



Endangered earth

WINTER 2013

2012
YEAR IN
REVIEW

2013
LOOKING
AHEAD

CENTER *for* BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

2012 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Climate

- Organized more than 40 cities — including Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Detroit and Miami — to sign on to our Clean Air Cities campaign calling for full use of the Clean Air Act in order to curb climate change.
- Launched a sustained media blitz on the importance of addressing the climate crisis with news stories, op-eds and TV and radio interviews.
- Launched federal litigation challenging the Bureau of Land Management for failing to properly evaluate the threat posed by hydraulic fracturing to endangered species on public land leased for oil and gas activities in California.
- Initiated a legal challenge to the U.S. Export-Import Bank's nearly \$3 billion in financing for two massive fossil fuel facilities in Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Arctic

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

Population Pressure

- Distributed more than 150,000 Endangered Species Condoms to more than 1,000 volunteers around the country to begin conversations about human population growth and its relationship to extinction.
- Organized and participated in a panel on population and consumption at a national environmental law conference.
- Launched our tongue-in-cheek Hump Smarter Hotline — a toll-free service for New Year's Eve urging callers to think about **panthers, polar bears** and other endangered species before taking an impromptu, perhaps unprotected roll in the sheets.
- Communicated with reporters around the country on the planet's new 7 billion population tally and the importance of slowing more growth.

Endangered Species Advocacy

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



Wildlife Habitat

- Won protection for 9.6 million acres of critical habitat for the **northern spotted owl** in the Northwest.
- Won proposed protection of 838,000 acres of critical habitat for **jaguars** in southern Arizona and New Mexico.
- Won protection for more than 40,000 acres for 23 newly protected **Oahu species** in Hawaii.
- Won 10,000 acres for the **Chiricahua leopard frog** in the Southwest.
- Won 24,000 acres for the **western snowy plover** in Washington, Oregon and California.
- Won 6,500 acres for the **Mississippi gopher frog**.



Oceans

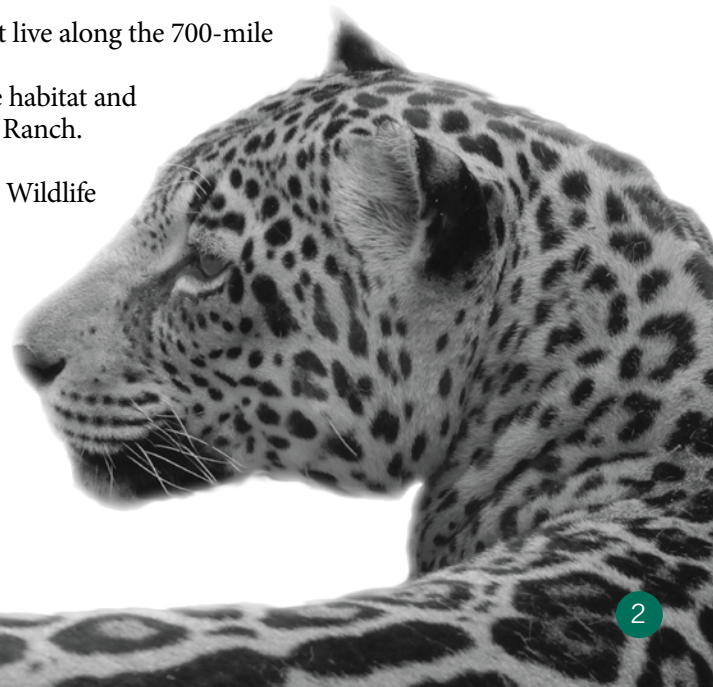
- Won 40,000 square miles of protected habitat along the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California for **Pacific leatherback sea turtles**.
- Won proposed protections for 66 **corals**.
- Launched our new Endangered Oceans campaign highlighting the effect of ocean acidification on sea life and calling on the EPA to develop a national plan to address this global crisis.
- Unveiled a groundbreaking new ocean plastics project urging the EPA to regulate ocean plastics as a pollutant under the Clean Water Act.
- Petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to designate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands — including the portion of the enormous Pacific Garbage Patch within United States waters — as the nation's newest Superfund site.
- Sought Endangered Species Act protection for the **orange clownfish** — featured in *Finding Nemo* — and seven similarly coral-dependent **damselfish** threatened by climate change, ocean acidification and the marine aquarium trade.
- Secured protection for **false killer whales** from death in Hawaiian longlines.

Toxics

- Secured settlement for the government to clean up toxic lead paint — which was killing up to 10,000 birds every year — on Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.
- Continued to fight the NRA and its cronies in Congress on their efforts to stop the EPA from regulating lead hunting ammunition that kills millions of **wild birds** every year.
- Sued the federal government for failing to fully implement new air-quality standards for lead, required under the Clean Air Act.
- Sued to protect wildlife from lead poisoning in Arizona's Kaibab National Forest.

Wildlands

- Won an appeal requiring more protection for nine endangered **fish** that live along the 700-mile route of the Ruby pipeline.
- Won a series of court rulings in Southern California protecting wildlife habitat and wild places from development, including at Newhall Ranch and Fanita Ranch.
- Filed a legal challenge to unregulated fracking in California.
- Stopped a proposed mega-development near the 19,000-acre San Jacinto Wildlife Area, one of Southern California's most important wildlife refuges.
- Fought to close more than 29,000 miles of road to destructive use in Arizona and New Mexico through travel-management planning.
- Won a court battle and overturned a U.S. Forest Service decision allowing cattle grazing across a 42,000-acre area of the Fossil Creek watershed on the Coconino National Forest in central Arizona.
- Helped defeat the Vía Verde gas pipeline in Puerto Rico.



