

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



2016
ANNUAL REPORT

BUT THEN CAME NOVEMBER

The Center for Biological Diversity had some extraordinary moments in 2016 — our counter-protest at the armed occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, our securing of 27 million acres of protected habitat for endangered species, our achievement, along with local Arizona partners, of superstar status for El Jefe the American jaguar. There were plenty of wins for wild creatures great and small, as well as for wild places and the climate — and I hope you'll read about those wins in this report. But then came November. And there's no denying that the elections drastically changed our plans for 2017.

Trump's ascendancy was a shock, and it made us sick at heart. But we haven't let it slow us down. Instead we tackled his administration even before it took office, launching our powerful Earth2Trump resistance tour across the country, which arrived in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 18 with resistance messages from more than 150,000 people nationwide after a three-weeks-long, two-route, 16-stop tour across the United States.

And our momentum hasn't diminished one bit since the inauguration — in fact we've already filed more than 20 lawsuits against the malfeasance of the Trump government. Every step of the way we're fighting the president as he tries to deny the reality of climate change, discredit science, gut our environmental laws, despoil our public lands and waters, open the doors to killing off our native wildlife, conduct mass deportations, eliminate regulations protecting poor communities from pollution and violence and take away women's reproductive rights.

We've filed suit against Trump for opening up federal lands to coal mining. We've filed suit over his approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. Along with Arizona Congressman Raúl Grijalva, we've sued over Trump's disastrous and cynical border wall scheme, which would further militarize precious landscapes and hurt wildlife and human communities alike. We've sued him for revoking protections for wolves and bears, which can now be gunned down and trapped on Alaska's national wildlife refuges. We've sued to force the release of EPA chief and climate denier Scott Pruitt's emails. We've sued to reverse Trump's order opening up the Arctic Ocean to oil drilling. And more suits are coming.

We won't rest until Trump is out of office and his destructive policies have been beaten back. And I know you won't rest either. Too much is at stake. So for your faith in the past, and your faith in the future, I give you my thanks.

Yours in the resistance,



Kieran Suckling, Executive Director



A photograph of a protest scene. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a cap holds a large white sign with the text "STOP BUNDY LAND GRAB". To his left, another man is riding a brown horse, holding a large American flag. The background shows a white boat and a cloudy sky.

STANDING TALL AT MALHEUR AND BEYOND

In January 2016, when radical anti-government paramilitaries seized Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, the Center was at the front lines to protest this desecration of wildlife habitat and public land. We counter-protested at the refuge itself and rallied outside courthouses and in cities across the West — from Portland, Eugene and Bend in Oregon to Seattle and Spokane in Washington and Boise in Idaho — to see justice done against the Bundys and their co-conspirators and make sure our national parks, forests and refuges, and other public lands remain protected for *all* people.

STOP
BUNDY
LAND
GRAB

BUNDY
IT'S TIME TO
MIGRATE

PRESERVING 27 MILLION ACRES OF HABITAT

We won designation of more than 27 *million* acres of critical habitat in 2016, helping preserve the homes of a long list of rare and vanishing creatures. This included 1.8 million acres in California for Sierra Nevada frogs and toads that have suffered drastic declines; 40,000 square miles of ocean habitat for the 500 North Atlantic right whales remaining in the world; and almost 40,000 acres for the Kentucky arrow darter, a beautiful fish found in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains that is threatened by coal mining.



Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog courtesy Devin Edmonds / USGS

KEEPING PUBLIC LANDS IN PUBLIC HANDS

The Center's leadership within the "Keep It in the Ground" movement — launched at the end of 2015 — rallied the American people's love of our heritage lands against special-interest efforts, both within Congress and outside it, to seize America's public lands and the mineral resources they contain for private profit. In July we led 250 groups in petitioning the Obama administration to end new fossil fuel extraction on federal lands and oceans. In September 2016 the Center and allies delivered 1 million signatures supporting this petition to the White House.





