLVES

The howl of wolves slicing through the night is a true call of the wild. Once silenced in much of the lower 48 states, that call is now sounding loud and clear in parts of the northern Rockies and Great Lakes states. In fact, 2007 marked the removal of the Midwest's wolf population from the federal endangered species list, an event we were glad to celebrate. But elsewhere in the country, forces are continuing to work against the recovery of wolves.

In Alaska, we have been fighting a 30-year battle against the state-sanctioned aerial gunning of wolves, a practice that has resulted in the slaughter of 671 of these wild animals. In 2007, Defenders teamed with our allies in Congress to introduce legislation to end this program. The Protect America's Wildlife (PAW) Act would close a legal loophole that Alaska officials have exploited to enable hunters to shoot

wolves and bears from aircraft, or to chase them to exhaustion, then land and shoot them point-blank. The citizens of Alaska have voted twice to put an end to this type of practice, but each time the legislature has overturned the initiative. To harness support in Congress, we published a series of advertisements in *Congress Daily* asking representatives to support the PAW Act. In addition, our communications team produced a gripping 10-minute video documenting this inhumane practice.

Unfortunately, while we are working to end aerial hunting, state officials in Alaska are working to expand it. The state tried to offer \$150 for each wolf killed by aerial gunning. Defenders and its allies in Alaska went to court to block this bounty, a practice that has been illegal since Alaska's bounty laws were repealed in 1984. In response to our challenge, a state superior court judge issued a restraining order blocking the payments.



To build support for legislation to end the aerial shooting of wolves in Alaska, Defenders took out ads (right) in publications such as *Congress Daily*, and brought Alaskan wildlife experts such as Joel Bennett (below, at podium, flanked by Rodger Schlickeisen and Rep. George Miller) to the nation's capital.



**This is not my Alaska.**

**This is not my America.**

Alaska is truly our nation's last frontier. It is also the last place in the U.S. where a few hunters still use aircraft to chase and kill wolves. They shoot these animals from the air or chase them to exhaustion before landing and shooting them point blank.

Thirty five years ago, Congress put an end to aerial hunting. But Alaska is exploiting a loophole in federal law to resume the practice, not only for wolves, but bears as well. Hundreds of scientists have condemned what Alaska is doing, even as other states threaten to follow Alaska's lead.

It's time to stop aerial hunting once and for all.

[www.defenders.org/airborne\\_hunting](http://www.defenders.org/airborne_hunting)

Support the Protect America's Wildlife (PAW) Act

Steven Pearce (R-N.M.) tried to terminate all funding for the federal Mexican wolf recovery program. This wolf subspecies remains one of the rarest in the world—fewer than 60 individuals exist in the wild—and recovery is stalled. Defenders worked to block his legislation in Congress, and it was soundly defeated. Our New Mexico office was also successful in getting Gov. Bill Richardson to proclaim Wolf Awareness Week this year.

### PROTECTING WILDLIFE ALONG THE BORDER

The Bush administration, at the direction of Congress, has started work on a massive wall that may eventually stretch along hundreds of miles of the United States-Mexico border. The wall will not stop illegal immigration but will devastate the recovery of species such as the endangered jaguar and ocelot that depend on habitat and on sharing genes on both sides of the border.

In September, we took the administration to court in an attempt to shut down the construction of one section of the wall through the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area in Arizona, a World Heritage Natural Area containing one of the last free-flowing rivers in the Southwest. Our legal team won an injunction halting construction, but the Department of Homeland Security responded by exempting the border wall from compliance with federal environmental laws

Crews build a wall on the United States-Mexico border.



© MIKE OLIVER

In the northern Rocky Mountains, wolves also face threats. Federal officials have proposed removing this population from the endangered species list, an event that should be cause for celebration. After all, Defenders played a key role in the return of gray wolves here. Instead, for two important reasons we oppose the delisting of this population.

First, the animals have not yet recovered in the wider region, which now includes parts of Oregon, Washington and Utah. Second, unlike in the Midwest where states have crafted sensible approaches to wolf management, two northern Rockies states have policies and officials that are openly hostile to wolves. Idaho's and Wyoming's management plans for delisted gray wolves may even include Alaska-style aerial gunning programs and could result in the near-eradication of the species from these states.

Farther south in New Mexico, Representative



COURTESY OF U.S. AIR FORCE





### **Kootenai National Forest, Montana**

and continued to build. Defenders is challenging the constitutionality of that action.

The Department of Homeland Security also plans to build a wall through parts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, a globally important bird area and home of several endangered species, including the ocelot and jaguarundi. We will maintain legal pressure on the Bush administration and continue our work to raise public awareness on this important issue. And we are backing a bill in the House of Representatives, the Borderlands Security and Conservation Act of 2007, which would secure our southern border while honoring our environmental laws and safeguarding wild species.

### **SAVING WILDLIFE HABITAT**

Our national forests cover about 190 million acres across the country and provide crucial habitat to an untold number of species, including imperiled creatures such as wolverines, lynx and fishers. In 2005, the Bush administration changed the regulations for managing national forests, virtually eliminating longstanding protections for wildlife and environmental health under the National Forest Management Act. Defenders and others took the administration to court to reverse this

rollback in protections. Last March, a federal judge agreed with us and blocked the new regulations until their impacts on the environment and endangered species can be assessed.

In Washington state, our legal team helped save a wildlife refuge from degradation. Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge provides a home for a diverse community of animals, including lynx, moose, mink and 200 species of birds. In 2000, refuge managers determined that cattle were damaging fragile wetland and streamside habitat, and closed the refuge to grazing. Cattle groups, backed by the county government, sued to force the refuge to reopen for grazing. But a U.S. District Court sided with Defenders and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, saving the Little Pend Oreille and its wildlife, and affirming a basic authority of the refuge system—to deny activities incompatible with wildlife conservation.

