

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
Annual Report | 2005



Defenders of Wildlife

Defenders of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection and restoration of wild animals and plants in their natural communities. Founded in 1947, Defenders has more than 490,000 supporters nationwide.

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Cover photo: A wolf watches biologists during radio-collaring operations in Yellowstone National Park. © William Campbell



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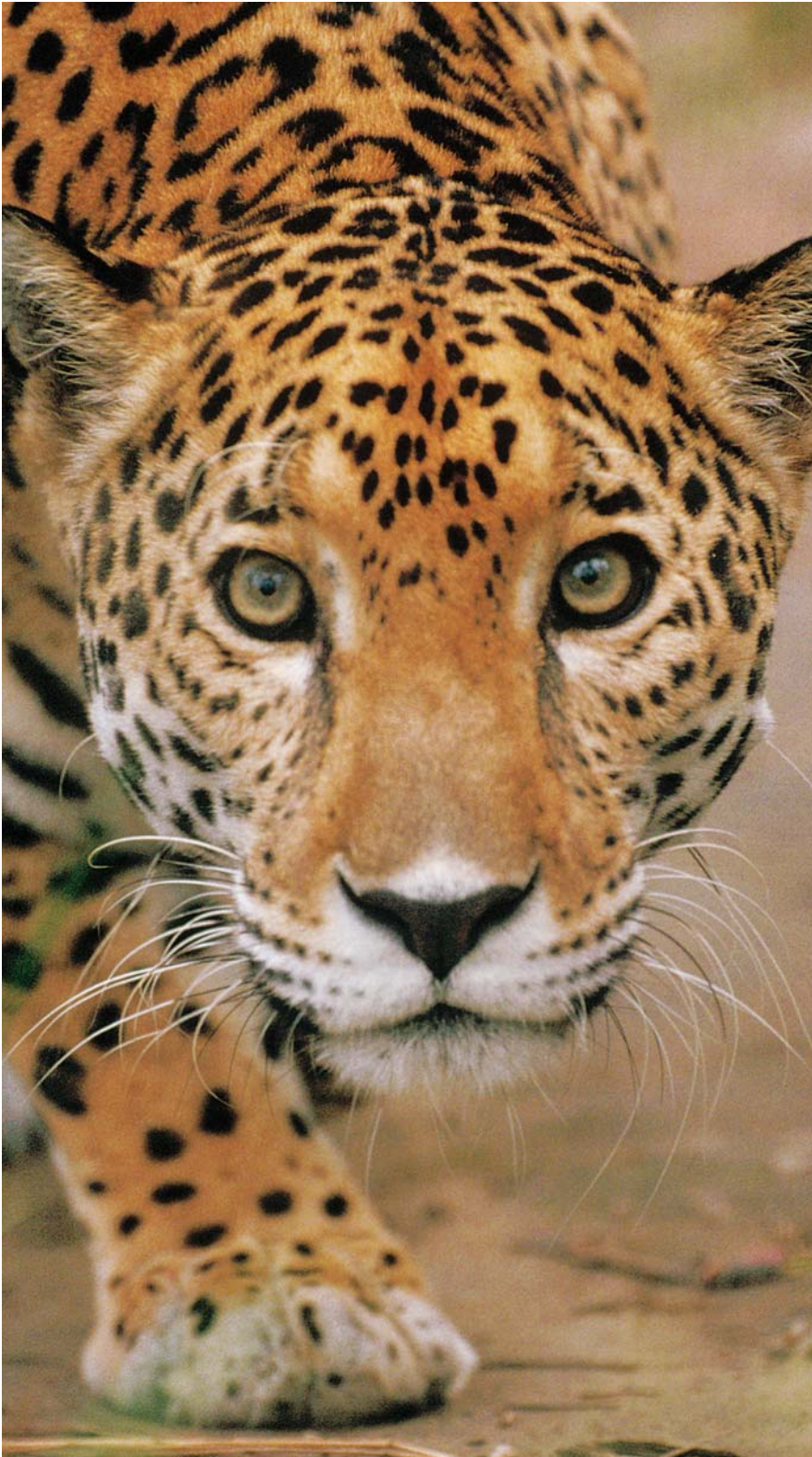
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DEFENDERS IN 2005

2005 was a year of incredible highs and lows for wildlife conservation. We ended the year defeating several attempts by Congress to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. We achieved this major success by mobilizing thousands of our members and other activists, who told their legislators that drilling in our last pristine wilderness was not the answer to our nation's energy crisis.

While the high was very high, the low was painfully low: Rep. Richard Pombo (R-Calif.) pushed a bill through the House of Representatives that would undermine our nation's commitment to the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife. Despite underhanded legislative maneuvering by Rep. Pombo and the congressional leadership, we almost defeated this bill, losing by only six votes. The close vote galvanized our side and proved that there is no mandate to weaken the Endangered Species Act. In 2006, we have a real opportunity in the Senate to beat back these efforts to overturn the Endangered Species Act.

The Bush administration and congressional leaders did not just set their sights on the Arctic and the Endangered Species Act. They began and ended 2005 with a wide range of environmental assaults, including attempts to drill off the coasts of California and Florida, sell off our public lands to mining companies and weaken wildlife protections along our borders.

But the conservation community was ready. Sustained by millions of Americans who are tired of the endless attacks on the natural assets owned by us all, we joined forces to take on our foes. Even though we lost a number of battles, we were strengthened by the support of most Democrats and some moderate Republicans in Congress, and ultimately prevailed in stopping a wholesale evisceration of our decades-old national commitment to the environment.

Many of our priorities have indeed taken a beating lately, but we still have much to celebrate. This was a good year for building Defenders' membership. We ended 2005 with nearly 500,000 members—particularly gratifying after such a difficult year. Clearly, Americans respect our pragmatic approach and are rallying to our cause.

This year, we also marked the 10th anniversary of the wolf's return to the wilderness of Yellowstone National Park—one of the nation's greatest wildlife conservation success stories. And even though the Bush administration continues to work to stop us from bringing wolves back to other parts of the country, Defenders continues to push forward on that long-term objective.

On the ground, Defenders continued to build public support for protecting predators by helping ranchers and farmers keep their livestock safe. We helped state governments develop wildlife conservation plans so they can be



Caroline D. Gabel and Rodger Schlickeisen

better stewards. We played an important role in crafting a major federal transportation bill requiring that road-building plans consider the needs of wildlife. We also released our second annual *Refuges at Risk* report, prompting widespread media coverage of the plight of some of our most valuable national wildlife refuges.

In some regions of the country, however, progress is elusive. Alaska's state government continues to permit the brutal practice of gunning wolves from aircraft, and has threatened to expand the program to grizzly bears. We are working on all fronts to stop this slaughter, including the courts and Congress, and are rallying public support for a possible state ballot initiative.

