

# 2019 Annual Report

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# 2019 Feats & Figures

Here are some highlights of what we accomplished this year thanks to your help and commitment to Defenders of Wildlife.



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800,000 public comments gathered to oppose a Trump administration rewrite of ESA regulations.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE



90+ educational workshops and trainings to teach ranchers and others how to deploy fladry, foxlights and other deterrence tools to reduce conflicts between predators and ranchers.

1.4 million comments collected in opposition to the Trump administration's proposal to remove federal endangered species protection for gray wolves in the Lower 48.

© TED WOOD



55 bison transferred from Yellowstone National Park to Assiniboine and Sioux tribal lands at Fort Peck in Montana with our help, marking the first relocation under a new program to divert bison from slaughter to ancestral lands.



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37 new electric fence projects completed in our program to keep grizzly bears safe by financially helping property owners secure bear attractants like garbage, fruit trees, bee hives and livestock.

5 testimonies given on Capitol Hill to address the unprecedented challenges facing wildlife today, from attacks on the Endangered Species Act to climate change and the extinction crisis.



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35 lawsuits are moving through the courts, as we fight to protect imperiled wildlife and habitat.

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120 million acres of Atlantic offshore waters remain off-limits to drilling, thanks to our lawsuit.

USFWS/RYAN MGEHRING



1,500 scientists co-signed Defenders' editorial letter published in *Science*—one of the top scientific journals in the world—in support of increased funding for conservation of threatened and endangered species.

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307,848 volunteers engaged with Defenders through events, activities, projects and online actions.

## Who we are

### PREVENT PROTECT RESTORE

Defenders of Wildlife is a solutions-oriented leader on imperiled species and sensitive landscape issues, conserving habitat and building a broad constituency for protecting wildlife and wild places. We bring expertise on Endangered Species Act (ESA) policy and public lands management and decades of experience mounting successful legislative campaigns to protect North American biodiversity, including blocking congressional efforts to gut the ESA and other bedrock environmental laws.

Our approach is pragmatic and aimed at solving conservation challenges through data and technology and collaborating and engaging with others to fight for wildlife on the ground, in the courts and in the halls of Congress. We are also mobilizing a growing, more engaged and diverse constituency who cares about wildlife and habitat and can broaden our reach and serve as ambassadors of conservation.

Defense of our bedrock environmental laws is our top priority as we work to restore the wildlife policies, laws and lands that we've lost in recent years under the Trump administration's unprecedented assault on conservation. And in the face of the United Nations' 2019 global assessment that found nearly 1 million species worldwide are at risk of extinction, we are focusing on innovative ways to leverage science and technology and successfully boost funding for essential wildlife programs—especially those aimed at recovering endangered species.



## Prevent



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Defenders works to help protect imperiled species like the desert tortoise while also advancing renewable energy.

**Our Center for Conservation Innovation (CCI)** partnered with SkyTruth to crowdsource habitat monitoring and to provide regulatory agencies with an effective way to monitor for conservation law compliance. Users sign up to watch for habitat changes in a defined area and a Defenders-developed, automated habitat-change detection app sends email alerts to users if habitat loss is detected. Our novel methodology uses satellite imagery from across the country that updates every 10 to 14 days.

**Defenders’ “smart from the start” renewable energy and wildlife team is building a tool to help companies source their energy responsibly.** Companies like Amazon, Facebook, Google, Mars and Wal-Mart have such large energy-purchasing power that they can buy power directly from renewable-energy developers. Our work helps them meet their sustainability goals by sourcing renewable energy from projects that minimize impacts to wildlife. We’ve also led an effort to identify and recommend measures to lessen the wildlife impacts from 4,600 miles of proposed energy corridors crossing seven western states.

**To keep sensitive wildlife location data out of the hands of poachers** and others who would harass or harm wildlife, Defenders collaborated with diverse stakeholders, secured legislative sponsors and shepherded an Oregon state bill through the legislature to protect sensitive information that the governor signed into law. We also helped defeat a Montana bounty bill that would have reimbursed wolf trappers for each kill. We issued multiple action alerts to our in-state members, testified against the bill and lobbied hard in the legislature to stop this regressive proposal.

**To mobilize a broader constituency for wildlife conservation,** our national outreach program established student-led Defenders of Wildlife clubs at colleges and universities in Arizona, Colorado, Maine and Pennsylvania. Their first campaign highlighted the threat to polar bears on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain, linking wildlife to climate change concerns. The campus clubs generate earned media, host events and meetings with members of Congress, mobilize petition drives and faculty sign-on letters, and train student leaders how to sustain each club.

**Defenders supported the construction and shipment of two state-of-the-art, polar-bear-proof food storage lockers** to Katovich, Alaska, adjacent to the most important onshore polar bear denning area in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Katovich is experiencing increasing human-bear interactions as hungry polar bears search for food, a direct result of sea ice loss. Defenders also launched an electric fence subsidy program on Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula this year to reduce human-brown bear conflicts.



