



CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

BECAUSE LIFE IS GOOD.

TENACITY

2004 ANNUAL
REPORT

ALASKA

A SAMPLING OF THE CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY'S WORK IN 2004



HAWAII

JAPAN

GUAM

ROTA

RIVERS

1. Advocated for ESA protections for Montana fluvial arctic grayling.
2. Compelled agencies to use better science to protect Yellowstone cutthroat trout.
3. Continued work to restore Arizona's Verde River, San Pedro River, and Fossil Creek.
4. Advocated for ESA protections for four species of Pecos River freshwater invertebrates.
5. Challenged agency failure to monitor impact of pesticides on Barton Springs salamander.
6. Advocated for critical habitat protections for goldline darter and blue shiner.
7. Advocated for critical habitat protections for seven species of freshwater mussels.

FORESTS

8. Challenged administration's elimination of program to protect endangered species in Northwest forests.
9. Advocated for ESA protections for Siskiyou Mountains salamander.
10. Worked to defend forest protections in Sierra Nevada.
11. Secured critical habitat protection for Mexican spotted owl.
12. Collaborated on forest restoration project in Gila National Forest.
13. Blocked construction of new logging roads in Tongass National Forest.

DESERTS

14. Won protections from livestock grazing and off-road vehicle use in desert tortoise habitat.
15. Secured critical habitat protection for San Bernardino kangaroo rat.
16. Advocated for ESA protections for Sand Mountain blue butterfly.
17. Compelled protections for sand dune lizard.
18. Challenged agency failure to protect habitat for endangered Holmgren and Shiwits milk-vetches.
19. Advocated for ESA protections for Acuna cactus and Gentry indigobush.

OCEANS

20. Secured proposed protections for Puget Sound southern resident killer whale population.
21. Shut down commercial long-line fishery to protect leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles.
22. Petitioned to protect elkhorn, staghorn, and fused-staghorn corals.
23. Worked to protect Okinawa dugong from construction of military airbase.
24. Protected killer whales in Prince William Sound.
25. Compelled protections for Aleutian Islands' sea otters.
26. Challenged reopening of a Hawaiian long-line fishery to protect black-footed albatross and other marine animals.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

27. Advocated for ESA protections for Harney Lake and Columbia springsnails.
28. Compelled protections for Southern Idaho ground squirrel.
29. Won ESA protections for California tiger salamander.
30. Advocated for ESA protections for tri-colored blackbird.
31. Secured agreement to protect habitat for jaguar in the U.S.
32. Halted poisoning plan that imperiled prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets.
33. Compelled agencies to map out critical habitat for Hine's emerald dragonfly.
34. Won ESA protections for bridled white-eye and two endangered plants on Pacific island of Rota.



photo by Diana Rhoades

The theme of this year's annual report—*tenacity*—is in part inspired by messages over the years from supporters who have chosen that word to describe the Center and our work. But it's a theme that resonates more powerfully than ever in this year following an election that had so many of us wishing and working for stronger leadership to protect our environment.

Instead, we are facing another term for an administration that has distinguished itself by the worst environmental record in recent memory, and a shift of balance in Congress that gives the administration's allies more power to push through laws to dismantle environmental laws and weaken wilderness protections.

But the Center is no stranger to fighting for the underdog, and we're determined as ever to fight for endangered species with fierce resolve. In fact, we haven't just weathered this political climate—we've continued to take historic steps to protect wildlife and wild lands.

In 2004, we launched a number of landmark campaigns, including a scientific petition to protect 225 wait-listed plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act—the largest listing effort in the Act's history. We also took sweeping actions to protect 73 species of birds around the globe and 16 extremely rare species that survive only in southeastern California's Algodones Dunes. We extended the reach of our work as far south as Antarctica, where we blocked a commercial fishery to protect marine life and seabirds, and as far north as the Arctic, where we laid the groundwork for a critically important campaign to protect polar bears and their ice-dependent habitat from global warming—at the same time challenging the administration's short-sighted energy policies.

I was recently brought on board as Executive Director for the Center, and I have never been this excited about a career move in my life. I strongly believe that the Center is the most successful environmental group in the country—and I have worked for some of the best. As a long-time member and supporter of the Center, I also already know that the theme *tenacity*, more than anything, celebrates the unswerving spirit and strength we receive from dedicated supporters like you. Thank you for your continued commitment.

Michael Finkelstein
Executive Director

Rivers

"I'M A LATE BLOOMER, BUT WHEN I FINALLY FIGURED OUT MY MY LIFE'S WORK, I KNEW THE CENTER WAS THE BEST PLACE TO DO IT. THERE'S NOTHING I WOULD RATHER BE DOING THAN SPEAKING UP FOR PLANTS AND ANIMALS THAT HAVE NO VOICE, AND PROTECTING THE LAND, AIR AND WATER THEY—AND WE—NEED TO SURVIVE."