As you well know, our work is never done. The Bush administration's disregard for wildlife and habitat, its contempt for science, its preference for private interests over the interests of the public, and its willingness to ignore popular support for environmental protections have been breathtaking in scope and effect. But thanks to you, Defenders has never been stronger. Our membership is up; your support is robust; our cause is fortified with the aid of many partners; and we have the most effective team of board and staff members we've ever fielded.

But, more important, your generous and unwavering support has inspired us to hold on to hope. The political winds are shifting and environmental concerns are becoming part of the national debate once again. The times demand redoubled efforts to protect our wildlife heritage, and we are ready to lead the charge in 2006 and beyond.

Caroline D. Gabel
Chair, Board of Directors

Rodger Schlickeisen
President and CEO



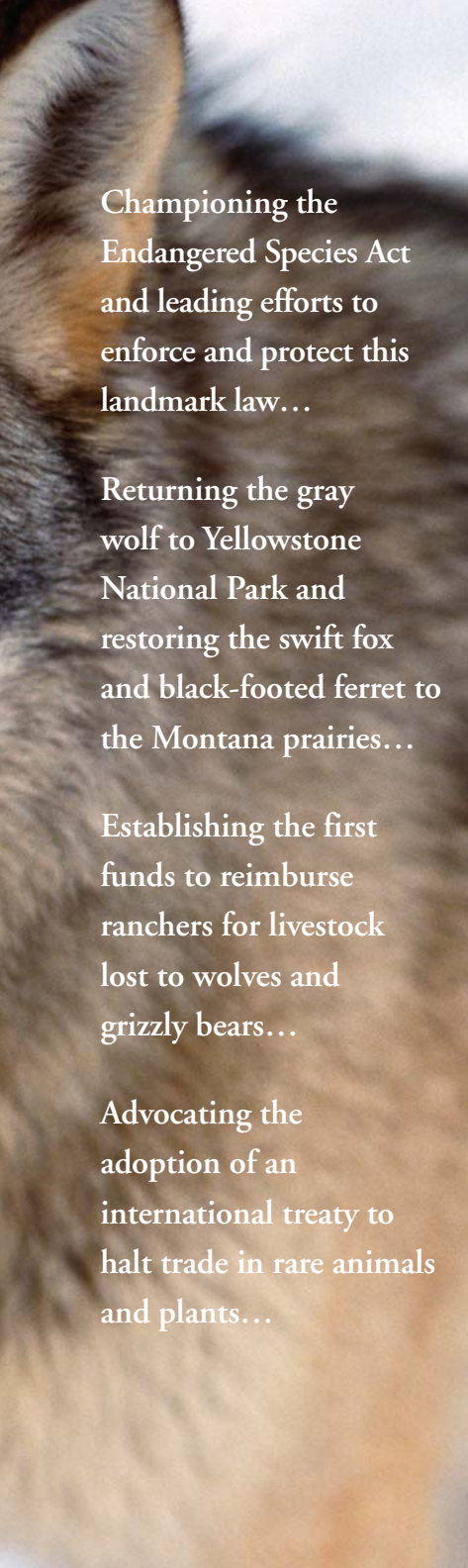
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Wolves in Alaska

Defenders was formed in 1947 to save furbearing animals. As threats to wild creatures grew over the years, we expanded our mission. Today, we protect all native species, including predators that are all-important indicators of a balanced natural environment, while promoting conservation of entire ecosystems and interconnected habitats.



Our wolf logo symbolizes our long-standing leadership in wolf conservation and predator protection as well as our broader biodiversity mission, since the protection and restoration of large carnivores benefits a host of other species sharing the same habitat.



Championing the Endangered Species Act and leading efforts to enforce and protect this landmark law...

Returning the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park and restoring the swift fox and black-footed ferret to the Montana prairies...

Establishing the first funds to reimburse ranchers for livestock lost to wolves and grizzly bears...

Advocating the adoption of an international treaty to halt trade in rare animals and plants...

ABOUT DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Defenders of Wildlife embodies the ideals of responsible stewardship—for the land and the wildlife that depends on it. As a solutions-oriented organization dedicated to protecting wild animals, we represent nearly 500,000 supporters nationwide.

Recently, we asked our members why protecting wildlife was important to them. Hundreds wrote us with moving stories about encounters with animals that changed their lives, and about the importance of protecting our nation’s wildlife and wild places for future generations. Here are just a few of their responses:

Being able to go some place where you can see a deer running, an eagle soaring or the stars sparkling does good for our soul. We need to keep these experiences available to all of us, and all of our children.

-Elizabeth E., Michigan

I hope future generations will be able to enjoy the special creatures just as we are able to enjoy them. It is our responsibility to preserve wildlife for succeeding generations.

-Jill Q., Florida

Our den is full of photographs of remarkable places that we have visited in the United States, and the animals that live there. They warm our hearts, and we cannot imagine our photos becoming historical memories, but rather a legacy for our grandchildren to enjoy as much as we do.

-Elaine A., Oregon

As a parent, I want my daughters to be proud that their father worked to protect these species and their habitat. I don't want them to read about these species in a book and know my generation let them vanish without caring what would be lost for our children.

-Troy G., Missouri

These stories epitomize the passion and dedication that our supporters bring to the cause of conservation. With their support, we are able to harness the skills and expertise of more than 100 staff wildlife biologists, educators, advocates, economists and attorneys to work:

on the ground in local communities developing practical, innovative programs that protect and restore key species and habitats—while addressing the concerns of those who share the land and its resources;

with state, national and international policymakers to secure laws and policies that protect wild species and their habitats;

in the courts, establishing legal safeguards for native wildlife and fighting efforts to roll back environmental protections.

Defenders is one of the country's leading practitioners of science-based, results-oriented wildlife conservation. We stand out in our commitment to saving endangered species and championing the Endangered Species Act, the landmark law that protects them.



The “alpha male” wolf of the Chief Joseph pack in Lamar Valley, Yellowstone National Park.

ACTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RESPONDING TO THREATS

A MAJOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY

On a cold day in January 1995, we watched, our hearts filled with wonder and pride, as the first of 14 Canadian wolves arrived at their new home in Yellowstone National Park. Defenders of Wildlife had joined with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to bring wolves back to this region where they had been absent for nearly seven decades and, after years of legal wrangling and delay, we had finally succeeded. Today more than 800 wolves roam freely through Idaho, Wyoming and Montana.



© WILLIAM CAMPBELL

are recolonizing. Wolf-related tourism is also booming, contributing millions of dollars to the economies of the park's gateway communities.

Getting the Word Out

Defenders worked with the national and regional media to get the word out to the public on this 10th anniversary milestone. *NBC Nightly News* ran a story featuring an interview with Suzanne Stone, northern Rockies representative for Defenders. Our work on wolf restoration was also featured in the *Billings Gazette*, *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* and Scripps Howard News Service. An Associated Press article ran in more than 50 outlets throughout the country.

Sweeping Legal Victories

Defenders continues to battle Interior Department officials and the rest of the Bush administration as they try to undermine federal laws that protect this majestic predator. Two major legal victories in separate courts on the same day in 2005 show how determined we are to fight back.

