

# CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

A close-up photograph of a walrus's head and whiskers, set against a background of blue water and ice. The walrus is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The whiskers are long and white, and the walrus's mouth is slightly open, showing its teeth. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean with ice floes.

2012  
ANNUAL REPORT







# FROM THE DIRECTOR

This was a record-breaking year for protecting endangered species. The Center for Biological Diversity won positive Endangered Species Act decisions for 104 animals and plants, as well as final protection for 33 species, including two Arctic ice seals, Puerto Rico's coquí llanero tree frog, eight southeastern mussels, 23 Hawaiian plants and insects and a San Francisco manzanita once believed to have vanished forever from the wild. We also secured 40 million acres of protected habitat for wildlife — an area larger than Pennsylvania.

More than 40 cities joined our national campaign demanding action on the climate crisis; we stopped sprawling developments in California, launched new initiatives to save the oceans from pollution and acidification, distributed 150,000 free Endangered Species Condoms and spurred our online activists to take action more than 1.5 million times on behalf of wildlife and our planet.

None of this could happen without your support. Thank you.



Kieran Suckling  
Executive Director





# SAVING AMERICA'S WILD WOLVES

The Center's passion for wolves has kept us fighting for these beautiful animals since 1990, when we had our first success bringing Mexican gray wolves back to the southwestern wild. In 2012, in fact, the Center was the only organization actively working to save wolves' lives and recover the species in every single part of America meant to support these mythic and highly social creatures. On the West Coast — which is slowly but surely being recolonized by wolves decades after the animals were systematically exterminated — there are now 15 packs. In the last few months of 2012 we hired a top-flight wolf organizer who will lead an ambitious wolf recovery program up and down the West Coast over the coming years.

We've been fighting constantly to protect fledgling wolf populations in Washington, Oregon and California. Following the historic arrival, for the first time in almost 90 years, of a wolf in California, we petitioned for protection of wolves under the Golden State's Endangered Species Act. Our petition met with unanimous support from the state's wildlife commission, which voted in October to make wolves a candidate for protection under the state law. We also urged President Obama to retain federal protections for wolves in Oregon and Washington, which are under legal fire from the states' livestock industries, and secured an injunction stopping wolf killing in Oregon.

*The West Coast is ripe for wolf recovery. We've swiftly escalated our work with a full-time West Coast wolf organizer to protect these beautiful animals and their ancestral homes in California, Oregon and Washington.*

In the northern Rockies, the going has been tough. After the removal of federal protection for the region's wolves, more than 700 wolves were killed by hunting, trapping and other means in 2012: 399 in Idaho, 242 in Montana and 68 in Wyoming (despite our legal challenge to that state's kill-at-will wolf policy). In the Great Lakes area, we rallied supporters against wolf hunting and trapping and filed lawsuits to stop the slaughter, one of which is still active; nonetheless wolf kills tallied more than 400 in Minnesota by the end of the year and almost 120 in Wisconsin. This means the year saw more than 1,200 wolf deaths in the two regions as a result of delisting. We're still working hard with local partners to get the Minnesota legislature to reinstate its five-year moratorium on wolf hunting.

In the Southwest the wolf population grew from about 58 to 75 by the end of 2012; but alarmingly, more than two decades after the animals' reintroduction, there are still only three breeding pairs in the wild. So we pushed hard for new wolf releases, and continue to do so. And when, last summer, federal officials ordered the shooting of a mother wolf in New Mexico for cattle depredation, the Center swiftly mobilized our supporters to voice their opposition. Within days the kill order was revoked in favor of a plan to trap the wolf and put her in captivity — not ideal, but better than execution.

We're still working to protect Alaska's unique, black-furred Alexander Archipelago wolf, on whose behalf we recently filed a notice of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, targeting the government's prolonged delay in protecting this rare animal.

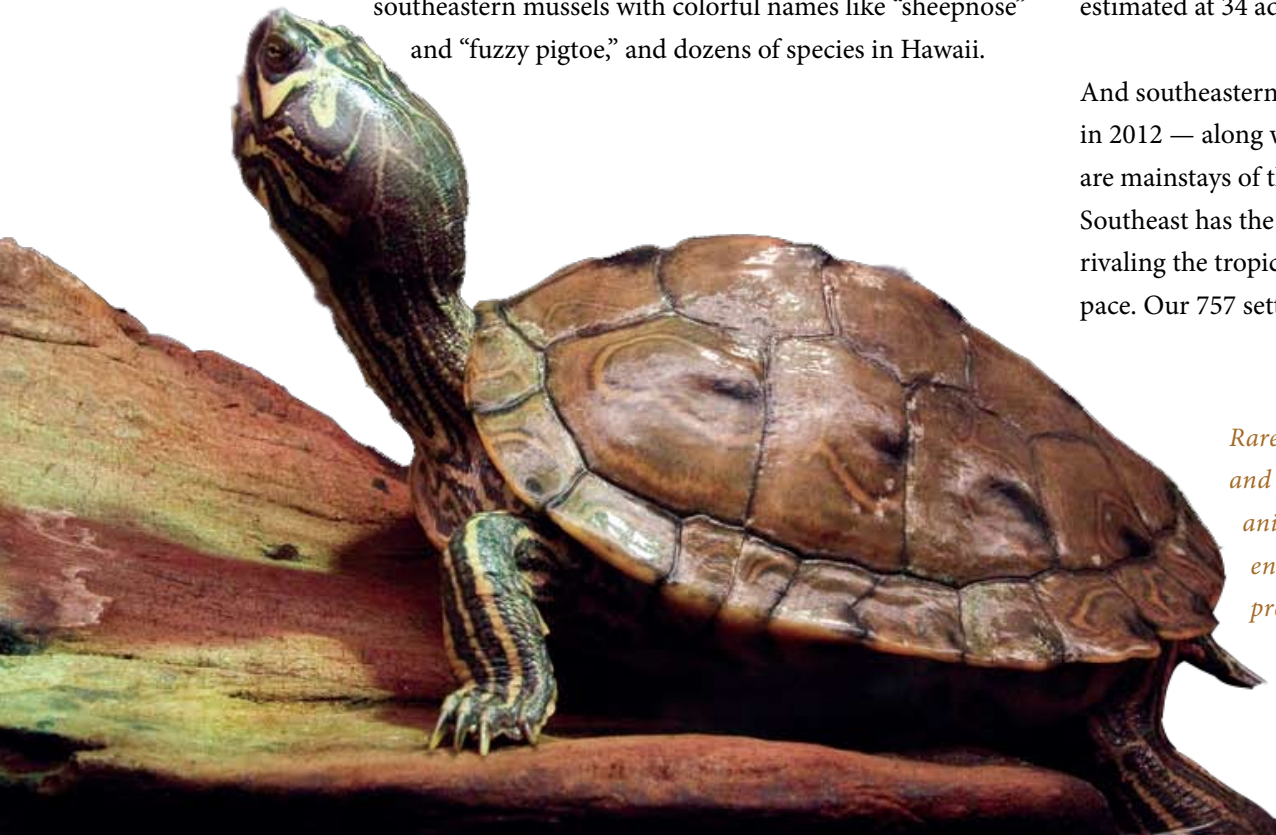
# LANDMARK AGREEMENT, HISTORIC PROTECTIONS

In 2011 the Center struck a landmark agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to speed protection decisions for 757 rare and vanishing species across the country. 2012 brought a cascade of positive decisions under the umbrella of that agreement, over a vast swath of territory. A total of 95 species moved toward protection: two mammals, three fishes, five birds, six amphibians, 26 invertebrates and 53 plants. Of these, 33 received full and final protection under the Endangered Species Act — including coquí llanero tree frogs, Miami blue butterflies, several southeastern mussels with colorful names like “sheepnose” and “fuzzy pigtoe,” and dozens of species in Hawaii.