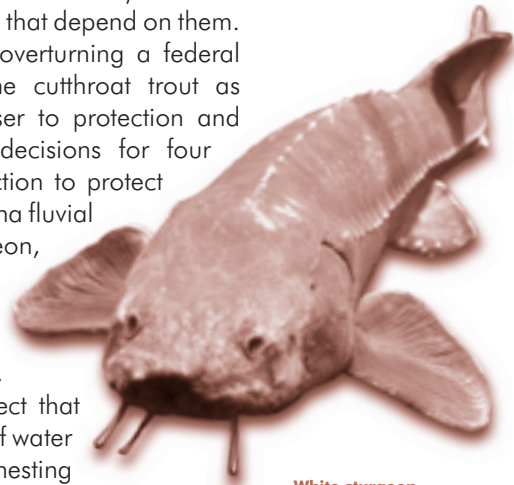
Michelle Harrington
Rivers Program Director



Recent research reveals an alarming trend: North American freshwater animals are going extinct five times faster than their counterparts on land—and at a speed comparable with extinction rates in tropical rainforests. The Center works to restore healthy rivers and stem the tide of extinction for animals and plants that depend on them.

In 2004, we won a major court victory overturning a federal agency's decision not to list the Yellowstone cutthroat trout as an endangered species, moving the fish closer to protection and laying the groundwork to overturn similar decisions for four other species of native trout. We also took action to protect numerous other native fish, including the Montana fluvial arctic grayling, Kootenai River white sturgeon, and Gila, roundtail and headwater chubs.

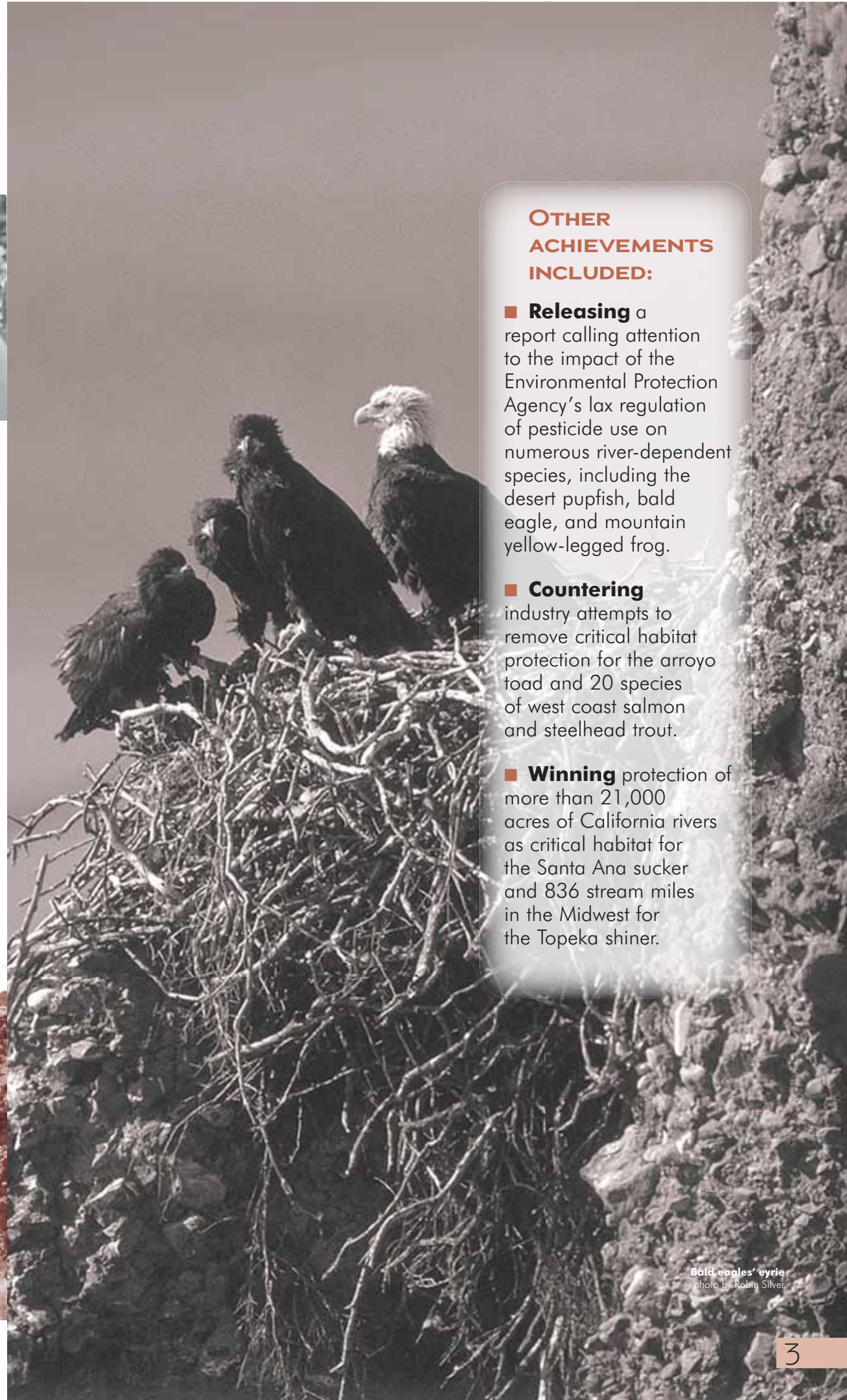
We fought for survival of desert rivers in Arizona, where 90 percent of riparian habitat has been lost to dams, development, mining, grazing, and agriculture. We opposed a project that would result in massive groundwater pumping of water that sustains the Verde River, home to the desert nesting bald eagle and several native fish. We appealed a court decision that exempts the Arizona Department of Water Resources from disclosing that groundwater pumping for developments in the San Pedro River Basin will severely harm the river, internationally cherished by birders and renowned for its diverse wildlife. And along with our partners, we secured the final go-ahead on a victory years in the making: the decommissioning of two 100-year-old hydroelectric power plants and subsequent restoration of full flows to Fossil Creek.



