



Defenders of Wildlife
ANNUAL REPORT 2004



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DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Defenders of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection and restoration of wild animals and plants in their natural communities. Founded in 1947, Defenders has more than 480,000 supporters nationwide.

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DEFENDERS IN 2004

Ours was not an easy task in the last year of President Bush's first term. His administration continued to undermine conservation policies and laws that have safeguarded our natural heritage for decades. But we were up to the challenge. And, although it seems clear the Bush administration will continue to aggressively pursue an anti-conservation agenda in its second term, we are heartened by the fact that a majority of Americans disapprove of attempts to return us to a time when corporate interests trumped wildlife interests, regardless of what was lost.

In 2004 we had to use every advocacy tool and technique we have developed over the many years of our existence — from scientific research to public education to grassroots activism to aggressive lobbying to legal action. And we are pleased to report to you a number of important victories and milestones in 2004.

In spite of a clearly anti-conservation White House and majority in Congress, Defenders worked in coalitions with our allies to defeat numerous efforts to pass legislation undermining our major conservation laws and programs. Included among our important victories were stopping repeated efforts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — our greatest wildlife sanctuary — to drilling, prohibiting enactment of an energy bill that would have devastated important public wildlife habitat, and discouraging passage of legislation that would have eviscerated our nation's most important wildlife law, the Endangered Species Act.

On another front, a ruling on a lawsuit we had filed with several partners succeeded in defeating the Bush administration's efforts to weaken long-time protections for the dolphin, one of our most beloved mammals. Our ground-breaking rancher compensation program, which balances the needs of livestock ranchers with the effort to rebuild grizzly and wolf populations, continued to win praise from all corners. And a program we were instrumental in starting in 2000 made great progress in encouraging state fish and game agencies to improve their efforts to conserve and recover imperiled wildlife.

On the international front, we won greater protection for the great white shark, and we led a campaign to ban global trade in two species of parrots that had been driven nearly to extinction. Orangutans will be better off because we succeeded in protecting an important habitat. And we expanded a sanctuary in Mexico for the jaguar, the largest cat in the Americas.

But not all our struggles were successful. Using its executive authority, the Bush administration rolled back decades of effective wildlife protection on our national forests and altered regulations on new pesticide uses so that they can be approved without effective consideration of



Caroline Gabel and Rodger Schlickeisen

impacts on wildlife. The president's Interior Secretary, Gale Norton, also refused our petition to try to force her to use the Federal Airborne Hunting Act to stop the outrageous and unjustified aerial killing of wolves in Alaska. All of these battles we will continue to fight for as long as it takes to win for America's wildlife.

This past year, we launched the first of a new annual series of reports, *Refuges at Risk: America's 10 Most Endangered National Wildlife Refuges 2004*, which raised public awareness of the value of the nation's wildlife refuge system. Our public service announcements on dolphins, forests, polar bears and manatees reached hundreds of thousands of citizens, and carrying our message were Olympic champion swimmer Amanda Beard and Emmy-award winning television host Jeff Corwin.

As we gear up for the difficult year ahead, we are pleased to note the addition to Defenders staff in 2004 of one of the nation's most effective and dedicated wildlife conservationists, Jamie Rappaport Clark. Jamie, who was director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Clinton administration, joined us as executive vice president and is doing a great job managing day-to-day operations and assisting with our most crucial wildlife battles.

Clearly we face many challenges in 2005 and beyond. But with the generous support of our loyal members, we know that Defenders will continue to prevail over even the most determined and well-financed opposition. We are very grateful for the unwavering support we have received, and the trust in us that it implies will only deepen our commitment to defending America's marvelous wildlife legacy. We continue to be dedicated to forging a future in which all species can thrive in their natural communities and enrich the lives of untold generations to come.

Rodger Schlickeisen
President and Chief Executive Officer

Caroline D. Gabel
Chair, Board of Directors



ABOUT DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Gray wolf with pup

Championing the Endangered Species Act and leading efforts to enforce and protect this landmark law...

Returning the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park and restoring the swift fox and black-footed ferret to the Montana prairies...

Establishing the first funds to reimburse ranchers for livestock lost to wolves and grizzly bears...

Advocating the adoption of an international treaty to halt trade in rare animals and plants...

Defenders of Wildlife celebrates these accomplishments and many more as we mark our 57th year of protecting and restoring native wildlife and its natural habitat.

Long known for our leadership on endangered species issues, Defenders of Wildlife is a solution-oriented organization dedicated to saving rare animals and plants, conserving habitat and building a broad constituency for protecting wildlife and wild places. We harness the skills and expertise of more than 100 scientists, wildlife specialists, educators, activists, economists and attorneys to work in the halls of Congress, state legislatures, the courts, local communities and more than a dozen offices in North America. We develop and advocate innovative solutions that will encourage conservation of entire ecosystems and interconnected

A History of Growth

On April 25, 1947, in a modest second-floor office a few minutes' walk from the White House, a small group signed incorporation papers for a new nonprofit society called Defenders of Furbearers. The new society's purpose was to promote the conservation of furbearing animals and protect them from steel-jawed traps and lethal poisons. Growing from a handful of staff and 1,500 members to over 100 staff and more than 480,000 members and supporters, the mission of Defenders of Wildlife has expanded over the decades to include protecting all native species and habitats. Yet despite our growth, *Outside* magazine has observed, Defenders "remains lean and focused."

