

2008

Defenders of Wildlife

ANNUAL REPORT





DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

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

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Gray wolf, Minnesota
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Defenders in 2008

Throughout our more than 60-year history, we have weathered many storms and embraced many opportunities for wildlife—and 2008 was no exception. On the national level, the continuing anti-conservation stance of the Bush administration and its allies on Capitol Hill assured that we would remain in a defensive posture on many issues. While stopping numerous initiatives that



would have severely harmed America's wildlife, we also were able to make some important gains on crucial wildlife issues ranging from global warming to aerial killing of wolves.

In 2008 we advanced our campaign to ensure that our nation's response to global warming emphasizes not only the reduction of greenhouse-gas pollution, but also includes mechanisms to minimize and mitigate the damage to wildlife and ecosystems. As a first step in achieving a national strategy for aiding wildlife, we helped establish the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center as a part of the U.S. Geological Survey. We are also working to persuade Congress to enact global-warming legislation that will safeguard wildlife as a necessary component of comprehensive legislation that reduces greenhouse-gas emissions.

Also in Congress we worked to pass federal legislation to end the aerial shoot-

ing of gray wolves in Alaska. Defenders secured the support of more than 100 cosponsors for our Protect America's Wildlife Act in the House of Representatives in 2008—and we expect to make even more progress in 2009.

We launched a large-scale effort to enhance protections for wildlife in our national forests and on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. These public lands provide vital habitat for myriad species, from wolverines to woodpeckers, and they will play a key role in helping wildlife adapt to global climate change. In addition to securing introduction of legislation on this issue in Congress, we have been working to increase public awareness about the importance of our public lands and the wildlife they safeguard.

In the courts, our legal team achieved several important victories, including blocking the premature removal of northern Rockies gray wolves from the endangered species list, increasing habitat protections for nesting shorebirds at Cape Hatteras National Seashore and securing increased safeguards for right whales.

Our lawyers also took the case of borderlands species such as jaguars, pronghorn and Mexican gray wolves all the way to the doors of the Supreme Court, arguing against a law that has allowed the Department of Homeland Security to waive environmental considerations to expedite building of a border wall that blocks crucial wildlife migration corridors.

In addition to this work on the national level, our staffers around North America worked to make 2008 a year of great strides for wildlife. Highlights of this work included:

- The debut of our Conservation Registry, an online database that will catalogue individual conservation efforts around the nation;

- A ban on the capture and sale of Mexico's wild parrots, signed into law after a long campaign by our Mexico office;
- A landmark agreement with major landowners to protect habitat and travel corridors for endangered Florida panthers.

In the fall, Defenders began gearing up for the end of the Bush administration and what we hope will be the dawn of a new era for conservation. We crafted and distributed a report, *Wildlife Conservation Agenda for the Next Administration*, and a series of white papers detailing the issues and steps that must be undertaken by the next president—both to recover from the past eight years of assaults on the environment, and to reassert this nation's great heritage in wildlife conservation.

The fall elections offered new hope for our agenda in Washington. However, we also saw our economic outlook darken. As one of the worst economic downturns in decades began to take its toll, we began making strategic cuts in our budget to remain financially healthy. The reductions will allow us to remain strong and able to pursue our top priorities, but narrow the range of the work that we do.

We hope that 2009 will bring an economic recovery that allows us to seize fully the many opportunities for wildlife that should follow the end of the Bush era.

Victor Sher
Chair, Board of Directors

Rodger Schlickeisen
President and Chief Executive Officer

About Defenders of Wildlife

For more than six decades Defenders of Wildlife has been a leader in wildlife conservation. From the moment we opened our doors in 1947 with a single staff person focusing on protecting coyotes and other predators, to the present with a staff of more than 130 people around North America working on issues from global warming to migratory birds—we have focused on the most innovative and effective means for protecting wildlife and habitat.

SAFEGUARDING IMPERILED SPECIES

In 1973 Defenders helped enact the Endangered Species Act, which has proven to be one of our best tools for safeguarding imperiled species. Over the past 35 years we have used this law to help protect creatures such as the California condor, polar bear and manatee. We have also fended off attempts by various presidential administrations, corporations and legislators to weaken this legislation, ensuring that it will continue to provide a crucial safety net for our country's wildlife.

DEFENDING THE WILD

Defenders led the way for the return of the wolf to the lower-48 states in the 1990s, and since then we have worked to safeguard their recovery in the Rockies and elsewhere. We have beaten back numerous attempts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to destructive oil drilling. We have protected the grizzly bear as it made a comeback in the West. And we have labored tirelessly to find a future for the rare Florida panther and other cat species that have lost the vast expanses of habitat that they need to survive.

Defenders has also helped human communities deal with the changes and challenges that sometimes come with the return of a top predator to the landscape. And we have helped champion the benefits, both economic and ecological, that flow from the recovery of these key species.

SHELTERING NORTH AMERICA'S BIODIVERSITY

In addition to imperiled species, Defenders has worked to safeguard the lesser-known inhabitants of ecosystems around the country. Our national wildlife refuges, national forests and other public lands provide havens to countless unheralded species that provide the foundation of healthy ecosystems. We have therefore worked to ensure that land managers and policymakers conserve wildlife on our federal lands. And because few species can remain healthy when isolated in small patches of habitat, we have worked to maintain and create connectivity in habitats severed by roads and human development.

CHAMPIONING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

Defenders has pioneered efforts to create beneficial relationships with people who live with wildlife day to day—like ranchers and farmers. Our proactive programs have brought biologists together with livestock producers to develop tools for ensuring that predators and cattle can coexist. We have worked to create tax incentives for landowners who want to restore and preserve their land as wildlife habitat. And more recently, as the threat of global warming has loomed larger, we have become a leader in efforts to assist wildlife in surviving the catastrophic changes humans have brought about.

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**Grizzly bear in
Katmai National
Park, Alaska**

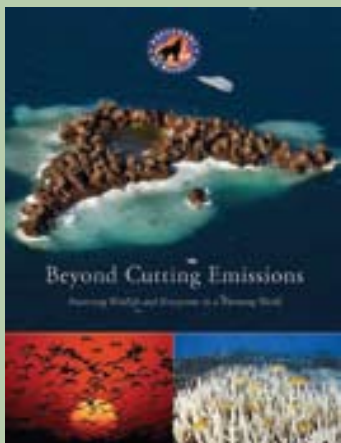
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Actions and Accomplishments

Responding to Threats

Defenders and our supporters have made a significant difference for wild species and habitats over the past 60 years. Unfortunately, the world remains a difficult place for wildlife: human overpopulation, dependence on fossil fuels, sprawling development and misguided predator-control programs all pose major threats. Defenders' team of conservation, legal, policy and communications experts is working to address these challenges both in the United States and abroad.



***Beyond Cutting Emissions*, one of several reports on global warming produced by Defenders in 2008.**



Defenders' executive vice president Jamie Rappaport Clark testifies at a congressional hearing.
© Charles Kogod/
Defenders of Wildlife

TACKLING GLOBAL WARMING

The impacts of global warming—from sea-level rise to altered climate patterns—are being felt by all who inhabit the planet, but especially by wild animals and plants. Defenders is working to make sure that while we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help people cope with a warmer world, we also protect wildlife from the impacts of climate change.

In addition to supporting rigorous measures to reduce greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, this year Defenders helped establish the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center within the U.S. Geological Survey. The center will be a crucial tool for crafting and implementing strategies for helping wildlife, and will serve as a conduit for cooperation among scientists, policy makers and land and wildlife managers.

