



2016

ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS 2016

From species protected, to animal populations saved to habitat defended and more, here's a sampling of what Defenders of Wildlife accomplished this year.

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97

prairie dogs translocated by Defenders to new habitat in Montana to start a new colony

73

percent of North Carolinians support our red wolf recovery efforts in the state

15

fledgling **military macaws** safely left their nests thanks to Defenders nest-monitoring program

300

bear coexistence projects completed since 1998 including electric fencing and bear-resistant food and garbage containers

© KENNY MIDKIFF



© DAWN WILSON



8

new **lawsuits** filed on behalf of imperiled species



500

willows and cottonwoods planted by Defenders volunteers on the San Andreas National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico to provide habitat for willow flycatchers and yellow-billed cuckoos

29

species of tree-dwelling lizards receive protections in Mexico thanks to Defenders work at CITES



© DANIEL ARANJO/ZOOTROPIC

3,100

acres of Vieques National Wildlife Refuge saved from a congressional giveaway thanks to swift action by Defenders and our members

120

million acres of Arctic habitat protected for polar bears after a successful legal battle

12,000

photos of wildlife collected by Defenders citizen scientists in the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana

5

predator-resistant enclosures built in Florida panther country with Defenders' help



LARRY W. RICHARDSON/USFWS



PREVENT species and habitat loss

PROTECT imperiled wildlife and lands

RESTORE degraded ecosystems

Guided by these conservation goals and bolstered by your generous support, Defenders of Wildlife proudly presents our 2016 accomplishments.



WORKING FOR

WOLVES

- In North Carolina, we stopped the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) from removing red wolves from the wild while a lawsuit we filed is decided. We sued after the agency turned its back on the recovery program and began allowing private landowners to kill wolves without cause. With fewer than 50 red wolves in the wild, Defenders is also demanding that FWS get back on the wolf recovery track by releasing red wolves at additional suitable sites in the Southeast.
- In the Southwest, Defenders intervened to help FWS fight a lawsuit brought by the state of New Mexico seeking to prohibit additional Mexican gray wolf reintroductions, which are critically needed to bolster the genetic diversity of the wild population. We also settled a lawsuit that challenged FWS's failure to create a Mexican gray wolf recovery plan, which the agency is now required to complete by the end of 2017. Our landscape conservation team successfully persuaded the Forest Service to integrate Mexican gray wolf conservation measures into the forest management plan revision for the Gila National Forest, the core range of Mexican wolves.
- The effort to restore gray wolves to the West reached another significant milestone when the presence of two more gray wolves—a male and female—was confirmed in northern California in November. This happened after a wolf pack—seven members strong—took up residence in 2015, becoming the first-known wild wolf pack in the Golden State in nearly 90 years. Defenders played a major role in laying the groundwork for this recolonization by working closely with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other stakeholders to develop a science-based wolf conservation plan. This plan, which emphasizes the use of nonlethal control measures to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts, was finalized in December, providing a roadmap for future wolf conservation.



DEFENDING

NATIONAL

WILDLIFE

REFUGES

Defenders is a passionate protector and advocate for America's National Wildlife Refuge System, the only network of public lands and waters dedicated specifically to wildlife conservation. Refuges encompass an incredible diversity of species and habitats and attract tens of millions of visitors annually. Our wildlife refuges are also critically important to more than 380 threatened and endangered plants and animals. Unfortunately—and despite its importance to conservation, communities and local economies—the refuge system was targeted by an unprecedented series of attacks in 2016, including the illegal occupa-

tion of Malheur refuge in Oregon and an upswell of legislative assaults in Congress. We soldiered on with our efforts to protect these lands and enjoyed some great victories:

Defenders led a successful campaign with a diverse coalition of Latino, religious and conservation organizations to prevent a Congressional giveaway of thousands of acres of Vieques National Wildlife Refuge (above) in Puerto Rico, which would have undermined conservation efforts for 14 endangered species and 190 bird species that the refuge helps protect. It also would have set a dangerous political precedent for public land giveaways nationally. We pushed

for and won new regulations to block aggressive control measures targeting bears, wolves and other predators on national wildlife refuges in Alaska. The state's controversial program authorizes the culling of native carnivores through aerial-gunning, baiting, trapping and the killing of bears and wolves with young in their dens to artificially inflate deer, moose and caribou populations for hunting. We led the conservation community to improve antiquated regulations on oil and gas drilling on national wildlife refuges, and we also helped create habitat for prairie dogs and ferrets on the Charles M. Russell refuge in northeast Montana.