White sturgeon
photo courtesy of Shedd Aquarium

above left:
Mountain yellow-legged frog
photo by William Flaxington

Upper Verde River
photo by Robin Silver



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDED:

- **Releasing** a report calling attention to the impact of the Environmental Protection Agency's lax regulation of pesticide use on numerous river-dependent species, including the desert pupfish, bald eagle, and mountain yellow-legged frog.
- **Countering** industry attempts to remove critical habitat protection for the arroyo toad and 20 species of west coast salmon and steelhead trout.
- **Winning** protection of more than 21,000 acres of California rivers as critical habitat for the Santa Ana sucker and 836 stream miles in the Midwest for the Topeka shiner.

Bald eagles' eyrie
photo by Robin Silver



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDED:

- **Petitioning** the Forest Service to protect the northern goshawk in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming by protecting old-growth forests in those states.
- **Compelling** the Forest Service to limit logging for its fire prevention and forest restoration programs to trees no larger than 16 inches in diameter.
- **Completing** phase one of a restoration project in New Mexico's Gila National Forest.

Ponderosa pine, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest
photo by Sky Jacobs



"THE MAIN REASON I'VE STUCK WITH THE CENTER ALL THESE YEARS IS THE CREATIVE FREEDOM AND FLEXIBILITY THAT KEEPS OUR STRATEGIES AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT. IT'S THIS ATMOSPHERE OF INNOVATION THAT MAKES ME OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ALL THE WILD PLACES AND WILD THINGS WE CARE SO MUCH ABOUT."

Todd Schulke
Forests Program Director and Center founder

Our national forests are a favorite target for the Bush administration, which has forced new policies to weaken forest protection laws and open old-growth logging to powerful timber companies. In 2004, the Center worked to overturn destructive logging policies in national forests from the Siskiyou in Oregon to the Carson in New Mexico.

In the Pacific Northwest, we challenged the administration's elimination of a provision in the region's forest management plan that previously required the U.S. Forest Service to survey and protect rare species in ancient forests before logging projects could go forward. We produced a report detailing the administration's abandonment of this "Survey and Manage" program and worked in coalition with regional groups to challenge the policy change in court. We also filed a petition to list as endangered the Siskiyou Mountains salamander, which lost protection as a result of the administration's action.

In California, we fought policy changes that severely weakened a forest management plan for the Sierra Nevada, and we appealed numerous harmful timber sales in the area. We took legal action to challenge the administration's refusal to protect the California spotted owl and compiled new scientific evidence supporting the owl's protection. We also pushed for greater protections for the Pacific fisher, a carnivore dependent on Sierra Nevada old-growth forest.

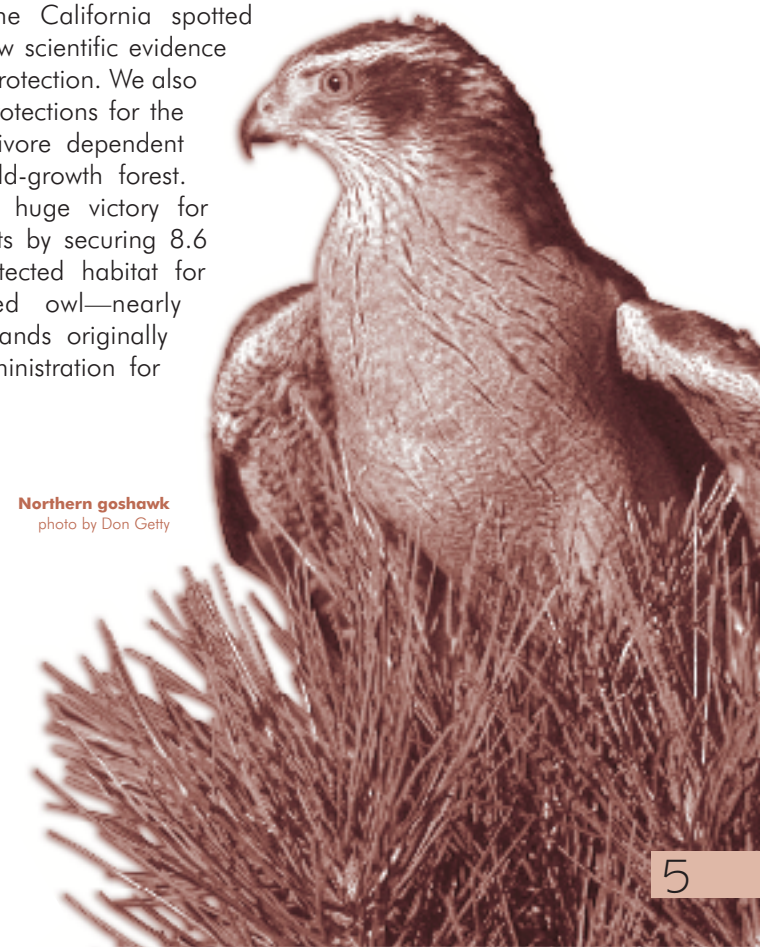
And we won a huge victory for the Southwest's forests by securing 8.6 million acres of protected habitat for the Mexican spotted owl—nearly doubling the forest lands originally set aside by the administration for the owl's protection.