We also helped craft and lobby for passage of federal legislation to help address the drastic impacts that global warming will have on many plants and animals. The Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act passed the House of Representatives in

2007, and components of our global warming agenda were included in major climate change bills advanced in 2008. And in June our executive vice president, Jamie Rappaport Clark, testified on Capitol Hill and urged Congress to mandate coordinated federal action to help safeguard wildlife from climate change.

Defenders is also advancing the body of knowledge that will help craft our national strategies. In 2008, we produced three major reports on global warming. The first, *Reducing the Impact of Global Warming on Wildlife*, is a synthesis of the insights and policy recommendations that resulted from the global warming symposium Defenders hosted in 2007. The second, *Beyond Cutting Emissions*, makes the case for a coordinated national strategy to protect wildlife and ecosystems, and for dedicated funding to implement this strategy. The third, *The Implications of Climate Change for Conservation, Restoration and Management of National Forest Lands*, summarizes the key scientific literature on climate change and forests.



STAFF PROFILE Jean Brennan, *senior climate change scientist*



One morning in the spring of 2008, Jean Brennan walked into her office at Defenders' headquarters and noticed a large package on her desk. She opened it to find a certificate honoring her work that led to the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

The honor was for her significant contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the peace prize with former Vice President Al Gore for their work on global warming. "This is the *peace prize*," Brennan says. "It's not for

science that the work is being recognized. It's for peace. It's profoundly significant that part of humanity now recognizes how central addressing climate change is to world peace."

A Nobel prize was not on her mind when she first started working with animals as a zoo volunteer in high school—or even when she was in college. "When I left college I had no grand ambitions but I wanted to visit Africa before it was all gone," she recalls. "So I sold everything I owned and bought a ticket to Kenya."

She found a job doing primate research, which led her to return to school to continue her work with primates. Brennan went on to get two master's degrees, and then a doctorate from the University of Tennessee in population genetics.

After additional field work overseas, Brennan decided to return to the United States and got a job as a research associate at the University of California at Davis. There, in 1998, state officials asked her team to look into whether climate change was a threat to California. A year later, she moved to the office of global change at the U.S. State Department—where she participated in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Brennan joined Defenders in 2006, and now works as senior climate-change scientist. Among her achievements at Defenders are helping to organize a major conference of experts in 2007 to discuss global warming and wildlife, authoring a major report—*Reducing the Impact of Global Warming on Wildlife*—in 2008, serving on numerous consultative working groups, and advising state and federal wildlife and natural resource agencies on ways to address the impacts of climate change.

Brennan's quest is to meld science and policy in responding to the threats posed by climate change. Defenders is the perfect place for her to do this, she says. "I'm very fortunate to be working in *this* organization, because Defenders is strong on both programmatic and policy emphases."

And while the work presents new challenges every day, she couldn't be happier with where she is now. "People ask me, 'Aren't you depressed, working on climate change?' I say 'No!' This is the most exciting thing and a great opportunity. You get to make a contribution not just to the science, but to the world."

PROTECTING WOLVES

Wolves are again roaming wild in places like Yellowstone's Lamar Valley and Michigan's Upper Peninsula, providing economic benefits to the human communities in these areas and ecological benefits to the plants and animals that share the wolves' habitat. But the misguided fears that nearly drove this species to extinction in the past still exist in some quarters, and assaults on wolves continue.

In March, the Bush administration officially stripped wolves in the northern Rockies of protections under the Endangered Species Act, allowing state officials in Wyoming and Idaho to pursue wolf-killing programs. In Wyoming, more than 40 wolves were killed as a result. Defenders took the federal government to court and won a major victory in July, when a judge in Montana temporarily barred the U.S. Fish Wildlife Service from delisting the wolves. Our legal victory stopped additional planned wolf hunts in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming; and the Fish and Wildlife Service subsequently withdrew its delisting rule to address the problems we pointed out in court.

Meanwhile, in Alaska, more than 800 wolves have been killed over the past five years under the state's barbarous aerial-shooting program. In 2008, we supported a state ballot initiative against aerial wolf-hunting in Alaska. Unfortunately, the initiative was defeated in August, largely due to a \$400,000 state-funded publicity campaign supporting predator control, and vocal support for aerial shooting by vice presidential candidate and Alaska governor, Sarah Palin. Palin has also defended the killing of wolf pups by the Alaska Board of Game.

The ballot initiative's loss makes congressional passage of the Protect America's Wildlife (PAW) Act—legislation that would close a loophole in the federal Airborne Hunting Act exploited by Alaska officials—all the more important. Defenders has partnered with a powerful ally in Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), the lead sponsor in the House for our bill. PAW has 130 co-sponsors in the House, and with this support and the results of November's elections, we believe we have a good chance to end Alaska's aerial assault on wolves.

Defenders has also ramped up efforts on behalf of wolves in the Southwest. In 2008 we recruited 265 volunteers in Arizona to write and distribute information supporting the return of the wolf to this region. The group submitted letters to the editors of all the major newspapers in the state, and following this campaign the *Arizona Republic* wrote a favorable editorial on wolves. To further our outreach efforts, in March we cosponsored *Dia de Los Lobos*, a celebration in Tucson to mark the 10th anniversary of the return of the Mexican wolf to the wild in Arizona. The event included live music, dancing, storytelling and art projects for kids.

In April, Defenders filed a lawsuit challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mismanagement of the recovery program for the Mexican wolf. The suit challenges the service's delegation of control over the program to various federal and state agencies, and the unauthorized adoption of a rigid policy of killing wolves that prey on cattle. We are seeking to compel the federal government to recognize its responsibility to restore, rather than remove, this endangered species.

DONOR PROFILE The Wilburforce Foundation



Gray wolves in the northern Rockies and Mexican wolves in the Southwest have an important defender in the Wilburforce Foundation. Established in 1991 and based in Seattle, Washington (with an office in Bozeman, Montana), Wilburforce is a private, philanthropic foundation that promotes the creation of reserves, corridors and buffer zones in the West to safeguard wolves and other imperiled animals. In responding to the enormous challenges posed by the impacts of global warming, the foundation is also

funding innovative work that sheds light on climate change scenarios and the most resilient means for adapting to them in their funding region. This work will help funders, grantees and policymakers develop conservation strategies in the face of dramatic changes across the landscape.

For the past five years, the foundation has supported Defenders'

wolf recovery programs in the northern Rockies and Southwest—support that has been crucial in helping us build public acceptance for wolves in both regions. This public support is essential for true recovery of these threatened animals—without it, wolf opponents could derail more than a decade's worth of progress. "Keystone species like wolves are very important as biodiversity indicators, and Wilburforce Foundation has a long-term commitment to protecting wildlands and wildlife," says executive director Tim Greyhavens.

The foundation also provided a lead grant enabling Defenders to open a Rocky Mountain office in Bozeman, Montana, in 2007. Defenders' Bozeman office, now housing three full-time staffers, allows us to respond quickly to pressing threats facing wolves and other species in the northern Rockies.

"We could not ask for a better partner than Defenders to carry out this work. Our foundation carefully assesses every dollar we spend, and when it comes to conservation leadership, the ability to get things done and overall effectiveness of Defenders is outstanding," says Greyhavens.

Festivities at Dia de Los Lobos, an event cosponsored by Defenders celebrating the return of the Mexican wolf to the wild in Arizona. © Robert Unangst



“Our foundation carefully assesses every dollar we spend, and when it comes to conservation leadership, the ability to get things done and overall effectiveness of Defenders is outstanding.”

