

Endangered Species Reward Fund



Defenders of Wildlife is committed to working with law enforcement agencies to stop the illegal killing of imperiled species. To honor that commitment, Defenders of Wildlife established the Endangered Species Reward Fund. The Endangered Species Reward Fund works in cooperation with state and federal agencies to uncover information in incidents involving a variety of species, including bears, cormorants, sea otters and wolves.

Since the fund was established in 1997, Defenders of Wildlife has offered rewards totaling more than \$243,000 for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for illegal killings. Illegal killings of imperiled species cripple recovery efforts and interfere with the work of state wildlife officials. Such kills pose a significant challenge to recovery efforts in nearly all regions that have imperiled species.

Rewards, such as those offered by the Endangered Species Reward Fund, have proven to be an important incentive to uncover important information regarding illegal killings of imperiled species. Defenders of Wildlife's rewards have brought criminals to justice and act as a deterrent preventing future illegal acts. The following list details Defenders' contributions to posted rewards.

ANIMAL KILLED	REWARD OFFERED
<i>2010</i>	
Two collared red wolves were found dead in North Carolina's Hyde County in late April 2010..	\$2,000 (\$1,000/incident)
Around January 16, a 13-year-old, radio-collared lynx was killed near Green Mountain Reservoir in northern Summit County, Colorado.	\$1,000
<i>2009</i>	
Three radio collared wolves killed in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.	\$1,500
Eight wolves in Wisconsin were killed in late fall 2009 in Burnett, Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Adams, Monroe and Jackson counties and on two Native American Reservations.	\$4,000
In early November 2009, two wolves were killed in northern Minnesota. One wolf was shot northwest of Grand Rapids in the Ball Club area. The second wolf was killed northwest of Two Harbors.	\$1,000
Between Nov. 28 and Dec. 1, an endangered female whooping crane was shot and killed near Cayuga, Indiana.	\$2,500

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Between November 12-16, 2009, a wolf poaching incident occurred in Ontonagon County, Michigan. The wolf's radio collar was found in the Stony Creek Area, east of the old White Pine Mine location.	\$1,000
On October 7, a Canada lynx was found dead from a bow and arrow in Silverton, Colorado.	\$500
On August 12, a 9 1/2-year-old grizzly bear was found shot near Dupuyer in northwestern Montana. Investigators determined it had been dead for about four weeks.	\$2,000
On April 21, a female Florida black panther was found shot and killed on private property north of the Big Cypress National Preserve in Hendry County, Florida.	\$1,500
On March 13, biologists found an adult male California condor with 15 shotgun pellets lodged in its body. On March 26, three pellets were found in a juvenile female located in Big Sur.	\$1,000
2008	
Between October 16-23, a wolf poaching incident occurred in Michigan's Baraga County or southern Houghton County. The wolf's radio collar was located near Froberg Road and the Sturgeon River in Baraga County.	\$1,500
During the 2007 firearm deer season in central Keweenaw County, Michigan, a wolf was shot and killed.	\$1,000
On August 4, the carcass of a burned desert tortoise was found in a fire grate within a campsite at Black Rock Campground, which is located on the edge of the community of Yucca Valley, California in Joshua Tree National Park.	\$1,500
In June, a radio collar cut off from a wolf was found in Delta County, just north of Bark River. Michigan. The remains of the animal were not found.	\$1,500
2007	
From October 21-27, 2007, more than 100 federally endangered Indiana bats were found killed at Carter Caves State Resort Park near Olive Hill, KY.	\$1,000

For more information, contact:

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On September 19, 2007, a grizzly bear was found shot to death with removed its front claws on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The bear, estimated to be 7 to 10 years old, was shot west of McDonald Lake, in an area between U.S. Highway 93 and the Mission Mountains, near where the highway passes by the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge.	\$5,000
A radio-collared Canada lynx was found shot to death north of Seeley Lake, MT in early February 2007.	\$1,000
2006	
Nine wolves, including four that were wearing radio collars, were killed during the 2006 gun deer hunting season.	\$9,000 (\$1,000 per animal)
A Canada lynx was shot and killed during the last week of October, 2006 in the Hermosa Park area about 30 miles north of Durango, CO.	\$1,000
Shooting of two endangered American crocodiles on Sugarloaf Key, Florida in February 2006. The carcasses of the two crocodiles, one 7 feet long and one 8.5 feet long, were dumped several miles apart on State Road 4A.	\$2,000 (\$1,000 per animal)
2005	
A radio-collared lynx, which was about 18 months old and part of a research study, was found shot near Twig, MN in November 2005.	\$1,500
Killing of two lynx in Colorado in October 2005. A radio tracking collar was found in a post office mail box in Silverton on October 27. A second lynx collar was found on October 28 near Missionary Ridge.	\$2,000 (\$1,000 per incident)
On June 25, 2005, a sea otter was found shot in California's Monterey Bay area.	\$2,500
On May 7, 2005, a sea otter was found shot in California's Monterey Bay area.	\$2,500
On May 15, 2005, a dead, male grizzly bear was found along the Joe Show Road about two miles west of U.S. 89 on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana. The animal's claws were missing and its lips and ears were cut off.	\$2,500