Siskiyou mountain salamander
photo by William Leonard



Pacific fisher



Northern goshawk
photo by Don Getty

Deserts

“DESERT ECOSYSTEMS ARE THRILLING AND INSPIRING, BUT THEY ARE FRAGILE AND NEED DEFENSE FROM INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT ATTACKS. THE CENTER EMPOWERS ME TO BEST USE MY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE TO HELP DESERT WILDNESS AND QUALITY OF LIFE.”

Daniel Patterson
Deserts Program Director



Mohave Desert
photo by Robert T. & Margaret Orr

The Mojave Desert is home to the ancient desert tortoise, a creature that has thrived on Earth for tens of millions of years. But the tortoise’s age-old adaptations to desert survival are no match for the rapid destruction of its habitat. In 1976, Congress called for the protection of a large swath of the Mojave in its designation of the California Desert Conservation

Area. But government management of the area has fallen far short of the bar set by Congress, laying open wildlife habitat to abuses including livestock production, mining, and rampant off-road vehicle traffic.

The Center challenged poor management in the Mojave with several victories for the tortoise this year. In a decision that has sweeping implications for other cases, a federal court struck down permits for extensive grazing and off-roading within 4.1 million acres of tortoise habitat. The judge found that management plans for the tortoise illegally applied a lower standard of protection than mandated by the Endangered Species Act—considering only the tortoise’s survival and not its recovery. In a second ruling, the judge banned off-road vehicles from 572,000 acres of tortoise critical habitat. And this year, we challenged Hyundai plans to build an automotive test track in tortoise habitat, resulting in the transfer of a major off-road vehicle staging area for protection of the tortoise.

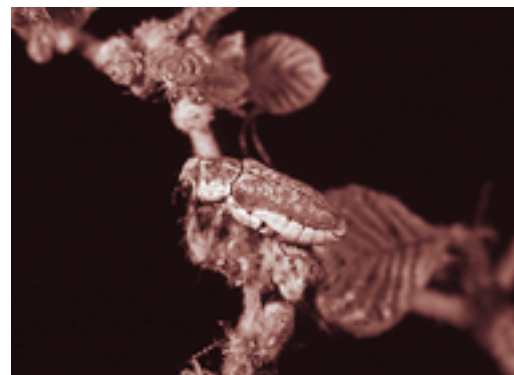
In the Sonoran Desert, we defended a Center-won closure of nearly 50,000 acres in the Algodones Dunes from Bush administration attempts to open all non-wilderness areas to off-roading. We also won 21,800 acres of protected habitat for the Peirson’s milk-vetch, upheld that rare plant’s protection under the Endangered Species Act, and petitioned to gain protection for 16 other Dunes endemics—species that occur nowhere else on Earth.



left:
Shivwits milk-vetch
photo by William Gray



San Bernardino kangaroo rat
photo by Lloyd Ingles



Jewel beetle (*Lepismadora algodones*), Algodones Dunes
photo by C. L. Bellamy



Sand mountain blue butterfly
photo courtesy of BLM, Carson City



Desert tortoise
photo by Mark Bratton

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDED:

■ **Filing** a petition for protection of Casey’s June beetle, reduced to isolated fragments of its original range in an area of Palm Springs threatened by rapid development.

■ **Petitioning** the government to protect the Sand Mountain blue butterfly, whose last remaining habitat—just 1,000 acres in Nevada—is threatened by off-road vehicles.

■ **Challenging** the administration’s failure to designate critical habitat for the endangered Holgren and Shivwits milk-vetches in Utah’s Mojave Desert.

■ **Winning** 32,300 acres of protected critical habitat for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat.

Oceans



Antarctica
photo by Paul Ward,
www.coolantarctica.com



"I CAN'T STAND SIMPLY BEING A SPECTATOR PASSIVELY WATCHING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET. WORKING AT THE CENTER, I GET TO BE AN ACTIVE FULL-TIME PARTICIPANT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST EXTINCTION."

Brendan Cummings
Oceans Program Director



A banded black-footed albatross
photo by Ron Levall

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDED:

- **Compelling** a proposal to protect sea otters in Alaska's Aleutian Islands under the Endangered Species Act.
- **Filing** a petition to protect the Cherry Point herring, an important part of the food chain for imperiled salmon and killer whales in Puget Sound.
- **Filing** a petition to protect the yellow-billed loon, threatened by oil and gas development in the Western Arctic Reserve.
- **Appealing** Bush administration decisions, based on faulty science, to deny protection to the green sturgeon and Atlantic white marlin.



Kina, false killer whale
photo by Paul E. Nachtigall



Sea otter
photo by Don Getty



Thousands of longline fishing hooks waiting to be baited
photo by ???

Oceans are the most mysterious of ecosystems—their largely unexplored depths harbor an astounding array of life. But the sheer immensity that captures our imagination and gives the high seas their allure also accelerates their destruction. Caught up in the illusion that our oceans are limitless, humans are over-fishing and polluting them to death.

The Center's Oceans Program is taking broad action to reverse that trend around the globe. This year, our work to watchdog the commercial fishing industry stretched as far as Antarctica, where we blocked the first U.S. longline Patagonian toothfishery in the region as part of our larger campaign to protect thousands of albatross from entanglement by longlines each year. In Hawaii, we challenged the Bush administration's reopening of a longline swordfishery known to harm false killer whales, sea turtles, and the black-footed albatross. In California, we celebrated our hard-won closure of a longline swordfishery that gravely threatened leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles and upheld a ban on coastal gillnet fishing to protect sea otters. Finally, we led a coalition to call for a U.N. moratorium on all longlining in international waters.