Defenders secured another key legal victory for wildlife habitat this year by temporarily blocking seven major developments in California's Central Valley—projects that would threaten critical vernal pool habitat. A U.S. District Court found that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had failed to consider the impact these developments would have on several

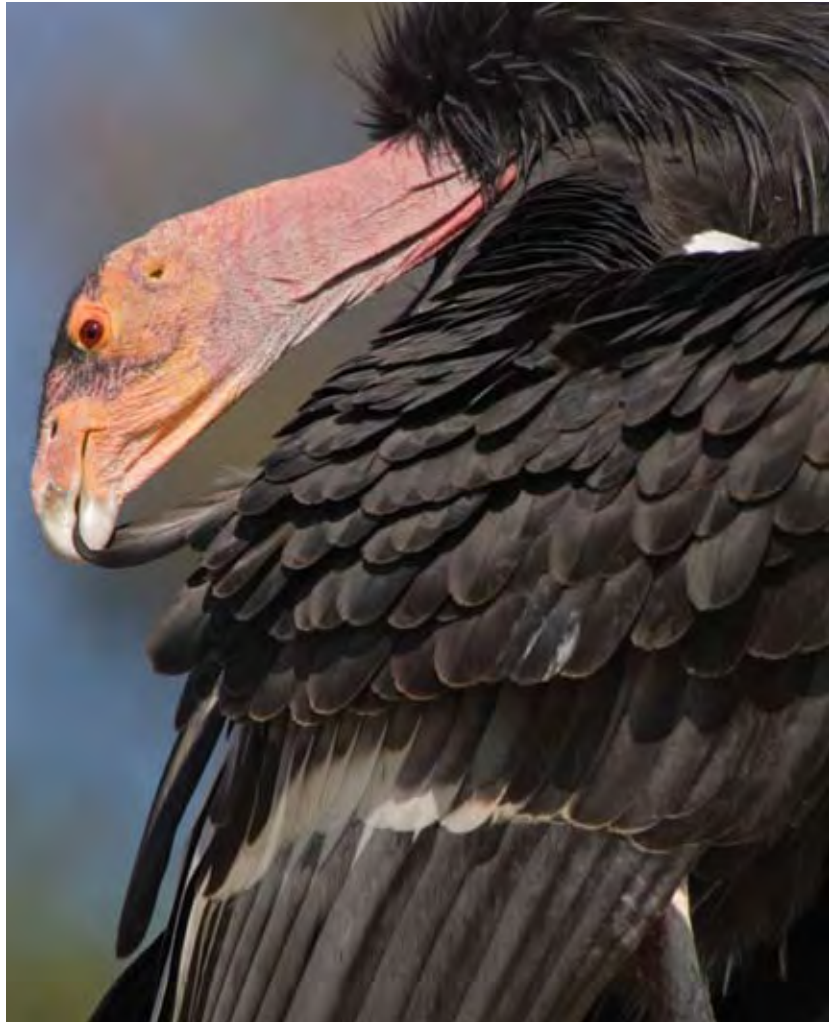
endangered species, and also failed to consider other building plans that could reduce damage to this important ecosystem.

### HELPING THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR

The endangered California condor, North America's largest bird, has been struggling to recover since its reintroduction to the wild in 1992. One major obstacle to that recovery was overcome this year, thanks to the tireless efforts of our California team.

Biologists say the biggest threat to condor recovery is lead ammunition, which the birds ingest when hunters leave shot-filled carcasses behind. Since condor reintroduction began, at least 13 condors have died of lead poisoning, and biologists have had to bring dozens more into captivity for invasive and expensive treatment due to high lead levels in their blood.

This year, after three years of work in the California legislature, Defenders helped pass a bill banning the use of lead ammunition in condor habitat, despite strong opposition from groups such as the National Rifle Association. California's governor had threatened to veto the condor protection bill, but Defenders launched a major public education and lobbying campaign on behalf of the endangered bird. As a result, Gov. Schwarzenegger signed the bill and California became the first state to ban lead ammunition in condor habitat.



© TOM AND PAT LEEBOM

California condor

### STAFF PROFILE

Kim Delfino  
California Program  
Director



© NICOLETTE MOIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

You might say Kim Delfino's religious upbringing inspired her devotion to California's wildlife. "My dad and grandfather were big fly fishermen," Delfino says. "That was their religion practically."

And like most parents, Delfino's dad endeavored to pass his beliefs on to his progeny. "My dad had an old Jeep and he'd load it up and cart me all over the state of California, and I really grew to appreciate nature and the outdoors on these adventures."

But it wasn't until college that Delfino decided that she would turn that appreciation into a career. As a sophomore at the University of California-Davis, she took an introductory environmental studies class. One day the executive director of the Mountain Lion Foundation came to class to give a lecture. Delfino was so impressed by the

lecture, she approached the speaker right after class and asked her for a job.

"I just thought she was the most amazing person and did the most amazing work," says Delfino. Shortly thereafter, with Delfino as an intern, the foundation helped bring about a state ban on the sport hunting of mountain lions. That victory sealed the deal for Delfino. "I just decided that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life—work to protect wildlife," she says.

Delfino studied law and then began working at a public-interest law firm in Washington, D.C., founded by two Defenders' board members. Her focus was endangered species law, and one of her clients was Defenders of Wildlife.

When Delfino returned to California in 2000, Defenders recruited her to head a new field office in the capital city of Sacramento.

Since then, Delfino and her team of activists, educators and lobbyists have been able to do some remarkable work for the state's wildlife and ecosystems.

"We've been able to build a respected program here," Delfino says. "We're almost overwhelmed by requests for assistance, and I think that's a mark of success."

Some of Delfino's most cherished successes include the recent state ban on lead ammunition in condor habitat; the money and attention the state has devoted to restoring the Salton Sea; the formation of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, which is seeking to protect 13 million acres of private grasslands; and Defenders' work to safeguard vernal pools, which included securing \$20 million for acquiring the habitat in which these pools are found.





**Defenders works with ranchers in the West to help prevent conflicts with wolves and bears.**

## PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

Acting as a first line of defense for wolves, condors and other wildlife under threat is an important element in Defenders' mission. But we also consider it imperative to develop creative, long-term solutions to ongoing threats such as wildlife persecution and habitat destruction.

### PROMOTING CO-EXISTENCE WITH PREDATORS

This year, Defenders celebrated the 20th anniversary of its program to pay livestock growers for their losses to wolf predation. The program, now called The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Wolf Compensation Trust, has paid \$1 million to livestock owners in the northern Rocky Mountains and Southwest. Wolves

are responsible for less than 1 percent of all livestock mortality in these regions, but any monetary loss can reinforce negative stereotypes about wolves. The Bailey fund has helped bridge gaps between conservation and ranching interests and helped make residents of wolf country more receptive to their wild neighbors.

The success of the wolf compensation program inspired the creation of a similar program for grizzly bears, along with a proactive program that supports the use of non-lethal measures to help prevent conflicts between carnivores and livestock. Our proactive program includes providing ranchers with livestock guard dogs, electric livestock pens, flagged fencing, range riders and other tools, helping reduce wolf and bear predation on livestock. In fact, this year there were



“We’re all very impressed with Defenders’ strategic use of our funds over the years, and there is no doubt that this program has been instrumental in bringing wolves and grizzly bears back from the brink of extinction.”

—Merritt Bailey



**DONOR PROFILE**  
The Bailey Wildlife Foundation



Left: Merritt Bailey.

