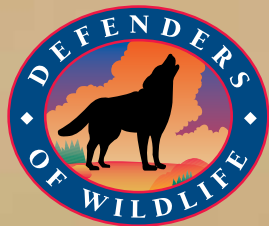


DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

2009 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, greater Yellowstone ecosystem

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DEFENDERS IN 2009

On Inauguration Day 2009, the world truly changed. For Defenders of Wildlife, the swearing in of President Barack Obama shifted both the realm of possibilities and our strategic outlook. For eight years we'd fought off near-constant attacks on the environment. With our new president and a more favorable Congress, we could once again focus on achieving positive outcomes for wildlife.

This year Defenders forged ahead on our work addressing the chief threat to wildlife conservation—climate change. While we advocate for strong controls on greenhouse gas emissions, we must also safeguard wildlife and habitats already being affected by climate changes. Our advocacy has already achieved high-level recognition: The National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center that Defenders helped create in 2008 will inform and guide federal agencies responding to climate change. Additionally, we have successfully ensured that all major global warming bills to date establish dedicated funding to assist federal, state and tribal agencies to implement a national strategy on wildlife survival that the new administration is developing.

Our efforts to strengthen protections for our public lands also progressed. We are promoting America's Wildlife Heritage Act, a bill requiring that national forests, grasslands and other public lands be managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to provide sustainable wildlife populations. Also this year we successfully encouraged badly needed funding increases for the national wildlife refuge system and other public lands as well as an unprecedented boost in funding to help wildlife survive in a warming world.

Our work for imperiled species has seen many gains but also some setbacks, as the new administration works out its priorities. Many of the court and administrative challenges we had brought against the Bush administration are being resolved as the Obama administration has moved to settle with us rather than defend the previous administration's mistakes. This has meant a long-awaited designation of 25 million acres of critical habitat for the Canada lynx, and a re-evaluation of the need for federal protections for the wolverine and critical habitat for the woodland caribou. Our request for increased protection for the polar bear under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species was supported by the Obama administration as well.

We also achieved victories in the courts for jaguars, flat-tailed horned lizards and Mexican gray wolves. Our court challenge of damaging Bush-era changes to national forest policy was also successful. The new administration has promised to rewrite forest planning rules, and we will



Victor Sher and Rodger Schlickeisen

© SCOTT ROBINSON

work to ensure that protections for wildlife are reinstated and enhanced. And in Congress our bill to curb the aerial shooting of wolves and bears, the Protect America's Wildlife (PAW) Act, was introduced in the Senate for the first time.

While there have been many positive changes in 2009, some surprising decisions from the Obama administration show we still have work to do. Shortly after taking over the Interior Department, Secretary Ken Salazar dismayed conservationists by unexpectedly approving the Bush administration's plan to remove federal protections for gray wolves in the northern Rockies. Idaho and Montana quickly authorized widespread wolf hunts, and we immediately sued Secretary Salazar to restore federal protection. We are guardedly optimistic that the court will rule in our favor, but in the meantime we are working vigorously to persuade the administration to voluntarily correct its error and restore protection to northern Rockies wolves.

We are also encouraging the Obama administration to re-evaluate policy requiring the building of a U.S.-Mexico border wall, which is damaging sensitive ecosystems and crucial wildlife migration corridors. And we are mounting a vigorous campaign directed at the administration and Congress stressing the need to protect wildlife while the government promotes renewable energy development.

In 2009, we also faced the challenge of a president and Congress necessarily focused on the recession, war, health-care and financial reform. We are grateful to our donors, who found ways to continue their support for wildlife and made our accomplishments possible in a challenging year. With your continued help, we expect that our outstanding staff will be able to win even more important battles in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor Sher".

Victor Sher
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodger Schlickeisen".

Rodger Schlickeisen
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Emperor penguins, Antarctica
© JAN VERMEER/FOTO NATURA/MINDEN PICTURES

ABOUT DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Since 1947 Defenders of Wildlife has been a leading force in the protection of wild creatures. We began with a single staff person focusing on safeguarding coyotes and other predators.

Today Defenders employs more than 150 people throughout North America, working to conserve native plants and animals, and developing innovative, science-based solutions to the many challenges facing wildlife and habitats today.

We work to protect and restore imperiled North American animals and plants.

More than a decade ago, Defenders led the way for the return of the gray wolf to the northern Rockies, and we have watched as the presence of this top predator has helped heal broken ecosystems. We have worked with ranchers and local communities to ease the return of the wolf and other key predators to the landscape. And we have helped restore species like bison and prairie dogs to their essential roles on wild lands.

We work to safeguard wildlife and habitat in the face of global warming.

Wild species face a threat today that was unfathomable when Defenders opened its doors more than six decades ago. From sea-level rise to the spread of disease, our changing climate has the power to impact every species on Earth. We work with the best scientific minds to forge policy at the federal, regional and local levels to help wildlife survive the coming changes.

We work to protect native plants, animals and natural areas on federal lands.

Our national wildlife refuges, national forests and other public lands offer a foundation for the long-term conservation of native plants and animals, but only if they are managed well. From strengthening protection for our national wildlife refuges, to advocating for wildlife conservation on national forests and other public lands, we strive to ensure that the health of wildlife is integral to our public lands policy.

We work to promote an interconnected network of private and public lands for wildlife.

Wild species must be able to move, especially as the climate changes. Defenders strives to increase connectivity between public and private conservation lands, and to decrease fragmentation of the land by roads and other infrastructure. We are also working to connect and advise private landowners and conservation leaders around the country to maximize the impact of their conservation work.

We work to reduce the causes of international wildlife loss. From the global amphibian crisis to the protection of sea turtles, Defenders has worked to protect wildlife around the world from the pressures of human demands and development, particularly those that originate in the United States. We have advocated for species internationally, working with governments around the world to advance the cause of wildlife made vulnerable by international commerce.

PROTECTING IMPERILED WILDLIFE

From wolves to whales, Defenders has always been in the vanguard of efforts to safeguard imperiled wild creatures.



Polar bears

Global warming threatens to claim the magnificent polar bear as one of its early victims. Defenders has worked to secure critical habitat for the bear, and to gain increased international protections through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Our lawyers are also fighting both to sustain the listing of the polar bear as a threatened species against challenges by the state of Alaska and industry, and to reverse the Bush administration's decision to provide only limited protection for the bear under the Endangered Species Act.