The Defenders of Wildlife wolf logo symbolizes our long-standing leadership in wolf conservation and predator protection as well as our broader biodiversity mission, since the protection and restoration of predator populations benefits a host of other species sharing the same habitat.



Canada lynx in Montana

habitats while protecting predators that serve as indicator species for ecosystem health. Through this multi-pronged approach of education, advocacy, research and litigation, we specifically work to:

- **Protect Native Animals and Plants:** We develop and champion practical programs to save a wide variety of North American species, including keystone species such as gray wolves, grizzly bears, sea otters and jaguars.
- **Restore and Preserve Habitat:** We promote progressive land-use strategies that safeguard key habitats such as wetlands, deserts, forests and grasslands from development and degradation.
- **Advocate for Conservation Legislation:** We mobilize supporters and work with partners on the international, national, state and local levels to secure laws and policies that safeguard wild species and their habitats.





DEFENDING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES

Spinner dolphins near Hawaii

It was another difficult year for wildlife and wildlands as the administration and some in Congress sharpened their attacks on the laws that have safeguarded our environment for decades. But despite the tough political environment in 2004, Defenders succeeded in holding the line against efforts to unravel policies that protect and restore wild animals and plants in their natural communities. We will continue the fight into the coming years.

A VICTORY FOR DOLPHINS

Everyone loves dolphins. Among the most intelligent animals on Earth, they are also social and playful. This year we won a major fight to keep protections strong for this amazing creature.

After a grueling three-year legal battle, Defenders won a major court victory to keep tuna fishermen from using methods that harm dolphins. A federal judge ruled on a lawsuit, filed in 2002 by Defenders and our allies against the U.S. Commerce Department, to stop the Bush administration from weakening the dolphin-safe label on tuna cans. The administration's proposal would have opened the door to imports of tuna caught with dolphin-killing nets.

The government ignored findings by its own scientists that the tuna-can labeling program was saving dolphins. Before the label, tens of thousands of dolphins died each year from reckless fishing practices that involve surrounding dolphins with long nets to catch large schools of tuna. This practice has killed more than 7 million dolphins in the last four decades.

Dolphin deaths have dropped an astounding 90 percent since the start of the dolphin-safe labeling program for tuna cans. Defenders will work to protect the label as long as business and political forces threaten the health and well-being of dolphins.

FIGHTING AERIAL WOLF-KILLING IN ALASKA

The howl of the wolf is the call of the wild. Not only does this cry have great symbolic significance, but it serves an important practical function for wolves. Howling keeps pack members in touch with each other

over the great distances and many kinds of terrain that wolves must travel to find food.

But the howl of the wolf may soon be silenced in many parts of Alaska. In 2004, the brutal practice of using airplanes to chase down and kill Alaska wolves continued. Defenders was on the frontlines battling the Bush administration and Alaska policymakers to stop the assault on this keystone species of our wild lands.

More Wolves at Risk

Even though Alaskans twice voted to ban aerial gunning of wolves, the state-sponsored program — the first of its kind since the 1980s — was re-established in 2003 to artificially boost moose and caribou populations for sport hunters. Initially, the program targeted 80 percent of wolves in an 8,000-square-mile area (the size of Texas) but was significantly enlarged to a 50,000-square-mile area for 2005. Last season, 147 wolves were gunned down. Now hundreds more wolves may be at risk.

Building Public Support

Defenders dramatically expanded our public outreach campaign to mobilize support around the country for halting this unjustifiable practice. Tens of thousands of people signed a petition to Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski demanding that he stop the aerial wolf-

killing program. Defenders petitioned the U.S. Department of the Interior to stop the killing because Alaska is violating the Federal Airborne Hunting Act. Although the initial petition was denied, a second petition is pending and we continue to press our case. We also testified before the Alaska Board of Game to oppose a proposal to allow killing of wolves and grizzlies on federal lands.

The largest remaining population of gray wolves in the United States — some 7,000 to 9,000 — resides in Alaska. One-third of these animals are threatened by aerial gunning hunting and trapping

PRESERVING THE SAFETY NET FOR RARE SPECIES

For more than 30 years, the Endangered Species Act has served as the safety net for animals, plants and fish on the brink of extinction. But the law that has helped save bald eagles, wolves, sea otters, manatees and many other rare creatures is now under attack. Attempts in Congress to gut the Endangered Species Act (ESA) increased this year and Defenders was right there to stop them.

Gray wolves



Defenders on Capitol Hill

With the leverage that our 480,000 members and supporters give us on Capitol Hill, we kicked off a massive effort to hold the line against members of Congress who seek to roll back the ESA.

In April 2004, our new executive vice president, Jamie Rappaport Clark (former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), testified before Congress in support of the ESA. During her testimony, she called the administration on its anti-ESA stand. “Under this administration, the designation of critical habitat is no longer about protecting species and guiding species recovery; instead, it has become a political opportunity to assault the Endangered Species Act to make a mockery of the importance of species recovery.”

We pushed for legislation introduced by Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) that would make habitat an important tool in slowing species extinction. We advocated against bills, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-CA) and Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), which would dismantle protections for the nation’s most vulnerable wildlife. And we fought a new federal regulation that drops a requirement that the Environmental Protection Agency assess how new pesticides affect wildlife before approving them for use.