—Tim Greyhavens, executive director, the Wilburforce Foundation

Black wolf, Denali National Park, Alaska

© Yva Momatiuk and John Eastcott/Minden Pictures



Increasingly, the natural travels of wild animals are hindered by human development and artificial boundaries.

SAFEGUARDING WILDLIFE ALONG THE BORDER

Increasingly, the natural travels of wild animals are hindered by human development and artificial boundaries. Nowhere are these threats more apparent than along the border of the United States and Mexico. The construction of a massive wall along this border imperils not only endangered species such as the jaguar, ocelot, jaguarundi and Sonoran pronghorn, but other animals as well.

In March Defenders and the Sierra Club asked the Supreme Court to review the constitutionality of the Real ID Act, which grants the Department of Homeland Security the authority to waive all federal laws to build the border wall. Homeland Security used this waiver to dismiss a court order that Defenders and our partners secured in 2007, blocking construction of the wall through the fragile San Pedro National Riparian Conservation Area in Arizona.

In April, then-Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff said he would impose a blanket waiver of environmental and other laws to expedite building of the wall. Our communications team responded by appealing to editorial boards across the country, encouraging them to speak out. Dozens of newspapers editorialized or wrote stories on the waiver, many of them quoting Defenders. And in the weeks that followed, more than a dozen influential committee chairs in Congress joined our appeal to the Supreme Court.

Unfortunately the Supreme Court declined to take the case. But the effort garnered invaluable media attention for this important conservation issue, and we are hopeful that a new Congress and new presidential administration will be more inclined to honor the rule of law.

In addition to fighting the border wall, Defenders joined the Yaqui-Gila Watershed Alliance, a binational collective of more than 20 groups active in the Southwest and northern Mexico. The group's goal is to protect and restore the rich ecological diversity of the borderlands region by keeping the land open and unfragmented and by restoring degraded areas.

Our legal team also pressed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to safeguard jaguars. In June, Defenders filed suit challenging the service's decision not to create a recovery plan for jaguars under the Endangered Species Act. This case is important not only for the recovery of the jaguar in the United States, but also because it attempts to reverse a dangerous trend by the government of denying protections for native species that range outside our borders.

HELPING NORTHERN RIGHT WHALES

The slow-moving, long-lived north Atlantic right whale is still trying to recover from the centuries of slaughter that took it to the brink of extinction. Only about 350 of the whales remain worldwide.

Because ship strikes are a major cause of right whale deaths and injuries, we have been fighting to make sure the Coast Guard makes protection of right whales a priority. Our efforts paid off in the fall, when the U.S. Court of Appeals agreed that the Coast Guard is required to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service about establishing vessel separation lanes in waters leading to United States ports.

Defenders also helped spur the creation of speed limits for vessels, despite the resistance of the Bush admin-

istration. A series of lawsuits prompted the National Marine Fisheries Service in October to issue a rule mandating that large ships slow their speed to 10 knots or less when in crucial right whale habitat along the East Coast.

And in one final 2008 victory for the right whale, Defenders secured a court order mandating that the National Marine Fisheries Service reinstate regulations requiring "whale safe" fishing gear when right whales are present. The fisheries service allowed these protections to lapse when it gave the fishing industry more time to comply with new, expanded regulations—despite at least a dozen right whales being injured or killed from entanglements in fishing gear since 2002. Defenders' court victory will help keep whales safe until the new regulations take effect.

SAVING SHOREBIRDS IN NORTH CAROLINA

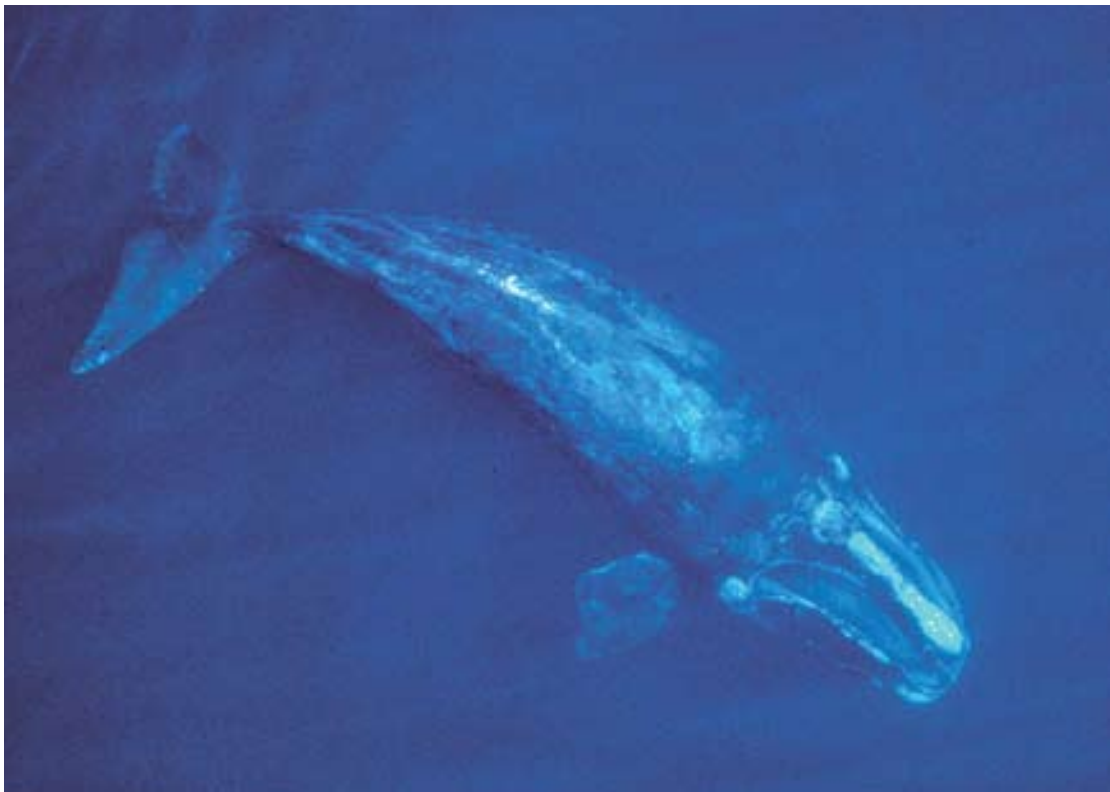
Many shorebirds, including the threatened piping plover, common tern and American oystercatcher, depend on undisturbed beach habitat for nesting. Numbers of nesting species have declined on Cape Hatteras National Seashore by 86 percent over the past decade—and several nesting species have disappeared altogether—due in large part to off-road vehicles driving unrestricted on the area's beaches.

Hoping to make a little space for the shorebirds, Defenders and other groups asked a federal judge to suspend beach driving on parts of the seashore most critical to nesting shorebirds and other beach wildlife. The National Park Service, which manages the seashore, had previously recommended the closures, but was taking so long to develop regulations that

Right: Piping plover © Tom Vezo/Minden Pictures

Below: Wall on United States-Mexico border
© Krista Schlyer/Wayfarerphotography.com

Bottom: Right whale © PCCS
Image taken under NOAA fisheries permit 633-1483,
under the authority of the U.S. Endangered Species
and Marine Mammal Protection acts



several more shorebird species could have been eliminated from the area.

The judge agreed that the danger posed to these species warranted immediate action—and now about 12 percent of the seashore's beach habitat will be protected from beach driving, so that the birds can nest in peace and raise their chicks.