Dime-sized coquí llanero frogs, also known as Puerto Rican lowland coquí, are only found in one freshwater wetland in Puerto Rico and reproduce on only one plant. Miami blue butterflies may well be the rarest insects in North America, driven to the brink of extinction by exploding coastal development and Florida’s war on mosquitoes, which sprayed toxic chemicals throughout the butterflies’ range. Once common throughout South Florida, they were believed extinct after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and then rediscovered; they’re now limited to only one wild population, estimated at 34 adults in 2012.

And southeastern mussels, of which we won final protection for 12 species in 2012 — along with 1,500 stream miles protected as “critical habitat” — are mainstays of the food web of a vast ecosystem in crisis. The American Southeast has the richest aquatic fauna of any temperate area in the world, rivaling the tropics, but its native animals are disappearing at breakneck pace. Our 757 settlement supports a broader Center campaign — including

*Rare Barbour’s map turtles are found only in the Apalachicola and nearby river systems in the Southeast, where the animals’ numbers are in steep decline. We’re working to end destructive international trade in these turtles and preserve their habitat; a protection decision under our 757 settlement is due in 2017.*



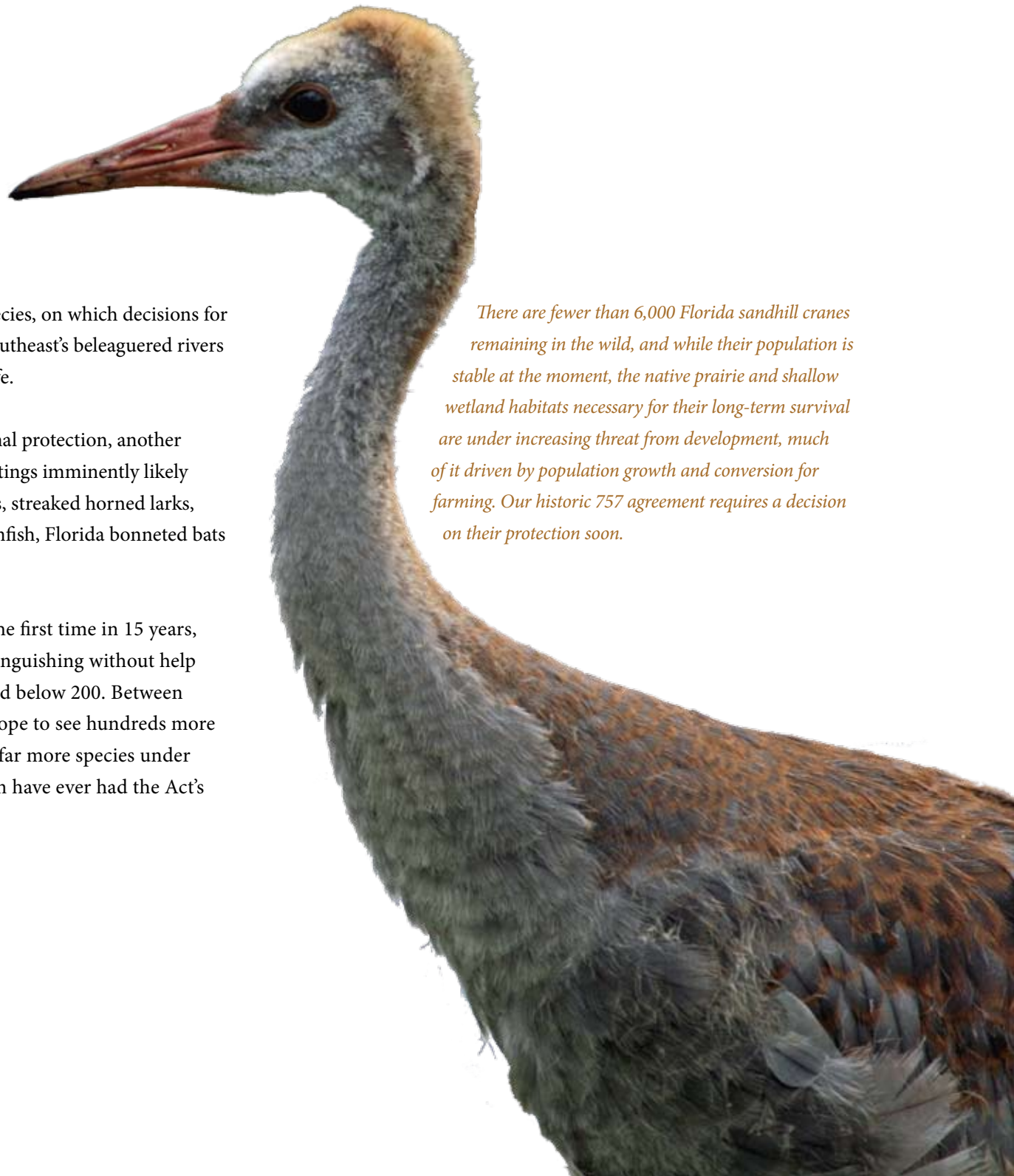


a petition to protect 404 southeastern aquatic species, on which decisions for 374 are already moving forward — to save the Southeast’s beleaguered rivers and wetlands and their remarkable diversity of life.

Along with the dozens of species that received final protection, another 56 were proposed for protection, making final listings imminently likely — among them for Jollyville Plateau salamanders, streaked horned larks, Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies, spring pygmy sunfish, Florida bonneted bats and four Washington pocket gophers.

Our agreement has been so successful that for the first time in 15 years, the number of “candidate” plants and animals languishing without help as they await a federal lifeline has finally dropped below 200. Between now and 2018 — and especially in 2013 — we hope to see hundreds more of these lifesaving decisions, which could bring far more species under the umbrella of the Endangered Species Act than have ever had the Act’s protection before.

*There are fewer than 6,000 Florida sandhill cranes remaining in the wild, and while their population is stable at the moment, the native prairie and shallow wetland habitats necessary for their long-term survival are under increasing threat from development, much of it driven by population growth and conversion for farming. Our historic 757 agreement requires a decision on their protection soon.*



# CORALS IN CRISIS

**C**oral reefs around the globe are in danger. Ocean acidification and global warming, along with a host of other threats, are causing the reefs to bleach and the vital ecosystems and species of these hotspots of ocean diversity to collapse. Scientists warn that reefs could disappear entirely from the planet if we don't take immediate action to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere — and in the oceans.