Bringing Americans Together for ESA

We also worked to build support for the act outside Washington. Late in 2004, several of our policy staff addressed the Western Governors Association meeting in San Diego to discuss ways to strengthen the law. Jamie Rappaport Clark traveled around the country to speak to groups such as the Homebuilders Association and the Society of Environmental Journalists. We also launched a nationwide petition drive to give voice to the hundreds of thousands of Americans who care about protecting our wildlife legacy for future genera-



© TOM AND PAUL IERSON (CAPTION)

Bald eagle

tions. Our goal for the petition drive, which continues into 2005, is to have 100,000 Americans pledge their support to defending the Endangered Species Act.

Working with the Media

In 2004, we kicked off an outreach effort with newspaper editors and editorial writers to inform them of how legislative action in Congress would tear down the protections of the ESA under the guise of “reforming” the law to improve its effectiveness. We contacted more than 400 reporters and editors all across the country and were featured in more than 200 stories on the importance of the act.

STAFF PROFILE ROBERT DEWEY

Robert Dewey has always been interested in wildlife and wild places, but a tour of the West’s great national parks during college, and his opposition to the then Reagan Administration’s environmental policies, prompted his career in conservation. Now as Defenders’ vice president of government relations and external affairs, Robert still finds it motivating to work against government policies with which he disagrees. “Protecting wildlife habitat is the most important thing we can do to ensure the safety of endangered species – making it happen in the current hostile political climate is perhaps our biggest legislative challenge.”



© KRISTA SCHUBERT

Robert says his 11-year-old daughter, an ardent conservationist herself, helps to motivate him through what seem like insurmountable political challenges. “As a parent, I’m compelled to leave a legacy of wildlife and wild places for my daughter and for other future generations. And what’s really encouraging is that poll after poll shows that most Americans agree that we should protect our natural resources and our wildlife heritage. I’m passionate about bringing that point home to decision-makers in D.C.”

Robert has a master of studies in law from the Vermont Law School.



Fall color in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

The Endangered Species Act is one of our nation's most important tools for safeguarding the natural legacy we pass on to our children. Defenders is leading efforts to protect this landmark law from attacks in Congress.

COUNTERING THE ASSAULT ON NATIONAL FORESTS

From the lush tropics of Florida to the frosty reaches of Alaska, forests are home to hundreds of species of wild animals — bald eagles, bears, wolves, moose, otters, salmon, a variety of migratory song birds and many other creatures. They are also important reservoirs for a wide variety of unique flowers, shrubs and other plants.

But it was a difficult year for the nation's forests. Defenders pulled out all the stops in 2004 to prevent the Bush administration from tossing aside decades of bipartisan progress on forest protection and ignoring the recommendations of hundreds of scientists on the best way to manage America's 192 million acres of national forests.

In Congress, we spearheaded efforts to rally support for an amendment to the Interior appropriations bill designed to prevent the administration from

rewriting nearly 30 years of bipartisan forest policy. Offered by Rep. Tom Udall (D-NM), the amendment would have withheld funds for new regulations that reduce wildlife protection, limit public participation in decision-making and remove science from forest management. The amendment was defeated by a small margin, and the Bush administration went on to finalize its national forest regulations in December.

Under previous regulations, supported by Democratic and Republican presidents alike since 1979, the U.S. Forest Service has maintained and, in some cases, monitored fish and wildlife populations, limited clearcuts, and mitigated water and soil damage. No more. Under the new regulations, no agency is required to perform that function. These changes could lead to the opening of millions of acres of forest land to logging and mining projects. In the coming months, we will be taking this issue to the courts to continue the battle.

“These new rules represent a win for the timber industry and a loss for the nation's wildlife and natural resources. It's also a loss for the public, which deserves a real voice in government decisions affecting our environment.”

Rodger Schlickeisen, President



© DAVE WELLING

PROTECTING KEY SPECIES AND LIVESTOCK

Defenders is a widely recognized leader in innovative approaches to saving wolves, grizzly bears and other predators while protecting the interests of livestock ranchers who live and work in and around wildlife habitats.

The vast open spaces of our western lands are home to some of our nation's most magnificent carnivores. But as these animals grow in number and expand their ranges, they sometimes wander onto livestock grazing lands. Unfortunately but inevitably, some sheep and cattle are lost.

Resolving Conflicts

Defenders has pioneered an approach that reduces conflicts between predators and livestock. While the numbers of livestock killed by predators each year is comparatively low, ranchers still feel the financial sting. Our program, The Bailey Wildlife Foundation Wolf Compensation Fund, compensates ranchers for livestock lost to wolves and bears. This year, the fund paid more than \$138,000 to ranchers for cattle and sheep killed by grizzly bears. Since the fund began in 1987, it has paid out more than \$440,000 to over 300 ranchers in the northern Rockies.

Working Together with Ranchers



Defenders' Livestock Advisory Council: from left, Suzanne Stone, Defenders staff; Lane Adamson; Jan Holder; Nina Fascione, Defenders staff; Mike Stevens; John Hayne; LeeAnne Hayne.

For nearly two decades, Defenders has reached out to ranchers and landowners to build support for predator restoration. In 2004, we established a Livestock Producer Advisory Council to encourage input from representatives of the livestock industry. We met with council trustees to refine guidelines for our wolf and grizzly compensation programs and get their input on the future direction of the programs.