ASSISTING POLAR BEARS

As their Arctic habitat melts around them and food becomes scarce, polar bears face an uncertain future. These bears were officially listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in May—thanks in large part to more than 108,000 public comments in favor of the listing generated by Defenders and partner group Care2.com—but the Bush administration claimed the animals should not get the normal protections afforded to other species under the act. We have challenged this assertion, and taken other actions to avert potential perils to polar bears.

On one front, we joined a coalition challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over an oil and gas lease in Alaska's Chukchi Sea. This sea provides a crucial haven for polar bears—one that is already compromised by significant loss of summer sea ice due to global warming. Nonetheless, the service pressed ahead with the sale of the leases. The coalition has demanded that the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service on the effects of the lease on polar bears.

We are also working to end the import of polar bear trophies. The threatened species listing of polar bears closed the loophole in the Marine Mammal Protection Act that Safari Club International had secured in the 1990s to allow hunters to import parts of polar bears as trophies. But the group is suing to maintain this loophole, which, since it was put in place in 1994, has resulted in the U.S. import of more than 900 polar bear heads and hides. Defenders and other conservation groups

are countering this lawsuit to safeguard the polar bear from trophy hunts.

PROTECTING PYGMY OWLS

In the tangled camouflage of desert scrub thickets and in saguaro cacti holes, the tiny cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl makes its home. This owl species is critically imperiled. Today only about 20 exist in Arizona because of the massive suburban sprawl that has claimed owl habitat there. Despite this fact, the Bush administration decided to take the species off the Endangered Species List in 2006. We are challenging the delisting in the U.S. Court of Appeals, and at the same time are pursuing a relisting petition.

In June, in answer to our petition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed that our evidence showed that the agency must consider relisting the pygmy owl. In the months ahead, we will be working to make sure that this species regains the protection it never should have lost.

STAFF PROFILE

Caroline Kennedy, *senior director for field conservation*



Like many conservationists, Caroline Kennedy was first drawn to the colorful, musical fauna of the skies. As a young girl living in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., Kennedy found herself wandering the golf course that spread beyond her backyard.

"My siblings were older than me, so I had to come up with ways to occupy myself," Kennedy says. "I had a lot of time and the golf course was there and it was a good place to bird."

She dreamed of going to Cornell University for its famous ornithology lab. That particular dream did not come to pass, but Kennedy eventually studied biology at James Madison University and afterward she earned a graduate degree in environmental planning from the University of Virginia's architecture school.

Kennedy was working as a planner in rural Virginia after graduate school when she saw an ad in *The Washington Post* for a wildlife organization. "Even though it didn't name the organization, I knew it was Defenders," Kennedy recalls, "and I thought, 'oh, that would be a great place to work!'"

She started in 1993 as the assistant to the vice president for operations. Two years later, she moved into a position in conservation programs—on the day that wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone

National Park. "So I jumped right into the fire," she recalls. "I was answering phones and fielding questions all day long."

Since then, Kennedy has steadily moved up the ranks and she is now the senior director for field conservation. Most of her work these days is focused on wolves and bird conservation. This year, Kennedy played a central role in Defenders' efforts to protect Alaska's wolves—travelling repeatedly to Alaska to bolster our attempt to pass a ballot initiative banning the aerial shooting of wolves by private hunters in the state, and spending countless hours on Capitol Hill buttonholing legislators to advance the Protect America's Wildlife (PAW) Act.

Defenders is well known for its wolf conservation work, and Kennedy hopes that one day the organization's efforts on behalf of birds will also be as visible. She is particularly concerned about the impacts of pesticides on birds. "People think Rachel Carson came along and all that changed. It didn't," Kennedy says.

While DDT and other harmful pesticides have been banned in the United States, these chemicals are still used in other countries that migratory birds visit. And here at home, we are now using different chemicals that may have devastating effects on birds. One pesticide, carbofuran, was finally proposed for removal from the U.S. market by the Environmental Protection Agency last year, in part because of Kennedy's efforts.

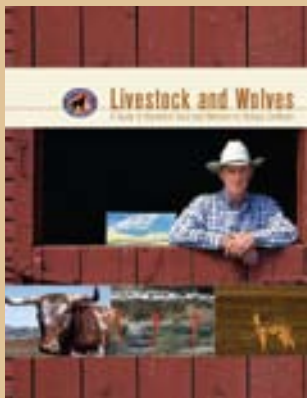
While her work with Defenders keeps her busy, she still finds time for birding—often at wildlife refuges. "One of my goals is to visit all the national wildlife refuges," she says. "I've only been to 100 or so, so I have about 450 more to go."



Polar bears © Norbert Rosing/
National Geographic Stock

Providing Solutions

At Defenders, our work goes beyond simply countering threats. We also work to bridge gaps between landowners, business owners, legislators, policymakers and conservationists, and to find commonsense solutions to conservation challenges.



Top: *Wildlife Conservation Agenda for the Next Administration*

Above: *Livestock and Wolves*, a Defenders' guide for ranchers on reducing conflicts with predators.

EASING THE PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

For eight years we battled the Bush administration as it systematically attempted to dismantle our framework of conservation laws and policies. In 2008, anticipating the change of administrations and the new opportunities this provides, Defenders' experts prepared a report and a series of white papers outlining steps the new president should take to renew and strengthen America's commitment to conservation.

The report—*Wildlife Conservation Agenda for the Next Administration*—highlights seven broad promises we would like to see made and kept by the Obama administration. These include: a promise to protect our treasured conservation laws like the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act; a promise to become a world leader in dealing with the causes and impacts of global warming; a promise to end the manipulation of science that was a hallmark of the Bush administration; and a promise to responsibly manage our federal lands.

The report and the accompanying white papers provide detailed guidance for the Obama administration on repairing the damage done by its predecessor and restoring America's environmental leadership.

WORKING WITH RANCHERS

Defenders has worked for years to build bridges to the ranching community, starting with our successful programs to compensate ranchers for losses from predators and branching out more recently to our efforts to help these ranchers avoid such losses. In 2008 we began an exciting new project with livestock producers and government officials in the Big Wood River Valley in Idaho. The plan was to put some of our proactive methods to a large-

scale test with about 10,000 sheep grazing in the heart of wolf country.

From June to October, our four-person field crew worked with sheepherders to keep livestock and wolves safely apart by using livestock guard dogs, radio telemetry to monitor wolf locations and movements, noise makers and spotlights to scare wolves away, and temporary electrified corrals to protect sheep at night. The project was a great success—only one sheep was killed and no wolves were lost.

The project helped demonstrate the effectiveness of nonlethal methods of preventing wolf predation. Rancher Mike Stevens of Lava Lake Land and Livestock said, "Thanks to Defenders, we all just pulled off what I think is a remarkable accomplishment, which was grazing a band of 1,000 sheep for a month in the immediate daily presence of a wolf pack with no losses of sheep or wolves."

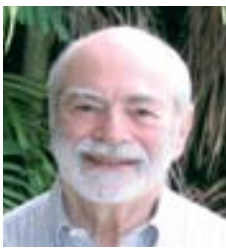
In September we released a guide that details methods of reducing conflicts between humans and wolves. This publication—*Livestock and Wolves: A Guide to Nonlethal Tools and Methods to Reduce Conflicts*—is a compendium of proven strategies. From detailing the proper disposal of dead animals, to explaining the use of livestock guard dogs, fencing and fladry, the publication serves as a 'how-to' guide for ranchers across the country to replicate the methods we have successfully used in places such as the Big Wood River Valley.