Our campaign to save corals saw a milestone victory this year when — in response to a Center petition to protect many of the most vulnerable corals within U.S. waters — the government proposed to protect 66 species of corals in the Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico under the Endangered Species Act. Specifically, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed in November to list 12 coral species as “endangered” and 54 as “threatened.”

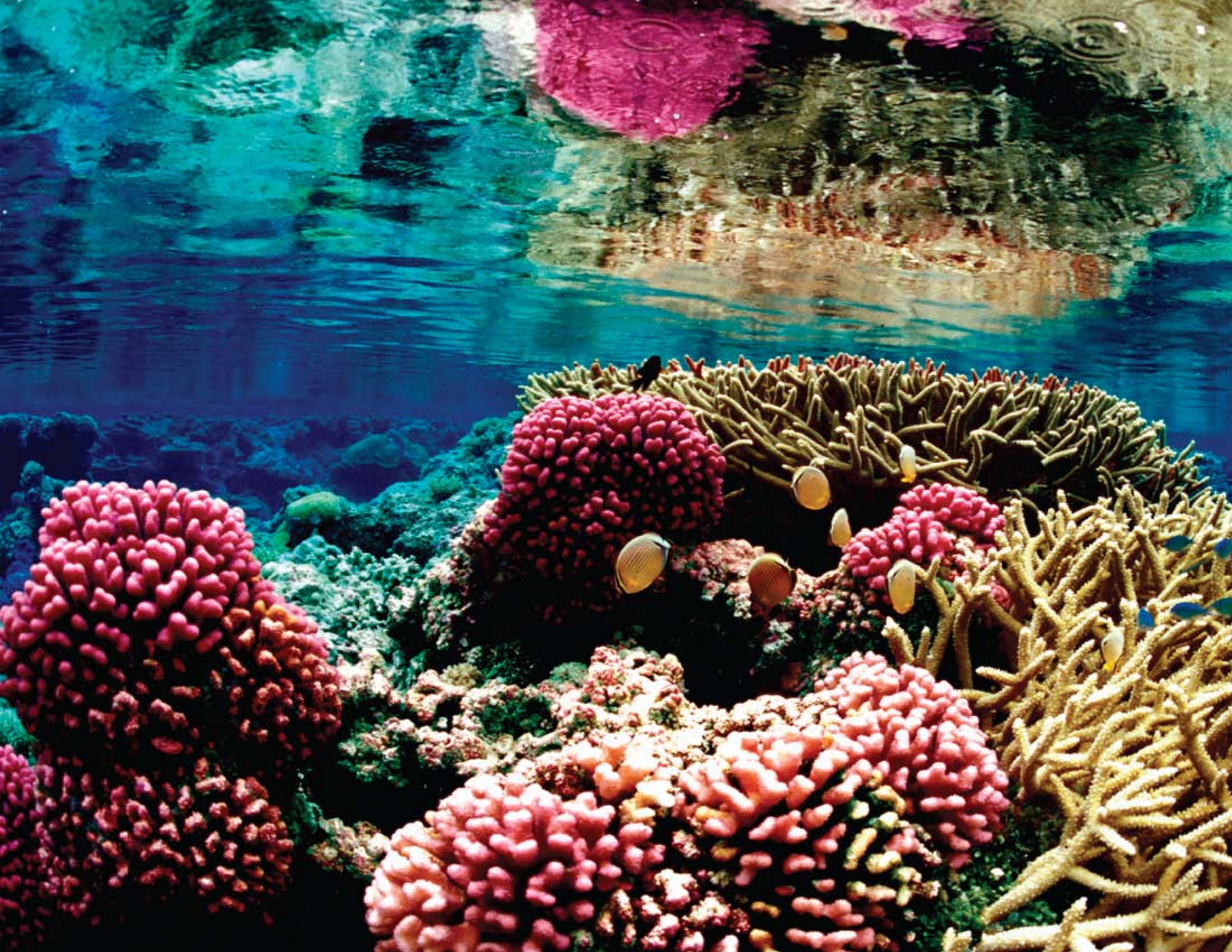
Among the corals are the beautiful staghorn and elkhorn corals (uplisted from the threatened designation the Center won back in 2006), pillar coral, boulder star coral, mountainous star coral, and rough cactus coral. In the Pacific, the dozens of corals declared endangered included blue rice coral, found only in Hawaii, where it prefers shallow reef waters pounded by waves.

We also petitioned last fall to protect orange clownfish — like the one featured in *Finding Nemo* — along with seven other colorful reef fish species under the Endangered Species Act. Beyond the serious threats to their reef habitats, clownfish and damselfish are directly hurt by ocean acidification, which damages their hearing, sight and smell, interfering with the ability of young fish to avoid predators and find safe havens in the coral reefs. At CO<sub>2</sub> levels that are expected later this century, studies have shown the young fish are five to nine times more likely to be snapped up by predators.

And last summer we filed a federal petition to protect 43 little-understood but imperiled Alaska corals. These gorgeous cold-water corals, which survive at great depths — between about 540 feet and almost 10,000 feet below sea level — are some of the most diverse, dense and pristine coral communities in the world. Their long lives and slow reproduction rates make them especially vulnerable to extinction, which they now may face because of large-scale, destructive commercial fishing and climate change.

*In December 2012, 66 coral species got a life-sustaining reprieve when, after multiple legal actions by the Center and thousands of comments from our supporters, the government proposed protection for 12 corals as “endangered” and 54 as “threatened.”*







The image is a composite. The foreground is dominated by a close-up, profile view of a jaguar's head, looking towards the right. The jaguar has a golden-brown coat with dark, irregular spots and rosettes. The background, which is partially obscured by the jaguar, shows a rugged desert canyon landscape with tall, reddish-brown rock formations under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

# 39.7 MILLION ACRES

**E**ndangered species survive better and recover faster when they have protected critical habitat. Securing that habitat, which brings with it a suite of powerful Endangered Species Act protections, has been one of the Center's primary strategies since our founding. In 2012 we won protection for 39.7 million acres of critical habitat.

We won 42,000 square miles of protected habitat — equivalent to 26.8 million acres — along the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington for Pacific leatherback sea turtles; 9.6 million acres for northern spotted owls in the Northwest; more than 40,000 acres in Hawaii; 24,000 acres for western snowy plovers in California, Oregon and Washington; 10,000 acres for Chiricahua leopard frogs in the Southwest; and 6,500 acres proposed for Mississippi gopher frogs. We also won proposed protection of 838,000 acres for jaguars in southern Arizona and New Mexico.

The habitat protection for Pacific leatherback sea turtles — dinosaur-era giants with soft shells and clawless flippers — safeguards areas where the turtles feed on jellyfish after swimming 6,000 miles across the ocean from their nests in Indonesia. It's the first permanent refuge for leatherbacks ever designated in continental U.S. waters and the largest area set aside to protect sea turtle habitat in the United States or its territories. Leatherbacks are the biggest sea turtles in the world — up to 9 feet long, weighing up to a ton — and in the Pacific have declined more than 95 percent since the 1980s, so that now as few as 2,300 adult female western Pacific leatherbacks remain.



