



JAGUARS BISON **BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS** PARROTS
FLORIDA PANTHERS SEA OTTERS GRIZZLY BEARS
 SHOREBIRDS FRESHWATER FISH **WOLVERINES** SHARKS
 SONORAN PRONGHORNS MANATEES **GOPHER TORTOISES**

DESERT TORTOISES
WOLVES
 POLAR BEARS
 BATS BEES
 AMPHIBIANS
MUSSELS
SAGE-GROUSE
 CALIFORNIA CONDORS
SEA TURTLES
 WHALES



DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
2014 ANNUAL REPORT





DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
IS A NATIONAL,
NONPROFIT MEMBERSHIP
ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO THE
PROTECTION OF ALL
NATIVE WILD ANIMALS
AND PLANTS IN THEIR
NATURAL COMMUNITIES.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, *President & CEO*

Annual Report Staff
Editor: Heidi Ridgley
Designer: Cameron Zotter

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DEFENDERS IN 2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND PRESIDENT

This past year marked the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon, a North American species that once numbered upwards of 5 billion and darkened the skies for hours with its great flocks. But in less than 50 years, this iconic species disappeared completely because of habitat destruction and aggressive harvesting.

Instead of this anniversary being a wake-up call for Congress, we saw more attacks on wildlife than ever, including efforts to remove protections for wolves and attacks on the Endangered Species Act and national wildlife refuges. Our activists got a real workout, lobbying members of Congress in Washington, D.C., signing petitions, sending emails and making calls to stop this onslaught. Thanks to you, we won most of our battles.

Beyond Capitol Hill, your support provided the resources we needed to expand our coexistence efforts to protect grizzlies in Montana, wolves throughout the greater West and panthers in Florida. These efforts don't just help land owners, they help wildlife by keeping imperiled predators safe and away from the temptations of farms and local communities. We were fortunate to be able to open two new field offices as well, in the panhandle of Florida and Washington state. These offices will be invaluable to our efforts to protect vulnerable wildlife and wild lands in those regions.

Our legal team was in high gear this year, defending wolves, wolverines and desert tortoises and protecting important habitat from mining and other destructive development projects.

Using our three-pronged approach, our field, legal, advocacy and conservation policy teams fought hard to prevent species and their habitats from becoming imperiled, to protect endangered and threatened species and habitats, and to restore the health of once-vulnerable species and their habitats. Our goal is that through our efforts, we will not bear witness to another extinction as tragic as the passenger pigeon.

Everything we do is thanks to your generous support. Your donations, letters and emails were pivotal to every single success. I hope you are proud of the following report, which highlights just some of the work you made possible on behalf of the wildlife and special places we all love.

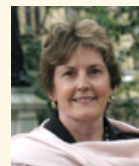
Thank you for your dedication to our natural heritage. Your support will ensure a lasting legacy for generations to come.



Our goal is that through our efforts, we will not bear witness to another extinction as tragic as the passenger pigeon.



PHOTOGRAPHS: LEFT TO RIGHT © RACHEL'S NETWORK, © KRISTA SCHIVER/DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, FLORIDA PANTHER © GLEN STACELL



Winsome Mc Intosh
Winsome Dunn McIntosh
Chair



Jamie Rappaport Clark
Jamie Rappaport Clark
President & CEO

DEFENDERS BY THE NUMBERS

1,215,378 members, donors and activists supported and advocated for our nation's biodiversity.

544,329 fans followed important wildlife issues on Facebook.

48,217 people engaged with Defenders on Twitter.

63 bear-resistant containers purchased and 50 electric fences completed to help humans and grizzly bears coexist on the landscape.

13 lawsuits filed to protect wolves, right whales, lesser prairie chickens and other wild species and critical habitats.