© MARY LIZ JUSTIN

Lupine meadow in Grand Teton

“By compensating ranchers quickly for livestock lost to predators, we are helping to build support among all landowners for recovering bear and wolf populations throughout the area.”

Minette Johnson, Northern Rockies Field Representative for Defenders

Taking the Initiative: Meeting Wildlife Needs and Keeping Livestock Safe

But why not stop attacks of livestock before they take place? We do that, too. Established in 1998, our groundbreaking program, The Bailey Wildlife Proactive Carnivore Conservation Fund, initiates projects to protect livestock and discourage carnivores from coming too close.

To date, the fund has provided more than \$420,000 for 112 projects, including electric fencing to secure calving grounds, sheep bedding grounds and

beehives, as well as providing livestock-guarding dogs to ranchers. Among other projects this year, we purchased electric fencing supplies for six honeybee operations in Montana’s Blackfoot Valley, bought bear-resistant garbage bins to loan out to rural residents in bear habitat in Montana and paid for alternative grazing arrangements for an Idaho rancher’s livestock to avoid potential conflicts with a pack of wolves denning nearby.

SAVING WILDLIFE HABITAT STATE BY STATE

State governments are crucial players in conservation efforts, and Defenders is encouraging states to protect habitat for wild animal and plant species that need help. With the support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Surdna Foundation, we have become a leader in providing resources and guidance to states developing statewide conservation plans.

Tools for the States

Under the State Wildlife Grants program, a federal program that Defenders helped to create, each state is required to identify key wildlife habitats and produce a comprehensive conservation plan by October 2005. These plans represent an opportunity to protect the web of life over the long term.

Defenders worked to help states develop and implement these plans throughout 2004. Through our Habitat and Highways program, we distributed our award-winning publication *Second Nature: Improving Transportation Without Putting Nature Second* to show state transportation officials the importance of connecting wildlife planning to future road planning. We continued our outreach to land use planners with our

STAFF PROFILE MINETTE JOHNSON

Growing up in the New England countryside, Minette Johnson developed her love of nature and wildlife. Now in her eleventh year with Defenders as the Northwestern Rockies Field Representative, she works to mitigate conflicts between people and wildlife, collaborating with ranchers, Indian tribes and government officials to create innovative solutions.

One of the most successful programs Minette has helped establish is Defenders’ proactive carnivore conservation fund, which supports projects designed to prevent grizzly bear conflicts, including purchasing electric fences to protect livestock and providing bear-resistant dumpsters to local communities. The program earned three



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANNE SCHMIDT

awards this year for outstanding cooperative efforts to promote the recovery of grizzly bears: one from the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, one from the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee and another from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“I feel privileged to work with an organization whose goals I truly believe in: saving wildlife, like the grizzly, that is critical to our nation’s heritage. At Defenders, we are encouraged to look for novel solutions, and the programs in which Defenders is investing are making a lasting difference for wildlife.”

Minette has a master’s degree in environmental studies from the University of Montana.

publication *Integrating Land Use Planning & Biodiversity* and presented the State Wildlife Grants program to the American Planning Association. We worked with Oregon officials to develop materials for their plan on voluntary conservation tools, including more strategic use of conservation incentive programs. A model document is being shared with all the states.

Conserving Private Land

Private land and landowners play a significant role in the conservation of habitat and wildlife. In 2004, Defenders convened more than 20 experts representing state and federal agencies, as well as representatives from the conservation, agriculture, forestry, development and landowner communities. The group evaluated habitat conservation incentive programs and came up with recommendations for improving the scope, structure and administration of these programs.

Habitat loss is the leading threat to wildlife in this country. Defenders is working to ensure land-use policies across the nation are compatible with wildlife.

WORKING ACROSS BORDERS

From sharks killed merely to provide fins for soup, to leopards poached for their skins, the grisly trade in exotic wildlife and animal parts has grown to a multibillion-dollar international industry. It is now second in profitability only to the illegal trade in drugs. In 2004, Defenders was once again at the forefront of combating global commerce in endangered animals.

STOPPING THE TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Defenders spearheaded a campaign against the Bush administration's move to expand commercial imports of endangered animals into the United States. The administration's action flew in the face of 20 years of bipartisan support for strict limits on wildlife commerce. Defenders organized tens of thousands of public comments and released a letter from 358 scientists, including Jane Goodall and Edward O. Wilson, criticizing the science behind the proposal and urging the Bush administration to abandon it. In response to



Orangutan mother and infant in Borneo

the massive public outcry, the rule was shelved, but is expected to re-emerge in 2005.

A VICTORY FOR ASIA'S GREAT APE

Defenders celebrated a major victory this year for orangutans. At an international conference in 2004, 150 governments unanimously agreed to protect these endangered creatures by controlling illegal global trade in ramin wood. Ramin forests are home to the world's last remaining orangutans. Experts predict orangutans could disappear from the earth in a decade if illegal logging is not stopped.

Our International Lobby Team at Work

In March, Defenders urged President Bush to impose trade sanctions on Malaysia for allowing the smuggling of large volumes of ramin wood and undermining international protections for endangered species.

And in October, we worked with partners from around the world to win new restrictions on the global trade in ramin and protect the orangutan's vanishing habitat.