First, a judge in New Mexico agreed with Defenders and dismissed a complaint filed by ranchers that would have halted federal efforts to bring the wolf back to the Southwest. Then, another judge ruled on a lawsuit, filed by Defenders and our partners, to block the Bush administration from weakening protections for the gray wolf across the lower 48 states. The court properly chastised the administration for ignoring science in an attempt to remove the wolf from the endangered species list before populations had reached viable levels.

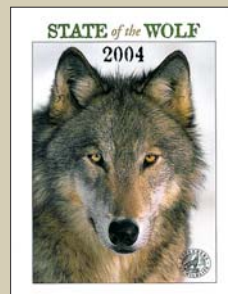
This past year marked the 10th anniversary of reintroducing wolves to the northern Rockies—one of the nation's greatest wildlife conservation success stories, and one of this organization's most significant accomplishments.

Transforming the Landscape

For all of our joy 10 years ago, we could not have anticipated this level of success. Not only are wolves thriving; the entire Yellowstone landscape is healthier. For example, wolves are dispersing elk herds, which had destroyed stream banks and aspen stands. Now, song birds looking for thick natural cover are flourishing and beavers in need of dam-building material

STATE OF THE WOLF

To celebrate the 10-year anniversary of wolves in Yellowstone, Defenders issued our first *State of the Wolf* report, which provides a snapshot of wolf recovery nationwide. Hundreds of thousands of gray wolves and red wolves once roamed



throughout North America. By the 1970s, fewer than 1,000 gray wolves and a handful of red wolves remained in the lower 48 states. But today, both species are making a comeback. This report assesses the region-by-region status of the wolf and includes population estimates, a discussion of threats and prospects for future recovery. Look for a new wolf report in 2006.



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Florida panther

SAVING THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Since its passage in 1973, the Endangered Species Act has served as the country's pre-eminent wildlife conservation law and a model for similar legislation in other countries. Providing a strong bulwark against extinction, the act has helped to save bald eagles, grizzly bears, gray wolves and many other creatures. But some politicians are eager to dismantle the act. Defenders was ready to take on the anti-conservationists.

On Capitol Hill

The battle to protect the Endangered Species Act was fast and furious on Capitol Hill this year. Congressman Richard Pombo (R-Calif.), chair of the powerful House Resources Committee, railroaded a bill through the House of Representatives in September that would undermine our nation's commitment to the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife. Jamie Rappaport Clark, executive vice president of Defenders and former head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, testified before Congress against the bill. Our legislative experts teamed with Endangered Species Act champions in the House to introduce alternative

legislation that would enhance the act, making it work better for landowners and wildlife. Although we had just a few days to promote our alternative bill, it failed by only a narrow margin, and the House passed Rep. Pombo's legislation. The close vote on the alternative bill, which garnered the support of 29 moderate Republicans, showed anti-conservation forces that they do not have a mandate for dismantling the act. As a result, the Senate adjourned for the year refusing to consider the Pombo bill. Legislation in 2006 remained to be decided.

On the Ground

To build public support for the 32-year-old wildlife law, Defenders kicked off a new national citizen education program focusing on key states, including Arizona, California, Colorado and New Mexico. Grassroots organizers worked in these states to help ensure citizens' voices were heard. Our supporters sent 160,000 faxes and made thousands of phone calls to their representatives in Congress. We organized a coalition of environmental and hunting groups to push for responsible improvements in the law.

Sounding the Alarm

Defenders' donors helped underwrite ads on radio, on television and in newspapers in key states. We initiated a national radio tour and the first stop was California's Central Valley, home to Rep. Pombo. We also held meetings with newspaper editorial boards and designed a media kit that was distributed to more than 250 national reporters. Regular updates, background information and petitions were available on our special Web site, www.SaveESA.org. Thousands upon thousands of people have visited the Web site to help save the Endangered Species Act.

ALASKA'S SECRET SLAUGHTER

An airplane roars through the clear Alaskan skies. Several wolves on the ground below, frightened by the mechanical buzz, run for their lives. They stumble, exhausted, in the deep snow...unable to escape. They are shot and killed.

Even though state citizens voted twice to ban it, the appallingly cruel practice of using airplanes to run wolves down and kill them is alive and well in Alaska. More than 275 wolves were shot in the winter of 2004-2005, bringing the total to more than 420 since the program was revived in 2003.

Building National Outrage

The brutal aerial killing of Alaska wolves has galvanized us at Defenders as few other issues have. With the help of a grant from the CGMK Foundation, we launched a national media campaign to put pressure on local and national policy-makers to end this cruel practice once and for all.

We used every form of media to urge Americans to help us. We posted weekly audio updates on www.savealaskawolves.org, which reached nearly 300,000 people through our biweekly electronic newsletter. We placed ads in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Christian Science Monitor* calling on Interior Department officials to halt the wolf-killing program. Partnering with the Alaska Wildlife Alliance and other groups, we produced a petition opposing the program, which was signed by 3,100 Alaskans. We collected 124 scientists' signatures on a letter pointing out the lack of scientific justification for the program and sent it to Gov. Frank Murkowski, the state legislature and the Alaska Board of Game.

Defenders' staff experts gave numerous interviews to reporters for stories on the plight of the wolves. Opinion pieces by Defenders' staffers were printed in the *Anchorage Daily News*, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* and *Juneau Empire*.

A First Step

Although the aerial gunning of wolves continues in parts of the state, we scored an important victory this year. Thanks to the 6,000 Alaskans who responded to our e-mail alert and voiced their outrage to the Alaska Board of Game, the practice will not be permitted on national park lands or wildlife refuges. The number of individual comments was the largest the board had ever received, a testament to how passionately Alaskans feel about this issue.

Ironically, as we celebrate the return of the wolf in one part of the country, in another, we bear witness to the greatest slaughter of wolves since the 1950s.

Alaska wolf





The Porcupine caribou herd migrates across the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

SAVING OUR LAST WILDERNESS FRONTIER

This year, we fought our toughest battle yet against big oil companies and their political backers in Congress who continued their relentless quest to permit oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The 19.6-million-acre refuge, located in the

northeast corner of Alaska, is an unspoiled wilderness teeming with wildlife. It is a crucial haven for huge flocks of migratory birds, a large herd of caribou and dozens of other species, including polar bears, arctic foxes, Dall sheep and muskoxen.

Despite the refuge's importance to wildlife, some members of Congress have been trying for decades—without success—to open it to development. Frustrated in their previous attempts, in 2005 pro-drilling senators attached their refuge-exploiting proposal to unrelated budget and defense bills. These were back-door attempts to put Arctic drilling on the fast track, while hiding the issue from public scrutiny—but Defenders was watching.

The fight to protect the Arctic is far from over. A majority of Americans do not want control of this pristine refuge handed over to Exxon Mobil and other big oil corporations. Defenders will be on the front lines making sure our voices are heard so that oil rigs stay out of the refuge.