PROTECTING 33 SPECIES

In 2016, partly as a result of our remarkably productive 757 species agreement, the Center obtained federal protection — and a new lease on life — for no fewer than 33 species. These included urgently imperiled species in Hawaii (plants, birds and insects) and five species in Samoa (two birds, two snails and a bat). An elusive orchid was protected in the Southeast after 41 years on the waiting list.

FIGHTING OFFSHORE FRACKING OFF CALIFORNIA'S COAST

In early 2016 we won a temporary ban on fracking in federal waters off the coast of California, but that ban was lifted a few months later. We went back to court, with our allies, and sued over inadequate environmental review. As new fracking loomed in the precious Santa Barbara Channel, threatening a host of marine mammals and fish, we kept up unflagging efforts to prevent the harmful practice.



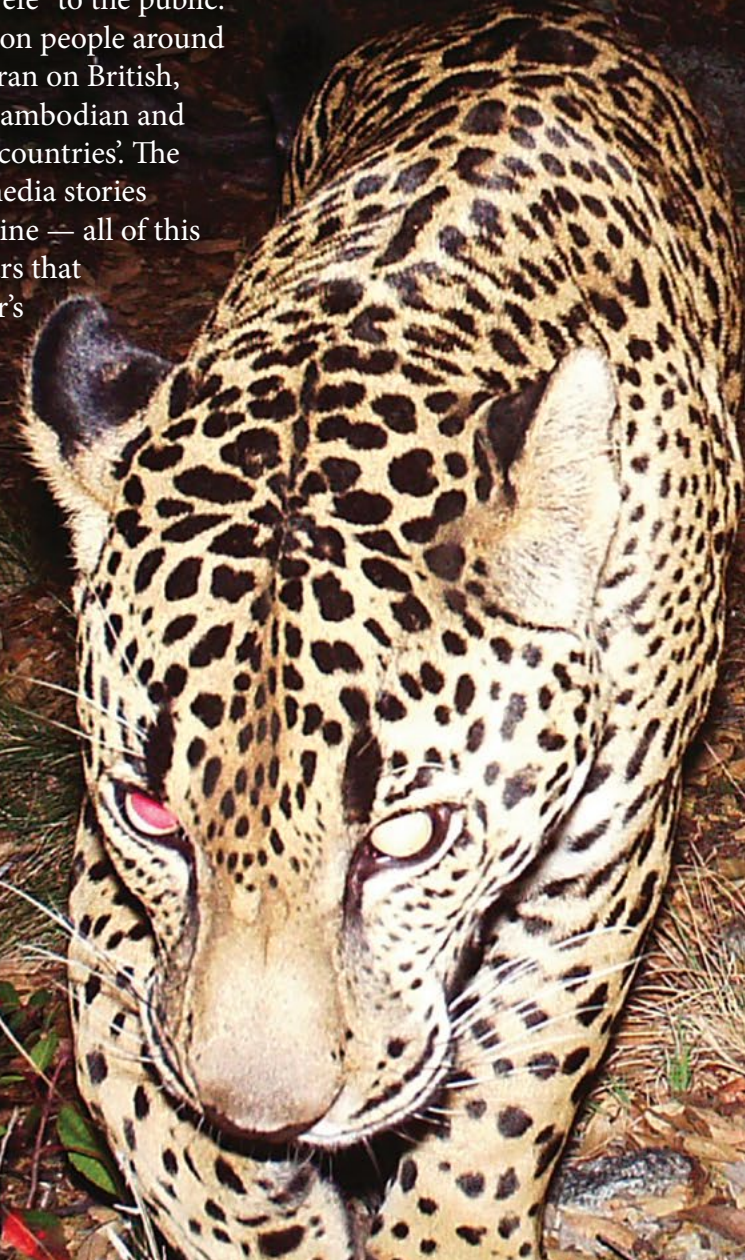


DEFENDING POLAR BEARS

We celebrated the court's reinstatement of *120 million* acres of protected critical habitat we won years ago for polar bears.