Defenders is grateful to the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, the Sand Dollar Foundation, the Wilburforce Foundation, the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation and the Sea World Busch Gardens Conservation Fund for their support of projects that keep wolves alive by preventing predation on livestock.

A Defenders field crew worked with sheepherders in Idaho's Big Wood River Valley to help keep livestock and wolves safely apart. © Jesse Timberlake/Defenders of Wildlife



BOARD PROFILE Alan Steinberg, *past treasurer and board chair*



A trip to Miami Beach in 1959 first whetted Defenders board member Alan Steinberg's appetite for the environment. He and his wife, Sue, were on a vacation from their home in New York. "The big thing then was to be in the big new hotel," Steinberg recounts. "We were almost instantly bored with that."

So they found a trip into the Everglades and Keys guided by the Tropical Audubon Society. "On the first day out the guide would say 'oh, look over there, there's a great blue heron' and we would look and see nothing," Steinberg recalls. "Not only could we not identify the bird, we couldn't even see it," he says. But that didn't last long. "After two days we were pointing out frigate birds to the guide."

This was a turning point for the Steinbergs, who started to pursue interests in birds, plants and the environment in general. In 1978 they moved from New York, where Steinberg had become a trustee of the Scarsdale Audubon Society, to Florida. There, Steinberg's friend, Robert Kelley, who was a mathematician like Steinberg and also the president of the Tropical Audubon Society, encouraged him to join the board.

This introduction to organized work for the environment got Steinberg thinking about how his background in math and finance (he still heads

one of the country's oldest investment partnerships) could be an asset to the conservation movement. He became treasurer of the Florida Audubon Society and subsequently treasurer of the Florida chapter of The Nature Conservancy. In 1985, a then-director at Defenders, author Hope Ryden, recruited him for Defenders' board.

"I was very excited by the sort of things that Defenders did," he says, "and I felt my abilities could be well used there."

Over the past quarter-century, Steinberg's skills and experience have been central to Defenders' ability to accomplish its mission. "Any good nonprofit needs a board that can provide top-rate financial advice and oversight," says Rodger Schlickeisen, Defenders' president, "and we're grateful to Alan for so generously providing that."

Among other milestones, Steinberg played an important role in the inception and oversight of Defenders' program to compensate ranchers for cattle losses due to wolf predation—a program that has special attraction to him, given his background.

"The compensation program appealed to me because I am basically a financial person, and this seemed to me a solution that would work," Steinberg recalls. And so it has.

The wildlife that first captivated his interest in nature still inspires Steinberg. He and Sue are still active birdwatchers, though, he says, "the 5:30 a.m. starts are not quite as frequent as they used to be."

A jaguar image taken as part of Defenders' conservation incentive program in Sonora, Mexico. Photo courtesy Northern Jaguar Project



HELPING JAGUARS IN THE BORDERLANDS

North America's largest cat species, the jaguar once ranged throughout the southwestern United States. Habitat loss and hunting have pushed the cats to the edge of extinction here, but jaguars are still found in northern Mexico. To safeguard these remaining North American jaguars, Defenders has worked with an international coalition to purchase 45,000 acres for a jaguar reserve in Sonora, Mexico. We have also created an incentive program to encourage ranchers and other residents to protect the species as its population grows.

The incentive program rewards Sonora landowners for pictures of jaguars and other wild cats on their land. Defenders supplies motion-triggered cameras and places them in locations the cats are likely to frequent, and local cowboys check the cameras once a month. Ranchers are awarded \$50 to \$500 for photos of wild cats on their property, and in return, they promise to protect the animals. The project is new, but already ranchers are excited to find the cats, and conservationists are building important relationships with ranchers in the area.

Additionally, we have established a jaguar guardian program, which pays young biologists to help with security on the jaguar reserve while assisting with

research projects and outreach activities in the local community. The jaguar guardians also work with ranchers to proactively reduce conflicts between domesticated animals and jaguars, and lessen the loss of both. We expect these activities will help shift the local perception about jaguars from that of a liability to an asset, and help bolster the cat's ability to migrate northward and repopulate the southwestern United States.

PULLING THE FLORIDA PANTHER BACK FROM THE BRINK

Historically the Florida panther roamed across the Southeast, but today only about 100 of these extraordinary cats are left. The only known breeding population is in the southern end of Florida, but even there their position is tenuous. A population and housing boom has gobbled up panther habitat and increased the number of panthers killed on roads. The cats urgently need protected, interconnected habitat to move northward and return to their historic range.

In 2008, Defenders and a coalition of conservation groups and landowners formed the Florida Panther Protection Program. The program will identify perhaps as much as 2.5 million acres of significant contiguous panther range. The program will also establish a fund for acquiring and restoring habitat and building road underpasses for panthers.

To encourage the participation of private landowners, the project provides incentives for restoring and protecting panther habitat and saving agricultural lands.

SAFEGUARDING SEA OTTERS

One of the most charismatic marine mammals, the sea otter is both cute and cunning. But due to loss of habitat and food, and the prevalence of pollution, sea otters continue in some places to struggle to recover from the fur trade that nearly wiped them out in the 19th century.

To bring more attention and funding to this creature, Defenders partnered with Philippe Cousteau to promote the state's tax check-off campaign. We distributed posters and broadcast radio ads to encourage California taxpayers to use the sea otter conservation check-off box on their income tax forms. We also held a press conference with a member of the California assembly to commemorate the sea otter fund reaching more than \$250,000 in donations, which ensures the check-off box will be included on the state's tax form next year.

We are also pressing for passage of the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act in the Congress, which would provide \$5 million each year for five years to support important research on the health and recovery of California's sea otter population. In April, our sea otter expert, Jim Curland, testified at a Congressional hearing in support of the bill.

Due to loss of habitat and food, and the prevalence of pollution, sea otters continue in some places to struggle to recover from the fur trade that nearly wiped them out in the 19th century.



Strengthening Conservation Planning

Wild creatures need places to live and roam, to find food and raise young. From public forests and wildlife refuges, to private farm and forest lands, the network of conservation lands in the United States needs to be strengthened and expanded. Defenders is working with government wildlife managers, highway planners, land trusts and other stakeholders to develop strategies to protect the places wildlife calls home.



Postcard for *Your Lands, Your Wildlife, Your Story* campaign

PROMOTING WILDLIFE VIABILITY ON PUBLIC LANDS

Our nearly 450 million acres of national forests, national grasslands and other federal lands provide crucial habitat for roughly 10,000 plant species and 3,000 animal species, from the grizzly bear to the pine marten. For decades, federal forest managers were required to maintain stable, healthy populations of wildlife in our national forests and balance the needs of multiple users—from hikers and hunters to livestock grazers and loggers. But in the past eight years, the Bush administration tilted public-land management toward extractive uses such as drilling and mining, and away from wildlife.

In response to this retreat from science-based management, Defenders in 2008 launched “Your Lands, Your Wildlife,” a project supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to secure permanent protections for wildlife on public lands. The keystone of this campaign is the America’s Wildlife Heritage Act, legislation that would restore and strengthen the requirement to maintain viable wildlife populations on federal lands. In 2008, we laid the groundwork for this legislation, and we expect it to attract broad support in the new Congress.

We have also begun working directly with federal officials on their land-management planning to ensure that they strengthen protections for wildlife. And to encourage public involvement

in the campaign, we launched the “Your Lands, Your Wildlife, Your Story” contest, rewarding people for writing compelling essays about their experiences with wildlife on federal lands. We also crafted and released a series of public-service ads encouraging people to take greater ownership over public lands.