A Fight Like No Other

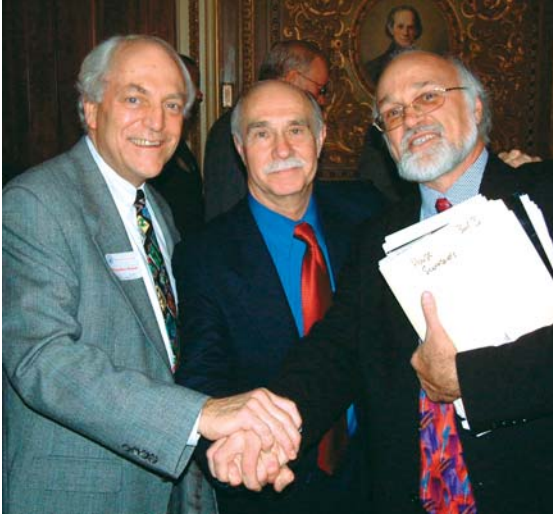
In preparation for the long fight ahead, Defenders kicked off 2005 by mounting a rally, along with our partners, outside the Capitol in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of Americans were there, and Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) and Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) joined us in our call on Congress to reject pro-drilling legislation.

We organized a letter-writing campaign that mobilized more than 100,000 people who contacted their representatives to urge them to defeat the budget bill and its drilling rider. We spearheaded on-the-ground grassroots and media outreach in several key states including New Jersey, where five members of the congressional delegation sit on important committees and are in a position to influence the debate. We produced a letter to President Bush signed by more than 1,000 leading U.S. and Canadian scientists confirming



Jamie Rappaport Clark, Defenders' executive vice president, speaks at an Arctic refuge rally outside the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

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Defenders' president Rodger Schlickeisen (center) celebrates December's Arctic refuge victory in the Senate with William Meadows (left), head of The Wilderness Society, and Gene Karpinski, director of U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

that drilling could harm Alaska wildlife and damage the fragile ecosystem of the Arctic's coastal plain.

In late December, after an attempt to attach the drilling provision to a budget bill in the House was scuttled, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) added it to the Defense Department appropriations bill. This ploy, occurring after the House had already passed the bill and just days before Congress was scheduled to adjourn for the year, left conservationists little time for action. But Defenders and its allies worked overtime, canvassing Capitol Hill and mobilizing citizens across the country to voice their opposition to including the refuge-drilling provision in a bill intended to provide funding for American troops. In the end, the Senate heard our voices and narrowly rejected this desperate attempt to despoil the Arctic refuge—a monumental victory for wildlife.

PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

Some of those living in and around wildlife habitat view predators as a threat. Animals such as wolves and grizzly bears can stir strong emotions, and cause real—although generally minor—economic loss. Defenders has long been a leader in developing practical, innovative solutions to these challenges. In 2005, we continued our work with landowners, local leaders and activists across the country to protect predators and people, and to boost local understanding and acceptance of wildlife.

SAVING WOLVES—PROTECTING RANCHERS' INTERESTS

As wolves and grizzly bears move back into areas from which they were forced decades ago, they occasionally disrupt livestock operations. The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Wolf and Grizzly Bear Compensation Trusts pay ranchers for livestock killed by wolves and bears—a rare occurrence, but one that can cause financial pain. To date, Defenders has paid ranchers in the northern Rockies and Southwest more than \$700,000 through these compensation programs. Through The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Proactive Carnivore Conservation Fund, we have also spent more than \$530,000 on tools—including fencing, alarm systems, guard dogs and aerial monitoring—to prevent wolves and bears from harming livestock and coming into conflict with people.

Ranchers Say Yes

We recently conducted a survey of ranchers and farmers to make sure our wolf compensation program still meets their needs. The results show

STAFF PROFILE

NINA FASCIONE

Vice President for Field Conservation Programs

© KRISTA SCHLYER



An avid horseback rider, Nina Fascione developed her interest in animals at a young age. “I have long had a soft spot for the underdogs” like wolves and bats, she says. And she was deeply interested in the human component of wildlife conservation. She received her master's degree in applied anthropology from the University of Maryland.

Fascione, who joined Defenders' staff in 1995, now combines her concern for people and wildlife to help resolve conflicts between the two. She oversees endangered species programs throughout North America that emphasize innovative, proactive conservation measures. Additionally, she and her staff work with landowners and ranchers to promote understanding and acceptance of large carnivores by helping to purchase electric fences, install bear-proof dumpsters, and build livestock watering sources that are separate from the rivers and streams used by predatory animals.

Fascione has written dozens of articles, book chapters and technical reports on wildlife science and conservation. She recently edited *People and Predators: From Conflict to Coexistence*, a collection of articles from scientists who participated in our biennial carnivore conference.

Fascione's family shares her passions: her husband, Steve Kendrot, is a wildlife biologist and her 10-year-old daughter, Allie, is a horseback rider. Fascione says she loves working with people, and building trust and respect with livestock owners. “I firmly believe that humans and carnivores can coexist,” she says, “if we have the will to find creative solutions to problems.”



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Shepherds in Idaho test equipment that allows them to track wolves and thus keep sheep safe. Defenders, with the assistance of The Bailey Wildlife Foundation, has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in tools such as these to keep both livestock and wildlife safe.

that this program is critical to resolving conflicts between wolves and landowners. Nearly all those who had lost livestock stated that being reimbursed was essential for maintaining local tolerance of wolves. More than half expressed interest in learning more about nonlethal methods to avoid or reduce predator attacks on livestock.

PARTNERING FOR CONSERVATION

America’s threatened wildlife received an extra set of helping hands this year thanks to the Earth Friends Wild Species Fund. This new fund, created with financial assistance from the Earth Friends Wildlife

Foundation, supports conservation projects with state wildlife agencies, local and regional conservation groups, Native American tribes and other partners.

The fund has helped imperiled bobcats in New Jersey by supporting efforts to recruit and train 40 local “citizen scientists” to set camera traps to collect data on the movements of these cats. It is also supporting a similar initiative in Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon, where volunteers are working to monitor elusive wolverines and other forest carnivores. Two other wild species fund projects underway in Louisiana and Mississippi are aiding endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers and rare bat species whose habitat was damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

PARTNER PROFILE

RICK FLORY & LEE ROBERT

Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK FLORY AND LEE ROBERT



“When we partner with an organization, we make sure that its work is based on good science and incorporates a solid businesslike approach to conservation,” say Lee Robert and Rick Flory of the Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation. That’s why the foundation has supported Defenders’ efforts to protect black-footed ferrets, swift foxes, jaguars, wolves and other species over the past 12 years.

Flory’s lifelong commitment to wildlife and conservation was sparked at the age of 12 by a family tour of the national parks. Today he and his wife, Lee, build partnerships with conservation groups to launch projects that protect those parks, other important habitats, and the wildlife in and around them. “We don’t just write a check. We get involved because we’re interested in seeing a long-term impact on the health of the environment,” says Flory.