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On May 12, 2005, an adult female grizzly was found shot to death north of St. Mary, Montana on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.	\$2,500
On April 25, 2005, a San Joaquin kit fox was found convulsing in downtown Taft, California. The fox's behavior was consistent with poisoning via strychnine or pesticide. The animal's leg was also injured and had to be amputated. The amputated leg was sent to a lab to determine if it had been shot.	\$2,000
2004	
Four wolves found shot during October and November of 2004 in Idaho: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Fork Park-Ski Area on the Boise National Forest near Idaho City; • Partridge Creek area on the Payette National Forest near Riggins; • Weasel Gulch on the Payette National Forest; and • Mountain Meadows on the Boise National Forest near Stanley. 	\$10,000 (\$2,500 per wolf)
An adult grizzly bear shot in extreme northern Idaho in the spring of 2004. The grizzly was found near Hughes Meadows, located in Boundary County, Idaho, three miles east of the Washington state line and nine miles south of the US/Canada border.	\$2,500
2003	
Radio collared female wolf, B-152, and an uncollared male shot about five miles southwest of Pierce in Clearwater County, Idaho in 2003.	\$5,000
Radio collared female wolf, B-158, killed near Mores Creek Summit north of Idaho City, Idaho in 2003.	\$2,500
More than 20 Mexican gray wolves in New Mexico and Arizona since 2003.	\$10,000
Female wolf shot in Gogebic County near Ironwood, Michigan in 2003.	\$3,000
Grizzly bear shot in Boundary County located in northern Idaho in 2003.	\$2,500
Sea otter shot at Montana de Oro State Park near Morro Bay, California in 2003.	\$2,500*
2002	
Six wolves shot in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan	

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in 2002.	\$1,500 each (\$9,000 total)
Wolf (#134 of the Jureano pack) shot near the Bear Track Mine in Idaho in 2002.	\$2,500
Grizzly bear shot in the Sullivan Pass Area between the Yaak River and Eureka in Montana in 2002.	\$2,500
A four-year-old male grizzly bear shot near Priest Lake, Idaho in 2002.	\$2,500
Female grizzly sow and yearling female cub shot in Rock Creek Drainage on Sawtelle Peak, Idaho in 2002.	\$3,000
Male sea otter shot with shot with shotgun pellets at close range near Coal Oil Point National Reserve in Santa Barbara County, California in 2002.	\$2,500
Male sea otter shot near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo County, California in 2002.	\$2,500
Wolf near Peshtigo, Wisconsin in 2002.	\$1,500
Sea otter at Henry's Beach in Santa Barbara, California in 2002.	\$2,500
A wolf was killed near Oconto Country, Wisconsin.	\$2,000
A wolf was found shot near Glenn's Ferry, Idaho in 2002.	\$2,500
2001	
Sea otter was found shot in Monterey, California in 2001.	\$2,500
Wolf shot twice and left in the Tomahawk River near Minocqua, Wisconsin in 2001.	\$1,500
Wolf near Danbury, Wisconsin in 2001.	\$1,500
Grizzly bear shot in southwest Montana in 2001.	\$2,500
Wolves poisoned in Idaho in 2001.	\$15,000
Wolf shot in Phillips, Wisconsin in 2001.	\$1,500 *
2000	
Wolf, B-96, found near Lick Creek, Idaho in 2000.	\$2,000
Wolf, B-57, found in Camas City, Idaho in 2000.	\$2,000
Wolf shot in eastern Oregon in 2000.	

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	\$2,000
Wolf shot in Chippewa County, Michigan in 2000.	\$2,000
Female grizzly bear and two cubs in the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Montana in 2000.	\$1,500
Two wolves poisoned in Idaho.	\$2,000
Sea otter shot at beach between Point Conception and Piedras Blanca Lighthouse, California in 2000.	\$2,500
1998	
Black bear in Louisiana in 1998.	\$2,500 *
More than 800 cormorants on Little Galloo Island, New York.	\$1,000
Four Mexican wolves in Arizona in 1998.	\$10,000 each * (\$40,000 total)
Three wolves in Wisconsin, twenty wolves in Minnesota in 1998.	\$1,000 each * (\$23,000 total)
1997	
Wolf, member of the Nine Mile pack, shot near Elk River, Idaho in 1997.	\$1,000
1996	
Female wolf shot in southeast Minong, Wisconsin in 1996.	\$5,000
1995	
Young female wolf pup shot near Deer Lodge, Montana in 1995.	\$5,000
Red wolf killed in Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina in 1995.	\$2,500

* denote reward was granted