15 Native communities involved in projects with Defenders to reduce human-polar bear conflicts.

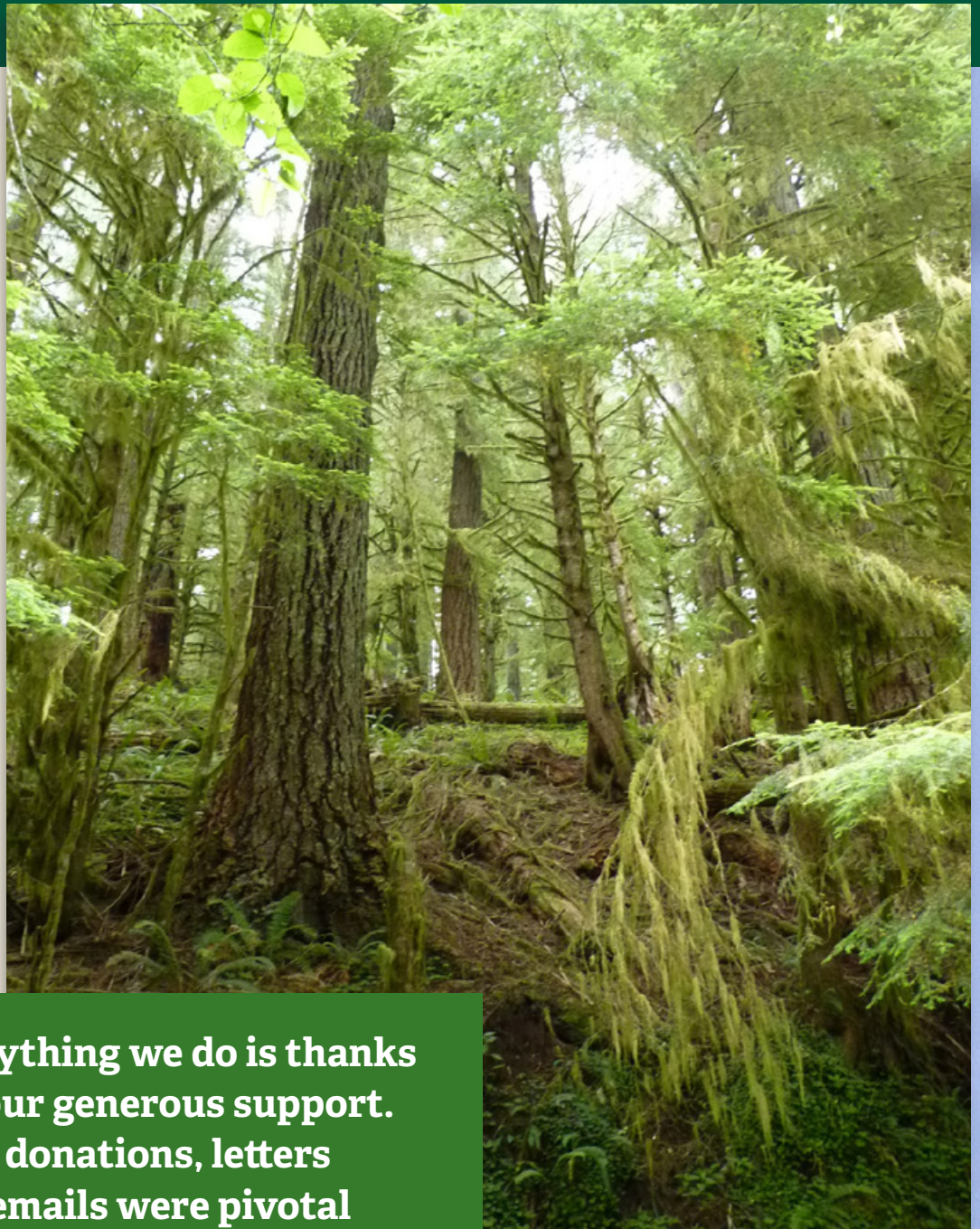
1,805,620 actions taken to protect imperiled species and their habitats.

13 range rider projects instituted in the Southwest to help critically endangered Mexican gray wolves.

10 fences constructed to help humans and bison share the landscape.

4 predator-resistant livestock enclosures constructed and retrofitted in hotspots to prevent panther depredation on pets and small livestock.

OREGON FOREST © ELIZABETH ALDORA;
POLAR BEAR AND CUBS © PAUL NICKLEN/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE



Everything we do is thanks to your generous support. Your donations, letters and emails were pivotal to every single success.