Below: Whitney Bailey (left) talking to rancher John Hayne, a former member of Defenders’ Livestock Producers’ Advisory Council.



PHOTOS © JESSIE BRINKLEY/DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

It would not be possible to celebrate the comeback of wolves and grizzly bears in the northern Rockies without recognizing the family foundation that has supported Defenders’ wolf and grizzly bear compensation trusts and our proactive, cost-sharing

projects with ranchers to reduce conflicts between wolves, bears and livestock.

Years ago, when trustee Whitney Bailey saw an article in *The New York Times* mentioning Defenders and the reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park, he took it to the other Bailey board members and said, “This sounds like something we ought to look into,” Merritt Bailey, fellow trustee and Whitney’s cousin, recalls. Since then, The Bailey Wildlife Foundation and Defenders have been partners in an innovative and effective approach to conserving wolves and grizzly bears by laying the foundation for a more peaceful coexistence between carnivores and humans. While The Bailey Wildlife Foundation has been the major supporter of wolf and grizzly work through these funds, the story of the Bailey family’s conservation connection goes back much further.

In the early part of the 20th century, Harold H. Bailey, who established the foundation, walked the Florida Everglades studying the birds and wildlife of that unique ecosystem. Harold eventually wrote one of the first books about Florida’s birdlife, and he was also one of the first people to promote the protection of the Everglades as a national park. He had become interested in birds and nature through his father, who was also an avid birder. Harold, in turn, took his children out into the wilds of Florida and, later, Virginia, where he bought 2,500 acres for a nature reserve and research lab to study the birds of that state.

In 1961, Harold established The Bailey Research Trust, which later became The Bailey Wildlife Foundation. And, fortunately for wolves and bears, the foundation, currently governed by Harold’s grandchildren Whitney, Merritt, Gordon and William, takes an unconventional approach to funding. “Being a small foundation with limited funding, we decided to fund projects that were less appealing to other foundations,” Merritt Bailey says. “As long as it does something good for wildlife, even if it makes somebody mad, we don’t really care.”

The partnership between The Bailey Wildlife Foundation and Defenders of Wildlife has made a world of difference for wolves and bears. And, while wolves still face deadly political opposition in states such as Wyoming, Idaho and Alaska, they are now in a better position to withstand that opposition.

“We’re all very impressed with Defenders’ strategic use of our funds over the years, and there is no doubt that this program has been instrumental in bringing wolves and grizzly bears back from the brink of extinction,” Merritt Bailey says.

© MICHAEL SEVELL/PETER ARNOLD INC.



**Florida panther**

no known livestock losses to wolves on Defenders-funded proactive projects.

These innovative programs, funded by The Bailey Wildlife Foundation, have not only created important partnerships with ranchers—they have surely saved the lives of scores of wolves and bears, which often are killed when conflicts with ranchers arise.

**ASSISTING THE IMPERILED PANTHER**

The population of Florida panthers has increased threefold in the past 20 years, but panthers remain critically endangered, in large part because 70 have been killed on Florida roads in the past seven years. Roads and development have destroyed so much of the scanty habitat left for the panther that the added toll of vehicle collisions poses a major obstacle to the cat's recovery. For this reason our Florida office has been working to stop development and roads from fragmenting the panther's habitat, and to fit the state's busy roadways with safer crossings for wildlife.

Our successes include securing funds leading to a new wildlife crossing at a particularly deadly site

for panthers on U.S. 41 in the Big Cypress National Preserve. We are now working with federal and state officials on the initial phase of design and public outreach for this project.

We are lobbying state agencies to create regional transportation and land-use plans that protect panthers and other wildlife, and to accelerate the building of future wildlife crossings in areas of critical need. And we are pressuring the state to set aside the wild habitat that panthers need to survive—habitat that is disappearing every day to development.

**CREATING TAX INCENTIVES TO HELP WILDLIFE**

Most of America's imperiled wildlife species spend at least part of their lives on privately owned land. So while public land is obviously crucial to wildlife conservation, there is also great potential in encouraging private landowners to protect the wildlife on their land. The Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2007, which Defenders helped develop, may tap some of that potential by providing \$400 million a year in new tax credits for landowners who take steps to help federally



protected species. With our help, this important bill passed the Senate Finance Committee in September, and we will continue lobbying for passage in 2008.

### JOINING FORCES WITH CALIFORNIA RANCHERS

Finding common ground among seemingly diverse interests often results in the most effective conservation programs. So when it became clear that both wildlife and ranchers in California had a shared interest in the fight to preserve open space in the Central Valley, we were eager to join forces. The common foe here is development, which has been swallowing land essential for animals such as Swainson's hawk, migratory waterfowl and fragile vernal pool species like the tiger salamander. As part of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, Defenders is working with the California Cattlemen's Association, California Farm Bureau Federation, and state and federal wildlife agencies to conserve this important habitat.

© CHARLES W. METTON



### BOARD PROFILE

Caroline Gabel  
Outgoing board chair



© KRISTA SCHLIER

**Caroline Gabel with her horses Gizzy, left, and Leu, right.**

In 1968, Canada's Jasper National Park cast the spell of wilderness on Caroline Gabel.

Her father had organized a trip from their hometown of Philadelphia into the quiet of the Canadian Rockies. "We would pitch tents by a stream to camp for the night. You could hear the glacial grit hissing all night long," Gabel recounts. "And it was the first time I'd seen the Milky Way."

It was on this trip that Gabel first became acquainted with some of the animals that would eventually become a focus of her life's work. "We heard wolves howling at night and saw scratchings made by grizzly bear. So we knew we were not alone out there," she says.

Inspired by these sounds and sights of wildlife and wilderness, Gabel has dedicated

her life toward the protection of natural spaces, clean water and wild species all over the world—from wolves and grizzly bears in North America to orangutans in southeast Asia.

That work began in the halls of Congress—as an advisor to Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.) working on important bills like the Clean Water Act—and continued at the Environmental Protection Agency under the Carter administration.

While working on endangered species issues as a board member of the Orangutan Foundation in 1994, Gabel crossed paths with Defenders' President Rodger Schlickeisen at a meeting in Florida. The dialogue that followed sparked more than a decade of collaboration.

Shortly thereafter, Gabel joined Defenders' board of directors. She was present in Yellowstone National Park in 1996 with Defenders' staff during one of the reintroductions of gray wolves, one of the organization's greatest successes.

"It was just incredible that Defenders could pull the wolf reintroduction off," Gabel says. "The leadership of Defenders and the whole staff is just the best in Washington, D.C."