“Halting illegal trade in ramin wood from Southeast Asia’s forests is a victory for orangutans and the hundreds of other species who thrive in this habitat. It is also a major step forward in the global battle to stop illegal logging.”

Carroll Muffett, Senior Director for International Conservation

NEW HOPE FOR THE GREAT WHITE

Made legendary by the film *Jaws*, the great white shark is now itself threatened by overfishing and international trade. For the last five years, Defenders has worked to protect the great white and other shark species from excessive international trade in their teeth, jaws and fins. Our efforts were rewarded in 2004 when the great white was listed under a global treaty that limits such trade. In response to arguments claiming the species is not threatened by trade, Defenders produced a report documenting the trade of hundreds of great white shark teeth and jaws on a single day. Our report was circulated by the Australian government and played a key role in winning the day for the great white.

STEMMING THE WILD BIRD TRADE

The beauty and intelligence of parrots has fascinated humans for thousands of years. But this fascination has

come at a high price as the tremendous demand for these colorful, eye-catching birds has driven many species to the verge of extinction. Stemming the global trade in these endangered birds remains a key priority in Defenders’ international conservation efforts. In 2004, Defenders led a successful campaign to ban global trade in two highly endangered parrots: Mexico’s lilac-crowned parrot and Indonesia’s yellow-crested cockatoo.



© MARTIN HARVEY/ANIPA

Yellow-crested cockatoo

Today, only 7,000-10,000 lilac-crowned parrots live in the wilds of the Pacific region of Mexico. The yellow-crested cockatoo, endemic to Indonesia and East Timor, is even more imperiled with populations ranging from 2,500-10,000 — an 80 percent decline in three generations.

BOARD PROFILE TERRY PELSTER

Few people have given as much of their time and energy to Defenders of Wildlife as Terry Pelster. Because of her dedication and commitment, Defenders is the respected and influential organization it is today.

How did Terry get involved? In 1985, she was elected to the Board of Directors and has served a total of 18 years, three of them as chairman. Early in her tenure, Terry, then a corporate/securities partner at LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, offered to help with Defenders’ legal work. Since 1986, she has been Defenders’ corporate counsel, overseeing all of our legal work, other than program litigation, pro bono.

Terry has been involved in building the organization every step of the way. She helped start programs that have contributed significantly to our growth, including the



Terry and Bill Pelster

© PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRY PELSTER

planned giving program. She gave us a generous gift to expand our International Wildlife Trade Program for combating illegal trade in wild plants and animals. More recently, she donated one of the two wolf statues that guard the entrance to Defenders’ new building.

Terry is especially proud of her and Defenders’ role in the passage of the Wildbird Conservation Act in 1992. “Birds have been a part of my life since I was a little girl. Their personalities and beauty speak to me both figuratively and literally,” she says. Her love for these creatures was behind our all-out effort to pass this legislation. And today, imports of exotic birds to the United States have been dramatically cut back to protect these rare species.

Terry has been an inspiration to us all. We thank her for her generosity and many years of devotion to our cause.



Jaguar in the Amazon, Brazil

BRINGING BACK THE AMERICAN JAGUAR

The sleek and secretive jaguar, largest cat in the Americas, is slowly returning to part of its former homeland in the United States. Several photos taken over the past few years show jaguars living in the mountains of southern Arizona. Defenders is coordinating with conservationists in the United States and Mexico to ensure that many more jaguars make their way back.

Jaguars can travel as far as 500 miles. They originally roamed throughout the Southwest, but by the middle of the 20th century they were hunted close to extinction and much of their habitat was destroyed by development. The cats were listed as endangered in 1997.

This year, Defenders moved on both the federal and local levels to protect the rare American jaguar.

Taking Legal Action

In Tucson, we filed a legal request to stop a powerline that would run through the heart of the only known

jaguar habitat in the United States. The 345,000-volt line would require that new roads and massive 100-foot towers be built in the area. Defenders is leading the effort to reduce the powerline in size and reroute it. So far we have succeeded in helping to persuade state regulators to delay the powerline and to consider wildlife needs in planning this project.

Creating a Jaguar Sanctuary

Thanks in large part to the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation, we were able to expand a sanctuary in the Mexican state of Sonora to provide safe haven for the world's northernmost jaguar population. Partnering with the Northern Jaguar Project and the Mexican nonprofit organization Naturalia, we are working to establish a 50,000-acre reserve to protect these animals. To date, Defenders has helped secure 10,000 acres of the 50,000 acres needed for a functioning sanctuary. The sanctuary will also be the site of a research station and center for community-based conservation.

Helping Save Wild Cats and Canines

Defenders and other conservation organizations teamed with key members of Congress from both parties to introduce the "Great Cats and Rare Canids Act." Sponsored by Reps. Clay Shaw (R-Florida), Tom Udall (D-New Mexico), Ed Royce (R-California) and John Tanner (D-Tennessee), the legislation would set up a \$5 million fund to protect foreign feline and canine species. Loss of habitat, poaching, trade in skins, disease and pollution are taking their toll on rare animals such as lions, leopards, cheetahs and jaguars. This bill has the potential to become an important contribution by the United States to safeguarding some of the world's most cherished and imperiled animals.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

At Defenders, we believe that education is at the foundation of a world in which stewardship is a highly cherished value. This year we expanded our efforts to reach out to wildlife enthusiasts, community leaders, policymakers and the media through a coordinated communications strategy. Our strategy includes publishing a wide range of reports and periodicals, producing high-impact public service announcements, and creating and distributing newsletters and action alerts on the Internet.