ABOUT US

Defenders of Wildlife is a driving force in the protection of imperiled native plants and animals in their natural habitats throughout North America. Our legal, science, policy and advocacy experts stand up and fight for the natural world, and we aim for nothing less than large-scale recovery of our most imperiled wildlife. Our approach is simple but direct:

prevent, protect, restore. As losses of wildlife and habitat mount, we face unacceptable impacts on the quality of life for future generations. Defenders tackles this conservation challenge with bold, strategic vision, unyielding commitment, unwavering leadership and transformational solutions.

WOLVERINE (CAPTIVE) © DESIGN PICS INC/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE



PREVENT

species and their habitats from becoming imperiled.

SEA OTTERS © TONY TRUPP



PROTECT

endangered and threatened species and their habitats.

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE © JENI BUERKE



RESTORE

the health of once-vulnerable species and their habitats.



WE'VE GOT IT COVERED

We are strategically located to protect and restore imperiled species in their native habitat and we aggressively defend our national wildlife refuges, national forests and other public lands to ensure our native wildlife can recover or continue to thrive. Here are some highlights from 2014.



- 1 Sued the National Marine Fisheries Service after it failed to protect right whale habitat along the **Eastern Seaboard**, resulting in the protection of nearly 40,000 square miles of critical habitat in the whale's northeast feeding grounds and in calving areas from North Carolina to northern Florida.
- 2 Won a court fight to protect **Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge** from a bridge expansion that would have destroyed habitat on the refuge, impacted native wildlife and made the refuge more vulnerable to violent storms.
- 3 Ensured the National Park Service commit to effective beach-driving restrictions at **Cape Hatteras National Seashore**—resulting in endangered sea turtle and piping plover nests hitting record-breaking numbers at the refuge.
- 4 Sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for failing to comply with Endangered Species Act (ESA) obligations to ensure **Kentucky's** water quality standards for selenium and nutrients do not jeopardize endangered mussels, fish and fish-eating birds.
- 5 Following nearly a decade-long fight, helped the red knot—an imperiled migratory shorebird that migrates through **Delaware Bay**—receive protection as a threatened species under the ESA.
- 6 Played a major role in stopping a proposal by Space Florida to build a spaceport within the **Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge**, home to more endangered and threatened species than any other federal wildlife refuge in the continental United States.
- 7 Constructed and retrofitted four predator-resistant enclosures so that pets and small livestock can coexist with endangered **Florida** panthers.
- 8 Sued the Army Corps of Engineers over dredge-and-fill permits in **Alabama** that allowed unlimited amounts of fill deposits in streams affecting endangered fish, reptiles and snails.
- 9 Successfully lobbied for increased funding for wind and wildlife research dollars to help mitigate adverse effects on bats and eagles from wind-energy development along the **Mississippi Flyway**.
- 10 Sued the Office of Surface Mining for issuing coal-mining permits in **Tennessee** without consulting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the impacts to endangered freshwater fish.
- 11 Championed scarlet macaw reintroduction in **Mexico**.

- 12 Expanded our forest protection work to include **Tongass National Forest**, the largest intact U.S. rainforest, protecting wolves, salmon and birds.
- 13 Defeated a road proposal in the **Izembek National Wildlife Refuge**—home to wetlands of international importance to migratory waterfowl and habitat for seals, salmon, caribou and bears.
- 14 Provided constant pressure to protect Mexican gray wolves in the **Southwest**, which resulted in record-high numbers in the wild.
- 15 Filed a lawsuit that resulted in listing the highly imperiled lesser prairie chicken as threatened in the **West**.
- 16 Instrumental in securing the listing of the Gunnison sage-grouse under the ESA, gaining the designation of 1.4 million acres of critical habitat in the **sagebrush sea**.
- 17 Successfully assisted a **Kansas** ranching family that wanted to conserve prairie dogs—the prey of the endangered black-footed ferret—by persuading FWS to stop pressuring the family to allow poisoning of the colony.
- 18 Continued to lead the fight for wildlife in federal planning across America's national forests.



Russ Talmo, a Defenders field technician, reintroduces black-footed ferrets at Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana.