# OF PROTECTED HABITAT

Northern spotted owls — for decades the subject of political controversy because of their deep dependence on old-growth forests that are also attractive to timber companies — received 9.6 million acres this year, a victory because the owls' area was increased over its punier Bush-era size but a minor disappointment, as well, in that private and state lands were exempted from protection. Only 20 percent of the Pacific Northwest's ancient forests remain, making it vital that the last big, old trees be protected from the ax for the sake of owls and a wide array of other forest creatures.

And this year's federal proposal to protect 838,232 acres — an area larger than the state of Rhode Island — as critical habitat for endangered jaguars in southern Arizona and New Mexico has been a long time coming. The Center first sued to win the great cats Endangered Species Act protection in 1994; that protection was finally granted in 1997, but in the intervening decade and a half no habitat had been set aside to help the animals survive and recover until now.

Like gray wolves, jaguars were driven from the U.S. by government predator-killing programs. Only over the past two decades have they begun recolonizing the Southwest from a small population roaming the wilds of northern Mexico. We'll keep fighting for a serious jaguar recovery effort. We're determined to welcome them back.

*Jaguars (left) were driven nearly extinct in the United States in the last century. We've been fighting almost 20 years for these majestic cats, and this year the federal government proposed to protect more than 838,000 acres of critical habitat for them in southern Arizona and New Mexico.*







# A CALL TO ARMS FOR CLIMATE

**T**he deepening climate crisis was impossible to ignore in 2012: Superstorm Sandy, historic droughts, epic wildfires and thousands of shattered heat records around the country.

The Center's groundbreaking advocacy to curb global warming and prevent climate-driven extinction is interlaced with all our programs. Along with our numerous, multiyear scientific and legal campaigns to protect climate-threatened species (see, for example, "Alaska's Irreplaceable Arctic" and "Corals in Crisis") we worked ambitiously in 2012 — the hottest year on record in the history of the United States — on both grassroots, bottom-up projects throughout the country and at the national policy and legal level to galvanize effective action against the climate change juggernaut.

On the ground, our Clean Air Cities campaign organized more than 50 communities — including Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Detroit and Miami — to join us in calling on federal leaders to boldly implement the Clean Air Act to stop climate change. We continue to sign up new cities, both large and small, at a remarkably rapid clip, making for a groundswell of local government support across the nation for aggressive use of this powerful law to tackle the global warming crisis.

The federal "national climate assessment," a report released in January 2013, came about largely as a result of a previous Center lawsuit. It predicts a warming of about 10 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 unless we make deep

*The Center's groundbreaking petitions and lawsuits brought polar bears their protected status and have helped them keep it. But the struggle to save the great bears of the North from catastrophic climate change goes on.*

cuts in carbon pollution: stronger hurricanes, bringing more damaging floods; sea levels that could rise 4 feet by century's end; increased food insecurity, including decreased crop yields; and the disappearance of species in some regions, whose "mix of plant and animal life will become almost unrecognizable." Official embrace of these scientific projections is a quiet but important step forward in the fight to avert the most dangerous impacts of the climate crisis.

Our leadership role in the high-profile, swiftly emerging battle over dangerous fracking in California (see "The Fight Against Fracking,") was complemented by our work to reduce pollution from dirty coal-fired power plants. In May, along with a broad coalition including Navajo and local groups, we filed suit against an expansion of the Four Corners Power Plant, built in 1962, which is the largest coal-fired power plant source of nitrogen oxides in the United States.

We launched a sustained media blitz this year on the importance of addressing the climate crisis through numerous TV and radio interviews, news stories in major outlets and regular opinion pieces in venues such as *Huffington Post*, where we ran op-eds on subjects including the administration's misguided plans for polar bears and "The 5 Most Dangerous Myths About Climate Change." On the international front, we filed a legal challenge to the U.S. Export-Import Bank's nearly \$3 billion in financing for two massive fossil fuel facilities in Australia's priceless and biodiverse Great Barrier Reef; and we continue to fight in the courts to force the EPA to reduce harmful emissions from aircraft — no small matter since aircraft emissions account for 12 percent of the CO<sub>2</sub> pollution created by the U.S. transportation sector and are growing faster than any other contributor.

# 2012

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Released a groundbreaking study, “On Time, On Target: How the Endangered Species Act Is Saving America’s Wildlife,” showing that 90 percent of 110 species analyzed are right on track for recovery.
- Won initial approval for our petition to protect gray wolves under the California Endangered Species Act and launched a campaign to protect and restore wolves along the West Coast.
- Filed a petition — the largest of its kind — to protect 53 frogs, turtles, lizards, snakes and salamanders across the United States.
  - Petitioned the White House Council on Environmental Quality to take immediate action to stem the spread of white-nose syndrome, a rapidly spreading disease that has killed nearly 7 million bats across the eastern United States and is quickly moving west.



## WILD PLACES

- Won an appeal requiring more protection for nine endangered fish that live along the 700-mile route of the Ruby pipeline.
- Won a series of court rulings in Southern California protecting wildlife habitat and wild places from development, including at Newhall Ranch and Fanita Ranch.
- Won a court battle that overturned a U.S. Forest Service decision that allowed cattle grazing across a 42,000-acre area of the Fossil Creek watershed on the Coconino National Forest in central Arizona.
- Helped defeat the Vía Verde gas pipeline in Puerto Rico.

## OCEANS

- Won 42,000 square miles of protected habitat along the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California for Pacific leatherback sea turtles.
- Won proposed protections for 66 corals.
- Launched our new Endangered Oceans campaign highlighting the effect of ocean acidification on sea life and calling on the EPA to develop a national plan to address this global crisis.
- Unveiled a groundbreaking new ocean plastics project urging the EPA to regulate ocean plastics as a pollutant under the Clean Water Act.
- Sought Endangered Species Act protection for the orange clownfish — featured in *Finding Nemo* — and seven similarly coral-dependent damselfish threatened by climate change, ocean acidification and the marine aquarium trade.



# A BANNER YEAR FOR WILDLIFE

## TOXICS

- Secured settlement for the government to clean up toxic lead paint — which was killing up to 10,000 birds every year — on Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.
- Successfully fought the NRA and their cronies in Congress on their efforts to stop the EPA from removing toxic lead from hunting ammunition that kills millions of wild birds every year.
- Sued the federal government for failing to fully implement new air-quality standards for lead, required under the Clean Air Act.
- Successfully petitioned for new limitations on some of the most dangerous rat poisons.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- Organized more than 40 cities — including Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Detroit and Miami — to sign our Clean Air Cities campaign calling for full use of the Clean Air Act to curb climate change.
- Launched federal litigation challenging the Bureau of Land Management for failing to properly evaluate the threat posed by hydraulic fracturing, “fracking,” to endangered species on public land leased for oil and gas drilling in California.
- Initiated a legal challenge to the U.S. Export-Import Bank’s nearly \$3 billion in financing for two massive fossil fuel facilities in Australia’s Great Barrier Reef.