In 2005, the couple issued a challenge grant to establish the Earth Friends Wild Species Fund. The Fund enables Defenders to expand its on-the-ground efforts to protect and restore imperiled wildlife and their habitat (see “Partnering for Conservation” above). “We are excited by the potential of the wild species fund to promote partnerships, leverage additional funds, and make a real difference for wildlife” says Robert.

“Only two and half percent of donor dollars go to the environment annually. That’s just not enough when we’re talking about things as basic as clean air and clean water,” Robert adds. The couple is motivated by the urgency of the need to help people understand why protecting the environment is so important.

Flory, a successful entrepreneur—he was the second-largest franchise owner for Domino’s Pizza—established Earth Friends in 1994. To keep up with his growing business, he became a pilot, going on to obtain an Airline Pilot Transport license. In 2002, Flory sold his business to focus full time on wildlife and philanthropy. Now he pilots his Cessna Citation as he and Robert visit Earth Friends projects throughout the country. Robert, a former businesswoman and communications consultant, now devotes her time to Earth Friends as its executive director. She is also a singer and songwriter and recently released a CD. The two divide their time between Paradise Valley, Arizona, and Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



A bobcat in Colorado

PLANNING FOR WILDLIFE

The federal government alone cannot address the needs of thousands of imperiled wildlife species across the country. For conservation efforts to succeed, they must be broad-based and include the participation of state governments. With the support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Surdna Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife in 2005 continued its work on state-level conservation plans. If designed and implemented correctly, these plans can help save wildlife species before they become federally listed under the Endangered Species Act.

A BIG YEAR FOR THE STATES

In the fall of 2005, each state and U.S. territory finalized a comprehensive conservation plan to safeguard declining wildlife inside its borders. Defenders staff provided substantive comments on all the plans and worked with wildlife officials in many states during their planning process. The plans are the most important part

of the federal State Wildlife Grants Program, which each year makes \$65 million in matching funds available to states for conservation work. Defenders played a leading role in establishing the program and its conservation-planning requirement.

CARNIVORES CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

Nearly 700 people attended Defenders' fifth biennial carnivore conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico, late last year. The event featured three days of sessions on grizzly bears, wolves and other carnivorous species. It served as an excellent venue for academics, activists and wildlife professionals to share the most promising strategies for carnivore conservation. Our next conference is scheduled for November 12-15, 2006, in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Roads and the vehicles traveling on them pose a significant threat to wildlife. Special road-crossings such as this landscaped overpass near Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada, can help reduce the risk of collisions between drivers and animals.

Armed with the wildlife plans, states can now begin to address such challenges to wildlife as sprawl and habitat fragmentation from roads. Defenders is working to integrate the plans into other programs, including those for managing private lands, local and regional land-use planning, transportation planning and other environmental planning.

These wildlife plans usher in a new, more sophisticated era of conservation in the states. The State Wildlife Grants program can help reduce the need for more endangered species listings, and its success is vital to future wildlife conservation efforts. More information on the wildlife plans is available at www.biodiversitypartners.org.

WILDLIFE PROTECTIONS IN TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION

During the congressional debate on a \$286.5 billion, six-year transportation bill, Defenders championed wildlife protections and won. Thanks to our efforts and the support of the Surdna and Doris Duke foundations, transportation planners now must consider wildlife and habitat when building roads in sensitive areas; lawmakers must study the causes of wildlife-vehicle collisions; and wildlife crossings must receive funding. Defenders also made sure that provisions established almost 40 years ago to protect public parkland, wildlife refuges and historical lands were not weakened.

STAFF PROFILE

TRISHA WHITE

Director of Habitat and Highways Campaign



“I was born to be a Defender,” says Trisha White. “I grew up valuing wildlife without even realizing it,” she adds, recalling her childhood on her family farm in Michigan. Her playground consisted of woods, streams and open fields. It was only after she left her rural home, to serve in the Army and get her degree, that she realized natural places were disappearing rapidly and not everyone valued nature as much as she did. “Even as an adult, the world was still amazing and beautiful to me,” she says. “With an education and experience, I knew I could make a difference.” White received her master’s degree in environment and resource policy from George Washington University.

Today she leads Defenders’ Habitat and Highways Campaign—a first-of-its-kind program aimed at reducing the impacts of roads on wildlife. One million animals are killed each day on America’s roads. “Wildlife advocates have spent decades changing the timber, mining, fishing and agriculture industries,” White says. “But we had never talked to the transportation community before.”

White travels across the country to meet with transportation officials. She works with them to achieve their goals of providing safer and more wildlife-friendly roads for America’s citizens. She also works with lawmakers on Capitol Hill, and helped convince them to insert a key provision into the 2005 transportation bill. The provision requires state officials to consider wildlife conservation needs in their transportation plans. “They never had to think about that before. It’s going to change everything they do.”

In 2006, White will help federal officials put the new law into effect. In a series of workshops, she will bring state and local planners and fish and wildlife agency staff to the same table to develop transportation plans that integrate wildlife conservation goals.



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Caribbean reef sharks

WORKING ACROSS BORDERS

In addition to the many other threats they face, animals and plants are at risk because of their value as food, pets or souvenirs in the global marketplace. This year we continued working with international agencies and conservation partners worldwide to curb illegal and unsustainable commerce in wild plants and animals.

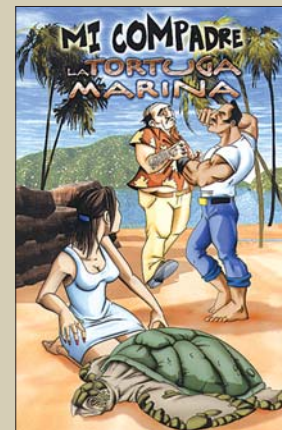
SHARK FINNING BANNED

Sharks are perhaps the most feared creatures in the ocean. But, surprisingly, they are far more vulnerable to the senseless actions of humans than one might think. Each year tens of millions of sharks are killed for their fins. Shark finning is a cruel and wasteful practice that often involves cutting the fins off living sharks, and dumping the sharks back into the ocean to die—all for what some consider a culinary delicacy, shark fin soup.

For the past five years, Defenders has worked to end shark finning and other threats to the world's rapidly declining shark populations. In 2005, nearly 30,000 of our supporters helped us call for bans on this practice by international fishing organizations—and our efforts were rewarded. Responding to pressure from Defenders and its partners, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission adopted a new ban on shark finning. The ban applies to 40 nations fishing in millions of square miles of the Pacific Ocean, and it could save as many as 10 million sharks every year. A similar ban was adopted by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, reducing the threat of finning to the globally threatened basking shark.

SEA TURTLES

The warm waters off Mexico are the home of six of the world's seven sea turtle species. Unfortunately the turtles are easy targets for fishermen and others looking to sell the animals' meat. To educate local people about the impacts and legal risks of poaching sea turtles, Defenders



came up with a unique approach: comic books. Defenders' Mexico representative, Juan Carlos Cantu Guzman, wrote the text for *Mi Compadre La Tortuga Marina* (My Friend, the Sea Turtle) and partnered with a local conservation group to help cover the printing and distribution costs. The response was so positive that Juan Carlos has produced four more books on sea turtles, with a total of 40,000 copies printed so far. The Mexican government and other conservationists have asked us to do books on other topics, ranging from the endangered vaquita to mangrove forests. In light of the demand, we're hoping to expand the program.