MAKING A STAR OF 'EL JEFE' THE JAGUAR

After organizing a schoolchildren's contest to name the only wild jaguar living in the United State at the time, the Center and our partners at Conservation CATalyst released remote-camera footage of "El Jefe" to the public. That video went viral. At least 100 million people around the world saw footage of El Jefe; it also ran on British, French, German, Mexican, Brazilian, Cambodian and Chinese television, among many other countries'. The great cat was featured in hundreds of media stories and on the cover of *Smithsonian* magazine — all of this creating a groundswell of love for jaguars that will help secure their future. The Center's been fighting for years to save jaguars — we secured more than 760,000 acres of critical habitat in 2014.



El Jefe on wildlife camera by Conservation CATalyst and the Center for Biological Diversity



WILD ENERGY

This year we launched our Wild Energy campaign, promoting renewable energy solutions that benefit wildlife as well as human communities. Our Population and Sustainability team put out a groundbreaking report, *Throwing Shade: 10 Sunny States Blocking Distributed Solar Development*, to try to encourage states that have high potential for solar, but bad policy on it, to realize their potential. We helped push Amazon to commit to greatly expanding its rooftop solar commitment, and we delivered more than 25,000 messages from supporters to their representatives in Congress, urging them to put solar panels on government buildings.

GOING UP AGAINST PESTICIDES

A groundbreaking report we released in 2016, *Toxic Concoctions*, found astonishing levels of harmful synergistic impacts among major pesticide products reported in patenting documents — impacts the EPA failed to consider when approving those products to enter our environment. So we filed a legal petition asking the agency to require information on dangerous pesticide synergy in pesticide-approval applications.

Years of work also resulted in the EPA releasing, in 2016, a draft of its first rigorous nationwide analysis of the effects of pesticides on endangered species: 97 percent of the more than 1,800 animals and plants protected by the Endangered Species Act are likely to be harmed by two commonly used pesticides. And we sued the agency for approving halauxifen-methyl, a threat to rare plants and the increasingly rare monarch butterfly, without considering these effects.



SAVING OUR OCEANS

In our work to keep fossil fuel drilling from further damaging our oceans, we mobilized and supported a movement to end new oil and gas leasing in the Gulf of Mexico in 2016. We successfully urged President Obama to permanently remove the majority of the Arctic Ocean and parts of the Atlantic from the federal government's fossil fuel leasing program, as well as to keep all of the Atlantic and Arctic oceans out of its new five-year offshore leasing plan. And we helped persuade the administration to deny six permit applications from oil companies to conduct seismic exploration in the Atlantic, from Delaware to Florida.



SAFEGUARDING WILDLIFE BEYOND OUR BORDERS

On the global wildlife front, we won exciting victories in 2016, securing a ban on international commercial trade in pangolins — small, scaly, highly endangered creatures that happen to be the most traded mammals on Earth — and new protections for threatened lions and nautilus.

We compelled the U.S. government to issue new rules banning seafood imports that don't meet U.S. standards for protecting dolphins and whales, which is likely to save thousands of marine mammals from entanglement in fishing gear. And, using legal petitions and aggressive media, we prompted Mexico to ban dangerous fishing gear off the Baja Peninsula that was killing more than 1,000 endangered loggerhead sea turtles every year.



FIGHTING SPRAWL, SAVING WILDLIFE

We won landmark victories in California this year protecting the state's rich biodiversity from the harms of sprawl: In the state's Supreme Court we prevailed over Newhall Ranch, a massive sprawl development near Los Angeles. In the Bay Area, we succeeded in challenging a highway project that threatened San Francisco garter snakes and California red-legged frogs; and in coastal Southern California, we stopped Banning Ranch, a development that endangered burrowing owls and other wildlife.