## WILDLIFE HABITAT

- Won protection for nearly 40 million acres of critical habitat, including:
- 9.6 million acres for the northern spotted owl in the Northwest;
- 838,000 acres proposed for jaguars in southern Arizona and New Mexico;
- 40,000 acres for 23 newly protected Oahu species in Hawaii;
- 24,000 acres for the western snowy plover in Washington, Oregon and California.

## ARCTIC

- Challenged Shell Oil’s attempt to drill for oil in the Arctic, including a lawsuit over air-pollution permits and organizing thousands of people to speak out in letters to President Barack Obama.
- Won federal protections for two ice-dependent Arctic seals threatened by climate change and industrialization of their habitat.
- Petitioned to protect 43 species of Alaska cold-water corals under the Endangered Species Act.



# MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

The Center's outstanding conservation work to save endangered animals and plants is only possible because of the support of our 500,000 members and online activists. Our members contribute two-thirds of the Center's annual income — making you the key to our unparalleled success in

defending species at risk of extinction. Learn more about what your Center membership does for wildlife and wild places at [BIOLOGICALDIVERSITY.ORG/SUPPORT](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/support). Consider becoming a monthly sustaining member, leaving a legacy in your will or estate plan to protect a rich, diverse planet or making a special gift today.



*Robert & Carolyn Buchanan*  
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE PROFILE

Robert and Carolyn Buchanan of Alaska have been enjoying the wild together for more than 40 years and are dedicated to preserving wildlife for future generations.

In 2002 they channeled that passion into founding Polar Bears International, an organization that promotes polar bear research. Today, they honor their commitment to conservation in two ways: through their newly founded advocacy organization, Arctic Action Teams, and their generous support of the Center's campaigns — particularly our landmark work to protect polar bears and the Arctic.

“Arctic species are such a big part of our natural heritage, but people know so little about them,” says Carolyn. “Unfortunately, carbon pollution here in the United States plays a huge role in pushing polar bears and other Arctic species to the brink of extinction — and the Center's doing something to stop this.”

The Buchanans, who split their time between Texas and Alaska, support the Center because of its “tireless, deeply dedicated” people and willingness to take on the “900-pound gorillas in the room, such as overpopulation, over-industrialization and the abuse of our precious resources,” that other organizations are often reluctant to address.

[BIOLOGICALDIVERSITY.ORG/LEADERSHIP](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/leadership)





## *Bob & Janet Conklin*

### LEGACY PROFILE

**B**ob and Janet Conklin of Portland, Ore., love the wolves and wilds of the Pacific Northwest. Janet, a Portland native, spent her childhood summers exploring Oregon's wilderness areas. After 30 years as a teacher and commercial real estate broker, she returned to college to study environmental ethics and ecology. Bob, who had a long career in law and publishing, became interested in endangered species in the 1950s when he read about the extinction of carrier pigeons. Today they share a deep passion for wolves in the Northwest and a fascination with wolves' highly developed social systems.

The Conklins are strong supporters of the Center and both have committed to leave part of their estate to support the work we do with a legacy gift. Janet, inspired by the Center's passion and dedication, has also volunteered with our staff to do newspaper op-eds and attend public hearings. Bob, as a lawyer, admires the Center's efficiency and willingness to litigate to win protections for endangered species.

"The Center is unusually effective because of its readiness to take some of these government agencies to court to require real enforcement of environmental laws," he says.

[BIOLOGICALDIVERSITY.ORG/LEGACY](http://BIOLOGICALDIVERSITY.ORG/LEGACY)



## *Ed & Debra Mahony*

### MEMBER / ACTIVIST PROFILE

**D**ebra Mahony first read about the Center for Biological Diversity's work more than 20 years ago when we'd just begun working to save Mexican spotted owls. She remains drawn to our no-holds-barred approach, whether it's winning protections for endangered species or fighting for a livable climate.

"The Center doesn't back down or compromise," says Debra, who lives in Fairfield, Conn., with her husband Ed.

Today Debra rarely leaves home without a strategic cache of Center stickers, flyers and Endangered Species Condoms in her bag. Along with her generous financial support, Debra regularly distributes those condoms and has passed out thousands of our stickers and flyers, as well as signing and sharing online petitions. On top of that, she tells "pretty much anyone who calls my home number, no matter who it is," about the Center's work.

"I'm proud to tell them that by signing your vital online petitions and hopefully donating as well, they can make a difference," Debra says. "And that forwarding your petitions to all of their contacts couldn't be more important than it is now. Online activism does work!"

[BIOLOGICALDIVERSITY.ORG/SUPPORT](http://BIOLOGICALDIVERSITY.ORG/SUPPORT)

# THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AT 40



This year marks the 40th anniversary of our country's — and arguably the world's — most powerful and successful environmental law, the Endangered Species Act.

To document the many successes of the Act we published a study called “On Time, On Target: How the Endangered Species Act Is Saving America’s Wildlife,” which analyzed 110 species covered by the Act to track and measure the progress of their recovery.

Our study found that very, very few species have ever gone extinct once granted protection under the Act; that the longer a species is listed under the Act, the more likely it is to be recovering; that the more money is spent on a species, the more likely that species is to be recovering; and, above all, that 90 percent of species studied are recovering at the rate laid out in their federal recovery plans.

On average, species took 25 years to recover, while their recovery plans predicted 23 years — a 91 percent timeliness accomplishment. Eighty percent of species have not yet reached their expected recovery year, meaning they can't reasonably be expected to have recovered already (a finding that effectively rebuts the unscientific claims by politicians gunning for the Act that it's not helping species). In short, the Act has a success rate unparalleled by many other laws — of any kind.

Among the species highlighted in our study — those that have seen remarkable, lifesaving progress under this exceptional law — were black-footed ferrets, whooping cranes, bald eagles, Utah





prairie dogs, gray wolves, blue, fin, humpback and gray whales, bighorn sheep, California condors, Palos Verdes blue butterflies and the San Clemente Island lotus and seabeach amaranth.

The study's findings are similar to a 2006 analysis we conducted of all federally protected species in the Northeast, which found 93 percent had stabilized or improved since being put on the endangered species list and 82 percent were on pace to meet recovery goals.

There are extraordinary recovery stories happening around the country. Our latest study found that since being protected by the Endangered Species Act, the number of nesting pairs of California least terns increased by 2,819 percent, the number of San Miguel Island foxes grew by 3,830 percent and the number of nesting Atlantic green sea turtles on Florida beaches grew by 2,206 percent.

We're using the study, and the accompanying online map that lets users find out which species are recovering in their region, to draw attention to the important and central role the Act has played over the past four decades in saving America's wildlife. We're also using the study's findings and data to defeat attacks against the Act by politicians and lobbyists who wish to see it undermined for the sake of short-term, private profit.

*No matter where you live in the United States, nearby dwells an animal or plant that has been saved from extinction by the Endangered Species Act. Whooping cranes went from 43 wild and 7 captive birds in 1967, when they were listed, to 437 wild and 162 captive birds in 2011. Two years after the Peninsular bighorn sheep (left) population plummeted to 276 in 1996, it was listed as endangered. But by 2010 the population had more than tripled, to 981.*

We have also laid the groundwork for a region-by-region campaign to recognize and publicize the many charismatic and intriguing success stories of the Act, preparing to mobilize, through op-eds, letters to the editor and other means, local citizens and communities to speak out in favor of the law and the homegrown species it has saved. We've made new hires to support the campaign, which is moving full steam ahead as this report went to press.

