

2017



**ANNUAL
REPORT**





WILDLIFE WINS

THE SWEEPING CHANGES MADE BY ANTI-WILDLIFE POLITICIANS—WHO CONTROL BOTH CHAMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN A DECADE—MADE 2017 A CHALLENGING YEAR.

THROUGH IT ALL, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE FOUGHT TO PROTECT VULNERABLE SPECIES ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS, OPPOSED LEGISLATIVE ATTACKS ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND PROMOTED WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.

HERE IS A LOOK AT SOME OF WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR—WITH YOUR HELP.

COOK INLET BELUGAS

The long-awaited ESA recovery plan for the Cook Inlet beluga was released with Defenders' input incorporated to address ocean noise, habitat loss, oil spills and cumulative effects.



BISON

Defenders helped purchase 480 acres to expand Fort Belknap Indian Reservation's bison reserve to 25,000 acres—protecting habitat for bison, prairie dogs, sage-grouse and songbirds.



WOLVES

When the Idaho Fish and Game Commission proposed allowing hunters to bait wolves, Defenders organized public opposition that surprised the agency and stopped the move in its tracks.

BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS

Defenders helped restore hundreds of acres of prairie dog colonies—essential for black-footed ferrets—by installing burrows between colonies, creating grain trails to entice expansion and relocating hundreds of prairie dogs from areas where they would have been poisoned.



FLORIDA PANTHERS

Defenders' work to help conserve habitat resulted in two females claiming territory—and the birth of two litters—north of the Caloosahatchee River for the first time in four decades.



MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS

Defenders helped secure \$200 million for Salton Sea restoration as part of a parks and water bond that California voters will have an opportunity to approve on the June 2018 ballot.

SCARLET MACAWS

With a sixth release of 26 birds in the Biosphere Reserve of Los Tuxtlas, Defenders established the second-largest population of scarlet macaws in Mexico.



DEVIL RAYS

Defenders advocated for and won strict international trade measures for devil rays—killed by the thousands for their gill plates—and silky and thresher sharks—killed for their fins.



LEADING THE WAY

Defenders has long stood as the bulwark against legislative attacks to wildlife and public lands. In 2017, we launched the Wildlife Defense Campaign to face the new anti-environmental Trump administration head on. Defenders brings expertise on Endangered Species Act (ESA) policy and public land management experience and decades of experience mounting successful legislative campaigns, including blocking congressional efforts to gut the ESA.



In times like these we need to work together as never before—across the entire environmental movement and with diverse communities that share our values and commitment to wildlife protection. Your passion for wildlife and dedication to Defenders continues to empower us to resist these unprecedented assaults and to defend, protect and restore the wildlife and wild lands we hold dear. Thank you!

Jamie Rappaport Clark, President and CEO
Judith Posnikoff, Board Chair





***DEFENDERS MAKES
A DIFFERENCE***

Habitat loss and livestock ranching are among the biggest threats to the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl.

PREVENTING EXTINCTION

In 2017, Congress introduced more than 60 bills to undermine the Endangered Species Act (ESA), our nation's most effective law for preventing wildlife from going extinct.

To stop these measures dead in their tracks, Defenders led successful Capitol Hill and grassroots advocacy efforts. Most significantly, we blocked an attempt to rewrite the ESA. In February, Defenders' President and CEO, Jamie Rappaport Clark, testified before a Congressional committee, urging lawmakers to maintain a strong ESA and highlighting the law's successful track record in protecting endangered species.


Thanks to the ESA, in 2017 Defenders won a precedent-setting lawsuit for all imperiled wildlife when we challenged a decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to deny ESA protection to the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl—a fierce little owl facing serious threats. FWS argued that a larger population in Mexico meant the species didn't need protection in the United States. But the court ruled that a species could not be denied ESA protection if it remained imperiled in a significant portion of its range.

This year, the ESA also helped us to protect prime habitat for grizzly bears and bull trout in northwest Montana. A federal judge ruled in our favor, concluding that FWS and the Forest Service violated the ESA when they approved a massive copper and silver mine in the Cabinet Mountains.

Grizzly bears are majestic symbols of the wild, but they face challenges from habitat fragmentation and low reproduction rates.



DEFENDERS MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A photograph of a spotted bobcat walking at night. The bobcat is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. In the background, a dark border wall with vertical slats is visible against a dark sky. The ground is rocky and uneven.