© JENNY E. ROSS

Wolves

Defenders played a leading role in the restoration of wolves to greater Yellowstone and central Idaho. With support from the Wilburforce Foundation and other generous donors, we continue to be the most dedicated and effective advocate for this persecuted predator throughout North America. Some of the highlights of our work for wolves during the past year:



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- Pressing for congressional passage of the Protect America's Wildlife (PAW) Act, which would end Alaska's unnecessary and unscientific aerial wolf-killing program;
- Opposing the premature removal of Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the northern Rockies, and leading the court challenge against the delisting;
- Working with Defenders' board member Ashley Judd to create a compelling video about the Idaho wolf hunt;
- Working with ranchers in Idaho's Wood River Valley to prevent conflicts between wolves and livestock—only a handful of sheep and no wolves have been killed since this project began in 2007;
- Establishing the Western Wolf Coalition and launching www.westernwolves.org;
- Winning a legal battle that forced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to end harmful management policies for Mexican gray wolves;
- Cosponsoring the Grand Canyon wolf-recovery project, which this year provided training for activists in the Grand Canyon ecosystem;
- Working proactively with ranchers in the Southwest and thereby saving three Mexican wolf packs from removal, including one pack with six pups;
- Providing technical assistance to Mexico for a planned Mexican gray wolf reintroduction;
- Actively promoting wolf conservation to the media, resulting in opinion pieces, news articles and television stories in regional and national outlets.

© SANDIE SMITH/NATURE'S LEGACY



Grizzly bears

Defenders has continued to work closely with communities in the Rocky Mountains to reduce conflicts with and improve awareness of grizzly bears. In 2009 we spent more than \$43,000 from our grizzly bear proactive fund on dozens of projects, including guard dogs, fencing and range riders for ranchers, and bear-resistant trash cans and food-storage lockers for other citizens. Our grizzly bear compensation fund also paid out more than \$23,000 to ranchers to reimburse them for livestock losses. In Canada, Defenders promoted implementation of Alberta's grizzly management plan and lobbied successfully to keep Alberta's grizzly bear hunt closed through 2010, saving 10 to 15 bears per year.

Jaguars

Our jaguar restoration efforts got a boost this year when a federal judge ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must re-evaluate its decision not to develop a recovery plan for this exquisite and rare feline, which ranges as far north as Arizona and New Mexico. We are also working with our partners in Mexico to support the coexistence of jaguars and people there. We helped offset the costs of moving cattle away from a denning female jaguar and her two cubs, and we constructed electric fencing to assist with cattle monitoring and protection in jaguar-occupied areas.



ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT



© KEN CURTIS

Canada lynx

Years of Defenders' litigation and advocacy came to fruition this year with the designation of critical habitat for the imperiled lynx. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated 25 million acres from Maine to Washington as critical habitat, one of the largest designations in the history of the Endangered Species Act.

© RICHARD P. SMITH



Fishers

The fisher, a small forest-dwelling mammal, is considered one of the most imperiled carnivores in the northern Rockies, yet it has been given no formal federal protections to date. Defenders is working to change that. This year we filed a petition to list the fisher under the Endangered Species Act. Defenders has also urged Montana officials to reduce allowable fisher trapping in the state.

Florida panthers

Defenders has been working with landowners in southwest Florida on the Florida Panther Protection Program, which will increase protection of panther habitat, conserve movement corridors, bolster conservation funds and guide development. With Defenders' support, landowners are pursuing a Habitat Conservation Plan under the Endangered Species Act—a plan that would increase protections for panthers as well as other listed species.

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Black-footed ferrets

The endangered black-footed ferret is slowly making a comeback but its success is tied to the viability of its main prey species, the prairie dog. Defenders assisted ranchers in western Kansas who welcomed ferrets to their land and now are fighting forced prairie dog poisoning campaigns by local officials. We helped offset the cost of blocking prairie dog expansion onto surrounding ranches, where the animals are not wanted. Defenders also sued the Environmental Protection Agency to block approval of the pesticide Rozol, which slowly kills prairie dogs and also poisons their many predators.

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(CAPTIVE BREEDING FACILITY, COLORADO)



Mike Leahy



© LACY GRAY/DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

For Defenders' Rocky Mountain region director Mike Leahy, wildlife conservation has been a lifelong interest. From his favorite childhood book *Benny's Animals and How He Put Them In Order* to his undergraduate degree in natural resources, to his law degree emphasizing wildlife and natural resources law, Leahy has been preparing to make his work count for wildlife.

In 2000, he joined Defenders as a staff attorney at our national headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he worked for seven years. During that time Leahy played a key role in a range of litigation and legislation, including protecting woodland caribou habitat from overzealous snowmobilers and developing America's Wildlife Heritage Act.

In 2007, Leahy moved to Bozeman, Montana, to establish Defenders' Rocky Mountain region office. There he coordinates the work of seven staffers working on a wide range of high-priority issues such as helping ranchers and other residents coexist peacefully with wolves and grizzly bears; seeking much-needed federal protections for imperiled wolverines and fishers; and working with tribes, ranchers and wildlife managers to help restore populations of black-footed ferrets.

For Leahy, being part of Defenders' team helps him fulfill his lifelong desire to make a difference for wildlife. "I think Defenders attracts a lot of the most committed and knowledgeable wildlife advocates," Leahy says. "We all encourage each other to be constantly innovative and push the conservation envelope, while staying rooted in strong science and social realities."

"After almost 10 years with the organization, I'm still convinced Defenders is the best place to advocate for broad-based wildlife conservation."



© RON MASESSA/ISTOCK

Cook Inlet beluga whales

Our advocacy work paid off this year when federal protection was finally established for the endangered Alaskan subspecies of beluga. We hosted the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Symposium in Anchorage to facilitate cooperation and further scientific understanding of these whales. We also produced a brochure that trained volunteers with the Anchorage Coastal Beluga Survey to educate the public on collecting data on Cook Inlet beluga whales.



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Wolverines

The few shy wolverines that still roam remote areas of the lower 48 states may soon find a more hopeful future. A Defenders-led coalition of wildlife groups challenged the federal government's decision not to give the wolverine protection under the Endangered Species Act. In response, the agency agreed to re-evaluate its prior decision, and specifically to consider the effects of climate change.