ENGAGING LAND TRUSTS

No matter how well we protect and enhance public land for wildlife, fully safeguarding biodiversity requires the cooperation of private landowners as well. Many conservation-minded private landowners turn to local land trusts to help them protect and restore their properties. Land trusts therefore play an important role in maintaining healthy wildlife populations everywhere.

To assist trusts in their work, we created the Living Lands program. This program, a partnership between Defenders and the Biophilia Foundation, provides technical and financial assistance and training to land trusts. In 2008 we awarded \$50,000 in small grants to land trusts nationwide for innovative projects that will have a significant impact on biodiversity.

We also provided workshops on wildlife conservation and economic benefits at land trust gatherings around the country. And we secured a \$90,000 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to create workshops on biodiversity for land trusts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



BOARD PROFILE Barry R. Noon, *board member*



Some of board member Barry Noon's earliest memories of nature revolve around fishing trips with his father in Pennsylvania, where he grew up. His dad taught him catch-and-release fishing—which wasn't common back then. "That was always a practice my dad had," Noon recalls, "to put the fish back and treat them respectfully. That really had an impact on me."

As did the quiet places his dad would find for them to spend a morning on the river. "My dad would always hike about an hour before starting to fish so he wouldn't run into any other fishermen. I still do that today when I fish, so I can have that same sense of solitude."

This connection to nature profoundly impacted Noon, and he went on to study ecology in graduate school. He earned a doctoral degree at the State University of New York in Albany, doing field work on forest birds in Vermont and Tennessee. After a teaching stint in upstate New York, Noon began working as a research ecologist at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. It was here that he transitioned to studying the effects of forestry practices on birds—which has been central to his work since that time.

In northern California, he taught wildlife management techniques at

Humboldt State University before turning to research at the nearby U.S. Forest Service research station. There, he studied the effects of forestry practices in old-growth forests on fish and wildlife. "That's where I first began to work on spotted owls and that has carried on to this day," Noon says. "I'm still working on spotted owls and the connection between management policy and science."

It was his work with spotted owls that brought Noon together with Defenders of Wildlife. When asked to join Defenders' board, he readily agreed. "I believe in the mission of Defenders," Noon says. "Wildlife and nature don't have a voice of their own, so they need someone to intervene and I think Defenders does a remarkable job at that."

So for the past eight years—as Noon has continued to teach the next generation of ecologists as a professor at Colorado State University—he has also provided Defenders with expert guidance on national forest and imperiled species issues. His knowledge has proven invaluable to Defenders as we work to safeguard wildlife on public lands by restoring and strengthening viability standards dismantled by the Bush administration.

"Viability standards and good management act as a safety net prior to the application of the Endangered Species Act," Noon says. "It's forward looking. It's precautionary. It just makes good sense that we intervene on behalf of species before they become severely at-risk."

IMPLEMENTING STATE WILDLIFE PLANS

To broaden conservation efforts, Defenders helped create the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. This program, which receives annual funding from the federal government, has helped state and tribal lands managers expand their focus from game and endangered species, to the proactive protection of all fish and wildlife.

The program required all states to create State Wildlife Action Plans to qualify for federal funding. Now that the plans are finished, Defenders is working with states to effectively implement the plans. And we will be using them as a platform for coordinated nationwide planning to help wildlife adapt to the effects of global warming.

In 2008, we worked closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in developing a blueprint for strategic conservation within a sustainable economy. The blueprint is meant to help the state consider environmental, social and economic factors when making land-use decisions. We have also been working on a joint project with LandScope America to create a national map of conservation priority areas defined by the State Wildlife Action Plans in 30 states. The map will become part of LandScope America's Web site and part of our conservation registry site. Defenders is grateful to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Society for their support of this work.

LAUNCHING A CONSERVATION DATABASE

From a streamside restoration project in Colorado to tidal basin restoration in Washington state, field programs across the country just acquired a powerful new tool. This year, Defenders launched an online database, www.conservationregistry.org, that tracks and maps conservation work so conservationists can see how our collective efforts fit together.

A desert tortoise perilously close to a highway in California. © Krista Schlyer/ Wayfarerphotography.com



Our database went live in June to help people track and map actions such as habitat restoration, species reintroduction and invasive species removal, as well as land acquisitions, conservation easements and research projects. The site features maps and a search engine that make it simple to pinpoint who is working on a particular issue in a particular region. It also highlights projects that need funding or volunteers, and categorizes projects according to funding types and purposes—climate-change-centered work, for example.

Defenders thanks the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Dr. Benjamin Hammett, the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and a host of other partners and donors for their support of this project.

ENHANCING NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

With more than 540 units around the country, our national wildlife refuge system is the most extensive network of lands in the world set aside specifically for fish and wildlife conservation. Countless species, from the rare Sonoran

pronghorn to common ducks and geese, depend on this habitat.

Sadly, budget cuts, political interference and neglect have degraded these lands over the past few decades, and especially over the past eight years. Defenders' refuge program is working to highlight both the importance of the refuge system and the problems that continue to plague it, in hopes of strengthening this crucial lifeline for wildlife.

In 2008, Defenders staff authored a coalition report detailing the challenges facing our refuges. The report, *Keeping Every Cog and Wheel: Reforming and Improving the National Wildlife Refuge System*, offers concrete recommendations for the new administration on actions needed to strengthen the refuge system.

PROTECTING HABITAT FROM HIGHWAYS

America's car culture poses a significant threat to wildlife. Our four million miles of roads and 200 million vehicles create habitat fragmentation and dangerous crossings in almost every corner of our country. Fragmentation and road kills have contributed to the endangerment of many species, including the Florida panther, grizzly bear, Sonoran pronghorn and desert tortoise.

Our Habitat and Highways campaign has two main objectives: reduce the current impact of roads on wildlife by creating safe wildlife crossings, and reduce future impacts by incorporating conservation principles into transportation planning. In 2008, we produced *The \$61 Million Question: How Can Transportation Enhancements Benefit Wildlife?* We are using this report to publicize an underutilized federal program that could provide millions of dollars each year for conservation projects. And to teach tomorrow's drivers and citizens about wildlife and roads, we created the *Watch out for Wildlife Fun Book* and a teacher's guide to accompany it. Our hope is that this children's activity book will plant the seed early that wildlife and cars don't mix.

Defenders is working to highlight both the importance of the national wildlife refuge system and the problems that continue to plague it, in hopes of strengthening this crucial lifeline for wildlife.

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado

© Tim Fitzharris/Minden Pictures/National Geographic Stock



Working Across Our Borders

While the major focus of our work is on wildlife in the United States, we can't afford to ignore issues beyond our borders. From parrot trade to sea turtle by-catch to the spread of invasive species, Defenders is engaged in a variety of vital international wildlife issues.



A Defenders-sponsored poster urging Mexicans not to eat eggs of endangered sea turtles.

PROTECTING PARROTS

Twenty-two species of parrots and macaws make their homes in Mexico, and six of these are found nowhere else in the world. Sadly, Mexico's incredible diversity of these colorful, intelligent birds has been devastated by the pet trade, and 11 of its parrot species are already designated endangered.