Forty years is a milestone worth celebrating for the Endangered Species Act, but we know that the next 40 will be crucial in determining the fate of hundreds, if not thousands, of species from coast to coast.

# SAVING LIFE IN OUR OCEANS

**O**n top of the 26.8 million acres of protected habitat for leatherback sea turtles and a federal proposal to protect 66 corals secured this year, our oceans program unveiled a range of ambitious new projects in 2012, including a groundbreaking initiative on plastic pollution. Plastic pollution covers roughly 40 percent of the world's oceans in giant, swirling convergences of garbage, including billions of pounds of plastic that kills hundreds of thousands of seabirds, endangered sea turtles, rare seals and other marine species every year. So this summer the Center filed a petition urging the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate ocean plastics as a pollutant under the Clean Water Act. The petition seeks criteria to limit visible plastic pollution in oceans to zero and set strict limits on small plastic items in both the water and on our beaches.

In December we filed another petition, asking the EPA to designate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands — including the portion of the enormous Pacific Garbage Patch within U.S. waters — as the nation's newest Superfund site. The 1,200-mile island chain became a national marine monument in 2006 and is home to more than 7,000 marine species, one-quarter of which are found nowhere else on Earth. But the islands' reefs and shores are deluged by plastic debris. Our petition targets one of the world's largest marine conservation areas and marks the first time any plastic-infested waters of the United States have been nominated for a Superfund designation.

Again on the Hawaiian front, we and our partners struck an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service this fall to finalize and implement protections for false killer whales (actually large dolphins). These animals have been killed and maimed at unsustainable levels in Hawaii-based longline fisheries. Those found within 76 nautical miles of the main Hawaiian Islands are being killed so fast that their population has declined by about 9 percent each year since 1989. Only about 150 of these individuals remain; the Fisheries Service has proposed to protect them as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act. Our agreement will reduce the number of deaths.

Ocean waters are becoming more acidic because of the carbon-pollution load they absorb, changing the chemistry and threatening marine life, from plankton up the food chain to sea stars, salmon, and eventually sea otters and whales. Shell-forming animals like corals, crabs, oysters and urchins are getting hit first because ocean acidification robs seawater of the compounds these creatures need to build shells and skeletons, interfering with their development and ultimately their survival. This year we launched our new Endangered Oceans campaign, which draws attention to the far-reaching impacts of ocean acidification on sea life and has called on the EPA to develop a national plan to address this global crisis.

*Though globally they're in decline, green sea turtles that nest along the coasts of Florida and Hawaii are on the upswing because of the Endangered Species Act and advocacy by the Center and our members.*











# ALASKA'S IRREPLACEABLE ARCTIC

Alaska, America's last wilderness frontier, is sadly in the vanguard of climate-change driven transformation. In the Arctic, summer sea-ice melt is moving faster than scientists once thought possible. This summer, sea ice hit a new record low, falling to half its average size. At that rate, summer sea ice across the Arctic is likely to disappear entirely in the next 10 to 20 years, and the cascade of extinctions expected to result threatens to number among the great tragedies of our age. Polar bears, ice seals, walrus and other animals that depend on the Arctic ice to survive and raise their young are all in danger.

The Center has focused enormous legal and scientific talent on curbing destruction of wild creatures and wild places in the Arctic. This year we won protection for two species of ice-dependent seals — ringed seals and bearded seals — under the Endangered Species Act. We'd petitioned for the species' protection in 2008, and followed with a lawsuit this September when the National Marine Fisheries Service failed to act; finally, just before Christmas, the federal agency finalized the seals' protection. This made the two ice-seal species, found in the waters off Alaska, the first animals since polar bears to be protected primarily because of threats from climate change. Ringed seals give birth and nurse their pups in snow caves built

*Responding to a Center petition, the government protected bearded seals and ringed seals under the Endangered Species Act in 2012 — the first species since polar bears to get federal safeguards because global warming is melting their sea-ice home.*

on sea ice. Those snow caves are collapsing in the rapidly warming Arctic, leaving pups vulnerable to death from freezing temperatures and predators.

The case may have a broader positive impact in that it marks a change in the agency's definition of the "foreseeable future." While the Fisheries Service previously denied protection to ribbon seals, based in part on a finding that the "foreseeable future" extended only 50 years, the agency's listing of the ringed and bearded seals was based on a foreseeable future that stretched 100 years ahead — a timeframe from which other species may well benefit.

Over the past seven years we have stopped all of Shell Oil's permits to drill for oil in the Arctic, including a recent lawsuit over air-pollution permits. We also mobilized thousands of people to speak out in letters opposed to Arctic drilling to President Barack Obama (see "Leadership in Media"). The company abandoned plans to drill in the summer of 2013 but vowed to return after that, so our fight will continue.

Farther south in Alaska we filed a petition in 2012 to protect little-known freshwater seals, called Iliamna Lake seals, under the Endangered Species Act. These unique, barely studied seals are the only seals in America that live exclusively in freshwater — in Alaska's largest, deepest body of freshwater, in fact, surrounded by pristine wilderness about 200 miles from Anchorage. The seals are imminently threatened by the proposed Pebble Mine, as well as by climate change, so we petitioned for federal protection on their behalf.

# LEADERSHIP IN MEDIA AND MOBILIZATION

The Center's creative media and mass mobilization saw some exciting successes in 2012. First off, our base of online supporters grew from 328,000 to an astounding 539,000 — and those supporters took a total of 1.5 million actions. A number of individual initiatives drew more than 40,000 letters or signatures each from online activists, including our campaigns to get plastic pollution out of the oceans and to say no to offshore drilling in the Arctic.

Our Get the Lead Out campaign, aimed at reducing the massive death toll toxic lead takes on wildlife, brought together 150 groups across the country — including conservationists, birders, hunters, scientists, veterinarians and American Indians — to petition the Environmental Protection Agency to take toxic lead out of ammunition this spring.

We ran major, strategically targeted spots on the issue: In *The New York Times*, our full-page ad — highlighting the fact that lead needs to be removed not only from water, gasoline, toys and paint but also ammunition and tackle — urged readers to speak out against the National Rifle Association's stubborn support of toxic lead. In Las Vegas our radio and print ads asked Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to oppose that NRA-sponsored legislation, aimed at banning the government from regulating toxic ammo; and almost 43,000 of our supporters took action. The campaign saw a partial victory in December, when the gun group and its congressional friends failed to push through their poisonous bill.

Our demonstrations against offshore drilling in the Arctic were high profile, with more than a million people calling on President Barack Obama in May to save the fragile seas of the Far North from oil drilling. Petitions with more than 1 million signatures were delivered to the White House, concurrent with a protest and dozens of videos made by citizens asking the president to stop Shell Oil from drilling this past summer. With partners we also led large protests against fracking in California, including one in December at which protesters in hazmat suits, carrying barrels labeled "Warning: Toxic Fracking Fluid," rallied in Sacramento, outside a federal auction, against plans to lease more than 17,000 acres of California public land to oil companies for drilling and fracking.





# POPULATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Center's human population campaign continues to break new ground. We're the only environmental group with a full-time campaign dedicated to highlighting the connection between the growth of the world's population — which topped 7 billion in 2011 — and the risk of extinction for plants and animals around the world.

We gave out more than 150,000 free Endangered Species Condoms in 2012 to jump-start conversations about population growth, consumption of natural resources and the relationship to extinction. The condoms were given out at the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, Calif., at a nightclub in Hawaii, and at parties, churches, restaurants and college health centers around the country.



The Center also organized a panel on population and consumption at a national environmental law conference; launched our Hump Smarter Hotline — a humorous toll-free service for New Year's Eve urging callers to think about panthers, polar bears and other endangered species before indulging in possibly unprotected casual encounters. (More babies are conceived during the winter holidays than at any other time of the year.) We reached out to journalists and editors around the country, and published numerous op-eds, on the planet's new 7 billion population tally and the importance of slowing growth.

We commissioned a national poll focused tightly on population issues. The poll made it clear that Americans agree population growth is a driving factor in so many of today's environmental crises, whether it's sprawling development crowding out Florida panthers and sea turtles, loss of wild habitat for San Joaquin kit foxes in California, or climate change pushing polar bears and ice seals toward extinction.

Among the poll's results were these: 64 percent said that, with the human population expected to hit 10 billion by 2050, wildlife will be hurt. Sixty-one percent said they're already concerned about the rate at which wildlife is disappearing. The poll made a media splash, with a prominent story in the *Los Angeles Times* and a widely read op-ed in the national online magazine *The Daily Beast*.



# PROTECTING OUR WILD PLACES

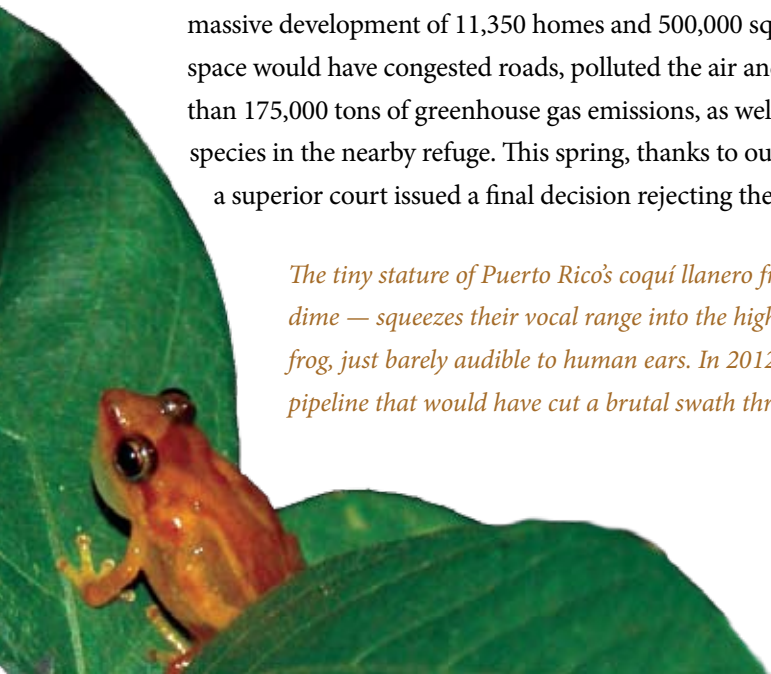
Our wide-ranging work to protect public lands from destruction and preserve high-value habitat on private lands saw some key victories in 2012, including a series of court rulings in Southern California that helped protect endangered species from sprawl. At Newhall Ranch, a court upheld our claim that the state's approval of this 60,000-home development violated the law by failing to protect endangered species, from unarmored threespine sticklebacks to Southern California steelhead trout; the approval also failed to consider the development's impacts on climate change. Another sprawl development, Fanita Ranch — this one in prime chaparral habitat — will have to address impacts to the Quino checkerspot butterfly, among other species, if it moves forward.

We stopped a proposed mega-development near the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, one of Southern California's most important wildlife refuges. The massive development of 11,350 homes and 500,000 square feet of commercial space would have congested roads, polluted the air and generated more than 175,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as hurting dozens of species in the nearby refuge. This spring, thanks to our coalition's legal fight, a superior court issued a final decision rejecting the planned subdivision.

*The tiny stature of Puerto Rico's coquí llanero frogs — no wider than a dime — squeezes their vocal range into the highest pitch of almost any frog, just barely audible to human ears. In 2012 we helped defeat a gas pipeline that would have cut a brutal swath through coquí habitat.*

On the 700-mile Ruby pipeline, which cuts across hundreds of streams in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and Oregon, we won an appeal this year that will bring new protections to nine endangered fish that live along the pipeline's route, including Lahontan cutthroat trout, four species of sucker, and Colorado River fish like the pikeminnow and humpback chub. In central Arizona we won a court battle that overturned a U.S. Forest Service decision allowing cattle grazing across a 42,000-acre area of the Fossil Creek watershed on the Coconino National Forest. Fossil Creek is one of Arizona's rare perennial streams, surrounded by a beautiful, rich landscape that's home to the world's only desert nesting bald eagles as well as southwestern willow flycatchers, Mexican spotted owls and Chiricahua leopard frogs.

Also in Arizona, as well as New Mexico, we fought this year to close more than 29,000 miles of road to destructive use through travel-management planning in the two states' national forests. We helped defeat a notorious 92-mile liquefied natural gas pipeline — the so-called "Vía Verde," or "Green Way," planned for Puerto Rico — that would have hurt dozens of species, including the dime-sized coquí llanero frog, sea turtles, parrots, hawks, corals and numerous plants. Vía Verde would have destroyed hundreds of acres of wetlands.





# THE FIGHT AGAINST FRACKING

The destructive oil-and-gas extraction technology known as fracking is swiftly expanding in California, where a geological formation called the Monterey Shale is believed to hold an estimated 15 billion barrels of oil — more than 40 percent of U.S. shale-oil reserves. Some 600 wells were fracked in California in 2011 alone. The state is on the brink of a major fracking boom that would have disastrous consequences for wildlife, human health and the climate.

Fracking fluid often contains dangerous chemicals, including some that are known to cause cancer and disrupt reproductive development. Its wastewater tends to be stored aboveground, bringing risks of wildlife poisoning and surface-water contamination; the technology requires enormous amounts of water, posing a threat to rivers vital to California steelhead trout and other fish. To make matters worse, in California the technology will be shooting large amounts of high-pressured liquid deep underground in a region prone to serious earthquakes.

Yet the Golden State has no reliable safeguards in place to protect the environment and people against the effects of fracking. Residents often don't even know when it's happening in their area. At risk, along with human communities, are California's wildlife and landscapes — in a state that's home to one of our country's richest arrays of biodiversity and hundreds of its most urgently threatened species.