For the past 13 years, Gabel has been

a significant part of that leadership. She has helped guide Defenders' work on many important issues, from defending the Endangered Species Act, to championing habitat and species protection worldwide, to promoting wolf recovery.

"Defenders has been fortunate to have Caroline Gabel's leadership, commitment and support," says Schlickeisen. "Ours is a stronger organization because of her."

Last April, Gabel completed her term as board chair, but she will continue to stay involved with Defenders. And, at the request of the governor of Maryland, she is serving on a state commission charged with protecting the Chesapeake Bay area.

She will also devote more time to her foundation, the Shared Earth Foundation. Shared Earth provides funding for projects that protect endangered species, biodiversity and habitat—a mission, she notes, that mirrors the work of Defenders of Wildlife.

In addition to her conservation work, Gabel will continue traveling to places such as the rain forests of Bolivia and the mountains of Peru. And she will be spending plenty of time with her beloved horses near her home in eastern Maryland.





© TOM VEZO/ANIMEDIA PICTURES

Defenders' experts work with government officials and others to help integrate wildlife conservation into planning efforts.

## Great gray owl

### PLANNING FOR WILDLIFE

Tomorrow's wildlife conservation challenges are not necessarily the same as those we face today. Creating safe and lasting spaces for wildlife requires strategic thinking. For this reason, Defenders' experts work with government officials and others to help integrate wildlife conservation into planning efforts.

#### ENHANCING THE STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS PROGRAM

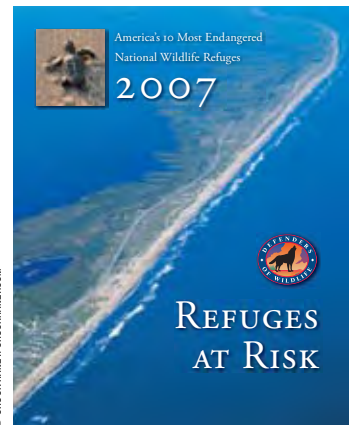
Over the past decades, while government wildlife agencies were focusing on saving the bald eagle, whooping crane and wolf, other species such as the red knot, great gray owl and New England cottontail were quietly declining under the radar. Because much of the traditional wildlife management work done on the state level has focused on species valued as game or those listed under the Endangered Species Act, threats to other species sometimes went unnoticed. To address this challenge, Defenders worked with members of Congress to create the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. This program is designed to encourage proactive conservation of all species by federal agencies, state agencies and Indian tribes, and is federally funded with

approximately \$56 million annually. It also requires each state to prioritize conservation needs by creating a state wildlife action plan.

To help make the state wildlife grants more effective, Defenders experts produced two reports this year. The first was geared toward helping states deal with sprawl, and the second report addressed the impact of road building on wildlife and explained how wildlife plans can be integrated into transportation planning. Defenders is also working to have new federal funding allocated through the wildlife grants program to assist states in developing policies to help wildlife cope with global warming.

#### CREATING A CONSERVATION DATABASE

The scope of conservation work across the country is vast and growing. But because much of it is done locally, officials in one place may not be aware of what their colleagues in other places are doing. To create some connectivity and to help state agencies carry out their wildlife action plans, Defenders is working to establish an online database to record, track and map conservation action information. Ultimately, we hope the registry, [www.conservationregistry.org](http://www.conservationregistry.org), will help maximize efficiency in conservation work by publicizing innovative approaches, facilitating partnerships and identifying projects in need of support.



### WORKING WITH LAND TRUSTS

Local land trusts have protected farm and forestland, scenic vistas and open space all across the United States, and they can play an important role in conserving habitat for native wildlife and preserving biodiversity. To help these organizations increase their conservation impact, Defenders and the Biophilia Foundation created the Living Lands project. Living Lands provides information to land trusts so they can focus their purchasing power on the areas most critical to conservation. Living Lands also advises land trusts on how to manage their properties to benefit wildlife. Our work this year included offering a series of workshops at regional land trust conferences and distributing \$50,000 in small grants to help land trusts with biodiversity projects. To help grow this important proactive project, we also hired a full-time project manager.

### SAFEGUARDING NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Our century-old national wildlife refuge system, comprising more than 540 units around the country, was the first such system in the world. But this crucial system of lands set aside for wildlife has a long history of mismanagement and underfunding. Defenders has been working to increase the profile and improve the management of this vital national resource.

For the fourth consecutive year, we released *Refuges at*

*Risk*, our report on the nation's 10 most endangered refuges. This year's report focused on threats that should have been eliminated following the passage of the Defenders-championed National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act a decade ago, but which continue today. Our spotlighted refuges included those threatened by biological degradation from invasive species and border-wall construction, faltering land acquisition, and oil and gas drilling.

We also achieved a major victory in our lengthy struggle to protect endangered red wolves and migratory birds at the Pocosin Lakes refuge in North Carolina. Defenders and our allies finally convinced the Navy to begin searching for alternative sites for a landing field they planned to build adjacent to Pocosin. The noise, air traffic and pollution from this landing field would have been dangerous for birds and detrimental for red wolf recovery.

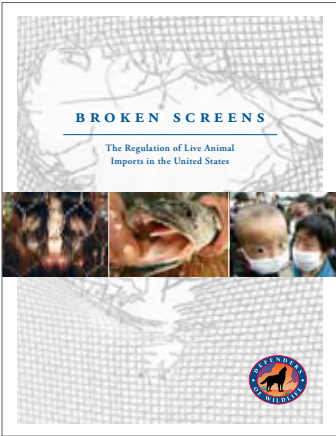
In Washington, D.C., we played a lead role in convincing lawmakers in the House of Representatives to increase the lagging budgets of the national wildlife refuge system. Poor funding is preventing refuges from battling invasive species, offering environmental education programs and restoring wildlife habitat. While more funding is needed to meet the backlog of wildlife refuge needs, this increase suggests that Congress is ready to make a greater investment in the future of wildlife.

**Left: Hailstone National Wildlife Refuge in Montana, one of the places cited in our 2007 *Refuges at Risk* report.**





© CL HUNTINGTON/VIDEO



**Right: orange-chinned parakeets**

**Above: *Broken Screens* report**

## WORKING ACROSS BORDERS

Wild animals—and the threats they face—do not recognize political boundaries. So Defenders’ experts in the United States, Mexico and Canada are working to address international conservation issues.

### SPOTLIGHTING THE PLIGHT OF PARROTS

As many as 78,000 parrots are trapped from the wild each year in Mexico, an illegal trade that is driving many Mexican species—such as the yellow-headed parrot and orange-chinned parakeet—toward extinction.