Amanda Beard

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

Education is at the base of conservation action. All of our work to protect and restore wildlife and habitat across the country depends on an informed and motivated citizenry. In 2005 we worked to raise public awareness on the year's most pressing issues through public-service announcements, electronic and print publications and other venues.

CELEBRITIES HELP RAISE AWARENESS

Olympic gold-medal swimmer Amanda Beard and Animal Planet television host Jeff Corwin brought star power to our efforts again this year to get the word out about endangered animals.

Both celebrities recorded public-service announcements urging Americans to join Defenders in protecting our wildlife heritage for future generations. The spots aired on television stations nationwide. This is the third year that Amanda has recorded promotional spots for us. She takes particular interest in marine wildlife, as well as conservation issues in her home state of Arizona. Jeff has been working for decades as a biologist, author, and TV host and producer to protect endangered species, and he joined Defenders board of directors in 2004. Amanda and Jeff add smarts and sizzle to the fight to save endangered wildlife. Our thanks to both for instilling in others their own passion for wildlife.

MORE WILDLIFE NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

You, our members, told us you wanted more information about the animals you care about, so we're giving it to you—through our redesigned and newly named electronic newsletter.

This fall we released our first issue of *Wildlife eNews*. As promised, the newly minted monthly publication includes more action alerts, pictures and feature stories. Our first issue featured a story on Hurricane Katrina's impact on wildlife and coastal habitat. Regular pieces on wildlife heroes, environmental tips and animal profiles have boosted the newsletter's readability and relevance. Approximately 300,000 subscribers receive the newsletter each month. You can subscribe at <http://action.defenders.org>.

YELLOWSTONE WORKSHOP

President's Council members joined us for the 14th annual Wildlife Conservation Workshop in Yellowstone National Park in August. This memorable and exclusive trip gave members a chance to learn firsthand from wildlife experts about, and experience the results of, one of our proudest accomplishments—the return of wolves to the park.



Jeff Corwin





A manatee in Florida

PUBLICATIONS

Investing in Nature

Defenders won this year’s Achievement Award from the Natural Resources Council of America for its report, *Investing in Nature: The Economic Benefits of Conserving Natural Areas in Northeast Florida*. Produced by our Florida office in 2004, the publication (which is based on an academic study commissioned by Defenders, and includes a DVD) highlights the economic value of the state’s natural areas to wildlife, tourism and quality of life.

Defenders Magazine Wins Prize

Our quarterly magazine, *Defenders*, won a Silver Award for General Excellence from the Society of National Association Publications in 2005. The award honors the “best writing, content, graphic design and overall packaging” of three consecutive issues of a magazine with a circulation of 100,000 or more. The competition drew more than 1,000 entries from a variety of groups across the country. *Defenders* circulates to more than 300,000 readers, and in 2005 featured stories on coastal wolves, sea otters, Florida panthers, national forests and many other wildlife-related topics.

The Most Endangered Wildlife Refuges

Defenders released its second annual report naming America’s 10 most endangered national wildlife refuges. *Refuges at Risk* documents the top threats—including air pollution, poor water management, oil drilling and development—to the largest system of protected lands in the world dedicated to wildlife conservation. This report is a tool to raise public awareness and increase pressure on legislators to address the needs of the refuges.



DEFENDERS ON THE MAP

The following is just a sampling of Defenders' many conservation actions and achievements in 2005.

● Defenders Field Offices

WASHINGTON

- Assisted the state department of fish and wildlife in its development of a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy.

MONTANA

- Worked with ranchers and others in the Yellowstone area to provide range riders, electric fencing, bear-resistant dumpsters and other tools to reduce conflicts between predators and people.
- Won a lawsuit forcing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate critical habitat for lynx.
- Advocated for greater grizzly bear protections in management regulations for the Yellowstone ecosystem.

IDAHO

- Established a reward fund that aided in an arrest and prosecution for an illegal wolf killing.
- Helped develop and test a fencing method used to protect livestock from wolves.
- Funded the purchase of livestock guard dogs to reduce problems with wolves and other predators for wildlife-friendly sheep operations in the White Cloud Mountains.
- Filed a lawsuit to save the last few woodland caribou in the United States by limiting snowmobiling in their habitat and requiring stronger federal protections.

OREGON

- Helped win a 70 percent budget increase that will pump an additional \$20 million into the state's habitat conservation and watershed improvement programs.
- Began developing wetland restoration strategies for more than 600 acres of wildlife habitat in a proposed new national wildlife refuge along the New River estuary.
- Defeated attempts by wolf opponents to dismantle the newly adopted state wolf conservation and management plan.

WYOMING

- Halted oil and gas drilling in 160,000 acres south of Yellowstone National Park by presenting evidence that the federal government failed to assess potential drilling impacts on the threatened lynx.

CALIFORNIA

- Worked to eliminate the "no-otter zone" that was impeding the return of sea otters to coastal Southern California waters.
- Fought to defend Santa Rosa Island—key to the critically imperiled Channel Island fox—from an effort to turn it over to the military for recreation.
- Opposed a plan to open key condor habitat in the Los Padres National Forest to more oil and gas drilling.
- Launched the California desert program, which includes efforts to protect the threatened desert tortoise and the imperiled Mohave ground squirrel.
- Helped stop harmful development in vernal pool and grasslands habitat in the Central Valley by negotiating the settlement of a lawsuit against the federal government.
- Won a major legal victory for marine wildlife when a federal judge barred the government from extending undeveloped oil and gas leases off the state's coast.

Anchorage, AK

ALASKA

- Played key role in protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from congressional attempts to exploit it for oil and gas development.
- Assisted Alaskans for Wildlife and other local groups in fighting a state-sponsored program to shoot hundreds of wolves and bears from airplanes.
- Promoted brown bear conservation on the Kenai peninsula with educational posters and collaborative efforts to reduce bear/human conflicts.

Canmore, AB

West Linn, OR

Ashland, OR

Boise, ID

Missoula, MT

Sacramento, CA

Denver, CO

Albuquerque, NM

Tucson, AZ

NEW MEXICO

- Helped protect native fish and other wildlife that depend on the Rio Grande by settling a water-rights lawsuit with the city of Albuquerque.
- Won a significant legal victory when a judge rejected a case brought by ranchers, county officials and others to stop the recovery of Mexican wolves.
- Showed that Mexican wolves generate as much as \$3.8 million per year in total economic benefits for communities in the Southwest, through an economic analysis of Mexican wolf reintroduction.
- Helped conduct scientific and economic surveys as part of a collaborative effort to restore river otters to the state.