SMART

FROM THE START

Thanks to our expert input and a years-long investment, Defenders succeeded in getting the Obama administration to adopt upfront “smart-from-the-start” principles for planning, designing and managing renewable-energy projects across 22.5 million acres of public and private land in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts of southern California. The Bureau of Land Management finalized the first phase of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan this year. It aims to avoid or minimize impacts to desert tortoises, bighorn sheep, golden eagles and Mojave ground squirrels. Solar projects can sprawl 8,000 acres or more and can result in significant habitat loss and fragmentation, making it difficult for wildlife to find food, water, shelter and mates. Fragmented habitat can also lead to smaller, isolated populations of wildlife, making long-term survival more difficult. “Smart-from-the-start” planning avoids sensitive habitat and is critically important for sustainable development of renewable energy.

SAVING THE ESA

Despite the record number of Endangered Species Act (ESA) attacks in Congress—more than 130 in 2016—Defenders led successful and robust Capitol Hill and grassroots advocacy efforts to block enactment of measures intended to undermine the ESA. The ESA is one of our nation’s most effective and essential tools to protect imperiled wildlife (such as the endangered northern long-eared bat above). We mounted a “Veto Extinction” campaign that shored up the Obama administration’s protection of the ESA and maintained a comprehensive list of all ESA attacks to share with reporters and key Capitol Hill offices.

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© TOM BREWSTER PHOTOGRAPHY/BLM

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HALTING

TRAFFICKING

Endangered species suffering at the hands of the wildlife trade will receive increased protections thanks to Defenders and other conservation advocates from around the world who gathered in Johannesburg at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Defenders' team of three successfully lobbied for prohibiting commercial trade of the Titicaca water frog (above) and the African gray parrot and for strict controls on the trade and harvest of the arboreal alligator lizard, silky shark, all three species of thresher sharks and nine species of devil rays. International crime rings and poachers annually collect, capture or kill hundreds of millions of animals, supplying live animals or their parts to a worldwide black market estimated at \$20 billion per year. Defenders is very proud to have successfully advocated for the future of these species. Here at home, we helped enact the END Wildlife Trafficking Act, which elevates wildlife trafficking in the United States to a serious crime.

PREVENTING

POACHING

For the third year in a row, a Defenders-backed nest-monitoring project in Mexico prevented the poaching of endangered military macaws (like the one below), that otherwise would have been destined for the pet trade. This season, 15 fledglings left their nests under the watchful eyes of nest observers. Only a few thousand of these parrots remain in Mexico. Defenders also helped in the release of 29 scarlet macaws at a Mexican site managed by farmers engaged in ecotourism. With this third reintroduction, the bird's wild population in the area has increased by 36 percent. The Mexican government banned all capture of macaws and other parrots in 2008—largely because of Defenders' work to expose the illegal trade.

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PIONEERING

SOLUTIONS

When you want to get an answer fast, usually you “Google it.” But no such resource exists for answering detailed questions about or analyzing ESA decisions. Defenders is changing that by building the only repository and search engine dedicated to ESA documents, including recovery plans and permits for development projects. Many of these documents aren’t searchable by Google because they have never been converted to a text file and posted online. Through grants from Microsoft and Google, we’ve already processed more than 14,000 documents, adding up to more than 200,000 pages. Our goal is to make ESA documents easily, freely and instantly accessible so that conservationists and government officials have the best possible information at their fingertips to answer important questions about how best to conserve species, such as this California tiger salamander (above). It is one of many ways Defenders is making the ESA more effective.

VICTORY FOR VAQUITAS

Defenders’ work to protect the world’s smallest porpoise and most endangered marine mammal paid off in 2016 when the governments of Mexico and the United States agreed to double down on efforts to protect it. Found only in the Gulf of California, the vaquita population decreased by a shocking 40 percent in just one year—from about 100 to only 60 last year. Fishermen incidentally catch and drown vaquitas when they are setting gillnets illegally for totoaba, a fish—itsself endangered—whose swim bladders can sell for thousands of dollars in China for use in soup. The protective moves include a permanent ban on all gillnets in all fisheries within the vaquita’s range, a concerted crackdown on illegal fishing and trade in totoaba, increased cleanup efforts to rid the waters of ghost nets—the nets poachers leave adrift when they flee the law—and the development of vaquita-safe fishing gear.