To highlight the plight of Mexican parrots, Defenders released a detailed report on the problem. *The Illegal Parrot Trade in Mexico: A Comprehensive Assessment* described the devastation caused by consumer demand for Mexican parrots. As many as 60,000 birds die each year in this trade, where as many as 50 parrots may be stuffed into a shoebox-sized container for days until they reach the illicit markets.

In addition to examining the problem, our report identified illegal trading routes, explained the need for more resources for enforcement agencies and advocated an extensive public-education campaign to inform consumers about this deadly trade. Defenders has started that campaign in earnest.

### FIXING OUR BROKEN SCREENS

In the Florida Everglades, the non-native Burmese python will eat anything from house wrens to fox

squirrels, wood storks to alligators. In the Potomac River watershed, the snakehead fish is devastating native fish populations. Across the country, frogs imported for the pet and restaurant trade have spread the devastating chytrid fungus, which is killing our amphibians. And the list goes on. If not properly regulated, international trade of wildlife can cause severe damage to America’s ecosystems and threaten human health. Our report, *Broken Screens: The Regulation of Live Animal Imports in the United States*, provides the most comprehensive assessment yet of this important issue. The report provides a detailed accounting of the damage caused by invasive alien species—including both the devastating environmental and enormous economic impacts—and details steps that can be taken to keep harmful species out of our country.

### SAFEGUARDING GRIZZLY BEARS IN CANADA

Grain shipments by train through Banff National Park have been an ongoing threat to grizzly bears, as leaked grain from the railway cars attracts bears, which are then vulnerable to deadly collisions. Because bears are slow to reproduce and this population is declining, the loss of even a single bear here is cause for concern. After a lengthy campaign by Defenders’ Canada office to highlight this problem, the Canadian Pacific Railway announced that it will repair more than 6,000 hopper cars suspected of leaking grain. The grain cars will be repaired during the next five years and, in the meantime, the railway has begun a program of vacuuming the tracks to pick up spilled grain.





## EDUCATING AND MOBILIZING THE PUBLIC

Inspiring more people to become advocates for wildlife and wild places is a crucial part of our mission, and our communications and community outreach efforts made great gains for public awareness this past year.

### PRODUCING AN AD CAMPAIGN ON GLOBAL WARMING

Our communications team produced a compelling series of public-service announcements highlighting the impacts of global warming on polar bears and Adelie penguins. These ads detailed the plight of wildlife and urged viewers to take action on global warming. The ads were broadcast more than 23,000 times to an audience of 215 million viewers and won an O'Dwyer award for excellence in public communications as well as a 2007 Big Apple award from the Public Relations Society of America.

### REVAMPING OUR WEB SITE

In 2007 we unveiled our new Web site—[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)—complete with a fresh, new look and many innovative features. Our Web team focused on making the site easier for visitors to navigate and locate information. With the help of our staff experts, they also rewrote and updated all of the content. On most pages there are now links to staff experts, press releases, action alerts and publications related to the subject. Other new features include discussion boards where visitors can interact with other wildlife supporters; an expanded wildlife action center where visitors can learn how to get involved; and an “In the Courts” section featuring detailed information about our legal actions on behalf of wildlife.

### ORGANIZING LOBBYING DAYS

To help our members and donors get more involved and engaged in wildlife conservation work at the federal level, Defenders sponsored two lobby days in Washington, D.C. These events, organized by our outreach staff, brought together activists with diverse backgrounds—from wildlife professionals to retirees—from all over the country. Attendees spent the day speaking to their congressional representatives on wildlife-related issues such as global warming, appropriations, agriculture and wolf protection.

### DOCUMENTING ALASKA'S AERIAL KILLING

It is hard to imagine the brutality of aerial hunting without actually seeing it. To give the public and lawmakers a better idea of the nature of this wolf-killing program in Alaska, Defenders produced a 10-minute video documentary on the subject, available online at [www.defenders.org/aerial\\_hunting](http://www.defenders.org/aerial_hunting). We interviewed scientists, native people, wildlife experts and former state officials about the ongoing controversy and showed footage of wolves being hunted from the air. The film, which has been viewed by tens of thousands of people online, is being used in part to promote the PAW Act, federal legislation that would end this brutal practice.

### RECOGNIZING THE MAGAZINE

Our quarterly magazine, *Defenders*, was named one of the nation's best nonprofit publications in 2007. In a competition sponsored by *Publications Management* magazine and the Missouri School of Journalism, *Defenders* won a bronze Magnum Opus award. This highly competitive award, judged by industry leaders, marks the latest in a series of kudos for the magazine.

Above, left: Pages from our recently redesigned Web site.

Center: A scene from our video documentary on aerial wolf-killing in Alaska.

Right: Covers of our award-winning magazine.

## 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**M**ore than 400 people came together in Washington, D.C., in September to raise a toast to Defenders' 60 years of achievements in wildlife conservation. Defenders' staff and board of directors, members of Congress and many supporters and friends gathered at the Capital Hilton to celebrate our work and to honor leaders in the field of conservation.

Animal Planet television host Jeff Corwin, one of our board members, served as master of ceremonies for the evening's events, which included a presentation highlighting our work over the years to safeguard wolves, grizzlies, condors and many other species. Along with a review of past achievements, attendees took a moment to consider the challenges we face in coming decades—challenges that we are well equipped to confront.

To conclude the evening, board chair Victor Sher and Defenders' president Rodger Schlickeisen presented honors to four outstanding conservationists. "Spirit of Defenders" awards went to Douglas Smith, head of Yellowstone National Park's Gray Wolf Restoration Project; Deborah Williams, president and founder of Alaska Conservation Solutions; and Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), for his work as a conservation advocate on Capitol Hill. The final honor, a Defenders of Wildlife Legacy Award, was presented to Edward O. Wilson for his lifetime of achievement in wildlife conservation. Wilson, a professor emeritus at Harvard University and a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, is known as the "father of biodiversity" for his efforts to publicize the diversity, importance and fragility of life on Earth.

Defenders' board members Caroline Gabel, Laura Turner Seydel and Winsome McIntosh helped organize the event as co-chairs of the celebration leadership committee. The anniversary celebration raised more than \$300,000 for Defenders' conservation efforts.