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## Protect



USFWS/JOHRENDT

We protected habitat for brown bears, wolves, shorebirds and more in Alaska.

**In a huge win** following our joint lawsuit with other environmental organizations, 98% of the Arctic Ocean and the ecologically valuable marine canyons off the Atlantic Coast remain protected. A U.S. district court judge ruled that President Trump's order to lift the ban on offshore oil and gas drilling from Massachusetts to Virginia is unlawful presidential overreach. The court also struck down an illegal attempt by the Trump administration to trade Izembek National Wildlife Refuge lands in Alaska to a private corporation to construct a controversial road through internationally recognized wilderness wetlands.

**Defenders played a leading role in the introduction of the Migratory Bird Protection Act** in the House of Representatives. The bill aims to reverse the Trump administration's reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)—which has underpinned successful migratory bird protection for a century—and to restore longstanding protections to migratory birds against harmful industrial activities that have saved millions of waterfowl from oil waste pits, vast numbers of raptors from power line electrocutions and more. Further, our continuing lawsuit aims to restore the MBTA's authority and to prevent the administration from enshrining its erroneous reinterpretation in federal regulations.

**Defenders led robust efforts to fight off anti-ESA amendments** and to ensure the House-passed FY2020 Interior Appropriations bill addressed our priorities. The final bill provides an extraordinary \$37 million increase for endangered species, a \$26 million increase for national wildlife refuges and boosts funding for other key land and wildlife programs, while also rejecting funding for the disastrous reorganization of the Department of the Interior.

**Defenders helped achieve a major victory** when the U.S. Forest Service rejected a proposal to lease more than 50,000 acres for oil and gas drilling in Nevada's Ruby Mountains in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Home to greater sage-grouse, mule deer, golden eagles, mountain lions, bighorn sheep and threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout, the "Rubies" are also a hedge against invasive species and climate change impacts in the Great Basin.

**As a direct result of our advocacy campaign,** the New Mexico state legislature passed the Wildlife Corridors Act, which mandates that the state's transportation department and wildlife agency work together to address habitat connectivity barriers (such as highways) that hinder wildlife migration.

**At the meeting of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,** a treaty among 183 world parties that regulates international wildlife trade, Defenders achieved important trade protections for wedgefishes, guitarfishes, spiny-tailed iguanas and mako sharks.



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## Restore



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The North Atlantic right whale (above, with calf) is in danger of disappearing forever. Fewer than 400 survive, with no more than 95 breeding-age females.

**Defenders provided funding and mobilized volunteers to gather the 125,000 signatures** needed from Colorado voters for a 2020 ballot initiative calling for the state to reintroduce wolves. We also hosted “Ranching with Predators” workshops throughout Colorado to build support for wolf recovery. Each workshop concluded with ranchers thanking us for sharing real-life experiences and offering hope for a successful sharing of the landscape with wolves.

**Defenders secured a 10-year extension of critical funding** for more than 1 million acres of wildlife habitat in California after rallying support across the state. The Habitat Conservation Fund will generate \$30 million a year in funding for projects that protect and conserve wildlife through research, habitat acquisition, restoration and other important projects.

**Defenders successfully lobbied for increases in federal funding for North Atlantic right whale conservation** in the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill. The final package provides \$3 million for right whale research and monitoring, including \$1 million to fund a pilot program to develop and test fishing gear designed to reduce entanglements and an additional \$300,000 for surveys to better understand right whale movement in relation to plankton, their primary food source. We also successfully lobbied for passage of the Save Right Whales Act in the House Natural Resources Committee, which would authorize \$5 million a year over the next decade for states, conservationists and industry to collaborate on research to reduce vessel collisions and fishing gear entanglements, the two main causes of death for these critically endangered whales. Our attorneys also filed a motion for summary judgement in our lawsuit against the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, challenging the agency’s violations of the ESA and the Marine Mammal Protection Act in its management of the lobster industry, which has hundreds of thousands of fishing lines in right whale habitat.

**Defenders’ work to help conserve habitat to protect Florida panthers** through better highway planning and to help residents coexist with predators led to a litter born north of the Caloosahatchee River in Florida for the second year in a row. At least two females and two males have claimed territory in the area after a four-decade absence. We also helped livestock owners build predator-resistant livestock enclosures and participated in outreach events that drew more than 12,000 people to learn how to share the landscape with panthers.