PAULA OLSON/NOAA





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PROTECTING

POLAR BEARS

Defenders created a one-of-a-kind online mapping tool to help communities prepare for oil-spill cleanups should the unthinkable happen in the Bering Strait in Alaska—home to polar bears and other charismatic marine species such as walruses, seals and bowhead whales. The Bering Strait Response Teaching Tool allows for layering maps of species and their ranges with shipping traffic, weather data, potential spill areas and locations of spill-response equipment. Defenders also worked with FWS and the Alaska Zoo to build custom polar bear washing tables and holding modules for use in the event of an oil catastrophe. And we are reducing polar bear mortality by piloting the use of polar-bear-resistant food storage containers in Alaska Native communities as a replacement for traditional ice cellars, which are failing due to permafrost loss from climate change.

© ROBIN CARLETON



WOLVERINE

WATCH

Defenders completed the second year of our Wolverine Watchers project, a highly popular effort to involve “citizen scientists” in monitoring forest carnivores in the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana and Idaho. In 2016, we had more than 140 volunteers helping to monitor 23 hair-snare and camera-trapping sites. Our work helps forest officials monitor the status of wolverines and other species in the forest. With more information on where these species are found and how they behave, land managers and policy makers can make more informed decisions about how to protect them.



GARY KRAMER/USFWS

FIGHTING FOR SAGE-GROUSE

After 14 years, three lawsuits, inappropriate interference by the George W. Bush administration and multiple delays, the Gunnison sage-grouse was finally listed as “threatened” under the ESA with 1.4 million acres designated as critical habitat. Defenders worked tirelessly in support of this species, which has declined precariously over the last few decades.

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COLLABORATIVE COEXISTENCE

Defenders helped pay for three Montana projects that deployed range-riders to patrol wolf country in Tom Miner Basin, Centennial Valley and Blackfoot Valley. All three projects are landowner-led and focused on minimizing conflicts between wolves and grizzlies and livestock. This is a great model for increasing tolerance for wolves and changing ranching practices. And as part of a collaboration with Defenders, the White Mountain Apache Tribe in Arizona received a \$70,000 grant from the federal Livestock Loss Demonstration Project—enabling the tribe to initiate its own experimental range-rider and coexistence program.





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PROTECTING

MANATEES

In the face of fierce opposition, Defenders won reduced speed zones for boats in western Pinellas County, Florida, an area long identified as dangerous and deadly for slow-moving manatees. Recreational boat strikes are a major cause of manatee deaths. Since record-keeping began in 1974, more than 40 percent of manatee deaths were human-caused, with more than 34 percent from run-ins with watercraft hulls and propellers. The new speed zone will go a long way toward helping these gentle giants.

© GLEN STACELL



PANTHER

PATHWAYS

For the first time in more than 40 years, a female panther was documented north of the Caloosahatchee River. This is a milestone in the recovery of Florida panthers, which need to expand their breeding range if they are to increase their population. Defenders is working to preserve lands that would connect the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge with other conservation lands in the region and to protect large landscapes for panthers. We are also working to increase safe passage for these wide-ranging cats across dangerous roads by supporting efforts to install fencing and wildlife crossings for panthers and other wildlife along a nine-mile stretch of Alligator Alley—the deadliest stretch of highway for panthers—in south Florida.

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PRAIRIE

COMPANIONS

Defenders thwarted an effort led by the Wyoming governor to force the Forest Service to poison thousands of acres of prairie dogs at Thunder Basin National Grassland in Wyoming. We also helped create habitat for prairie dogs and ferrets on lands adjacent to the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge in Montana. Healthy prairie dog populations are essential for the recovery of the endangered black-footed ferret. Defenders was also on the scene to help translocate and monitor 30 ferrets that were released at the Butte Creek ferret reintroduction site in Kansas—a tribute to the tenacity of the Haverfield and Barnhart families on whose property this ferret colony continues to thrive.