In 2007, Defenders released a comprehensive report on Mexico's parrot trade,

which revealed that roughly 78,000 wild parrots are captured each year to be sold as pets. And of those, about 75 percent die before they even reach the buyer. Following the release of our groundbreaking report, a bill was crafted in Mexico's legislature to address the issue. Largely due to our advocacy, it passed unanimously. In October, President Felipe Calderón signed into law a ban on the capture and export of Mexico's wild parrots.

This is an important victory—but not the end of our campaign. We must also convince consumers to stop buying wild parrots, because as long as there is a market, parrots will continue to disappear from the wild.

HELPING SEA TURTLES

Mexico's beaches host six of the world's seven sea turtle species, making this coastal habitat crucial for the recovery of these imperiled creatures. To raise awareness about the importance of these beaches to turtle nesting success and to deter capture of or accidental harm to turtles in fishing gear, Defenders has been spearheading an extensive public information campaign. The campaign includes workshops with public officials and members of the fishing community; comic books, posters and turtle identification guides; and radio shows aimed at highlighting the plight and habitat needs of sea turtles.

In 2008 we printed a pocket version of our sea turtle identification guide and distributed it throughout the Baja Peninsula. We also organized three major sea turtle conservation workshops for fishers in states along the Pacific Coast. These workshops informed participants about the plight of sea turtles and taught fishing methods that can prevent the inadvertent killing of sea turtles, known as bycatch.

BATTLING INVASIVE SPECIES

One of the greatest threats to biodiversity in the United States is the importation of non-native plants and animals. Nearly half of the species currently listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened by these invasives, and the costs and damages caused by these imported pests, weeds and pathogens can reach more than \$120 billion each year.

Despite the dangers, the United States does not currently require the thousands of animal species imported into our country annually to be screened for the risks they may pose. To help change this, in 2008 we helped draft and testified in favor of the Non-native Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act, a bill that would set up a new risk-screening system for imported animals.

In April we co-hosted the first major international workshop on the invasive species risks of the global wild animal trade at the University of Notre Dame. A summary of this workshop was provided to delegates at a conference of the parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity in Germany in May. The full proceedings are being published, and we will use them to help shape international policy on the trade of wild animals.

AIDING AMPHIBIANS

Nearly one-third of all amphibian species are imperiled by disease, climate change, habitat loss and other factors, and Defenders has launched a campaign to address these threats.

Through this campaign we will try to reduce the risks to amphibians in the United States, including proposing tougher regulations on the import of non-native amphibians that could pose a risk to native species. In addition, in 2008 we proposed 13 species from around the world for protective listing under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Educating and Mobilizing the Public

The work of our communications and outreach teams allows Defenders not only to educate the public about conservation, but also to harness public support and bolster our wildlife advocacy efforts.



Top: A still from Defenders' public-service announcement on global warming.

Above: An image of the first documented wild wolf pack in Washington in seven decades, taken with the help of Defenders' Wildlife Volunteer Corps. Photo courtesy of Conservation Northwest

BLOGGING ABOUT WOLVES

Launched last summer, our “My Yellowstone Wolves” blog (www.defenders.org/wolfblog) has been taking the innovative work of our wolf conservation team directly to the public. Defenders staff members write regularly about their experiences in the field, upload photographs of wolf sightings and discuss upcoming events and news. More than 100 people a day have been visiting the site, where they can share their thoughts, ask questions of our experts and learn how they can take action to help protect wolves.

ENLISTING VOLUNTEERS

To give our members and others the chance to participate directly in conservation efforts, we created the Wildlife Volunteer Corps. The corps enlists volunteers to assist scientists, conservationists and land managers in projects that make an immediate difference for wildlife.

Among other projects across the nation, in 2008 a group of corps volunteers helped set up motion-triggered wildlife-monitoring cameras near Interstate 90 in Washington's Cascade Mountains, to help find suitable locations for wildlife crossings. In addition to capturing images of rare lynx and wolverines, the volunteers in July got a groundbreaking image of six wolf pups—the first documentary evidence of a wild wolf pack in Washington since the 1930s, and evidence that our advocacy to return wolves to the state has been successful.

We also mobilized scores of activists across the country in our work to protect Alaska's wolves. We provided our citizen advocates with the tools and training needed to organize meetings with staff

in 82 Congressional district offices in 26 states in support of the Protect America's Wildlife Act. Thanks in part to this effort, we were able to get 130 representatives to cosponsor the legislation.

BROADCASTING OUR ISSUES

Our Alaska wolf mini-documentary, which exposes the brutal practice of aerial killing of wolves, received wide coverage in 2008. The video has been viewed by more than 321,000 people on YouTube, and was used by CNN's Anderson Cooper and other broadcast journalists to expose Alaska governor and vice presidential candidate Sara Palin's position on aerial shooting.

Our award-winning public-service announcements on global warming have been aired 26,835 times, creating more than 200 million opportunities for people to learn about the effect of climate change on wildlife.

GAINING GROUND ONLINE

Our Web presence, www.defenders.org, continues to grow, with an expanding library of information about endangered animals, habitats and crucial issues such as global warming. Our wildlife and habitat fact sheets, popular with young students, received more than 4.5 million unique views this year (www.defenders.org/animals). Our online team also produces our engaging monthly newsletter, *Wildlife eNews*, which contains breaking news on conservation issues, action alerts and interesting facts and stories about wild animals and the people working to save them. In 2008, the number of subscribers to *Wildlife eNews* passed the 750,000 mark.

Annual Awards Dinner

On September 25, several hundred friends and supporters gathered with Defenders in Washington, D.C., to honor a distinguished group of conservationists. Jeff Corwin, a Defenders board member and host of Animal Planet and Discovery Channel television shows, served as our master of ceremonies. Defenders President Rodger Schlickeisen and Board Chair Victor Sher were joined by special guests—including Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.)—to present our awards.

Defenders was pleased to present the Wildlife Legacy Award to Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior under President Bill Clinton. Among his many achievements at Interior, Babbitt established 22 new national monuments, helped protect forests in the Northwest and oversaw the return of wolves to Yellowstone National Park.

We presented the Spirit of Defenders Award for Public Service to Rep. Norm Dicks (D-Wash.), a longtime champion of wildlife causes and a close ally of ours in numerous Congressional battles.

Our Spirit of Defenders Award for Science was given to Dr. Thomas Lovejoy,

president of the Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment. Lovejoy was one of the first to raise the alarm about the threat global warming poses to biodiversity.

We honored Diana Hadley with our Spirit of Defenders Award for Citizen Advocacy. Hadley is president of the Northern Jaguar Project, and was instrumental in creating a 45,000-acre northern jaguar reserve in Sonora, Mexico.

The evening, which was co-chaired by Richard and Darcy Kopcho and Richard and Sarah Pritzlaff, raised more than \$400,000 for Defenders' conservation programs.





Clockwise from top: Sen. Mark Udall and board chair Victor Sher (on left) join Rodger Schlickeisen (right) in congratulating wildlife legacy award winner Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary of the Interior; citizen advocacy award winner Diana Hadley; science award winner Dr. Thomas Lovejoy; Rep. Norm Dicks (left), winner of the public service award, with Sue Schlickeisen and dinner cochair Richard Kopcho; Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse; and master of ceremonies Jeff Corwin.

Photos © Panoramic Visions Photography



Defenders on the Map

A sampling of Defenders' actions and achievements in 2008

● Defenders' offices

1 ALASKA

- Helped secure the listing of the Cook Inlet beluga whale as an endangered species.
- Took legal action to protect polar bears from the effects of global warming.
- Stopped passage of legislation introduced by Gov. Sarah Palin that would have eliminated scientific requirements for establishing predator control programs.