ALL PHOTOS: © MARTY KATZ



**Defenders' president Rodger Schlickeisen addresses guests at the awards dinner.**

**Ed Asner, Lee Sher and Rodger Schlickeisen with Rep. Norm Dicks (second from right). Dicks was the keynote speaker at Defenders' global warming symposium.**



**President's Council member Nancy Stephens congratulates Rep. George Miller on receiving the Spirit of Defenders Award for Public Service.**

**Edward O. Wilson, noted author and professor emeritus at Harvard University, accepts the Defenders of Wildlife Legacy Award for his extraordinary contributions to wildlife conservation.**







⤴  
**Former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt introduces Deborah Williams, winner of a Spirit of Defenders Award.**

**Defenders board member Jeff Corwin, host of TV's *The Jeff Corwin Experience* and *Corwin's Quest*, was master of ceremonies for the evening gala.**



⤴  
**Defenders' board chair Victor Sher (left) and president Rodger Schlickeisen with Douglas Smith (center), head of the Yellowstone National Park Gray Wolf Restoration Project and recipient of the Spirit of Defenders Award for Science.**

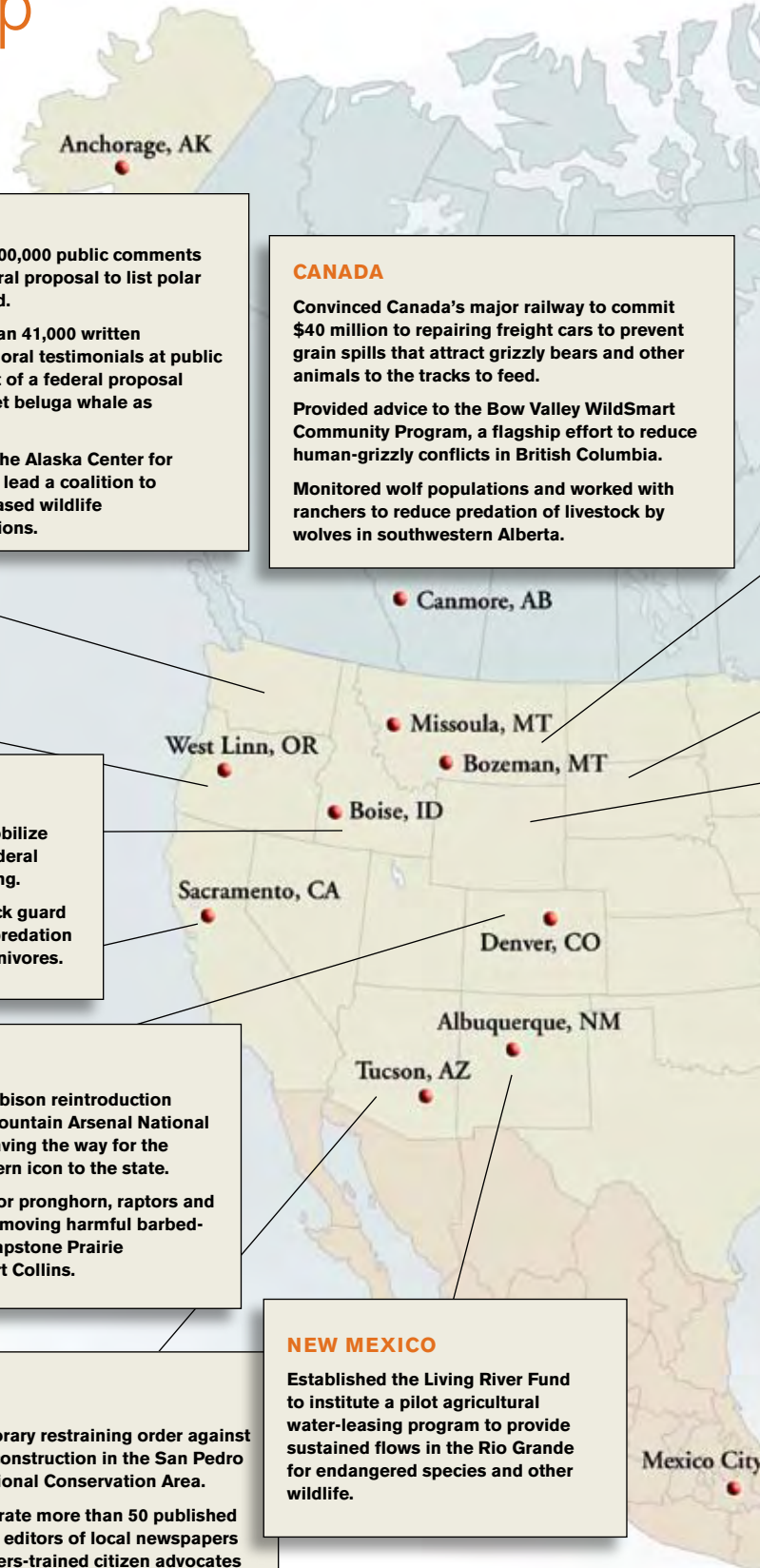
⤵  
**Deborah Williams, president and founder of Alaska Conservation Solutions, talks about the impacts of global warming on wildlife and habitat in her state. Williams received a Spirit of Defenders Award for Public Education at the awards dinner.**





# Defenders on the Map

A sampling of conservation actions and achievements in 2007



**WASHINGTON**

Helped successfully defend against a lawsuit filed to reinstate grazing in streamside areas and other sensitive habitat in Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge.

Sponsored workshops to train state wildlife agencies in proactive, nonlethal methods of reducing conflicts with wolves and grizzly.

Expanded our grizzly bear compensation program to pay for verified livestock losses in the North Cascades.

**ALASKA**

Generated nearly 100,000 public comments in favor of the federal proposal to list polar bears as threatened.

Generated more than 41,000 written comments and 100 oral testimonials at public hearings in support of a federal proposal to list the Cook Inlet beluga whale as endangered.

Collaborated with the Alaska Center for the Environment to lead a coalition to promote science-based wildlife management decisions.

**CANADA**

Convinced Canada's major railway to commit \$40 million to repairing freight cars to prevent grain spills that attract grizzly bears and other animals to the tracks to feed.

Provided advice to the Bow Valley WildSmart Community Program, a flagship effort to reduce human-grizzly conflicts in British Columbia.

Monitored wolf populations and worked with ranchers to reduce predation of livestock by wolves in southwestern Alberta.

**OREGON**

Lobbied successfully for state passage of property tax breaks for lands under conservation easements, providing a new incentive for habitat conservation efforts by private landowners.

Helped secure legislative approval for a record \$70 million for state investments in habitat conservation and watershed improvements from 2007 to 2009.

**IDAHO**

Led a national campaign to mobilize wolf supporters to testify at federal public hearings on wolf delisting.

Purchased fencing and livestock guard dogs to help ranchers reduce predation by wolves and other native carnivores.

**CALIFORNIA**

Secured a preliminary injunction halting construction on seven major development projects in valuable vernal pool wetland and grassland habitat in the Central Valley.

Hailed the release of an ambitious, multi-billion-dollar plan to restore the Salton Sea.