We won major victories for two pods of killer whales, securing a "depleted" listing under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for a population in Alaska's Prince William Sound and a proposal to protect Puget Sound's Southern Resident population under the Endangered Species Act. We also worked to gain habitat protection for the North Pacific right whale—the most endangered whale in the world—and monitored government-approved sonar activity for potential harm to whales, dolphins, and other marine life.



Loggerhead turtle
photo by William Flaxington

Native Plants

Soft-leaved paintbrush,
Castilleja mollis,
Santa Rosa Island, California
photo by Mark Skinner

below:
Purple amole,
Chlorogalum purpureum
photo by ???



Native plants are essential to Earth's biodiversity, and their extinction resonates throughout entire ecosystems. Despite their importance, imperiled plants are weakly protected under many conservation laws, and until recently had no nationwide advocate for their protection. To remedy that, the Center for Biological Diversity and California Native Plant Society joined forces to form the Native Plant Conservation Campaign.

We have made incredible progress: building an impressive network of conservation and scientific organizations, native plant societies, botanic gardens and arboreta; testifying to Congress and educating decision-makers; advocating for stronger legal protections and the resources to enforce them; and working with international partners to secure adoption of the first global strategy for native plant protection.

This year, many of our actions were centered in California, where we defended native plant habitat from a range of severe threats. We challenged the government's failure to protect the threatened San Benito evening primrose and its fragile serpentine soil habitat in Clear Creek from off-road traffic. We won 420 acres for the Ventura marsh milk-vetch—reduced to one wild population on privately owned land historically used for oil field waste disposal. We protected 41,000 acres for La Graciosa thistle, an endangered member of the sunflower family threatened by wetlands destruction and urban and oil field development. We also secured proposals to protect 29,500 acres for the rare Lane Mountain milk-vetch, threatened by expansion of tank training at Fort Irwin, and 4,700 acres near San Diego for the thread-leaved brodiaea. Finally, we filed a lawsuit seeking protected habitat for six rare wildflowers in the San Bernardino Mountains.



Pine lily, *Lilium catesbaei*
photo by Will Cook

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDED:

- **Initiating** legal action to gain Endangered Species Act protections for two Southwestern plants: the Acuna cactus and Gentry indigobush.

- **Filing** suit to protect two rare plants found only on the Virgin Islands of St. Croix and St. John.

- **Protected** Endangered Species Act listings for two extremely rare plants on the Pacific island of Rota.



Acuna cactus,
Echinomastus erectocentrus var. *acunensis*
photo by Jim Rorabaugh



Pima pineapple cactus blooms,
Coryphantha scheeri var. *robustispina*
photo by Lorena Moore



La graciosa thistle, *Cirsium loncholepis*
photo by Jennifer Langford

center:
Algodones Dunes sand food,
Pholisma sonorae
photo by Andrew Harvey



Ramshaw Meadows sand verbena,
Abronia alpina
photo by James M. Andre

Endangered Species



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDED:

- **Launching** a campaign to ban the use of lead ammunition in habitat for the California condor.
- **Halting** a federal plan to poison and shoot prairie dogs in South Dakota—further endangering the black-footed ferret.
- **Reaching** an agreement expected to result in protected habitat for the jaguar within the U.S.



Oceanic Hawaiian damselfly
photo by David Preston & Don Polhemusi



“THE EXTINCTION CRISIS IS THE GREATEST ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE HUMANITY HAS EVER FACED. OUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL JUDGE US NOT BY HOW MUCH MONEY WE MADE OR HOW MANY INVENTIONS WE SPAWNED, BUT BY HOW MANY OF OUR FELLOW EARTHLINGS WE SAVED FROM EXTINCTION.”

Kierán Suckling
*Biodiversity Program Director,
Policy Director and Center founder*



California condor
photo courtesy of USFWS



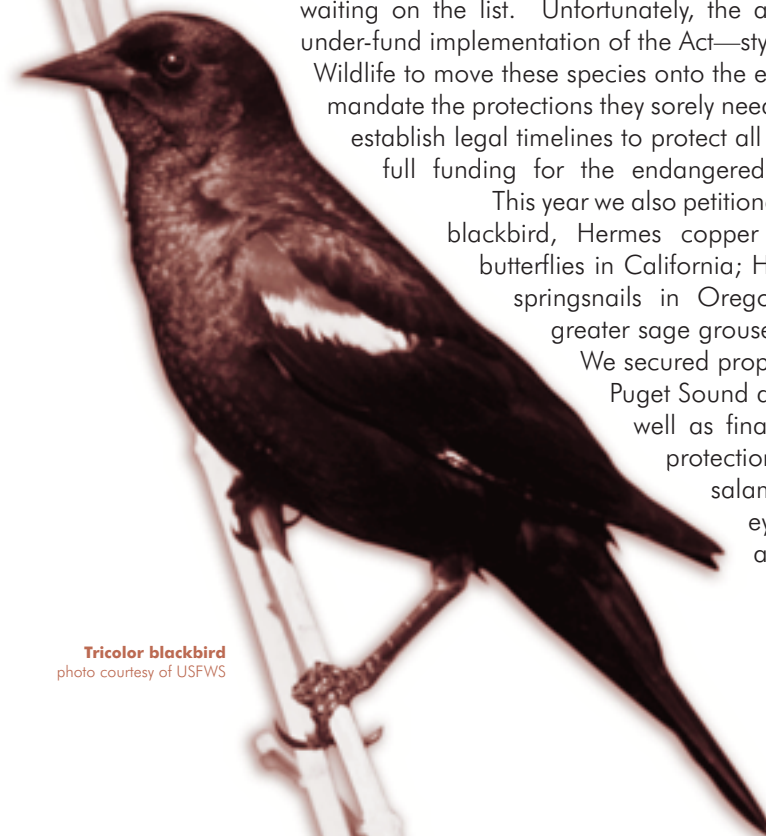
Black-footed ferret
photo by Dean Biggins