Defenders is a strong voice on Capitol Hill against the border wall, and we work with a broad coalition of groups to oppose its funding.

ONGOING BATTLES

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Although Congress authorized oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the new tax bill signed by President Trump at the end of 2017, Defenders battled—and continues to battle—to protect this ecologically sensitive ecosystem in the courts and helps lead a coalition of environmental organizations working to engage citizens in the fight to protect the refuge. We also worked with *The Washington Post* on two front-page stories exposing the Trump administration's secret plans to approve seismic testing in the Arctic refuge and a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. The stories led to additional coverage in *The New York Times* and on CNN.

BORDER WALL

Defenders filed suit against the Trump administration after the government circumvented environmental protections to pave the way for border wall construction in California. The wall threatens the existence of the endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly, snowy plover, cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, ocelots and other imperiled species. Defenders staff also participated in protests with local activists at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, where another extension of the wall would devastate wildlife populations by blocking migration routes, isolating populations and undermining conservation and recovery of imperiled species.

Defenders helps San Joaquin kit foxes and other species by protecting important grassland habitat.

MAKING TECHNOLOGY WORK FOR WILDLIFE

PIONEERING SOLUTIONS

Defenders launched its Center for Conservation Innovation to harness new technology and share solutions to protect biodiversity and help endangered species. We developed a new technique using satellite images to detect habitat destruction for imperiled species like the lesser prairie-chicken and the dunes sagebrush lizard. Our groundbreaking work was covered in *Science* magazine and *The Wall Street Journal*.



©RICK DEREVIN

PROTECTING BATS AND MINIMIZING EFFECTS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Defenders leverages its relationships with the renewable energy industry to identify pragmatic solutions that lessen impacts to wildlife. This includes efforts to understand how wind energy development affects migratory tree-roosting bat species and how to minimize those effects. This year, we partnered with the American Wind Energy Association to educate the industry on the best-available science and to gain voluntary commitments to protect bats. We also submitted comments to FWS opposing the delisting of the lesser long-nosed bat given the potential impending threats of climate change and expanding wind energy development in the species' habitat.

PRESERVING HABITAT WHILE GOING SOLAR

Defenders protected habitat for the endangered San Joaquin kit fox, giant kangaroo rat and blunt-nosed leopard lizard and many bird species in California's Panoche Valley after reaching a settlement agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Panoche Valley Solar, LLC. The initial proposal would have damaged almost 5,000 acres of high-quality habitat. After years of work, including state and federal court litigation, Defenders succeeded in reducing the size of the project to about 1,300 acres and permanently conserved more than 26,000 acres in and around this important grassland habitat.



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**DEFENDERS MAKES
A DIFFERENCE**



© OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

We continue to be a leader in promoting and implementing coexistence measures to minimize conflicts between wolves and livestock.

CONNECTING & COEXISTING

LINKING FEDERAL LANDS, CONNECTING ECOSYSTEMS

To conserve habitat strongholds and movement corridors for at-risk species, Defenders, pressed the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in Montana to conserve habitat connectivity for grizzly bears, Canada lynx and wolverines on federal lands that link the Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide ecosystems. Our team of experts developed an interdisciplinary approach to identify and map essential wildlife habitat and corridors for designation, restoration and protection in federal land management planning—gaining the attention of agency planners and scientists. We are also working with agencies to conserve migratory habitat for bison, to reconnect important aquatic habitat for at-risk coldwater fish—such as Yellowstone cutthroat trout and bull trout—and to improve management of threatened Gunnison sage-grouse on public lands in the West.