SOUNDING THE ALARM ON ENDANGERED WILDLIFE REFUGES

When President Theodore Roosevelt established Florida's Pelican Island as the country's first wildlife refuge

in 1903, he compared it to saving a priceless work of art. This year Defenders took action to sound the alarm on the deteriorating condition of the gallery of masterpieces that is the nation's wildlife refuge system.

To mark National Wildlife Refuge Week in 2004, Defenders published *Refuges at Risk: America's 10 Most Endangered National Wildlife Refuges 2004*, the first of a planned annual series. The report showed how industrial development, air and water pollution, oil and gas waste, farming, invasive species and other threats are eroding the largest system of protected lands in the world dedicated to wildlife conservation.

Among the refuges on the 2004 list was the system's crown jewel, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which is under continuing threat of oil and gas drilling, and Louisiana's Delta National Wildlife Refuge, where ducks, herons and other birds compete with 180 oil and gas wells for space to rest and breed.

The report garnered substantial media coverage. Articles appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Arizona Daily Star*, *Arizona Republic*, *Las Vegas Sun* and *Raleigh News & Observer*, and Associated Press stories were picked up by 75 other newspapers, Web sites and radio stations. CNN Headline News and multiple local television outlets also mentioned the report.

"Through our 10 Most Endangered Wildlife Refuges report, we hope to spur long-overdue support for our wildlife refuge system. If we can't protect wild plants and animals in our national wildlife refuges, where are we going to do it? Clearly, we must start here."

Rodger Schlickeisen, President

STAFF PROFILE NOAH MATSON

Director of Defenders' Federal Lands Program, Noah Matson is dedicated to preserving our nation's wildlife refuges and public lands. "I was instilled with a drive to make this world a better place by my father who was an activist pastor in New York City. He worked with people, I work with wildlife."

Now Noah is a father of two young daughters and he's driven by a deep moral passion to preserve biodiversity. "I honestly fear that species like polar bears won't be found in the wild by the time my daughters are parents."

Noah has had the opportunity to make significant contributions



© KRISTA SCHERER

to national wildlife refuge policy and he recently released Defenders' groundbreaking report *Refuges at Risk: America's 10 Most Endangered National Wildlife Refuges 2004*. But ask Noah what makes his job exciting: "When I travel for business, I go to the most beautiful places in the country talking to some of the most dedicated people you'll ever come across. I take that back to the Beltway; it allows me to communicate about the issues more personally and effectively."

Noah holds a master's of environmental management in conservation biology and policy from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS EDUCATE AND INSPIRE

This year, Defenders dedicated significant resources to producing and airing radio and television PSAs to expand our constituency for protecting wildlife. We were privileged to have as our spokespeople for several of our PSAs both Emmy-award winning television host and wildlife biologist Jeff Corwin, a member of Defenders Board of Directors, and Amanda Beard, an Olympic champion swimmer.

Both Jeff and Amanda demonstrated their commitment to protecting dolphins in TV and radio PSAs that spotlighted efforts to weaken labeling standards for dolphin-safe tuna cans, putting dolphins at risk. The TV PSA aired more than 4,000 times around the country, and more than 250 radio stations ran our radio PSA a total of 50,000 times. Amanda and Jeff also recorded new PSAs for Defenders on endangered species, which will begin airing during the spring of 2005.

In late 2004, we also released what have turned out to be some of our most popular PSAs on the topics of forests, wildlife refuges, polar bears and manatees.



Polar bear mother with cubs

© STEVENWOOD.COM

DEFENDERS ON THE MAP

From national headquarters in Washington, D.C., and field offices throughout North America, Defenders works to protect wildlife and wild places. Here is just a sampling of actions and accomplishments in 2004.

● Defenders Field Offices

ALASKA

- Continued to mobilize nationwide support for ending the practice of shooting wolves from the air and defeated a proposal to allow it on federal lands.
- Promoted safe and responsible wolf watching in Denali National Park, a world-renowned wildlife viewing hotspot, via handouts, slide shows and lectures.
- Expanded the popular “Don’t Invite Bears into Your Backyard” campaign from Anchorage to Juneau and Sitka.

CANADA

- Worked with Alberta ranchers and provincial wildlife officials to test nonlethal methods of reducing the number of cattle killed by wolves.
- Helped convince the Ontario government to protect wolves in critical buffer zones around Algonquin Provincial Park.

MONTANA

- Lobbied for passage of legislation that would end the practice of shooting bison that wander outside Yellowstone National Park.
- Rallied 9,000 online activists to convince the Bureau of Land Management not to allow drilling in the Rocky Mountain Front, a 100-mile stretch of prime wildlife habitat.

OREGON

- Helped draft a plan for managing and protecting wolves in Oregon, the first western state to independently address natural recolonization by wolves.
- Collaborated with state officials on materials to encourage conservation on private lands.

CALIFORNIA

- Sponsored Sea Otter Awareness Week, an annual celebration of southern sea otters featuring lectures, school presentations and other special events.
- Presented workshops in key communities to teach people how to safely share the land with bears, mountain lions and other predators.
- Helped win \$300 million in funding for extensive restoration of the Salton Sea, a vital Pacific Flyway stopover for millions of migratory birds.