Played a key role in passing a bill to protect endangered California condors from lead poisoning by requiring the use of non-lead ammunition in condor country.

Brought more than 30 citizen advocates from across the state to Sacramento to learn about critical conservation issues and how to communicate with and lobby elected officials.

**COLORADO**

Built support for a bison reintroduction project at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, paving the way for the return of this western icon to the state.

Improved habitat for pronghorn, raptors and other wildlife by removing harmful barbed-wire fencing at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area in Fort Collins.

**ARIZONA**

Won a temporary restraining order against border wall construction in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area.

Helped generate more than 50 published letters to the editors of local newspapers from Defenders-trained citizen advocates on important wildlife issues.

**NEW MEXICO**

Established the Living River Fund to institute a pilot agricultural water-leasing program to provide sustained flows in the Rio Grande for endangered species and other wildlife.

## MONTANA

Helped ranchers hire, fund and house range riders to accompany livestock and reduce conflicts with wolves and other carnivores.

Cooperated with state and federal agencies to build a new type of mobile electric fence to protect sheep in an area with chronic losses to grizzly bears.

Successfully pressured the state wildlife agency to reduce wolverine trapping by 25 percent.

Provided funding to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes for swift fox reintroduction at Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

Helped the Northern Cheyenne tribe protect 1,000 acres of prairie dog colonies from shooting and poisoning as part of a tribal-led plan to reintroduce black-footed ferrets.

## MAINE

Provided financial assistance for native shrubland restoration to improve habitat for the imperiled New England cottontail at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge.

Helped fund research to document the decline of the Canada lynx in northern Maine and to determine prey densities needed to support lynx populations.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Led a successful year-long campaign against a Bush administration plan to poison tens of thousands of acres of prairie dog colonies at three national grasslands.

## WISCONSIN

Shared the cost of flagged fencing used by federal officials as a non-lethal alternative for reducing conflicts between wolves and livestock.

## WYOMING

Petitioned the U.S. Forest Service to establish mandatory regulations to protect grizzly bear habitat around the Yellowstone ecosystem.

Hired range riders to reduce livestock conflicts with wolves on ranches in the Cody area adjacent to Yellowstone National Park.

## MICHIGAN

Placed eight livestock guard dogs at Upper Peninsula farms experiencing conflicts with wolves.

Philadelphia, PA  
National Headquarters  
Washington, D.C.

## DELAWARE/NEW JERSEY

Filed suit to secure federal protection for the red knot and to restrict the harvest of horseshoe crabs, the dietary staple of this imperiled migratory shorebird on its Delaware Bay feeding grounds.

## VIRGINIA

Organized volunteers to clear invasive non-native plants from several acres in Shenandoah National Park.

## NORTH CAROLINA

Helped thwart a proposal to allow night hunting of coyotes in an area where reintroduced red wolves, which are easily mistaken for coyotes, are found.

St. Petersburg, FL

## MEXICO

Bolstered by a major Defenders' report on the illegal parrot trade, helped secure the passage of a federal bill to ban the capture and trade of wild parrots.

Successfully lobbied for adoption of a new shark-fishing regulation that bans shark finning and the capture of several shark species.

Helped achieve legal reforms to protect the country's disappearing mangrove forests.

Initiated an innovative camera-trap photo contest in Sonora, providing an economic incentive for ranchers to protect jaguars.

## FLORIDA

Helped write the management and recovery plans for the Florida panther, Florida manatee, bald eagle and gopher tortoise.

Helped launch and build consensus for the Cooperative Conservation Blueprint, an effort to identify essential habitat and conservation incentives to guide land-use decisions statewide.

Distributed educational materials to thousands of households, purchased bear-resistant dumpsters and worked with volunteers to construct panther-proof enclosures as part of an extensive campaign designed to protect people, pets, property and wildlife.

# Financial Report

For the year ended September 30, 2007

Defenders of Wildlife raised more than \$35 million in fiscal year 2007, an increase of nearly \$3 million from the previous year. This is a result of continued generous support from a number of sources—including a 13 percent increase in grants and contributions. In addition, law firms, media outlets and others freely donated their time to help Defenders protect native wildlife and habitats. Whether in the field, the courts or on Capitol Hill, these increased financial resources allowed Defenders to expand its programs and public education.

Our tax returns for the past several years may be found on our Web site: [www.defenders.org/tax\\_forms](http://www.defenders.org/tax_forms)

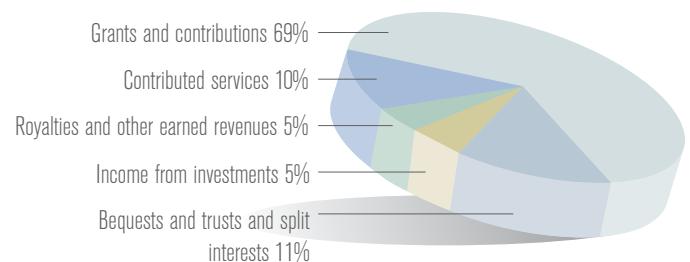
(Financial statements audited by Lane and Company.)

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

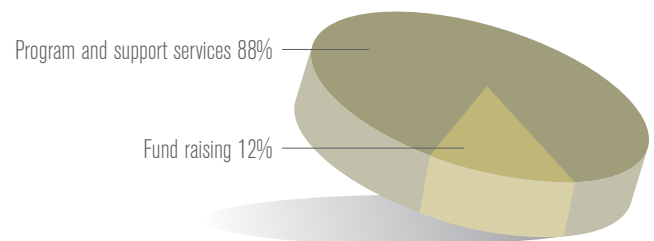
(in thousands of dollars)

	2007	2006
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>		
Grants and Contributions	24,656	21,655
Bequests, Trusts and Split Interests	3,782	5,263
Income from investments	1,673	1,094
Royalties and other earned revenues	1,683	1,612
Contributed services	3,360	2,628
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>35,154</b>	<b>32,252</b>
<b>USES OF FUNDS</b>		
Wildlife action	9,595	8,143
Law and legislation	5,261	5,366
Media and education	10,440	8,975
Membership development	2,022	2,092
Fund raising	4,265	3,791
Management and general	3,087	2,816
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>34,670</b>	<b>31,183</b>
Change in net assets	484	1,069
Net assets, start of year	21,559	20,490
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>22,043</b>	<b>21,559</b>