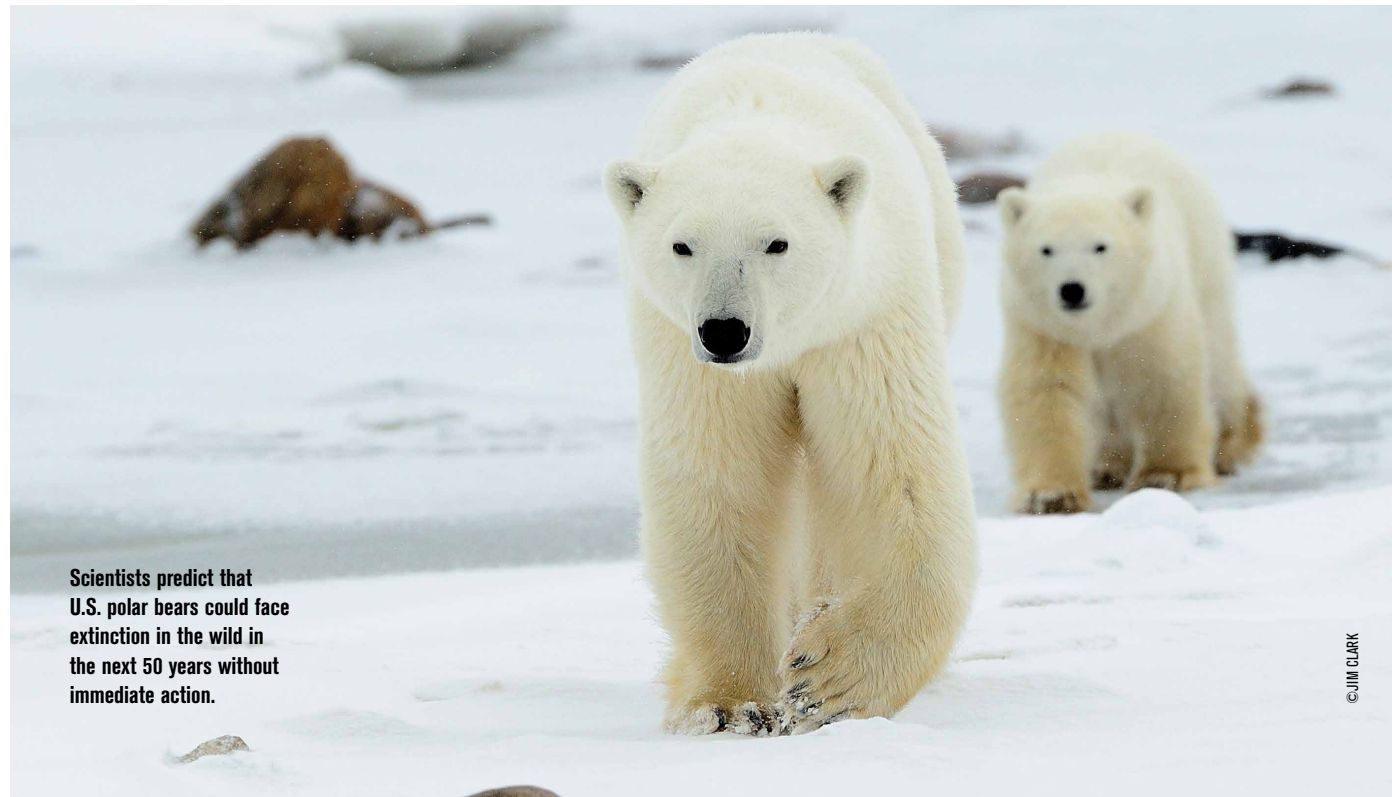
PARTNERING FOR POLAR BEARS

Defenders partnered with FWS's marine mammal management program to provide eight additional bear-resistant food storage containers to the community of Kaktovik, Alaska—bringing the total to 12. These containers are crucial to ensuring polar bears and people can coexist.

WATCHING OUT FOR WOLVES

When four separate lethal removal actions targeted wolves in Washington and Oregon, we ramped up our efforts to promote nonlethal, predator solutions, met with impacted ranchers and state wildlife staff to provide technical assistance, funded additional range riders to patrol conflict hot spots, and continued to work with the Forest Service to identify opportunities for changes to public lands grazing management in wolf territories. We also helped launch the Blue Mountain Wolf Project in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in

northeastern Oregon—important wolf habitat—that helped several wolf packs and their young survive the grazing season. In Montana, we funded four range rider projects in Tom Miner Basin, Big Hole Valley, Centennial Valley and Blackfoot Valley to minimize wolf and grizzly conflicts with livestock. And in the Southwest we managed 15 range riders in partnerships with ranchers to ensure wolves and livestock are not in conflict, ultimately saving wolves and contributing to population growth and species recovery.



Scientists predict that U.S. polar bears could face extinction in the wild in the next 50 years without immediate action.

DEFENDERS MAKES A DIFFERENCE



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ADVOCATING FOR NONLETHAL DETERRENTS

We published a new study in the *Journal of Mammalogy* demonstrating that adaptive nonlethal techniques for managing interactions between wolves and sheep on public lands in Idaho are more effective at protecting wildlife and livestock than traditional predator-killing programs. The study, the first of its kind, reached agency personnel, livestock producers and elected officials in the U.S. Senate.