© KEN CURTIS

Sea turtles

Defenders helped secure a hard-fought victory for sea turtles when the National Marine Fisheries Services imposed a six-month moratorium on bottom longline fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. This practice has been killing sea turtles at an alarming rate. Following the moratorium, the government agency reduced the number of boats allowed in the fishery, and instituted a seasonal shallow-water closure.



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Flat-tailed horned lizards

For almost two decades we have worked to gain federal protection for a small reptile of the Sonoran desert, the flat-tailed horned lizard. Habitat loss and destruction is imperiling this creature, but government officials have declined to include the lizard on the federal list of endangered species. Defenders scored a victory this year when a federal appeals court once again sided with us and mandated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reconsider the listing.



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Woodland caribou

The woodland caribou is one of the rarest mammals in the United States, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declined to designate critical habitat for it. Defenders took legal action over this failure to act, prompting the agency to agree to reconsider whether a designation is warranted for the last remaining caribou in the lower 48 states.

Mary Beth Beetham

© CHARLES KOGOD/DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE



Defenders' director of legislative affairs, Mary Beth Beetham, came to the organization 15 years ago with a master's degree in environmental science and

policy, and invaluable experience working as a legislative assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives. Her background paid off for wildlife from the very beginning.

Within months of starting work for Defenders, Beetham had one of her most memorable successes for wildlife. Her arrival at Defenders coincided with both the Republican takeover of the Congress and the reintroduction of gray wolves to the Yellowstone ecosystem. Beetham was monitoring action on the Senate floor in case a member of the new majority slipped an anti-gray wolf amendment into the Interior Department appropriations bill. Instead, she watched the late Sen. Jessie Helms (R-N.C.) propose an amendment to kill red wolf recovery in the Southeast. Beetham and her colleagues scrambled to find some wildlife-friendly senators, and with their help managed to table the amendment and protect red wolf recovery.

This success for the red wolf has been followed by many others. In her current position, Beetham manages lobbying campaigns for priority issues, advocates for funding for public lands, and continues to play defense on legislative attacks on wildlife. In the past year, she has helped secure funding increases for wildlife refuges and endangered species programs, and has advocated for legislation that would help wildlife and ecosystems survive the impacts of global warming.

Beetham's efforts are supported by Defender's winning formula for conservation work. "Defenders combines pragmatism with vision," she says. "We work on the ground with initiatives like our proactive carnivore conservation fund and wolf and grizzly compensation trusts, while at the same time working to maintain the strongest possible laws and policies to support wildlife conservation."

FACING GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming is destabilizing Earth's climate patterns and rapidly altering wildlife habitat worldwide. All of our work therefore must now be viewed through the lens of this new threat. This past year we created a new climate change department within Defenders to coordinate our work on this crucial wildlife issue.

Science and policy

To give native plants and animals the best possible chance for surviving climate change, we are advocating for a nationally coordinated strategy for aiding wildlife and for dedicated federal funding to carry out that strategy.

We worked to ensure that provisions calling for a national strategy for fish and wildlife adaptation and providing funding for its implementation were included in the American Clean Energy and Security Act that passed the House of Representatives this year. This bill would establish a national policy safeguarding public resources from global warming, and would provide 1 percent of cap-and-trade revenues to wildlife and natural resource protection for 10 years, increasing to 4 percent by 2027. We are working hard to ensure that similar provisions are included in the Senate cap-and-trade bill, and if possible to increase the funding levels for natural resources adaptation.

Because it will take time for comprehensive global warming legislation to wend its way through Congress, we also worked to have directives on wildlife protection in the face of global warming included in appropriations bills for public lands, including funding and authority for the newly created Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center we helped establish in the U.S. Geological Survey. We are assisting the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies as they begin the difficult process of planning to respond to climate change on federal lands. In addition, we have been working to ensure that the push to tap renewable sources of energy is done in coordination with wildlife agencies, so that solar, wind and other energy initiatives don't strip wild creatures of healthy, connected



© CHARLES KOGOD/DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Defenders President Rodger Schlickeisen, right, confers with board member Ashley Judd before she testifies about global warming to a Congressional committee.

habitat—their best defense against changing climates.

Our senior climate change scientist, Jean Brennan, worked throughout the year to shine a spotlight on the impacts of global warming on wildlife. Brennan's work included delivering remarks and acting as a consultant to the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many others.

Winsome McIntosh

© CHARLES KOGOD/DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE



Effective wildlife conservation requires passion and reason—and Defenders' board member Winsome McIntosh has ample quantities of both. For nearly 40 years, she has channeled a passion for conservation into

her transformative work in philanthropy, public interest law and organization management.

Her work in conservation began in 1972, when she and her husband took over management of the McIntosh Foundation. Together they agreed to focus on civil rights and environmental issues. The environmental movement was new, and those early years saw the genesis of some of the nation's most important environmental laws. Since those days, the McIntosh Foundation has had a profound impact on the ability of organizations like Defenders of Wildlife to protect the environment.

In 1999 she founded Rachel's Network, a group of leading women philanthropists interested in the issues of environment and health. For the past 10 years she has served as its president, building Rachel's Network into the effective and influential organization it is today.

McIntosh joined Defenders' board in 1994, and in the years since, Defenders has benefited from McIntosh's many talents—from her work advocating that the organization purchase its wonderful headquarters building in Washington, D.C., to her help protecting what she calls the “holy grail of the environmental movement,” the National Environmental Policy Act, to continually advancing the capacity and leadership of the organization in every way.

“Winsome makes us look good just by being a board member,” says Defenders President Rodger Schlickeisen. “You can depend upon her to help out wherever she's most needed, and she's served admirably in nearly every board leadership position, including chair.”

McIntosh believes Defenders has mastered a winning approach to wildlife conservation work.

“What I really like about Defenders is that it has a single focus, the one organization that is totally committed to biodiversity and endangered species,” she says. “It's a very clear mission, with scientific, moral and legal basis—and that really appeals to me.”