ARIZONA

- Participated in congressional investigations of the impacts of Sonoran pronghorn conservation efforts on military readiness, and called for increased funding for pronghorn recovery efforts.
- Co-sponsored a symposium on the environmental impacts of undocumented migration and border security activities along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Worked with the White Mountain Apache Tribe to establish a tribal herding program to encourage wolf recovery on the reservation.



OVERSEAS

- Helped convince two international fishing organizations to ban the cruel and wasteful practice of shark finning in the Eastern Pacific and North Atlantic oceans.
- Worked with the World Parrot Trust and other groups to convince the European Union to temporarily halt wild bird imports and consider a permanent ban on the trade.
- Helped equip African wildlife officers with portable ivory detection devices to combat illegal poaching of elephants.

CANADA

- Helped convince the federal government to approve 18 new wildlife-crossing structures and other conservation measures for a stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway through Banff National Park.
- Helped develop new methods to protect livestock and reduce the killing of wolves in Alberta.

MINNESOTA

- Conducted an assessment of private landowner conservation incentive programs and published the results on www.biodiversitypartners.org.

SOUTH DAKOTA/NEBRASKA

- Helped save prairie dogs and endangered black-footed ferrets by challenging a U.S. Forest Service plan to destroy thousands of acres of prairie dog colonies on three national grasslands.

DELAWARE/NEW JERSEY

- Petitioned the federal government for an emergency listing of the red knot, a migratory bird with a plummeting population, as an endangered species.
- Helped train volunteers to track bobcats in New Jersey as part of a state government effort to protect crucial habitat for the animals.

COLORADO

- Opened a new Denver field office that will focus on defending wildlife across the southern Rockies and Great Plains.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Contributed to the piping plover's most successful breeding season in five years on Cape Hatteras National Seashore through legal efforts to protect the bird from off-road vehicle use during the nesting season.
- Completed study showing that red wolves are an economic asset to rural communities in the eastern part of the state.

LOUISIANA

- Helped fund construction of artificial habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers after Hurricane Katrina damaged the endangered birds' nesting sites.

FLORIDA

- Led efforts to establish the Florida Endangered Species Network.
- Worked to protect wildlife habitat throughout the state, including an effort to protect the Okefenokee-Osceola ecoregion, which stretches from Georgia to Florida.
- Served on the Florida panther recovery team and helped write the draft panther recovery plan.
- Served on the manatee recovery team and successfully advocated for improvements in manatee-habitat speed zones and preserve protection.

National
Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

St. Petersburg, FL

MEXICO

- Conducted training workshops in communities on the Pacific coast to teach fisherman how to revive and safely release sea turtles caught in fishing lines and nets.
- Launched *Super Vivencia*, a weekly radio show that brings environmental news and information to more than one-quarter of all Mexican homes.
- Developed an agreement with partner organizations to establish the first private jaguar reserve in Sonora.

Mexico City

People who care about wildlife continued their generous support of Defenders of Wildlife in fiscal year 2005. More than 490,000 individuals and institutions gave nearly \$30 million. Law firms, broadcast media outlets and others generously contributed their time and expertise.

Within the expense breakdown, “wildlife action” includes our species, habitat, legal, government relations and grassroots work, and “media and education” includes our Web site and electronic

newsletters, our magazine and other publications, public service announcements and other media work, along with correspondence with our members. Support services are “management and general” (which includes administrative operations), and “membership development.”

(Financial statements audited by Lane and Company. Copies of our complete financial report are available on request.)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of September 30, 2005

Assets

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 745,416
Short term investments	1,230,295
Cash-annuity reserve fund	2,577,007
Bequests receivable	1,999,701
Grants receivable, current portion	751,392
Prepaid expenses	457,029
Accounts receivable	392,259
Accrued interest & dividends	26,946
Total current assets	8,180,045

Grants and pledges, net of current portion	728,416
Long term investments	5,418,980
Contributions receivable from remainder trusts	2,341,286
Assets held in charitable remainder trusts	2,111,123
Beneficial interest in perpetual trusts	1,015,073
Property, furnishings and equipment	
Land and building	11,699,146
Furniture & equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	633,033

Other assets

Total Assets	\$ 32,343,702
--------------	---------------

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities

Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$ 1,659,491
Line of credit payable	1,000,000
Annuity payment liability, current portion	344,238
Bonds payable, current portion	140,000
Deferred revenue, current	
Total current liabilities	3,143,729

Bonds payable	6,730,000
Annuity payment liability, net of current portion	1,979,494
Total liabilities	11,853,223

Net assets

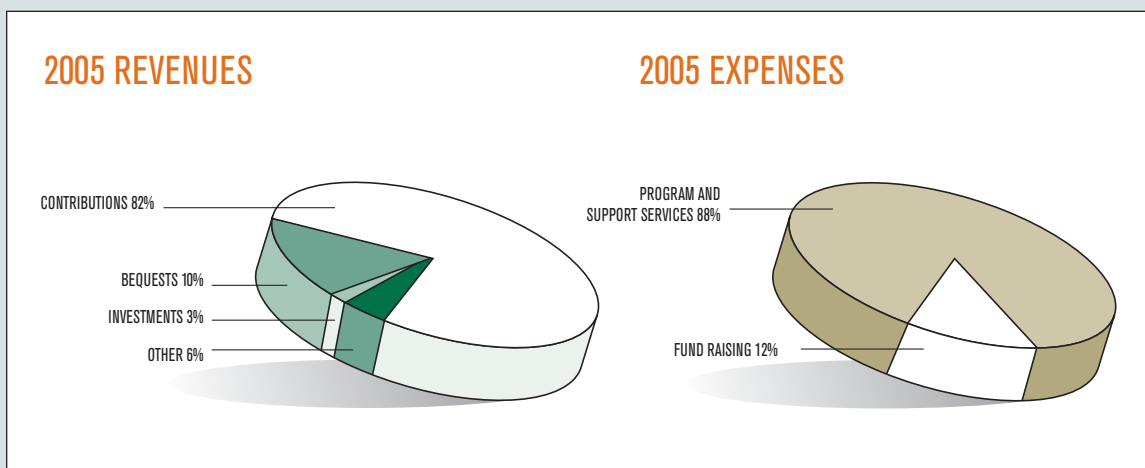
Undesignated	3,123,261
Invested in property, furnishings and equipment	5,395,927
Board designated	4,256,638
Total unrestricted	12,775,826
Temporarily restricted	6,478,210
Permanently restricted	1,236,443
Total net assets	20,490,479