ARIZONA

- Mounted a campaign that secured the removal of fences and cattle from more than 60,000 acres of federal land, premium habitat for America’s few remaining Sonoran pronghorns.
- Thwarted the administration’s developer-backed attempt to eliminate endangered species protections for Arizona’s rare cactus ferruginous pygmy owl.
- Stalled a plan to build a powerline on national forest land where jaguar tracks have been found.

NEW MEXICO

- Teamed with state conservation groups and agencies to build public support for bringing back the river otter, as other states have done successfully.



INTERNATIONAL

- Helped secure new global trade restrictions to protect great white sharks in oceans worldwide and to save Asia's ramin forests, home to the world's only remaining orangutans.
- Won a major court victory to safeguard dolphins from the Bush-administration's effort to allow imports of tuna caught with dolphin-killing nets.
- Provided funding for fencing to protect gazelles from Arabian wolves in southern Israel's Negev Desert.
- Supported the outreach efforts of the Namibia Nature Foundation's Wild Dog Project.
- Helped secure the first-ever international resolution on the conservation and protection of the critically endangered leatherback turtle.

MICHIGAN

- Funded field tests of fladry and guard dogs to discourage wolves from attacking cattle and sheep.

WISCONSIN

- Helped pay for a well to serve as an alternative watering site for cattle on a farm experiencing problems with wolves.

NORTHEAST

- Urged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service not to remove protections for wolves in the northeast states where wolves dispersing from Canada might settle.
- Successfully petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider listing the New England cottontail as endangered, obligating the agency to conduct a thorough study of the increasingly scarce species.

VIRGINIA

- Joined with local conservationists to protect 4,000 acres of pristine old-growth forest along the Potomac River from development.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Scored several legal victories in the ongoing battle to keep the Navy from building a jet landing field near several refuges in the heart of red wolf country.
- Completed a study of the potential of red wolves and other wildlife to boost local economies in rural areas through ecotourism.

FLORIDA

- Claimed victory when the federal government, facing a lawsuit by Defenders, banned the use of fenthion in Florida, the only state that was still using the wildlife-deadly pesticide.
- Released "Investing in Nature," a primer for land-use planners and citizen activists on the economic benefits of protecting natural lands.
- Helped convince state officials not to downlist the manatee from endangered to threatened and to lower boat speed limits to further protect the species.
- Led the successful crusade calling for revision of the flawed imperiled-species-listing process proposed by the state.
- Served on recovery teams for Florida's black bears, panthers and manatees.

MEXICO

- Led the campaign that secured a ban on international trade in the endangered lilac-crowned amazon parrot, the wild bird most commonly smuggled into the United States.
- Helped secure 10,000 acres of private land, the initial parcel of a planned 50,000-acre jaguar sanctuary in northern Mexico.
- Worked to reverse a ruling allowing shrimp fleets to fish in the bioserve created to protect the endangered vaquita porpoise.



People who care about wildlife continued their generous support of Defenders of Wildlife in fiscal year 2004. More than 400,000 individuals and institutions gave more than \$30 million. Law firms, broadcast media outlets and others generously contributed their time and expertise.

Within the expense breakdown, "wildlife action" includes our species, habitat, legal, government relations and grassroots work, and "media and education" includes our Web site and

electronic newsletters, our magazine and other publications, public service announcements and other media work, along with correspondence with our members. Support services are "management and general" (which includes administrative operations), and "membership development."

(Financial statements audited by Lane and Company.

Copies of our complete financial report are available on request.)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of September 30, 2004

Assets

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	766,802
Short term investments		2,140,182
Investments — annuity reserve fund		1,975,070
Bequests receivable		1,634,075
Grants receivable, current portion		299,645
Accounts receivable		407,404
Prepaid expenses		452,693
Accrued interest & dividends		27,920
Total current assets		<u>7,703,791</u>

Grants and pledges, net of current portion		292,242
Long term investments		4,917,197
Assets held in charitable remainder trusts		2,159,948
Contributions receivable from remainder trusts		1,615,584
Beneficial interest in perpetual trusts		982,936
Property, furnishings and equipment		
Land and building, net of accumulated depreciation		11,686,675
Furniture & equipment, net of accumulated depreciation		710,991

Other assets

		<u>225,720</u>
Total Assets	\$	<u><u>30,295,084</u></u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities

Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$	2,235,380
Line of credit payable		500,000
Annuity payment liability, current portion		299,854
Bonds payable, current portion		130,000
Deferred revenue, current		37,474
Total current liabilities		<u>3,202,708</u>

Bonds payable		6,870,000
Annuity payment liability, net of current portion		1,777,724
Total liabilities		<u>11,850,432</u>

Net assets

Undesignated		2,755,303
Invested in property, furnishings and equipment		5,397,666
Board designated		4,443,000
Total unrestricted		<u>12,595,969</u>
Temporarily restricted		4,659,377
Permanently restricted		1,189,306
Total net assets		<u>18,444,652</u>

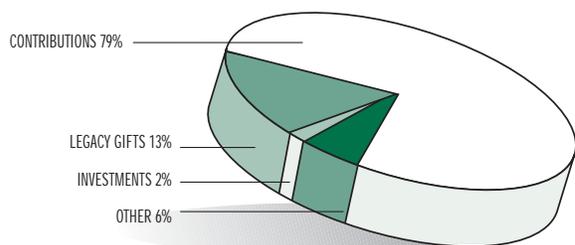
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	<u><u>30,295,084</u></u>
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