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Global warming and wildlife health

Warmer air and water temperatures, extended growing seasons and other climate-change-related factors will have complex impacts on nature, including benefiting some disease-causing bacteria and viruses, and the organisms that transmit these diseases, such as mosquitoes and ticks. To highlight the interaction between climate change and wildlife health we produced a report called *A Plague Upon Them: A Comprehensive Assessment of Wildlife Disease Risks Posed by Climate Change*. This 92-page report profiles avian malaria, West Nile virus, chytridiomycosis, diseases of coral reefs and other newly emerging diseases. The profiles describe how climate change exacerbates each disease and offer solutions for safeguarding affected creatures.

Defenders is working to help protect Arctic animals such as this polar bear and her cub imperiled by the melting of their sea-ice habitat.

Appealing to the public

Defenders is also appealing directly to the public about impending climate change impacts on wildlife to increase awareness and rally citizen advocates. Television host Jeff Corwin, Defenders' global warming and wildlife ambassador, hosted a series of 11 compelling educational videos called *Feeling the Heat* that highlight the impacts global warming is having on some of the Earth's coolest critters. The educational videos were filmed at Zoo New England and New England Aquarium with support from Discovery Education. The videos and global warming fact sheets for these and many other species can be seen on our Web site at www.defenders.org/jeffcorwin.

Working in the states

We are working with state governments to ensure that their global warming planning includes wildlife protection. In California we worked with the state air resources board to ensure that this state's landmark global warming emissions reduction program includes provisions for raising funds for wildlife safeguards. Defenders is also striving to lessen the impact renewable energy projects and their transmission lines have on wildlife and habitat in California.

In Oregon we worked with state officials to create *Preparing Oregon's Fish, Wildlife and Habitats for Future Climate Change: A Guide for State Adaptation Efforts*. This report outlines anticipated impacts of climate change on animals, plants and habitats, proposes guidelines for adaptation efforts and provides recommendations for research priorities.

Providing a framework

With funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Defenders led a collaborative effort to survey current and future work on wildlife and climate change. We interviewed federal and state agency staff and conservation organizations about their efforts, and produced *Climate Change Adaptation Across the Landscape: A Survey of Federal and State Agencies, Conservation Organizations and Academic Institutions in the United States*. This report highlights strategies currently in use to protect wild plants and animals from the impacts of global warming, and identifies challenges to implementing these strategies.



Safeguarding forests worldwide

One of the most efficient ways to decrease global warming is to keep our forests intact. Defenders has been working to fight deforestation by educating corporations, environmental organizations, policymakers and the public about the importance of forest cover worldwide. We put together a short video that details the interaction between forests and global warming, and highlights global deforestation, especially in rainforests. We circulated this video to our supporters, published an ad in Capitol Hill publications, hosted several forums regarding reduced emissions from deforestation and met with members of Congress about this issue.

Sara Shallenberger Brown

Sara Shallenberger Brown is what a Kentucky public TV documentary rightly called “a force for nature.”

© STEVE SIMPFFER/KET



Few private citizens have done more to help so many organizations protect America's wildlife and natural habitats.

A tireless advocate for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Brown was present when President Carter signed legislation expanding the refuge in 1980. She also represented the United States as a delegate to the United Nations Conference on World Population and Nature in 1974 and 1984. At the state level, Brown served as chair of the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission for three governors, and helped acquire 600 acres of pristine habitat along the Kentucky River in what is now called the Sally Brown Nature Preserve.

“Having Sally as a friend is an absolute honor,” says Defenders President Rodger Schlickeisen, “and all of us at Defenders of Wildlife feel privileged to count her among our staunchest supporters and allies.”

The daughter of an Army general, Sally Brown was born in Valdez, Alaska, in 1911. Her father's career took the family to diplomatic posts around the world. She married W.L. Lyons Brown in 1935, and together they raised four children. When asked how she inspired her children—as well as 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren—to care for nature, Brown—also an accomplished farmer, horsewoman and horticulturist—replies, “I had them do what I did. They appreciated the opportunity to do things with me which led to learning about wildlife. It was very easy to do.”

Over the years, Brown has served on the boards of more than 17 Kentucky organizations and 19 national groups. A member of Defenders of Wildlife for nearly three decades, Brown remains one of our most generous donors. “Everything I read about Defenders,” she says, “makes me pleased I've been with them for such a long time.”



© CARSON CLARK

Previous page: Defenders created a series of fact sheets and educational videos about global warming and wildlife titled *Feeling the Heat*, starring board member Jeff Corwin.

Above: Climate change is shrinking the habitat on which creatures such as this pika depend. **Right:** One of the best ways to battle climate change is to protect forests, a message Defenders is spreading through media such as this video.



CONSERVING PUBLIC LANDS

National forests, grasslands, wildlife refuges and other

government-owned lands cover nearly 450 million acres across the country and provide habitat for thousands of native plant and animal species. We are striving to preserve and enhance the value of these lands for wildlife.

Your Lands, Your Wildlife

Defenders created and is leading a nationwide coalition of groups in the “Your Lands, Your Wildlife” campaign, which advocates for balanced, science-based reforms to federal land-management policies that will ensure wildlife is protected for future generations. This year we released *Your Lands, Your Wildlife*, a report profiling species that depend on our public lands and highlights the need for their protection. We also launched www.yourlandseyourwildlife.org, a Web site that outlines the campaign and tells people how they can get involved.

The legislative cornerstone of the campaign is America’s Wildlife Heritage Act, a bill that would ensure that federal land managers safeguard fish, wildlife and plants on public lands. The bill would also increase cooperation among federal, state and tribal agencies as they respond to the complex conservation challenges posed by climate change. The bipartisan bill currently has 27 cosponsors, and we are working to gain the support of governors and other stakeholders in the West.

Barriers in the borderlands

Throughout the past year, construction continued along the 2,000-mile border between the United States and Mexico, closing off migration corridors for jaguars, Mexican gray wolves, bighorn sheep and other wild animals, and destroying rare habitat on an array of federal lands. We worked with members of the International League of Conservation Photographers on a project to document the impact of the border wall. This project resulted in a multimedia presentation, a brochure and a photo exhibit on Capitol Hill. Defenders staffers also tracked and commented on infrastructure projects in the area, promoted the establishment of robust federal border environmental monitoring and mitigation programs, and endorsed reform legislation: the Border Security and Responsibility Act of 2009.