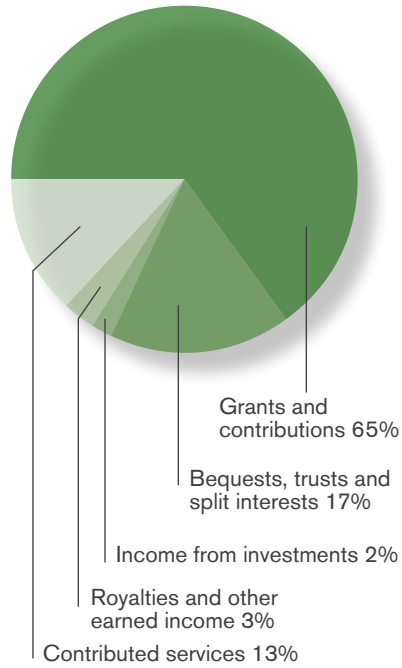
**Defenders assisted the Fort Peck Tribe in the acquisition of 1,707 acres of grazing leases for their bison reserve**, allowing for the addition of 25 animals to the 375-strong herd that roams more than 14,000 acres of tribal lands.



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# Financial Report

In 2019, Defenders of Wildlife's more than 1.8 million members and supporters contributed more than \$38 million for wildlife and wildlife habitat. This figure includes all those who generously donated their time and expertise. The steadfast support of our donors allows Defenders to sustain our program and public education efforts in the field, the courts and on Capitol Hill.

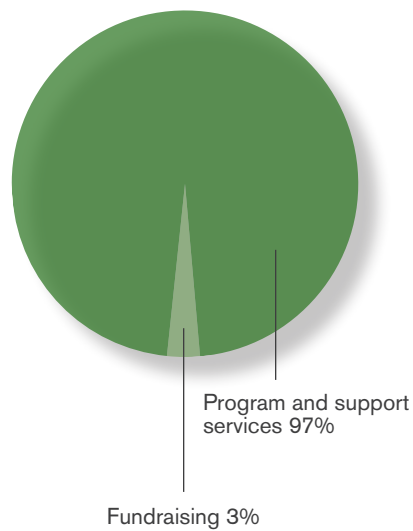


## SOURCES OF FUNDS

Grants and contributions	\$25,050
Bequests, trusts and split interests	\$6,758
Income from investments	\$704
Royalties and other earned income	\$1,259
Contributed services	\$5,146
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$38,917</b>

## USES OF FUNDS

Biodiversity conservation	\$15,722
Constituency mobilization	\$16,381
Fundraising	\$1,095
Management and general	\$4,754
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$37,952</b>
Change in net assets	\$965
Net assets, start of year	\$38,983
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$39,948</b>



Dollars are in thousands.





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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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## Ways to Give

There are many ways to support Defenders of Wildlife and protect our imperiled wildlife. To learn more or make a donation, please contact us at **1-800-385-9712**, visit [defenders.org/donate](https://defenders.org/donate) or choose one of the options below.

- ▶ Become a **Leadership Council** member with a single donation of \$1,000 or more and enjoy more personal involvement with Defenders. [Defenders.org/leadershipcouncil](https://Defenders.org/leadershipcouncil)
- ▶ Check with your personnel office or that of your spouse/partner about your company's **Corporate Matching Gifts** program or visit us at [Defenders.org/matching](https://Defenders.org/matching).
- ▶ Become a **Wildlife Circle** member with a donation of \$100 to \$999 and be a key partner in our work to protect wolves and other wildlife.
- ▶ Join Defenders' **Wildlife Guardians**, our monthly giving program, and make your donations easily and automatically through a credit card or checking account. [Defenders.org/wildlifeguardians](https://Defenders.org/wildlifeguardians)
- ▶ Ask about **EarthShare** where you work and designate Defenders of Wildlife (CFC #10624) for all or part of your gift.
- ▶ Include Defenders as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or other estate plan, and leave a lasting mark on wildlife and the world by helping us continue our conservation work. You can specify that Defenders receives a certain percentage, dollar amount or residuary share of your estate.
 

To include Defenders in your will or other estate plans, provide the following language to your professional advisor: "I bequeath (percentage, residuary share or specific amount or asset) to Defenders of Wildlife (Tax ID: 53-0183181), 1130 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 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. Call us at **1-800-915-6789**, email [legacy@defenders.org](mailto:legacy@defenders.org) or visit: [www.defenders.org/legacy](https://www.defenders.org/legacy).



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# Thank you



This past year certainly had its challenges given the unprecedented lack of conservation leadership in government. Rather than build on our country's extraordinary environmental legacy at a time when the planet faces an extinction crisis, the Trump administration put the power of the federal government at the disposal of those who seek to exploit and degrade our land, water, air, wildlife and people.

But from winning our lawsuit to keep the ban on offshore drilling in place and fighting off direct attacks on the ESA and other bedrock environmental laws to crowdsourcing habitat monitoring and protection, we've been able to successfully block anti-wildlife measures at every turn while taking an inventive approach toward wildlife and habitat protection.

None of this would be possible without you. Your passion for wildlife and your dedication to Defenders empowers everything we do. Thank you for trusting us to fight on your behalf for the species we all love.

Jamie Rappaport Clark  
*President and CEO*

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