## 2007 SOURCES OF FUNDS



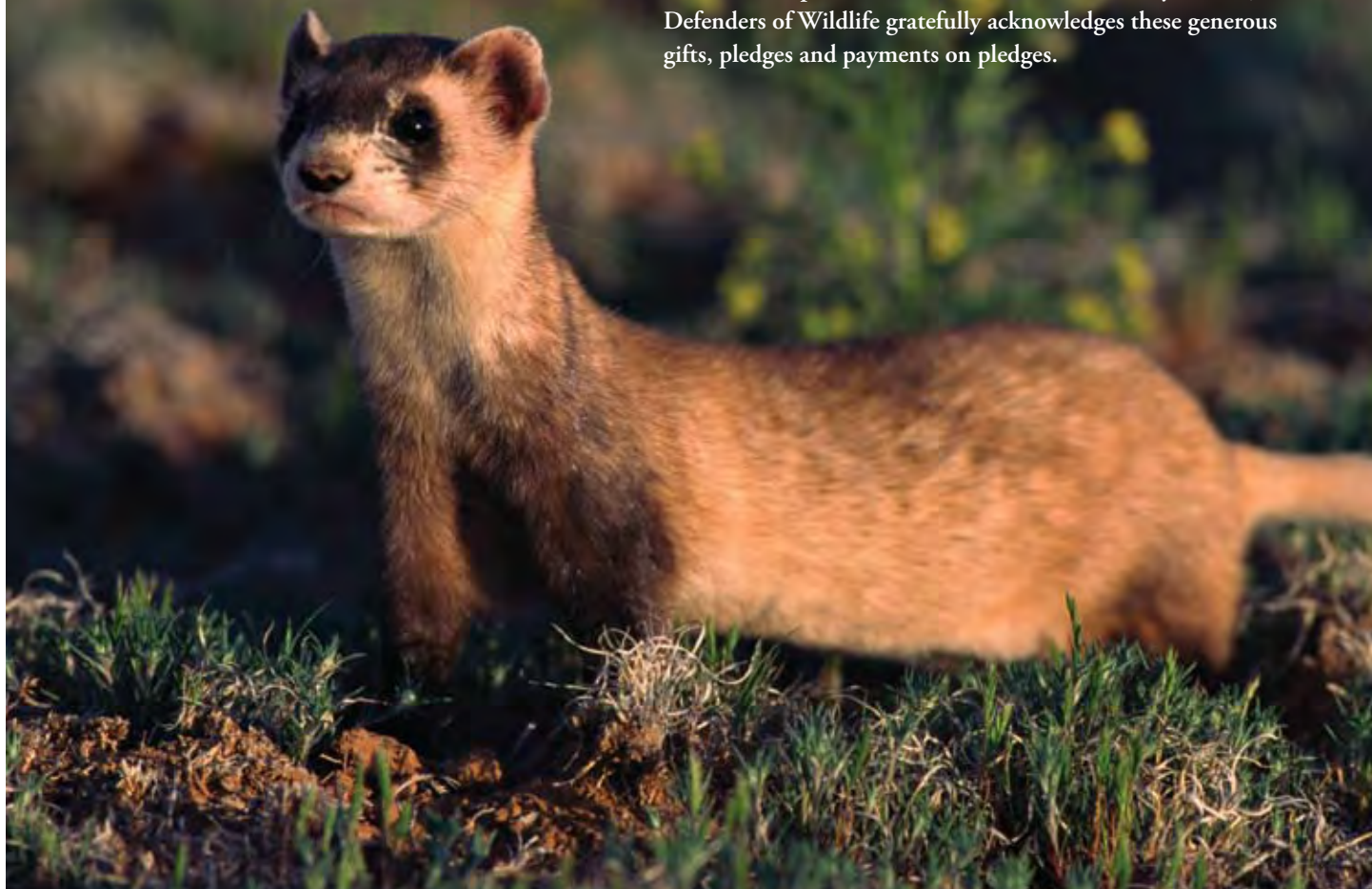
## 2007 USES OF FUNDS





# Special Thanks To Our Contributors

The donors listed on the following pages generously supported our efforts to protect wildlife and habitat in fiscal year 2007. Defenders of Wildlife gratefully acknowledges these generous gifts, pledges and payments on pledges.



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Ocelot



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Laura Turner Seydel  
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Like many conservationists, Laura Turner Seydel traces her passion for nature back to her upbringing and family environment. Her father, CNN founder Ted Turner, has long been an outspoken advocate for and investor in the future of the Earth. But for Seydel, he was also an important role model.

"I have a dad who 'walks the talk,' and he has passed that on to his children," Seydel says. She remembers him driving a Toyota Corolla during the oil embargo of the 1970s to conserve gas. The family also kept their thermostat set low to conserve energy, weeded the yard by hand instead of using chemicals and picked up bottles and cans alongside the road.

Seydel has translated these lessons from youth into a leadership role in the conservation movement. She is involved with nearly a dozen environmental

organizations, several of which she and her husband, Rutherford Seydel, founded. The organizations focus on diverse issues, from educating children about the environment through the Captain Planet Foundation, to Chattahoochee River restoration, to the health effects of air pollution.

As a member of Defenders' board of directors since 2004, Seydel has been actively engaged with our efforts to protect the Endangered Species Act and safeguard habitat for wolves and other predators. And as the devastating scope of climate change has become increasingly clear over the past few years, Seydel has helped Defenders take a leadership role for wildlife.

"Defenders went from 'zero to 60' in about six months on this most crucial issue," Seydel says. "I've been very impressed with the organization's ability to mobilize."

And while she is helping lead Defenders as an advocate for wildlife in a world altered by greenhouse gasses, Seydel herself has become a national leader on reducing her own carbon footprint in every area of life, from driving a hybrid car to staying in "green" hotels, to buying local, sustainably grown and organic food.

Most recently, when their Atlanta home was damaged in a storm, Seydel and her husband decided to rebuild using the most Earth-friendly products and technologies available. Their home was the first residence in the Southeast to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program, the national benchmark for sustainable building. The Seydels are using their home as a teaching tool, a showcase for the type of technology and mindset it will take to create a more sustainable world.

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## WATCHING WOLVES AT OUR ANNUAL YELLOWSTONE WORKSHOP



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What better way to understand the significance of Defenders' work than by watching wild wolves in Yellowstone National Park? Fortunately during our 16th annual workshop for president's council members in August, we saw many wolves, from both the Druid Peak and Slough Creek packs. In addition, our workshop attendees got to see an incredible variety of the wildlife of Yellowstone, including grizzly bears, pronghorns, mountain goats, ospreys and bald eagles.

Our participants stayed in the Lamar Valley, at the Yellowstone Association Institute's Buffalo Ranch, a perfect location to view wildlife right from the doorstep. And Defenders' president Rodger Schlickeisen and executive vice president Jamie Rappaport Clark were on hand to talk about the Yellowstone ecosystem and our work in restoring and protecting wildlife populations here and around the country.

Red knot



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