The Center is leading an ambitious, hard-hitting campaign to stop irresponsible fracking and ban the harmful technology across as much of the state as possible. Almost overnight we've made fracking a high-profile issue throughout California, and are succeeding in slowing down the pace of the boom. We've led numerous protests against fracking, placed powerful op-eds and helped secure valuable editorials; our staff regularly appear in coverage on both TV and radio.

We launched federal litigation challenging the Bureau of Land Management for failing to properly evaluate the threat fracking poses to endangered species on public land leased for oil and gas activities in California. We went to court with allies to force the state agency responsible for regulating the oil and gas industry to abide by the state's Environmental Quality Act. And we filed suit again very early in 2013 because California regulators had violated the law by allowing fracking to expand without lawful oversight.



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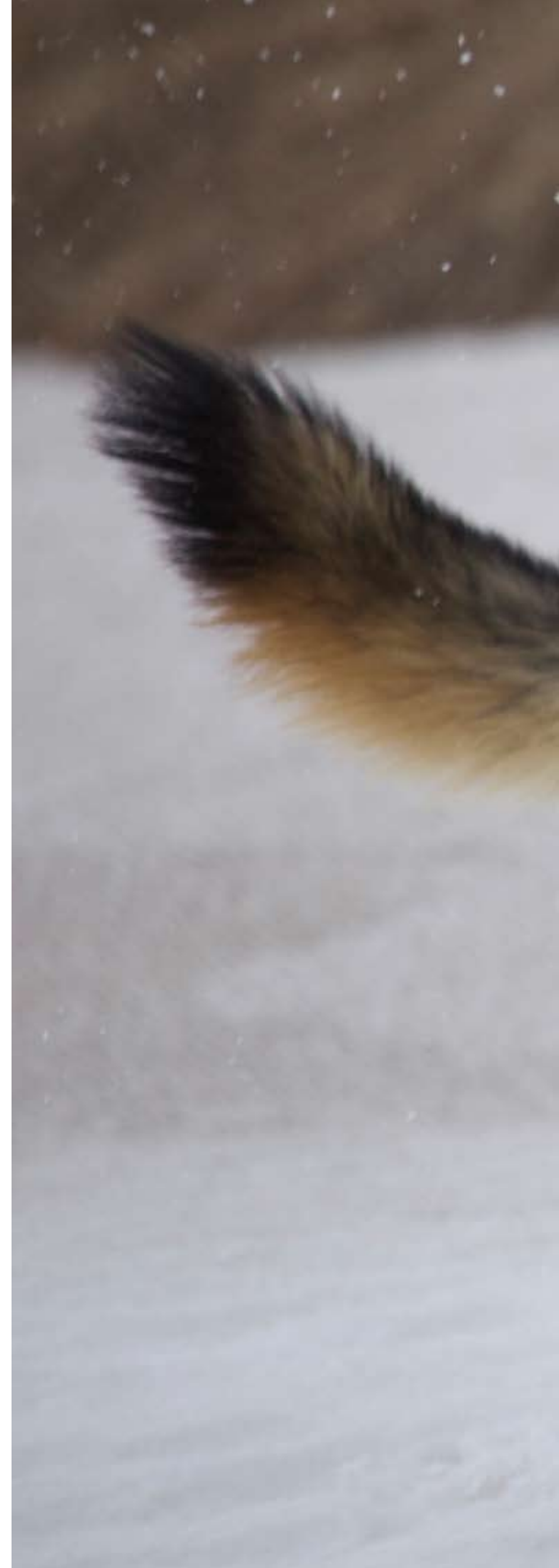
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Mayumi Hughes	Mallikarjuna Kishtagoni			Christopher O'Brien	
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David Hunter	Stuart & Jeanne Klein				
	Evan Kleinberg				
	David M. & Kaaren J. Klingel				

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The Center for Biological Diversity thanks the following members who are leaving a legacy of species protection by including us in their retirement plans, wills or other estate plans. To learn more about joining the Center's Legacy Society, contact Paula Simmonds at (866) 357-3349 or [PSIMMONDS@BIOLOGICALDIVERSITY.ORG](mailto:PSIMMONDS@BIOLOGICALDIVERSITY.ORG).

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My mother  
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# 2012 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For year ended 12/31/12. Totals include restricted and unrestricted support. Audited financial statements are available on request.

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Grants and donations	
Foundation grants	\$ 2,020,879
Membership and donations	4,320,023
<b>Total public support</b>	<b>6,340,902</b>

Revenue	
Legal returns	1,406,139
Contracts	2,000
Miscellaneous	638,325
Investment income	20,301
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>2,066,765</b>
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>8,407,667</b>

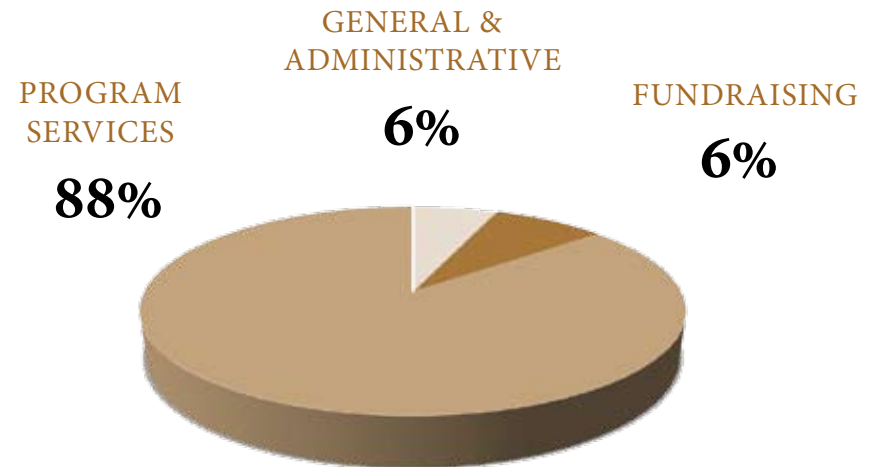
## EXPENSES

Program services	
Climate	1,199,049
Endangered species	1,747,906
Oceans	929,347
Population	161,677
Urban wildlands	596,388
Wildlands	1,686,544
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>6,320,911 (88%)</b>

### Supporting services

General and administrative	441,320 (6%)
Fundraising	438,870 (6%)
<b>Total support services</b>	<b>880,190</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>7,201,101</b>

Change in net assets	1,206,566
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>10,734,072</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 11,940,638</b>



**C**enter members contributed more than \$6.3 million to our work to defend endangered species and their habitats in 2012. With an enthusiasm that inspired us to work even harder, our supporters gave us funds to take on major challenges while keeping administrative costs down. We used those funds effectively and efficiently, putting \$.88 of every dollar into our conservation programs and earning “Top Rated” status from Charity Watch and “Best in America” from Independent Charities of America. You — and our rapidly growing base of more than 500,000 members and activists — are the key to our success. By taking decisive, substantial action, adding energy and resources to our campaigns, and ambitiously expanding nationwide with 70 Center staff, we will continue to win great victories for wildlife.

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