Gaining ground for public lands

We worked to gain major increases in funding for our public lands and wildlife in both annual federal spending bills and special economic stimulus legislation. We successfully advocated for unprecedented increases in funding to help federal agencies better safeguard wildlife and natural resources in a warming world. As a leader in the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, Defenders also successfully advocated for a significant funding boost for the national wildlife refuge system.

National forest protections

Defenders has been striving to unravel the damaging national forest policies instituted under the Bush administration. This past year our coalition efforts met with success when a court found the Bush-era regulations violated both the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. Following our court win, we immediately began working with the Obama administration and the Forest Service to make sure that a new planning rule is based on sound science, includes strong wildlife protections and provides the Forest Service with clear direction on how to safeguard plants and animals in the face of climate change.

Safeguarding national wildlife refuges

Despite our efforts, a damaging provision in an otherwise good 2009 omnibus public lands bill authorized the construction of a road through the pristine Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. While we were not able to eliminate the provision from the lands bill, we were successful in stipulating that when deciding whether to proceed with the project, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar must fully consider the road’s environmental impacts. Defenders is working to make sure that Secretary Salazar is fully aware of the environmental harm this road would cause.



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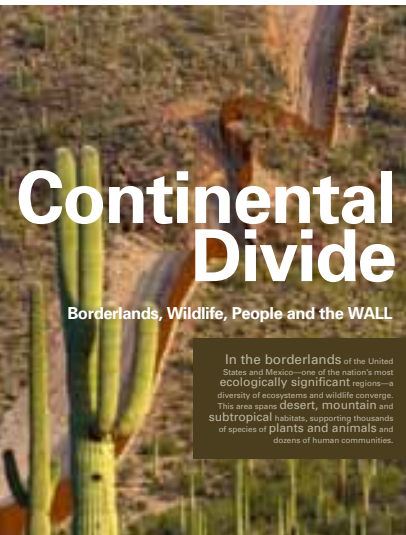
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Volunteers for wildlife

This past year our wildlife volunteer corps teamed up with the National Park Service, the National Aquarium, a Native American tribe, wildlife refuges and land trusts on a variety of conservation projects across America. Hundreds of our dedicated volunteers logged nearly 1,000 hours on projects from Oregon to Virginia—ranging from removing invasive plants on the Appalachian Trail, to restoring habitat for the endangered New England cottontail rabbit, to planting sea grasses to help mitigate the effects of sea level rise due to global warming on coastal islands. We expect to return to many of these projects next year.

Top left: Defenders Executive Vice President Jamie Rappaport Clark speaks to a group from Congress to gain support for conservation legislation.

Above left: Participants in a Defenders Wildlife Volunteer Corps project to remove invasive plants from a section of the Appalachian Trail. Above right: Defenders is working to safeguard public lands in Alaska and across America. Right: Among our many efforts to protect the sensitive borderlands area, we helped produce a brochure and photo exhibit.



Continental Divide

Borderlands, Wildlife, People and the WALL

In the borderlands of the United States and Mexico—one of the nation's most ecologically significant regions—a diversity of ecosystems and wildlife converge. The area spans desert, mountain and subtropical habitats, supporting thousands of species of plants and animals and dozens of human communities.

BUILDING A NETWORK OF PROTECTED LANDS

To truly sustain wild plants and animals, especially in a world of changing climates, we need to move beyond the idea of a patchwork of isolated refuges for wildlife. Defenders is focusing on rebuilding fragmented landscapes and forging connections between private, public and tribal properties to create an interconnected network of lands that will safeguard wild creatures for future generations.

Helping states plan for wildlife

Thanks to a generous grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Trust, Defenders was able to work with several state wildlife agencies to safeguard wildlife in their jurisdictions from the impacts of climate change. This grant allowed Defenders to partner with state agencies in Oregon, California, Montana, Florida and elsewhere to enhance the climate-change component of their state wildlife action plans. We also worked with the Florida Wildlife Commission on their initiative to identify, map and provide scientific guidance on prioritizing wildlife habitat statewide, and to create and improve voluntary incentive programs that encourage the conservation and connectivity of essential habitat on private lands.

Assisting land trusts

With generous support from the Biophilia Foundation, Defenders' living lands program strives to increase the effectiveness of the many private land trusts working across the country to conserve habitat. This past year we awarded six \$50,000 grants to land trusts for efforts such as invasive species removal and monitoring programs for threatened species. We also conducted planning workshops and seminars in Oregon and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This educational outreach focused on mapping priorities for land protection, assessing how climate change will affect planning, and accessing the tools of the federal Farm Bill. To expand the reach of our work, we also conducted a national webinar on how the Farm Bill can work for land trusts.



Habitat and highways

Our habitat and highways program seeks to reduce the impact of transportation projects on wildlife habitat. This year, at the request of the Mexican government, we began a long-term project helping devise ways to protect travel corridors for jaguars and other creatures as a major highway is reconstructed. This project will help establish Mexico's first wildlife-friendly road. We also persuaded Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer to recognize "Watch Out for Wildlife Awareness Week" in September. During "Watch out for Wildlife" week we also distributed a video providing tips to drivers to reduce the chances of collisions with wildlife.

Neko Case

© JASON GREPS



Acclaimed singer-songwriter Neko Case was imbued by her parents with a reverence and sense of responsibility for nature.

That childhood

lesson has permeated much of her work as an adult—from the support she gives to organizations such as Defenders of Wildlife, to the evocative lyrics she writes for such songs as “Red Tide” and “Maybe Sparrow.” To close her latest album, *Middle Cyclone*, Case even recorded chirping frogs at the Vermont farm where she lives.

Case first became aware of Defenders’ work during the early years of the Bush administration. She was incensed by the anti-environment tactics of the administration, and particularly by Bush’s efforts to allow developers access to pristine wilderness areas in national forests. Case began searching for a way to fight the administration and learned that Defenders of Wildlife was actively opposing this and other Bush initiatives.

“I’ve been behind them ever since,” says Case. The Grammy-nominated artist has regularly taken time out of her busy schedule to sign petitions and take other actions on Defenders’ Web site, and has made symbolic adoptions of animals for friends and family through our wildlife adoption center. In addition, Case has invited Defenders to set up tables at her concerts to educate the singer’s many fans about our conservation work.

Like so many Defenders’ donors, Case was drawn to the organization by our powerful mix of passion and knowledge. “They aren’t afraid to be litigious; they have big brains and big hearts and a lot of energy,” she says.