FIGHTING FRACKING ON LAND

The Center's Climate Law Institute played a critical role in efforts to halt fracking and dangerous drilling on land in California, the country's third-largest oil-producing state. We supported a grassroots effort to ban extreme oil-industry techniques in San Benito County, which in November became the sixth California county to ban fracking. In cooperation with neighborhood organizations, we helped persuade the city of Los Angeles to impose new restrictions on dangerous oil drilling near homes and schools. And through legal work, we helped maintain a moratorium on leasing public land in California to oil companies.



CREATING MONUMENTS

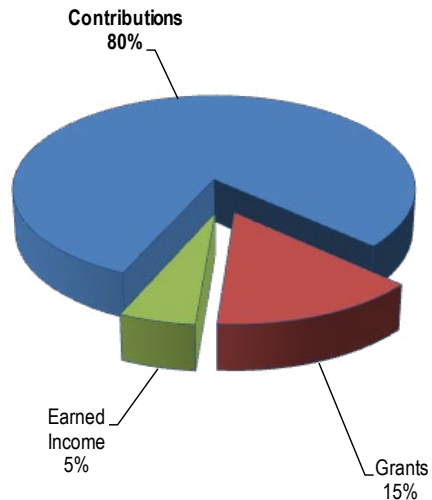
We helped secure three new national monuments in Southern California's deserts to protect some of the country's most spectacular scenery and rarest plants and animals.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Center for Biological Diversity's management practices ensure that operating funds raised in the current year are effectively put to use to support programs to further the mission. The following figures represent sources and uses of operating funds for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The Center publishes detailed financial information in the form of its annual report, audited financial statements, and IRS 990 tax returns. For more information, please contact Michael Hudson, Chief Operating Officer, at (520) 623-5252.

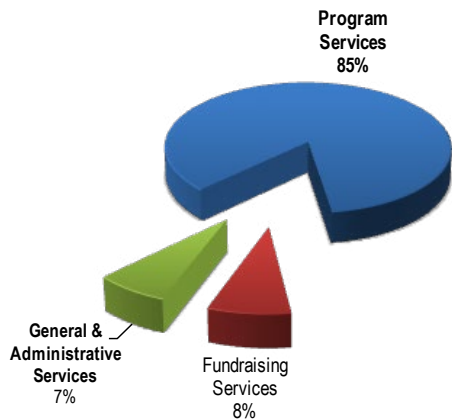
Sources of Funds



Support and Revenues	Amount
Contributions	\$11,809,484
Grants	2,152,613
Earned Income	794,733
Total	\$14,756,830

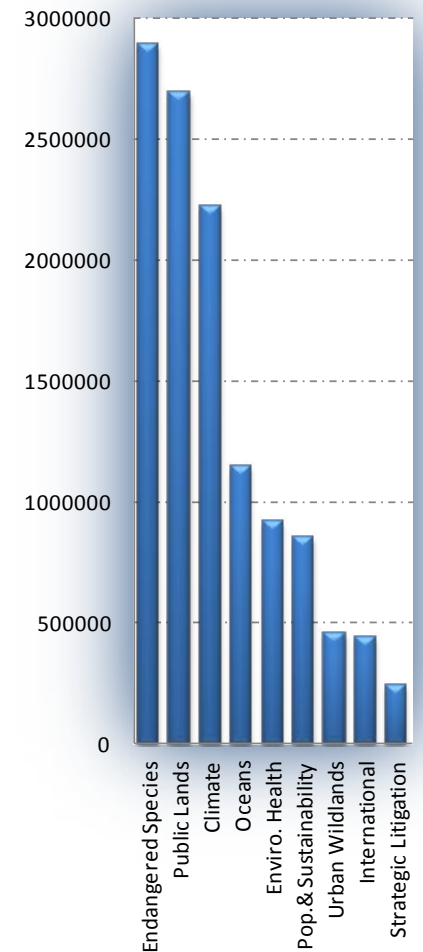


Uses of Funds



Expenses	Amount
Program Services	\$11,877,396
Fundraising Services	1,100,110
General and Administrative Services	989,662
Total	\$13,967,168

Program Services





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BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