PROTECTING GRIZZLIES

Our popular grizzly bear electric fence incentive program is in its eighth year with more than 300 projects in Idaho, Montana, Washington and Wyoming to fence items that attract grizzlies. We also provide funds for bear-resistant trash cans for communities and food lockers for campgrounds. Combined, these projects protect grizzlies from conflicts with humans—the greatest single cause of grizzly bear mortality.



© FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE

MAKING SAFE PASSAGES POSSIBLE

Defenders backed a project resulting in the installation of fencing and two highway underpasses to allow Florida panthers to cross the most deadly nine-mile section of I-75. We also helped develop a southwest Florida hotspots map to guide decision-making and funding to increase safe passage for panthers across dangerous road segments.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORCAS

Defenders launched a new campaign to address stormwater runoff in the Salish Sea—the biggest source of toxics impacting southern resident orcas. “Orcas Love Raingardens” highlights opportunities for schools, parks and neighborhoods in Tacoma, Wash., to install more raingardens throughout the community and encourages residents to learn about their role in protecting orcas and restoring salmon, their main food source.



To protect Florida panthers, Defenders continues to focus on habitat protection, coexistence projects and wildlife crossings.

2017 DEFENDERS BY THE NUMBERS

124

THE NUMBER OF IMPERILED SPECIES DEFENDERS WORKED TO PROTECT

120,000

COMMENTS SENT TO FWS AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BY DEFENDERS' SUPPORTERS ADVOCATING FOR GRIZZLIES IN THE NORTH CASCADES.

3,000

HOURS SPENT BY DEFENDERS' COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS MONITORING FOR THE PRESENCE OF WOLVERINES, FISHERS AND PINE MARTENS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

83

PROJECTS—INCLUDING ELECTRIC FENCING, GUARD DOGS AND FOOD STORAGE LOCKERS—TO REDUCE HUMAN AND WILDLIFE CONFLICTS AND BUILD SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE FOR BIG PREDATORS.

60

PRESENTATIONS ABOUT RED WOLF CONSERVATION GIVEN BY DEFENDERS TO UNIVERSITIES AND CIVIC CLUBS IN THE SOUTHEAST.

1,000+

BISON ROAM IN BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK THANKS TO DEFENDERS' FUNDING.

15

RANGE RIDER PARTNERSHIPS WITH RANCHERS IN THE MEXICAN GRAY WOLF RECOVERY AREA TO REDUCE LIVESTOCK ENCOUNTERS WITH ONE OF THE MOST ENDANGERED GRAY WOLVES IN THE WORLD.

48

OP-EDS PLACED IN 32 PUBLICATIONS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND INFLUENCE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2017, Defenders of Wildlife's more than 1.8 million members and supporters contributed more than \$37 million for wildlife and wildlife habitat. This figure includes all those who generously donated their time and expertise. The steadfast support of our donors allows Defenders to sustain our program and public education efforts in the field, the courts and on Capitol Hill.

SOURCES OF FUNDS

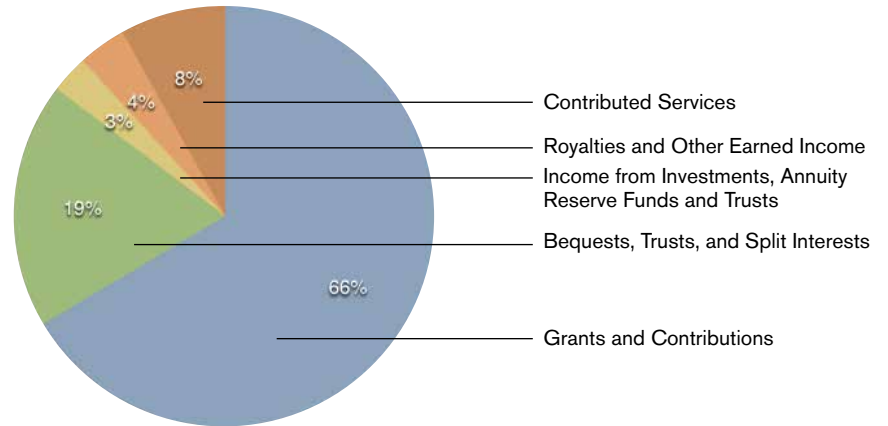
Grants and Contributions	\$25,107
Bequests, Trusts, and Split Interests	\$7,105
Income from Investments, Annuity Reserve Funds and Trusts	\$1,091
Royalties and Other Earned Income	\$1,393
Contributed Services	\$3,069
Total Revenue	\$37,765