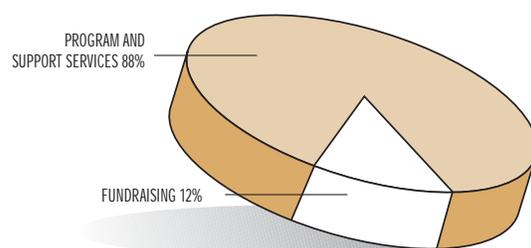
For the Year Ended September 30, 2004

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Totals
Revenues				
Contributions	\$ 17,712,757	\$ 1,603,135	\$ 15,000	\$ 19,330,892
Contributed services	4,694,304			4,694,304
Bequests	4,004,364			4,004,364
Contributions of split interests	167,918	4,153	103,941	276,012
Income from investments:				
Change in net unrealized gains	353,076			353,076
Interest and dividends	187,139			187,139
Net realized losses	(2,184)			(2,184)
Change in value of split interests	(62,124)	172,933	31,219	142,028
Royalties	624,860			624,860
List income	488,498			488,498
Rent income	450,750			450,750
Other income	369,449			369,449
Net assets released by satisfaction of program restrictions	1,322,533	(1,322,533)		
Total revenues	30,311,340	457,688	150,160	30,919,188
Expenses				
Wildlife action	11,441,566			11,441,566
Media and education	9,352,839			9,352,839
Fund-raising	3,386,671			3,386,671
Management and general	2,547,670			2,547,670
Membership development	1,852,982			1,852,982
Total expenses	28,581,728	-	-	28,581,728
Change in net assets	1,729,612	457,688	150,160	2,337,460
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	10,866,357	4,201,689	1,039,146	16,107,192
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 12,595,969	\$ 4,659,377	\$ 1,189,306	\$ 18,444,652

2004 REVENUES



2004 EXPENSES



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our defense of wildlife and critical habitat would be impossible without the unwavering support of our donors. We want to thank each and every one of our 480,000 supporters for their commitment during fiscal year 2004 (October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004).



Gray wolf

The donors listed on the following pages supported our efforts to protect wildlife and habitat in fiscal year 2004. Defenders of Wildlife gratefully acknowledges these generous gifts, pledges and payments on pledges.

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AWARD PROFILE IRA NEW BREAST

To us, Ira New Breast has always been a conservation hero. But now he has an award to prove it. A two-year member of our Board of Directors, Ira was presented by Walt Disney World with one of five global Conservation Hero awards for his work restoring the swift fox population on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana.

The species was nearly wiped out by 1970 from poisoned bait set for wolves and coyotes in the area. Starting in 1998, swift foxes were reintroduced on the reservation, part of the largest remaining pristine prairie in Montana. Over the next five



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years, Ira managed the releases of captive foxes, supervised on-site operations, oversaw the work of the tribal field biologists monitoring the foxes, and communicated with the Tribal Council – whose support of the project was essential to its success. Today, thanks to Ira, fox populations are bouncing back: 12 dens with 73 animals are now found on the reservation.

Ira is executive director of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society in Denver (Broomfield), Colorado, which works with federally recognized tribes to conserve fish, wildlife and cultural resources.

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Gertrude B. Emerson	Tacy Weeks Hahn	Rhiannon T. Kubicka	Lynn Nichols and Jim Gilchrist
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AWARD PROFILE EDMUND A. STANLEY, JR.

Ted Stanley, one of the environmental community's most generous philanthropists, was this year's recipient of Defenders' highest honor, our "Lifetime Award for Superior Accomplishment in Wildlife Conservation." Through his philanthropy and with his wife, Jennifer, Ted has actively promoted citizen advocacy, advanced a stewardship ethic and worked to increase the effec-



© PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER STANLEY

tiveness of the conservation movement. Since 1984, he has provided generous support to Defenders of Wildlife, particularly for our work to protect the National Wildlife Refuge System. Ted Stanley's vision and commitment have truly made a difference for this organization and the conservation movement as a whole. He deserves our recognition and profound gratitude.



Fisher in an evergreen

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Iona Zittrauer
**Bequests, trusts, and gift annuities that have matured.*

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IN MEMORY OF SALLY REAHARD

In July 2003, Defenders lost one of our most ardent supporters. A Defenders member since 1978, Sally Reahard spent her life supporting conservation-related efforts. Her generous contributions have preserved nearly 7,500 acres of forests, wetlands, prairies and savannas and instigated and sustained numerous conservation projects in her home state of Indiana.

Born in Ohio, Sally was the daughter of Ralph Reahard, a founding executive of the Eli Lilly Corporation. She was an accomplished watercolor painter and collector of rare books,



PHOTO COURTESY OF REAHARD FAMILY

and she served as a voluntary director of rationing for her local county during World War II.

Sally remained dedicated to the conservation cause throughout her entire life and her legacy will live on in her bequest to Defenders of Wildlife. In recognition of her gift, we will dedicate the outdoor canopy at the entrance of our new headquarters building to Sally's memory. On behalf of all of us who will benefit in the years to come from her lifelong commitment to protecting the wild creatures that make our world so wondrous, we thank you, Sally Reahard.

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