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 32,343,702
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

for the year ended September 30, 2005

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Totals
Revenues				
Contributions	\$ 19,151,580	\$ 2,168,776	\$ 15,000	\$ 21,335,356
Contributed services	2,093,084			2,093,084
Bequests	2,938,909			2,938,909
Contributions of split interests	263,845	604,907		868,752
Income from investments:				
Change in net unrealized gains	442,520			442,520
Interest and dividends	269,693			269,693
Net realized losses	(38,995)			(38,995)
Change in value of split interests	9,612	185,689	32,137	227,438
Royalties	660,869			660,869
List income	331,824			331,824
Rent income	300,055			300,055
Other income	352,779	213		352,992
Net assets released by satisfaction of program restrictions	1,140,752	(1,140,752)		
Total revenues	<u>27,916,527</u>	<u>1,818,833</u>	<u>47,137</u>	<u>29,782,497</u>
Expenses				
Wildlife action	11,833,651			11,833,651
Media and education	7,558,151			7,558,151
Fund raising	3,355,286			3,355,286
Management and general	3,120,164			3,120,164
Membership development	1,869,418			1,869,418
Total expenses	<u>27,736,670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,736,670</u>
Change in net assets	179,857	1,818,833	47,137	2,045,827
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	12,595,969	4,659,377	1,189,306	18,444,652
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$12,775,826</u>	<u>\$6,478,210</u>	<u>\$1,236,443</u>	<u>\$20,490,479</u>



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS



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Polar bear

Our defense of wildlife and critical habitat would be impossible without the unwavering support of our donors. We want to thank each and every one of our 490,000 supporters for their commitment during fiscal year 2005 (October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005).

The donors listed on the following pages generously supported our efforts to protect wildlife and habitat in fiscal year 2005. Defenders of Wildlife gratefully acknowledges these generous gifts, pledges and payments on pledges.

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LEGACY SOCIETY PROFILE

JOAN AXELSON



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN AXELSON

Years ago, Joan Axelson read a magazine article about how the federal government was killing coyotes and their cubs by poisoning or torching them in their dens. She was horrified. Since then, Axelson has dedicated her life to saving animals of all kinds—especially predators. One of the first steps she took was to join Defenders of Wildlife.

That was more than 35 years ago, making Axelson one of our most dedicated members. “This is an excellent organization doing wonderful things,” she says. “I’m just glad Defenders is there, fighting the battles that need to be fought on behalf of animals.”

Growing up in California, Axelson and her family often camped at Yosemite National Park. She also rode horses on the many trails in Lake Tahoe’s back country. She says sometimes the only sign of a trail was three rocks piled together. The trails were beautiful and untouched, she recalls, but not always easy to find.

Axelson now lives in Vallejo, where she is active as a performer and music teacher. An accomplished harpist, she has performed with orchestras in New York and California. In her spare time, Axelson loves being outdoors. She and her border collie, Steffi, who passed away recently, spent many hours on the tennis court or hiking and swimming. Steffi was named for Steffi Graf, the tennis champion, because she liked to run around the house carrying two tennis balls in her mouth.

As a member of the President’s Council and the Wildlife Legacy Society, Axelson donates generously each year and has included Defenders in her will. “I just want to contribute as much as I can,” she says. “Animals have as much right to live on this Earth as we do. They are a part of the natural system. We have an obligation to protect them so they can live life as nature intended.”

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Bottlenose dolphins in Hawaii

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BOARD PROFILE

VICTOR SHER



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As a former head of a national environmental group, California lawyer Vic Sher knows what it takes to make an organization effective. And he respects the work of Defenders of Wildlife. “Defenders has dedicated and creative staff and focused and powerful programs,” he says. “It is the most innovative environmental advocacy organization in the country.”

Sher has been a member of Defenders’ board since 2003 and now chairs the litigation committee, which advises staff on legal strategy. “The biggest challenge facing the environmental movement is anticipating how the law might change and evolving to meet those changes,” he says. “I’m proud to say that Defenders is well-positioned to take on that challenge.”

Sher has always spent a lot of time outdoors. He grew up in northern California and, as a child, he and his family traveled throughout the West. Later, he led mountain backpacking trips for teens. But it wasn’t until he got to law school and started learning about toxic substances and environmental rights that he decided to commit his life to protecting the environment.

For 11 years, Sher practiced with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now Earthjustice), serving from 1994 to 1997 as its president. *The American Lawyer* called his work “the most important public lands management litigation in this country’s history.” In 2003, Sher opened his own law firm. Today, he sues big oil and chemical companies that poison sources of drinking water.

Sher and his wife, Lee, have a baby on the way. “I hope that we pass on to our daughter that we are holding the Earth in trust for her,” he says.

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LAURENCE WINTERSTEEN

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Though raised in Manhattan, Laurence Wintersteen has felt passionate about wolves since childhood. “What’s happened to wolves is an unfortunate example of how we don’t understand ecology,” he says. “There are so many misperceptions surrounding wolves. They are smart social animals, good for the environment because they maintain the right balance.”

Wintersteen was first touched by the magic of the outdoors when, as a teenager, he spent a month living in the Talkeetna mountain range in Alaska. The experience left an indelible impression on him, and when he returned, he committed himself to saving natural areas for both people and animals. As part of that commitment, at 17 he joined Defenders of Wildlife.

In 1996, Wintersteen encouraged his family’s foundation, The Sand Dollar Foundation, to support Defenders. The foundation has generously supported our wolf conservation programs in the northern Rockies region, and through his involvement in this program, he has gotten to know Defenders’ wolf experts in Idaho. “Defenders is a quality organization doing quality work on wolves. I’m very impressed with the percentage of money that goes to preservation versus administration,” he says.

Today the 34-year-old Wintersteen lives in Boston, where he owns two popular sandwich eateries. He also spends time in Sun Valley, Idaho, and hopes one day to see a wolf in the wild.

“Animals were here long before us,” he says. “We’re guests on their property. The Earth is not our personal dumping ground. In a capitalist society, there will always be development, but we can achieve a balance if we can use resources the right way.”

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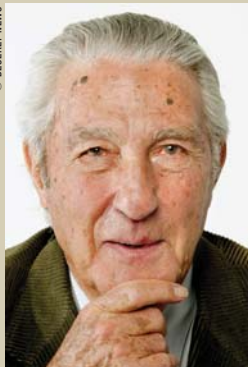
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AWARD PROFILE

STEWART UDALL

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In 2005 Stewart Udall, a man who has devoted his life to advancing an American conservation ethic, was presented with Defenders' highest honor, our "Lifetime Award for Superior Accomplishment in Wildlife Conservation." Defenders President Rodger Schlickeisen describes him as "one of the top 10 conservation leaders of the 20th century."

Much of Udall's work took place during his four terms as an Arizona Congressman from 1955 to 1961, and eight years as U.S. Secretary of the Interior from 1961 to 1969. In that time, he was instrumental in passing legislation such as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Wilderness Act, which today preserves more than 400 million acres of land. He also played a major role in the creation of Redwood National Park in California.

After retiring from government service, he continued to make invaluable contributions as an environmental advocate, author, lawyer and historian. A passionate writer, he authored many influential books, including *The Quiet Crisis*, a book that helped shape the emerging environmental movement of the 1960s and was updated and reissued in the 1980s. Udall remained active in addressing environmental controversies, spending a decade providing legal

representation to Navajo Indians exposed to radiation from uranium mining.

Today Udall lives in New Mexico, where he continues to hike and share his wilderness legacy with his family.

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