GUARDING

GRIZZLIES

Defenders helped landowners in grizzly bear-occupied areas of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming complete 55 electric fence projects in 2016 through our grizzly bear electric fence incentive program. We encourage landowners to secure bear attractants by reimbursing 50 percent of the cost of an electric fence, up to a maximum of \$500 per landowner. These fences keep chicken coops, beehives and other potential foods out of reach, preventing grizzlies from becoming “nuisance” bears that will be killed—the greatest single cause of grizzly bear mortality. This was the seventh year for this incredibly popular—and growing—program.



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BOOSTING

BISON

Yellowstone bison now have year-round access to 397,500 acres outside Yellowstone National Park for the first time in 100 years. Defenders played a significant role in achieving this outcome by meeting with state and federal officials, by helping to kill anti-bison legislation in the state legislature and through grassroots organizing that put public pressure on the governor.

SAVING

SEA TURTLES

Defenders worked with Florida state Rep. Holly Raschein and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to ensure the passage of a sea turtle anti-poaching regulation that closed a loophole used by poachers to avoid criminal charges. Possession of sea turtle parts and eggs is now a felony, and suspected poachers can no longer claim a sea turtle was dead when found.

© JIM SHANE



© PATRICK MARTIN





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*

Editor
 Heidi Ridgley

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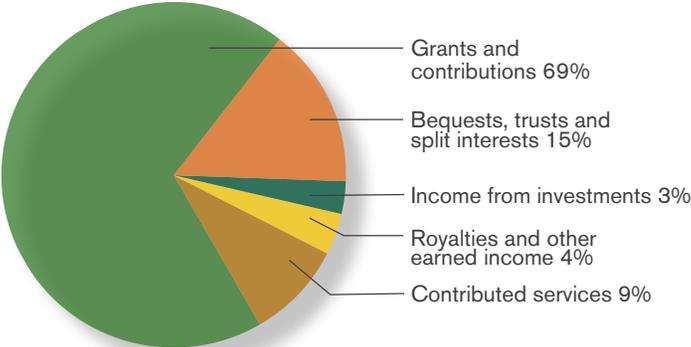
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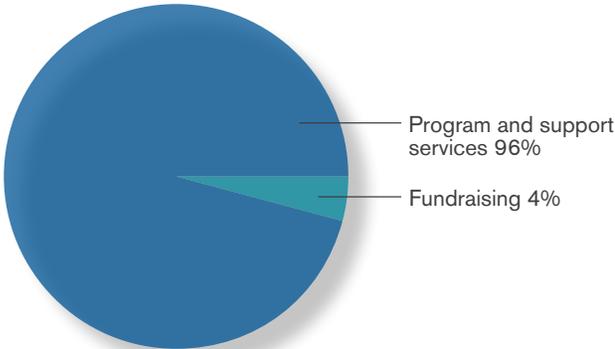
FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2016, Defenders of Wildlife’s nearly 1.2 million members and supporters contributed more than \$32.8 million for wildlife and wildlife habitat. This figure also 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, in the courts and on Capitol Hill.

2016 SOURCES OF FUNDS



2016 USES OF FUNDS



SOURCES OF FUNDS

Grants and contributions	\$22,703
Bequests, trusts and split interests	\$4,939
Income from investments	\$814
Royalties and other earned income	\$1,323
Contributed services	\$3,027

Total Revenue **\$32,806**

USES OF FUNDS

Endangered Species Act	\$8,298
Key species	\$11,032
Habitat	\$7,512
Fundraising	\$1,146
Management and general	\$4,307

Total Expenses **\$32,295**

Change in net assets	\$511
Net assets, start of year	\$25,653

Net assets, end of year **\$26,164**

Dollars are in thousands.

WAYS TO GIVE

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.

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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)



MEXICAN WOLVES (CAPTIVE) © JOEL SARTORE/WWW.JOELSARTORE.COM

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.org/legacy.



DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

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THANK YOU

With you at our side, Defenders will never give up the fight to defend imperiled wildlife species in the halls of Congress, in the courts and on the ground. We believe, as you do, in the inherent value of wildlife and the natural world—a belief that drives us to foster responsible stewardship of the Earth and its countless creatures. Your commitment to Defenders, inspires us to transform policies and institutions, to craft enduring conservation solutions and to create innovative ways for people and even the most misunderstood predators to coexist. You were behind every single success Defenders had in 2016. Standing together, we will protect America's great wildlife heritage into the future. Thank you!

Winsome Dunn McIntosh
Chair

Jamie Rappaport Clark
President & CEO