USES OF FUNDS

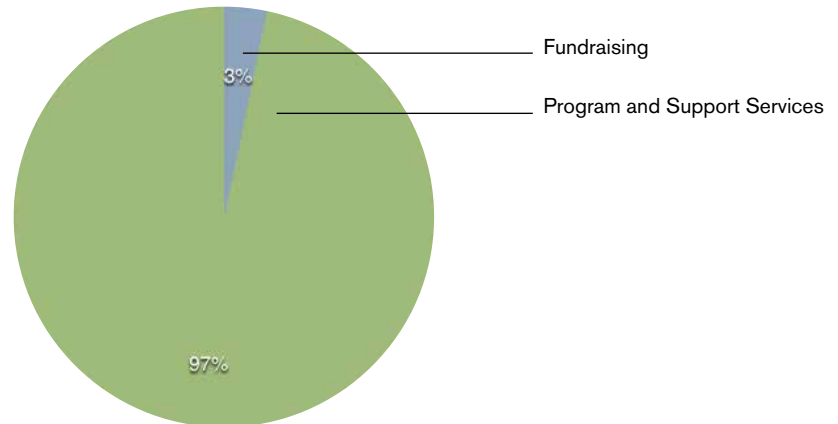
ESA	\$8,569
Key Species	\$10,664
Habitat	\$8,207
Fundraising	\$1,075
Management and General	\$4,448
Total Expenses	\$32,963
Change in Net Assets	\$4,802
Net Assets, Start of the Year	\$26,164
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$30,966

Dollars are in millions.

2017 SOURCES OF FUNDS



2017 USES OF FUNDS



WAYS TO GIVE

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Donors of \$1,000 or more are recognized as members of the Leadership Council. This special group of committed individuals provides important support to Defenders' programs and offers opportunities for more personal involvement in the work of the organization.

Visit the Leadership Council website at:
www.defenders.org/leadershipcouncil.

WILDLIFE CIRCLE

Members who support Defenders of Wildlife with a donation of \$100 to \$999 are included in our Wildlife Circle. These crucial donors are key partners in our work to protect wolves and other wildlife. In appreciation of their dedicated support, Wildlife Circle members are recognized as a part of our inner circle.

WILDLIFE GUARDIANS

When you join Defenders' Wildlife Guardians, our monthly giving program, your donations can be made easily and automatically through a credit card or checking account. For more information, visit: www.defenders.org/wildlifeguardians.

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers match charitable contributions made by their employees. Companies may match donations made by current employees, employees' spouses and even retirees. Check with your personnel office about your company's program or visit us at:
www.defenders.org/matching.



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WORKPLACE GIVING/EARTH SHARE

Earth Share is a nationwide network of America's leading nonprofit environmental and conservation organizations that raises funds through voluntary payroll deductions at federal, state, city, corporate and private workplaces across the country. Ask about Earth Share where you work and designate Defenders of Wildlife for all or part of your gift. (CFC #10624)

BEQUESTS AND LIFE INCOME GIFTS

By including Defenders as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or other estate plan today, you can provide a legacy gift to support our mission well into the future. You can specify that Defenders receives a certain percentage, dollar amount or asset in your estate. Or you can leave specific bequests to family members and friends, and specify that Defenders receives a percentage of the remaining estate value.

To include Defenders in your will or other estate plans, please provide the following language to your professional advisor: "I bequeath _____ (describe dollar amount, asset to be given or percentage of your residuary estate) to Defenders of Wildlife (Tax ID# 53-0183181), a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia with its principal office at 1130 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036."

We can also help you structure life-income gifts such as charitable gift annuities or charitable trusts that support wildlife while providing income and tax advantages for you and your loved ones. If you would like more information, please call us toll free at 1.800.915.6789, email legacy@defenders.org, write to us at Office of Gift Planning, Defenders of Wildlife, 1130 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, or visit:

www.defenders.org/legacy.

FRIENDS & PARTNERS

Defenders is grateful to the individuals, foundations and businesses whose generous contributions have supported our work in 2017. *Thank you!*