Defenders’ focus on preserving a diversity of nature is especially important to Case.

“I support the protection of large and small creatures in North America,” she says. “We need to be reminded that we need bats as much as big beautiful cats and wolves. We all need each other.”



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Above: Defenders is working with land owners and managers across the country to give native animals like this bison room to roam. Near left: vehicle strikes are one of the major causes of death for endangered Florida panthers, and millions of other animals are killed on roads and highways nationwide every year. Defenders strives to reduce this deadly toll on wildlife and people by promoting “Watch out for Wildlife” week (far left).

Conservation registry

Defenders’ conservation registry is an online database that records, tracks and maps wildlife conservation projects across the country. Visitors to www.conservationregistry.org can look up projects in their area, seek out volunteer opportunities, view conservation regions and even post their own projects. For instance, the state of Washington has posted information on more than 900 projects, and Oregon is working to incorporate 12,000 projects into the database. We now have users throughout North America, including individuals, environmental groups, land trusts and government agencies, and we are working on expanding the site to accommodate the needs of this growing constituency.

WORKING ACROSS BORDERS

From the import of wood illegally harvested in South American rainforests, to buying endangered Central American frogs as pets, the United States contributes to the loss of plants and animals worldwide. Consequently, Defenders works to increase global awareness and protection of wild species.

Rescuing amphibians

One of the greatest threats to creatures worldwide is unfolding in the world of amphibians. A fungus that can be spread through global trade is killing off massive numbers of frogs. Defenders has worked for the protection of 17 species of amphibians under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. We have also petitioned the U.S. departments of agriculture and interior to strictly regulate amphibian imports to stem the spread of the deadly chytrid fungus. In 2009, we also partnered with a consortium of zoos to create an amphibian rescue center in Panama to save frogs imperiled by this fungal disease and develop strategies to cope with the disease so these creatures can eventually be returned to nature.

Protecting Mexican parrots

In Mexico, Defenders played a leading role in passing legislation banning the longstanding practice of capturing wild parrots for sale and export, which was devastating the native population of these exquisite birds. To support the new law, in January we kicked off a major education campaign and printed more than 40,000 posters about parrots that have been distributed throughout the country. We also launched a parrot Web page, www.pericosmexico.org, which contains information on the 22 species of parrots and macaws native to Mexico, the challenges they face, conservation efforts to help them survive, children's stories and much more.



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Protecting forests from illegal logging

To reduce illegal logging, Defenders has worked for implementation of a recent amendment to the Lacey Act that imposes stronger regulation of wood imports coming into the United States. This will require that most plant product imports have declarations that serve to ensure they were legally harvested, so wood and other products obtained illegally in other nations are not sold in the United States.

Safeguarding sharks

Humans are responsible for the death of as many as 100 million sharks annually. Consequently, populations of many of these ancient sea creatures are plummeting. Defenders has been working to gain protections for sharks, and this past year a long-sought ban on shark finning in Mexico came into effect. We also advocated for the listing of hammerheads and

Lee Talbot

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Ecologist Lee Talbot's connection to Defenders has always been rooted in ecological science. Talbot first became acquainted with Defenders through his wife, Marty, who was on our board

of directors in the early 1970s—about the same time he was helping to craft the Endangered Species Act.

In fact, Talbot played a major role in creating several of the world's most important conservation frameworks, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. In addition, he has been environmental advisor to three presidents, head of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, has led scores of research expeditions on five continents and is a technical climber, scuba diver, white-water rafter and championship race car driver.

When Defenders asked Talbot to join the board in the 1990s, he could have found plenty of reasons to say no. In addition to his many other commitments, Talbot, a professor at George Mason University and international environmental advisor, has avoided involvement with advocacy groups to maintain his world-class scientific credentials. But he made an exception for Defenders—knowing that the organization's scientific approach to conservation would not diminish his credibility.

One of the Defenders projects that has best illustrated the scientific grounding and effectiveness of the organization for Talbot has been the return of predators like the wolf and grizzly to the West.

"This effort has implemented the intent and demonstrated the critical importance of the Endangered Species Act," Talbot says. "Through the return of the wolf it has been possible to show the key role of the apex predator—that bringing one single species back to the Yellowstone ecosystem impacts the entire system, from elk and vegetation to birds and small mammals. Even fish species have been impacted positively."

The success of this initiative encapsulates Talbot's view of Defenders. "Over the years I have watched Defenders evolve from an individual animal protection organization to an exceptionally broad-based, science-based and effective environmental organization."