The Center has won endangered species listings for 335 species—more than all other conservation groups combined. In 2004, we launched the largest listing effort in the history of the Endangered Species Act, filing scientific petitions to protect 225 of the nation’s most imperiled plants and animals. Our campaign is backed by prominent scientists including Dr. Jane Goodall and Dr. E.O. Wilson; award-winning authors Barbara Kingsolver and Charles Bowden; former Poet Laureate Robert Hass; actor Martin Sheen; and environmental groups Biodiversity Conservation Alliance and Xerces Society.

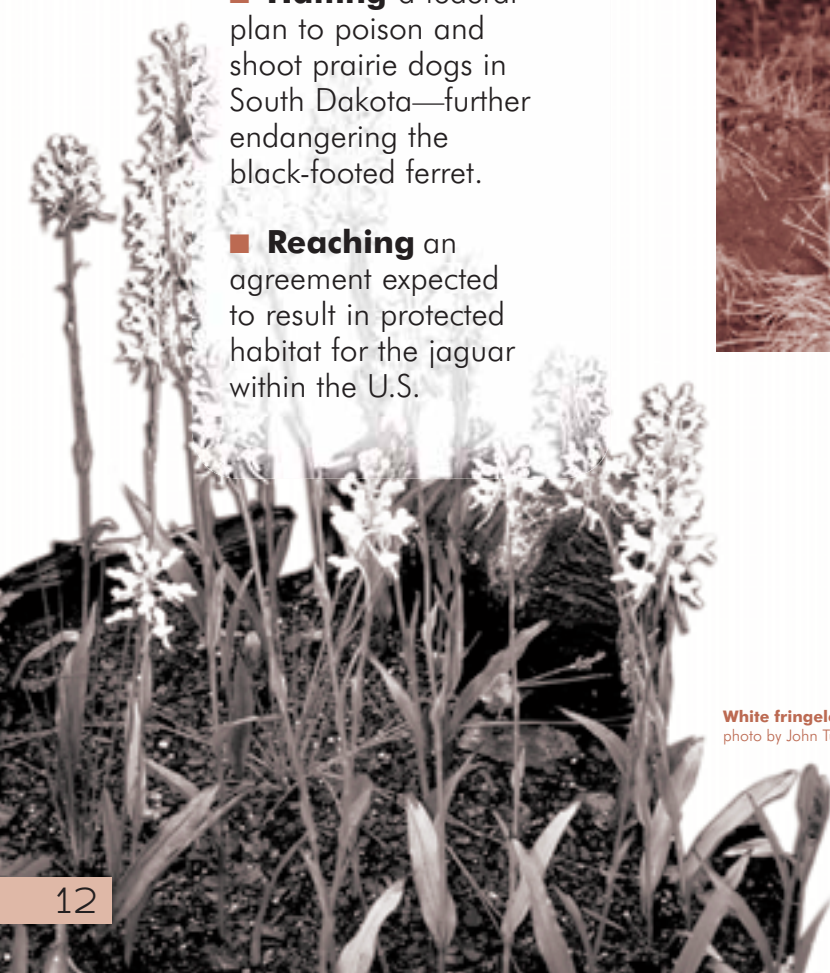
The petitions demand that the Bush administration take action to protect 225 species stuck on the federal “candidate list”—a bureaucratic purgatory—for as long as 30 years. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service agrees that these plants and animals need protection, but has postponed protecting them for political and economic reasons. More than 30 species have gone extinct or missing while waiting on the list. Unfortunately, the administration continues to under-fund implementation of the Act—stymieing the efforts of Fish & Wildlife to move these species onto the endangered species list and mandate the protections they sorely need. The Center is working to establish legal timelines to protect all 225 species and to secure full funding for the endangered species listing program.

This year we also petitioned to protect the tri-colored blackbird, Hermes copper and Thorne’s hairstreak butterflies in California; Harney Lake and Columbia springsnails in Oregon and Washington; and greater sage grouse across the western states.

We secured proposals to list killer whales in Puget Sound and sea otters in Alaska, as well as final Endangered Species Act protections for the California tiger salamander, Rota bridled white-eye (a Pacific Islands bird), and Channel Islands fox.



Tricolor blackbird
photo courtesy of USFWS



White fringeless orchid
photo by John Tullock

International

"THE MAGIC OF THE CENTER IS BEST SUMMED UP IN THE PHRASE 'THE SUM EXCEEDS THE TOTAL OF ITS PARTS.' I HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO WORK WITH SUCH INCREDIBLE ACTIVISTS AT CBD FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS—IT IS TRULY AMAZING WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER."