- 19 Played a major role in the development of the draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan—which will guide future land use across millions of acres of public and private land in the fragile **Mojave** and **Sonoran deserts**—to ensure large-scale solar and wind projects are sited on already degraded land, preventing further loss of wildlife habitat.
- 20 Helped direct \$475 million from a government water bond to protect the **Salton Sea**, the **San Joaquin River** and the **Central Valley** water supply for fish and wildlife habitat restoration and protection.
- 21 Slammed the breaks on a flawed Forest Service planning process in the **Sierra Nevada Mountains** that was moving too fast and not considering wildlife issues.
- 22 Dramatically improved proposed legislation designed to accelerate logging on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forests in **Oregon** that remain critically important to spotted owls, marbled murrelets and salmon.
- 23 Compelled FWS to agree to develop a restoration plan for grizzly bears in the **North Cascades** ecosystem.
- 24 Helped persuade state wildlife officials to back away from further lethal control in response to wolf-livestock conflicts after Wildlife Services mistakenly killed the Huckleberry pack's alpha female in **Washington**.

OUR SIGNATURE SPECIES: WOLVES

With the wolf-recovery process tied in knots and the administration's move to delist wolves premature and shortsighted, Defenders went all-out in 2014 to block the proposed national delisting of gray wolves throughout the East and much of the West.

- Of the more than 790,000 comments submitted in opposition to the proposed national delisting of gray wolves, more than 250,000—almost a third—came from Defenders' members, far more than any other conservation organization.
- In Idaho's Wood River Valley, we proved for the seventh year in a row that nonlethal coexistence tools—like guard dogs, strobe lights and air horns—cost less and keep livestock from harm more reliably than reactively killing wolves that prey on livestock. Defenders has now transitioned the operation to local supporters and plans to replicate the program in other parts of the country.
- The inspector general for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agreed to audit the policies and practices of Wildlife Services, its wildlife-control arm. Defenders formally requested the audit to shed some light on the magnitude of the agency's lethal-control program. This little-known agency at the USDA is often hired by state fish and wildlife agencies to kill a wide range of predators, sometimes just to benefit game species like elk. An opaque budget makes it extremely difficult for the public to assess how much of the agency's work involves the lethal control of predators and how often it uses nonlethal control measures, an approach strongly supported by Defenders.



WOLF © MICHAEL S. QUINTON/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE

“Changing the culture of an entire agency takes time. While litigation will always remain an option, the most lasting way to change the direction and priorities of Wildlife Services is to change the predator-control policy decisions made at the top. That is our goal and we intend to achieve it through the classic conservation tool of endless pressure, endlessly applied.”

—DON BARRY, DEFENDERS' SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

CALIFORNIA took a historic step—thanks to Defenders encouragement and support—to list the gray wolf under the California Endangered Species Act. Now the state is developing an effective, science-based wolf-recovery plan.

IDAHO agreed to forgo launching another wolf pack eradication effort in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness after Defenders took the issue to federal court.

WYOMING reinstated federal protection for wolves after Defenders successfully challenged in court—for the fifth time—yet another flawed FWS wolf-delisting decision that attempted to strip wolves of ESA protection.

In the **SOUTHWEST** we continue to fight through the court system to secure the recovery of the Mexican gray wolf.

In **NORTH CAROLINA** Defenders won an important court victory when a federal judge ruled to ban coyote hunting at night in the red wolf recovery area after a number of red wolves had been mistakenly shot for coyotes.

GRAY WOLF © JOHN EASTCOTT AND YVA MOMATUK/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE



MEXICAN GRAY WOLF AND PUP © JOEL SARTORE/WWW.JOELSARTORE.COM



WHAT YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO ACCOMPLISH

BISON

Partnering with the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes, Defenders played a key role in bringing 136 wild bison from Yellowstone National Park to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. These animals joined the 61 bison that Defenders helped bring to Fort Peck in 2012. This is now the largest wild bison herd in the state outside of Yellowstone. A smaller wild herd exists on Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, which began with a relocation in 2013. And in response to continued calls from Defenders and others, Yellowstone National Park has finally agreed to review its bison quarantine and translocation program, which could reduce—or end—the highly controversial slaughter program that has plagued Yellowstone bison for years.

BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS

Working with the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana, Defenders helped to relocate critically endangered black-footed ferrets from Colorado to the reservation—the latest of 22 recovery sites across the Great Plains. We are also helping to diminish the presence of plague in prairie dog colonies, a

major problem that has caused earlier reintroduction efforts to fail.

CALIFORNIA CONDORS

After California signed into law a Defenders-backed bill to phase out lead

hunting ammunition in the state—a bill that passed despite a ferocious lobbying effort by the National Rifle Association to force Gov. Jerry Brown to veto the bill—Defenders joined other organizations in filing a formal petition

with the Department of the Interior to ban all lead ammunition on national wildlife refuges and national parks. Lead is extremely toxic to wildlife and tons of it is deposited in the environment every year through lead ammunition use. It



BISON © SARA DELAK



has deadly effects on scavengers like the endangered California condor.

DESERT TORTOISES

In 2014, FWS appointed Defenders to the Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Team. This positions us to play a key role in developing a new recovery plan to halt the species' alarming decline and loss of quality habitat because of poorly sited development activities in the desert.

GRIZZLY BEARS

To help humans and grizzly bears coexist in the West, our work with private landowners in 2014 included placing at least 29 electric fences around grizzly bear attractants like orchards or bee hives and more than 70 bear-resistant

containers in problematic areas in Seeley Lake, Montana, the Cabinet-Yaak recovery area and the Bitterroot region. Repeated pressure from Defenders also helped persuade the National Park Service and FWS to announce that they will begin engaging stakeholders in promoting grizzly bear restoration and recovery in the North Cascades.

JAGUARS

More than a decade of advocacy and litigation by Defenders resulted in a big win for jaguars in Arizona and New Mexico when FWS finally designated 1,194 square miles of critical habitat and migration corridors for the endangered species.

SEA TURTLES

Defenders' ability to mobilize public support resulted in the largest geographic area ever designated as critical habitat for wildlife: 685 miles of nesting beach from Mississippi to North

HOLDING GOVERNMENT'S FEET TO THE FIRE

More than 200,000 known wildlife species exist in the United States, species as varied as the landscapes they depend on to survive. But habitat fragmentation, invasive species, climate change and other accelerating threats create a serious challenge we all must address—and quickly. Defenders works to ensure government policies do not undermine safeguards like the Endangered Species Act—a critical, effective and essential tool to protect the natural world.

JAGUAR © JOEL SARTORE/WWW.JOELSARTORE.COM; TOP: CALIFORNIA CONDOR © JOHN CAIN/CALOSI/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE



WHAT YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO ACCOMPLISH

SCARLET MACAW © MURRAY COOPER/MINDEN PICTURES



Carolina and more than 300,000 square miles of open ocean—all because of our sea turtle advocacy. The unprecedented designation includes many miles of beach in Florida that host the largest population of nesting loggerheads in the world.

We also successfully lobbied the Mexican Environment Ministry to pass a new regulation to protect sea turtle nesting habitat from coastal development by imposing new restrictions on activities such as artificial lighting, which can disorient nesting females and emerging hatchlings, and the use of heavy off-road vehicles, which can compact sand and destroy nests and eggs on beaches.

PARROTS

In Mexico, we continue to play a key role in helping scarlet macaws return to their native habitat after a half-century absence because of the pet trade. With 27 macaws successfully reintroduced to the wild in the Biosphere Reserve of Los Tuxtlas, we increased the wild population by 10 percent. Our goal is more releases in the next five years to reach a stable population of 300 to 500 individuals. In another region of Mexico, our nest monitoring and protection program for military macaws resulted in no nests poached and the survival of 15 chicks.

The illegal trade in parrots is still rampant in Mexico. This year we shut down a multimillion-dollar ad campaign by a buy-and-trade company (similar to Craigslist) that featured a federally protected yellow-cheeked parrot. The ads implied that even though this bird is illegal to sell, “you can do it safely with us.” Not only were the ads removed, the company agreed to prohibit sellers from advertising endangered or protected species on its website.