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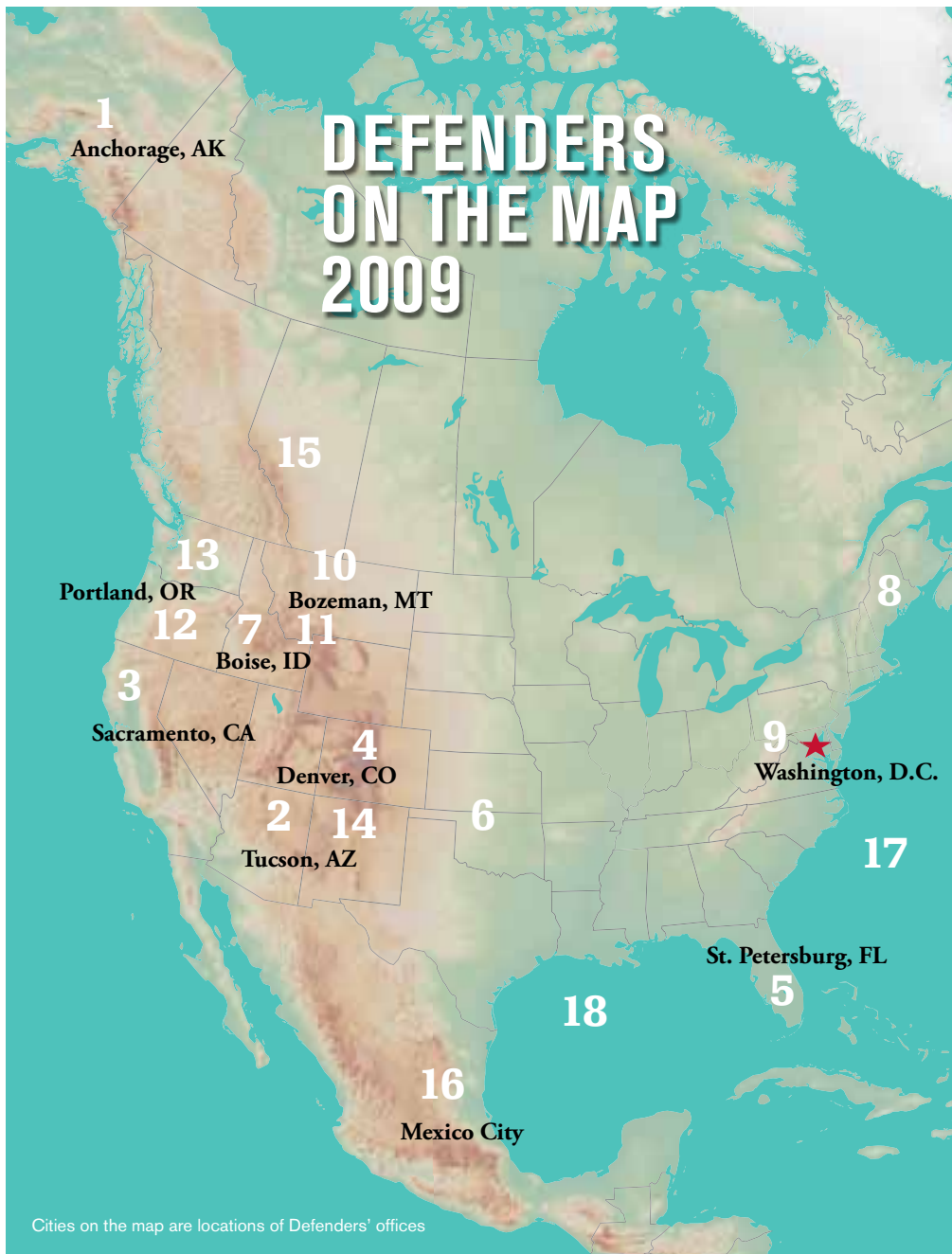
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Previous page: To curb the destruction of tropical rain forests, Defenders is promoting measures to prevent the import of illegally harvested wood. Top: Defenders is seeking international protection for hammerheads and other sharks. Left: In Mexico, Defenders is spearheading a major educational effort to stem the capture and sale of wild parrots like this macaw. Above: Defenders and its partners are leading an effort to rescue imperiled frogs in Panama.

other sharks under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. The United States has proposed these listings and Defenders has worked to gain support for the proposals from the government of Mexico.

Ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity

Defenders has led a consortium of groups advocating for United States ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the flagship international agreement for protecting wild lands and the diversity of life on this planet. The convention is a key mechanism for worldwide cooperation on protecting nature, but the United States remains one of only two countries that have not ratified it.



Cities on the map are locations of Defenders' offices

Highlights of our conservation achievements and initiatives in 2009.

1. ALASKA

- Advocated for proposed federal designation of 200,541 square miles of crucial sea-ice and denning habitat for Alaska's threatened polar bears.
- Helped secure a moratorium on fishing in Arctic waters pending analysis of the fish stocks and their importance in maintaining the fragile Arctic ecosystem already stressed by global warming.

2. ARIZONA

- Won a court decision overturning a Bush-era policy and requiring the federal government to re-examine its decision not to develop a recovery plan for endangered jaguars.
- Dispatched Defenders' wildlife volunteer corps to assist the White Mountain Apache Tribe with preparations for the tribe's ecotourism program highlighting Mexican wolf recovery.

3. CALIFORNIA

- Helped convince the U.S. House of Representatives to pass the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act, which authorizes funding for otter recovery efforts.
- Pushed the state to enact a new California Safe Harbor Program that includes incentives for private landowners to undertake conservation projects beneficial to imperiled species.
- Organized the California rangeland conservation coalition summit, bringing together nearly 300 ranchers, conservation groups and wildlife agency staff from around the Central Valley.

4. COLORADO

- Persuaded officials to use federal stimulus money to build two wildlife underpasses southwest of Denver.

5. FLORIDA

- Played a key role working with landowners to initiate a panther and multi-species habitat conservation plan in southwest Florida.
- Secured the installation of traffic signs, signals and speed detection displays to cut Florida panther fatalities along a deadly segment of U.S. 41 in Big Cypress Preserve.
- Successfully petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider revising the critical habitat designated for the endangered manatee.

6. GREAT PLAINS

- Sued the Environmental Protection Agency for allowing ranchers in 10 states to use Rozol, a powerful pesticide that kills not only prairie dogs, but also imperiled animals such as black-footed ferrets, swift foxes and ferruginous hawks.

7. IDAHO

- Secured an agreement from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reconsider protecting critical habitat in the Selkirk Mountains for the last remaining U.S. herd of woodland caribou.
- Coordinated a wolf-livestock coexistence project in the Big Wood River Valley that uses an on-the-ground surveillance crew to protect 10,000 sheep and four wolf packs.

8. MAINE

- Sent wildlife volunteer corps members to Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge to help plant shrubs that provide browse and cover for the endangered New England cottontail rabbit.

9. MARYLAND

- Provided wildlife volunteer corps members to plant marsh grasses on Poplar Island to restore wildlife habitat and stem erosion on this dredge island in the Chesapeake Bay.

10. MONTANA

- Assisted the Fort Belknap and Fort Peck Indian reservations with the expansion of their bison programs in preparation for reintroduction of bison captured outside Yellowstone National Park.
- Organized successful opposition to state legislation that would have prohibited relocation of quarantined Yellowstone bison and likely condemned the animals to slaughter.
- Sponsored 35 projects to protect grizzly bears by preventing conflicts with homeowners, ranchers and recreationists.

11. NORTHERN ROCKIES

- Filed a lawsuit challenging the removal of federal Endangered Species Act protection for gray wolves.
- Petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Rocky Mountain population of fishers, one of the rarest carnivores in region, under the Endangered Species Act.
- Filed a lawsuit that led the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to agree to reconsider listing the wolverine as an endangered species.

12. OREGON

- Helped pass first-in-the-nation state legislation encouraging the development of ecosystem service markets.
- Worked for the enactment of state legislation that ensures new state land-use laws consider the effects of climate change on wildlife.