Peter Galvin

*International Program Director,
Conservation Director, and Center founder*



Scimitar horned oryx
photo by Antonio diCroce



Fluminense swallowtail
photo by N. Mark Collins

Endangered plants and animals don't read lines on a map or observe national boundaries. Recognizing that the preservation of biodiversity is a cause that transcends borders, the Center's International Program is forging partnerships to save wildlife worldwide.

This year, we continued to build strong alliances with Japanese conservationists to stop U.S. military construction of a heliport runway atop a fragile coral reef in habitat for the endangered Okinawa dugong, a marine mammal held sacred by native Okinawans. With our legal challenge pending, the Center and our partners organized more than 400 groups representing over 10 million people to demand that President Bush and Japan's Prime Minister halt destruction of the reef. Center staff also attended this year's International Coral Reef Society conference in Okinawa, joining others to bring attention to the plight of the world's coral reefs, the dugong, and the highly imperiled Okinawa woodpecker.

We also took legal action to obtain long-overdue protections for 73 of the world's rarest bird species, ranging from South America to the South Pacific, and seven swallowtail butterflies occurring in Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico, and Nepal. These unique birds and butterflies have languished in bureaucratic limbo without protections even though the government has been aware that they desperately need help for more than 10 years. While we so far won a settlement compelling the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to protect the birds, the agency's plan would take more than a decade to do so. As a result, we are providing additional scientific background to the agency to achieve swifter protection for the species.



Orange-fronted parakeet
photo by D. Crouchley Crown

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDED:

- **Moving** to protect three species of North African antelope less abundant in their homeland than on Texas game ranches, where they are relocated for trophy hunting.
- **Mobilizing** public opinion to oppose a Bush administration policy change that would revive legal trade in foreign endangered species and their parts—such as elephant ivory.



African elephant
photo by Jesse Cohen



Okinawa dugong
photo by Mr. Nitta

Air, Climate & Energy



Polar bear

photo by Thomas D. Mangelsen/
Imagesofnaturestock.com

On February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol took effect—a 141-nation pact to cut worldwide greenhouse gas emissions and curb global climate change. The U.S. is responsible for nearly a quarter of the world’s human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, yet the Bush administration refuses to acknowledge the severity of the global warming threat or participate in international efforts to reduce burning of fossil fuels.

The Center’s Air, Climate & Energy program is working to slow global warming and protect life on Earth.

This year, we jumped to the defense of species already imperiled by accelerating climate change. In March, we petitioned for protection of elkhorn, staghorn, and fused-staghorn coral—three species that have formed the backbone of coral reef ecosystems throughout the Caribbean for nearly 500,000 years. Since the 1970s these corals have declined 80 to 98 percent throughout their range—an unprecedented rate of loss primarily driven by increased fluctuations in water temperature due to climate change. We also laid the groundwork to gain legal protection for polar bears, which are in danger of becoming extinct by the end of this century as the sea ice that provides their food and habitat literally melts away. Securing Endangered Species Act protections for these species would obligate the administration to make sure industry activities do not further imperil them—effectively forcing the administration to adopt a more proactive policy toward reducing greenhouse emissions.



Elkhorn coral
photo by Sean Nash



“THE CENTER CONTINUES TO ADDRESS SOME OF OUR MOST PRESSING AND DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THE THREAT OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND GLOBAL WARMING TO SPECIES WORLDWIDE. IT IS AN HONOR TO BE A PART OF THIS EFFORT.”

Kassie Siegel
*Air, Climate, & Energy
Program Director*

Urban Wildlands



“WE HUMANS TAKE UP A LOT OF SPACE ON THIS SMALL PLANET. MY POSITION AT THE CENTER IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE THANKS, AND TO PAY A LITTLE SOMETHING BACK TOWARDS MY PLANETARY BILL FOR FOOD, LODGING, AND ENTERTAINMENT.”

David Hogan
Urban Wildlands Program Director



Tiger salamander
photo by Frank Schleicher

The 2004 census included five western states in the top ten fastest growing—including Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Utah and New Mexico—while California remained by far the most populous state in the country. As this explosive growth backs up against once wild and open spaces of the West, it tears away at habitat that endangered species desperately need to survive. The Center’s Urban Wildlands program watchdogs poorly planned development to ensure wildlife a voice in growth decisions.



Mountain lion
photo by Larry Moats

In California this year, we won an injunction halting construction of a condominium complex on Big Bear Lake that would have felled about 400 trees in the area’s last habitat for the bald eagle. We challenged the City of Palm Springs’ plans for a sprawl development on 1,204 acres of endangered bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa Mountains. We filed suit to stop wind turbines in Altamont Pass from killing massive numbers of rare raptor species. And we won Endangered Species Act protection for the California tiger salamander, whose vernal pool, grassland and oak woodland habitat types are among the most threatened by sprawl in California.

We also continued to advocate for habitat protection amid rapid development in Arizona’s Pima County. Along with our coalition partners, we drafted a community vision statement for the nearly completed Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and developed a proposal to preserve a new mountain park northeast of Tucson. We also helped raise public outcry against Department of Game & Fish plans to shoot or remove mountain lions from Sabino Canyon, where the city’s population boom has encroached on the lion’s historic range. And we petitioned to protect the shovel-nosed snake, whose habitat in the valley between Tucson and Phoenix is rapidly disappearing under both cities’ sprawling growth.