SEA OTTERS

We launched a free downloadable education unit for teachers to use in the classroom to promote sea otter conservation, believing that the more people know about the threats to the otters and their habitat, the more successful our conservation efforts will be. Defenders also helped win passage of California legislation to promote the California Sea Otter Fund. Since 2007, more than \$2 million from this fund has gone to support southern sea otter research, conservation and education projects.

SHARKS

Defenders successfully lead advocacy efforts for international protection of a record-breaking 21 species of imperiled sharks, mantas and rays—including the

great hammerhead, the scalloped hammerhead, thresher shark, silky shark, devil ray, reef manta ray and sawfish—under the United Nations’ Environment Programme’s Convention on the Con-

servation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The listing calls for nations to work hand in hand toward the conservation of shared species with an emphasis on protecting migratory routes.

WHALES

Thwarting a proposal to expand the use of deadly drift gillnets off the California coast, Defenders also helped promote the extension of emergency

regulations to protect endangered sperm whales from entrapment in drift gillnets until permanent protections are in place.

In the North Atlantic, we also scored a major win for right whales by rallying public and congressional support to make permanent a temporary rule that set speed limits for large ocean-going vessels in key right whale habitat. The cumulative result of our efforts: In five years, not a single whale strike has been documented in any of the regulated areas.

“Protecting species requires a comprehensive planning approach that secures habitat and effectively manages harmful land uses.”

—Mark Salvo, Defenders’ director of federal lands conservation

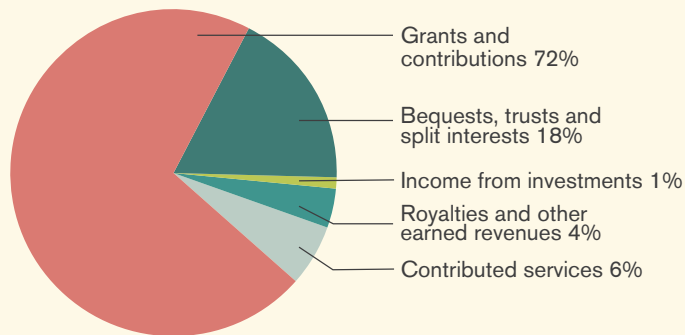
GREAT HAMMERHEAD SHARK © BRIAN SKERRY/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE



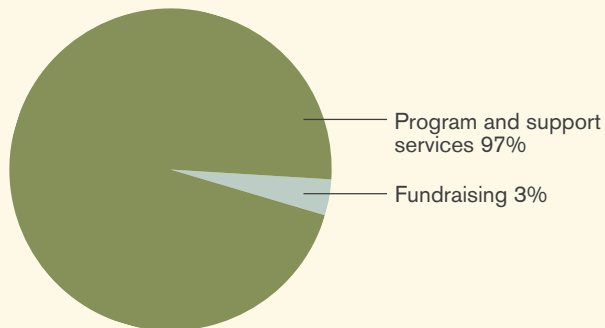
FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2014, Defenders of Wildlife’s more than 1.2 million members and supporters contributed more than \$32 million for wildlife and wildlife habitat. Law firms and others generously donated their time and expertise. The steadfast support of our donors allows Defenders to sustain our program and public education efforts in the field, the courts and on Capitol Hill.

2014 SOURCES OF FUNDS



2014 USES OF FUNDS



SOURCES OF FUNDS

Grants and contributions	\$23,127
Bequests, trusts and split interests	\$5,736
Income from investments	\$389
Royalties and other earned revenues	\$1,131
Contributed services	\$1,877

Total Revenue	\$32,259
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USES OF FUNDS

Endangered Species Act	\$8,105
Key species	\$12,387
Habitat	\$7,215
Fundraising	\$903
Management and general	\$3,027

Total Expenses	\$31,637
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Change in net assets	\$622
Net assets, start of year	\$25,699

Net assets, end of year	\$26,321
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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.

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.

Corporate Matching Gifts

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

Workplace Giving/Earth Share

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





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1130 17th Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20036-4604

202.682.9400

www.defenders.org

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MOJAVE DESERT SONORAN PRONGHORNS CALIFORNIA CONDORS
BATS BEES AMPHIBIANS SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS
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SAGEBRUSH SEA SAGE-GROUSE