2 ARIZONA

- Helped stop a proposed highway bypass through the ecologically rich and fragile San Pedro River Valley.
- Coordinated and sponsored Dia De Los Lobos, a Tucson event celebrating 10 years of Mexican wolf recovery that involved 40 organizations and more than 1,000 attendees.

3 CALIFORNIA

- Lobbied successfully for a bill that created an oil-spill clean-up and volunteer training program for inland waters and streams, where three times more spills occur than in coastal waters.
- Helped get legislation passed to establish a statewide program for the identification and protection of wildlife corridors.
- Pushed for and secured passage of landmark legislation promoting smart growth as a key strategy for reducing the emissions that contribute to global warming.

4 COLORADO

- Helped protect the reintroduced lynx population from logging and resort developments.

5 DELAWARE AND NEW JERSEY

- Submitted a second petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the red knot under the Endangered Species Act due to continued population decline.
- Lobbied for passage of a state law in New Jersey to enact a moratorium on harvesting horseshoe crabs, a staple for the imperiled red knot on its Delaware Bay feeding grounds.





6 FLORIDA

- Collaborated with landowners to create a Florida panther protection plan in southwest Florida.
- Helped lead a successful effort to reauthorize the Florida Forever Act, the largest land acquisition program in the country.
- Launched a program to reduce artificial beachfront lighting to prevent disorientation of nesting and hatchling sea turtles.

7 IDAHO

- Worked to protect the last remaining stronghold for fishers in the Rocky Mountains from logging and trapping.
- Hired and equipped a field crew to protect sheep in Big Wood River Valley, an area of nearly 1 million acres where more than 10,000 sheep graze in habitat shared by several wolf packs.

8 KANSAS

- Assisted with the state's first black-footed ferret reintroduction effort.

9 KENTUCKY

- Awarded a Living Lands grant to the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust to develop forest easement and carbon sequestration-based forestry models in the southern Appalachians.

10 MONTANA

- Worked to protect key wolverine denning areas from unregulated snowmobile recreation and to convince the state wildlife agency to reduce wolverine trapping.
- Assisted the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in expanding its bison herd by acquiring grazing leases to an additional 7,500 acres.
- Helped convince the state wildlife agency to drop its proposal to open a new swift-fox trapping season.

11 NORTH CAROLINA

- Won a court-approved settlement increasing protections for nesting shorebirds and sea turtles on Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

12 OREGON

- Helped develop a climate change adaptation strategy for the state's fish, wildlife and habitat.

13 TEXAS

- Supported research to assess the population status of and evaluate suitable habitats for Louisiana black bears.

14 VERMONT

- Provided funds to help build road underpasses at one of the state's most important and vulnerable amphibian crossings.

15 WYOMING

- Joined a legal effort to stop inappropriate feeding of elk on the National Elk Refuge.
- Helped stop oil and gas development in the Wyoming Range, which contains some of the best lynx habitat in the greater Yellowstone area.

16 CANADA

- Stopped a plan by the Alberta government and University of Alberta to capture and kill wolves to boost elk numbers for hunters.
- Helped convince the government of Alberta to formally adopt the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan, which now awaits funding and on-the-ground action.

17 MEXICO

- Helped complete the 47,000-acre Northern Jaguar Reserve to protect the world's northernmost remaining population of wild jaguars.
- Secured enactment of a bill that bans the capture of wild parrots throughout Mexico.

Financial Report

In 2008, Defenders of Wildlife's 576,000 members and other supporters contributed \$31 million for wildlife and wildlife habitat. Law firms, broadcast media outlets and others generously donated their time and expertise. While support from individuals and foundations remained strong, overall income decreased from the previous year largely because of a decline in investment income. Whether in the field, the courts or on Capitol Hill, it is the steadfast support of our donors that allows Defenders to sustain its programs and public education efforts.

Our tax returns for past years may be found on our Web site: www.defenders.org/tax_forms

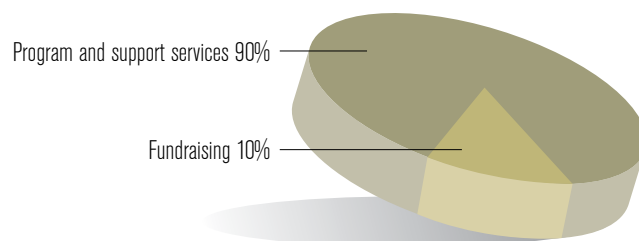
(Financial statements audited by Rogers & Company PLLC.)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

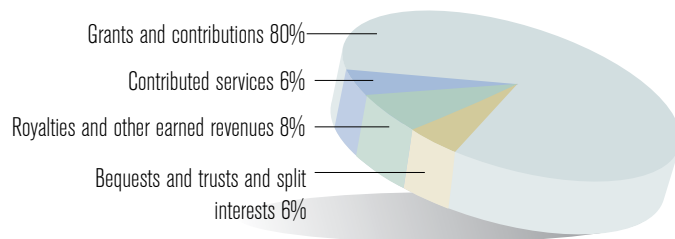
(in thousands of dollars)

SOURCES OF FUNDS	2008	2007
Grants and contributions	27,040	24,656
Bequests, trusts, and split interests	1,991	3,782
Income from investments	(2,681)	1,673
Royalties and other earned revenues	2,834	1,683
Contributed services	1,918	3,360
Total Revenues	31,102	35,154
USES OF FUNDS	2008	2007
Wildlife action	9,588	9,595
Law and legislation	5,277	5,261
Media and education	9,686	10,440
Constituency outreach	1,727	2,022
Fundraising	3,506	4,265
Management and general	4,874	3,087
Total Expenses	34,658	34,670
Change in net assets	(3,556)	484
Net assets, start of year	22,043	21,559
Net assets, end of year	18,487	22,043

2008 USES OF FUNDS



2008 SOURCES OF FUNDS*



* For the pie-chart illustration, we have excluded the negative loss in investments in the development of the percentages.



Special Thanks To Our Contributors

The donors listed on the following pages generously supported our efforts to protect wildlife and habitat in fiscal year 2008. Defenders of Wildlife gratefully acknowledges these generous gifts, pledges and payments on pledges.

\$100,000+

Biophilia Foundation
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
The Humane Society of the United States
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**YELLOWSTONE WORKSHOP**

In August, 16 President's Council members from across the country attended the 17th annual Wildlife Conservation Workshop in Yellowstone National Park. The workshop gave participants a first-hand look at Defenders' conservation work and, most notably, the return of wolves to the park. Staying in the Lamar Valley at the Buffalo Ranch, the group was in a prime location to view wildlife at close range.

Participants in the President's Council summer workshop at Yellowstone National Park © Jim Clark



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We honor the memory of the following individuals whose bequests we received this fiscal year. These legacy donors had included Defenders of Wildlife as a beneficiary in their wills or other estate plans. Their commitment and foresight is protecting wildlife today—and will continue for years to come.

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Our new CFC number is 10624.

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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)

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Supporting Defenders One Month at a Time

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 on this program, please visit our Web site at: www.defenders.org/wildlifeguardians

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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 receive 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 receive 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., NW, 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, e-mail legacy@defenders.org, write to us at Office of Gift Planning, Defenders of Wildlife, 1130 17th St, NW, Washington, DC, 20036, or visit our Web site: www.defenders.planyourlegacy.org/

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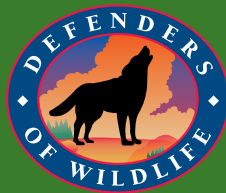
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