Altamont wind farm
photo by Gene Ichinose

Reports

The federal Endangered Species Act obligates the U.S. government to use the best available science to inform its decisions on protecting imperiled wildlife and habitat. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has abdicated that responsibility—refusing to defend endangered species from industry attacks, shutting professional wildlife biologists out of key decisions, and employing its own politically-motivated junk science to deny plants and animals protections they desperately need. The Center is helping to fill this gap by compiling and publishing scientific reports that raise public awareness and make a strong case for the protection of our nation's most imperiled species. We published the following reports in 2004.

Capping two years of research, the Center released **Extinction and the Endangered Species Act**, documenting how bad administrative policy and bureaucratic delays have resulted in the extinction or disappearance of 105 species in the first 30 years of the Act. Analyzing historic data, we found that the majority of those species were either never extended protection, or were systematically denied protection through repeated delays. The Center's research demonstrates that virtually all the species lost could have been saved if the Act was properly managed, fully funded and shielded from political pressure, and calls upon the administration to remedy those chronic problems.

Silent Spring Revisited: Pesticide Use and Endangered Species details the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's failure to act on science linking pesticides to declines of hundreds of imperiled species, including California amphibians, Pacific Northwest salmon, Chesapeake Bay sea turtles, and bald eagles nationwide. The report examines the agency's refusals to consult with wildlife agencies about the impact of pesticides and its illegal registration of pesticides known to harm wildlife. In tandem with the report, we filed suit against a Bush administration policy change that severely limits the authority of wildlife protection agencies to advise the EPA on pesticide regulation.

San Joaquin kit foxes,
pesticide-threatened species
photo courtesy of USFWS



Sonoyta mud turtle,
nearly extinct species
photo by Charles Connor & Ami Pate



Ancient forest,
Cobbleknob, Oregon
photo by Francis Eatherington

Saving all the Parts: Protecting Species of Northwest Old-Growth Forests counters Bush administration efforts to weaken protection for ancient forests and imperiled wildlife by eliminating the "Survey and Manage Program" of the Northwest Forest Plan. The program required the Forest Service to survey for rare species and refrain from logging where necessary to ensure their survival. With the program defunct, more than 100 species will lose key habitat and are likely to go extinct. The Center's report not only demonstrates the need to protect these species but also argues for their value to forest health and society.

In October 2003, more than a dozen wildfires swept across southern California, burning over 740,000 acres. The Center's **Southern California Wildfire Report** used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data derived from satellite images and on-the-ground observation to quantify the cumulative impact of the fires on habitat for four animals listed under the Endangered Species Act: the coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and mountain yellow-legged frog. Our assessment will help call on wildlife protection agencies to consider these impacts before permitting massive development projects in the area.



Least Bell's vireo
photo by Rick & Nora Bowers

2004 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

FOR YEAR ENDED 12/31/04*

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Grants and Donations

Grants	\$964,017
Membership and donations	506,386
Total public support	1,470,403

Revenue

Legal Returns	718,569
Contracts	44,422
Sale of Property	(43,909)
Miscellaneous	157
Investment income	15,565
Total revenue	734,804

Total Support and Revenue \$2,205,207

EXPENSES

Program Services

Conservation programs, education and information	1,883,254	(78%)
Total program services	1,883,254	

Supporting Services

General and administrative	227,287	(9%)
Fundraising	316,704	(13%)
Total supporting services	543,991	

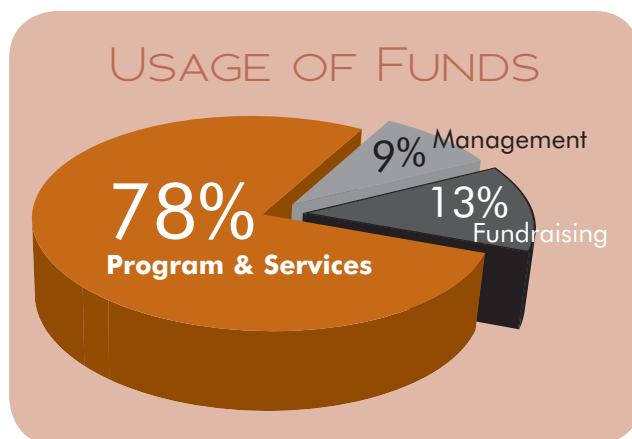
Total Expenses \$2,427,245

Change in net assets (222,038)

Net assets, beginning of year 2,476,937

Net assets, end of year \$2,254,899

* Totals include restricted and unrestricted revenues. Audited financial statements are available upon request.



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Cover: **Bristlecone Pine Snag**
photo by © Timothy Edberg,
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Bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*) are the oldest known living inhabitants of Earth, with the oldest trees dating back more than 4,700 years—more than a millennium older than the most ancient Giant Sequoia. Aged bristlecones send stubborn shoots of life through the thinnest ribbon of bark in an otherwise bare and wind-worn skeleton. Their longevity is all the more remarkable given the inhospitable environment in which the oldest trees persist, typified by poor soil and extremely low rainfall during the trees' 45-day growing season. Even dead bristlecone snags stand bravely for hundreds of years across a virtual lunar landscape. The photographer took this image of a snag in Schulman Grove of the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest in California's White Mountains.



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