13. PACIFIC NORTHWEST

- Worked with wildlife resource managers and ranchers to implement wolf and livestock co-existence measures as wolves settle in Washington and Oregon.

14. SOUTHWEST

- Mounted a legal effort that resulted in the withdrawal of a controversial policy that forced the killing or removal from the wild of Mexican wolves involved in three attacks on livestock.
- Developed seven partnership projects with ranchers in Arizona, New Mexico and Sonora to protect wolves, jaguars and livestock with the use of range-riders, fladry and fencing.

15. CANADA

- Established Alberta's first coordinated program to reduce conflict between ranchers and carnivores by removing livestock carcasses that attract wolves and bears.
- Successfully opposed a move to re-open the grizzly bear hunt in Alberta.

16. MEXICO

- Launched a nationwide education and outreach campaign to stop the illegal parrot trade.
- Helped secure a ban on the use of drift nets by the shark fishing fleet in an effort to halt the deadly bycatch of sea turtles, whales, dolphins, sea lions and other marine animals.

17. ATLANTIC OCEAN

- Filed a lawsuit and mounted a campaign that resulted in the adoption of a 10-knot speed limit for large vessels entering or leaving U.S. ports to protect the endangered right whale.

18. GULF OF MEXICO

- Used a lawsuit and advocacy to compel the National Marine Fisheries Service to close the Gulf of Mexico longline fishery pending adoption of new rules to protect sea turtles.



Right: Defenders is working with sheep ranchers in the Big Wood River Valley of Idaho on a large-scale project to keep both livestock and wolves safe. Far right: Children learn about threats to parrots at an exhibit in Jalisco, Mexico.



© DR. KATHERINE RENTON

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARDS DINNER

ALL PHOTOS © SCOTT ROBINSON

On September 24, friends and supporters of Defenders gathered in Washington, D.C., for our third annual wildlife conservation awards dinner. We paid tribute to four extraordinary individuals, the recipients of our 2009 wildlife conservation awards.

This year we presented CNN founder Ted Turner with our highest honor, the Defenders of Wildlife Legacy Award, for advancing environmental and endangered species conservation through land stewardship, species reintroduction, philanthropy and outstanding leadership. We gave the Spirit of Defenders Award for Public Service to Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), a conservation stalwart in Congress. Our Spirit of Defenders Award for Science went to Bill Ripple, a professor of forest resources at Oregon State University, for his pioneering research on the links between predators and healthy ecosystems. And finally, our Spirit of Defenders Award for Citizen Advocacy was presented to Terry Pelster, a former Defenders' board member and tireless advocate for birds, including the wild parrots of Mexico.

This year's dinner was hosted by Jeff Corwin and co-chaired by Laura and Rutherford Seydel by Laura and Rutherford Seydel and Liberty Godshall and Edward Zwick.



Clockwise from top left: Media pioneer and philanthropist Ted Turner accepts the Defenders of Wildlife Legacy Award, our highest honor, for his innovations and investments in conservation. Dinner co-chairs and Defenders board members, Laura Turner Seydel and Liberty Godshall. Board member and dinner master of ceremonies, Jeff Corwin. Defenders board member Ed Asner and Spirit of Defenders Award for Citizen Advocacy honoree, Terry Pelster. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) accepts the Spirit of Defenders Award for Public Service. Chairman of the Board Vic Sher and Defenders President Rodger Schlickeisen present the Spirit of Defenders Award for Public Science to Dr. Bill Ripple.

FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2009, Defenders of Wildlife's 1 million members and other supporters contributed \$33 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 declined due to the recession, this was offset by increases from bequests, trusts and royalties.

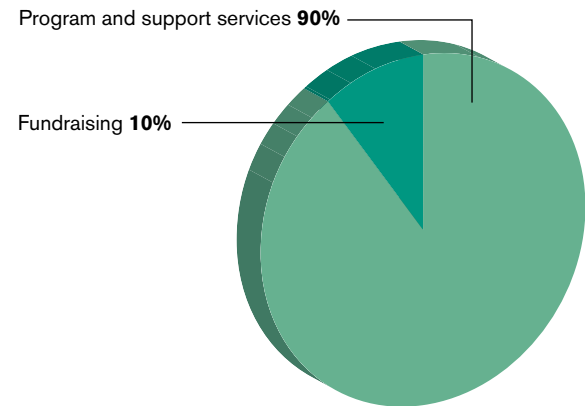
Whether in the field, the courts or on Capitol Hill, it is the steadfast support of our donors that allows Defenders to sustain its program and public education efforts.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

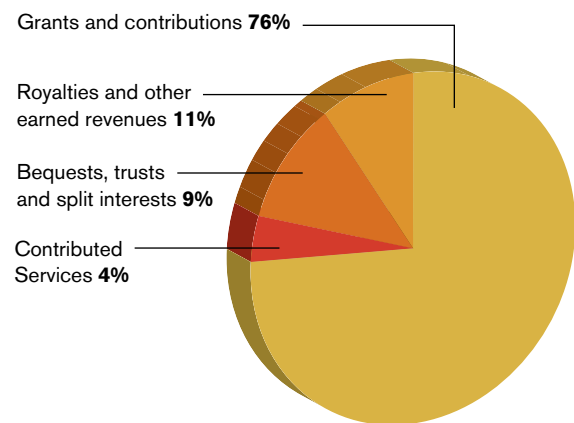
(in thousands of dollars)

SOURCES OF FUNDS	2009	2008
Grants and contributions	25,139	27,040
Bequests, trusts and split interests	2,830	1,991
Income from investments	(52)	(2,681)
Royalties and other earned revenues	3,819	2,834
Contributed services	1,296	1,918
Total Revenues	33,032	31,102
USES OF FUNDS	2009	2008
Wildlife action	8,256	9,588
Law and legislation	3,208	5,277
Media and education	9,326	9,686
Constituency outreach	1,637	1,727
Fundraising	2,892	3,506
Management and general	5,062	4,874
Total Expenses	30,381	34,658
Change in net assets	2,651	(3,556)
Net assets, start of year	18,487	22,043
Net assets, end of year	21,138	18,487

2009 USES OF FUNDS



2009 SOURCES OF FUNDS*



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

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