2012 THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

31.5 million: Acres of “critical habitat” the Center for Biological Diversity helped protect for 154 species in 2012.

40,000: Square miles protected for the **Pacific leatherback sea turtle**.

700: River miles protected for the **spikedace** and **loach minnow**, two Southwest fish.

11: Mountain ranges included in the 838,000 acres of proposed critical habitat the Center helped secure for **American jaguars**.

8: Age of the youngest volunteer to help carry the Center’s giant memorial Macho B jaguar puppet in the All Souls Procession in Tucson, Ariz.

463,000: Square miles by which cities will expand over the next 20 years, according to researchers from Yale, Boston University and Texas A&M.

8: Number of the country’s 15 fastest-growing cities that are located in Texas.

100: Condoms sent to the Keystone XL tar-sands tree village blockade in Nogadoches, Texas.

Unknown: Number depolyed.

95: Species that moved toward protection in 2012 under our historic 757 species agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including:

6 Amphibians, **5 birds**, **3 fishes**, **26 invertebrates**, **2 mammals** and **53 plants**.

31: Species that were fully protected, including the **coquí llanero tree frog**, **Miami blue butterfly**, several **southeastern mussels** and dozens of species in Hawaii.

56: Species that were proposed for protection, including the **Jollyville Plateau salamander**, **streaked horned lark**, **Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly**, **spring pygmy sunfish**, **Florida bonneted bat** and **Acuña cactus**.

More than 600: Estimated number of wells fracked in California in 2011.

1,120: Barrels of chemical-laden frack gel injected into one California oil well on one day.

1 million: Gallons of water used in a single frack job in California.

4 billion: Barrels of oil that are accessible by fracking in California’s Monterey Shale formation.

20,245: Acres of public land in central California that are being leased to oil companies intent on fracking.

450,000: Center members and online activists in 2012.

9,312: Members in California.

2,802: Members in New York.

1: Members in Romania.

600: Approximate number of pennies hand-delivered as a donation by Mario, a student supporter at Lowell High School in San Francisco, during a Center presentation on the climate crisis.

500 billion: Low-end estimate of total plastic bags consumed globally per year.

20: Tons of plastic fragments per day that reach the Pacific Ocean from the Los Angeles area alone.

260: Species that have been reported to ingest or become entangled in plastic marine debris.

1: Petition filed by the Center to the EPA to create a national plan to address plastic pollution in our oceans.

More than
150,000

Endangered Species
Condoms given away
by the Center in 2012
to highlight human
population and
effects on imperiled
plants and animals



24,000

Acres protected in
Washington, Oregon
and California for the
western snowy plover.





15

Estimated number of **wolf packs** along the Pacific Coast.

5: California Fish and Wildlife commissioners who voted (unanimously) to make **gray wolves** a candidate for protection under the state Endangered Species Act in response to a petition by the Center.

58: Estimated number of **Mexican gray wolves** in the Southwest.

147: **Wolves** killed in the first two weeks of Minnesota's first modern wolf-hunting season.

90: Percent of endangered species that are recovering on time under the Endangered Species Act, according to a recent Center analysis of 110 plants and animals.

22,312: Percent increase of **El Segundo blue butterflies** since they were added to the endangered species list.

2,206: Percent increase of nesting **Atlantic green sea turtles** on Florida beaches since listing.

3,830: Percent increase in **San Miguel island foxes** since listing.

\$736,000: Price fetched for a **bluefin tuna**, for the upscale sushi market, in 2012.

Fewer than 350: Adult **great white sharks** believed to survive along the West Coast.

1: Petition filed by the Center to protect **West Coast great white sharks**.

75: Amount of times more likely you are to get killed by lightning than by a shark attack.

22 million: Tons of carbon dioxide pollution absorbed by the world's oceans every day.

5: Years in a row that Shell's plans to drill in the Arctic have been delayed.

5,302: Whales and seals that Shell can harm, according to its Arctic drilling permits.

13: Lawsuits filed by the Center to stop Shell.

3: Lawsuits filed by Shell to stop the Center.

1: Species of insect officially named in the taxonomic record after pop singer Beyoncé Knowles: **Scaptia beyonceae**.

150: Approximate number of eggs California's female **giant water bugs** cement onto the backs of their babies' daddies during courtship.

\$63,000: Estimated value of a chunk of **whale vomit** — for many centuries a highly sought-after item in the cosmetics industry — found washed up on the beach by a young boy in England.

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Eyes in the **Austin blind salamander** and the anchialine pool shrimp, two species the Center worked to protect in 2012.



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START YOUR YEAR OFF RIGHT RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

In 2013 we'll celebrate the 40th anniversary of America's most powerful environmental law: the Endangered Species Act. With help from our 40,000 members, the Center for Biological Diversity has relied on the Act to achieve lifesaving protections for hundreds of animals and plants. Last year alone, with your support, we secured 31.5 million acres of newly protected habitat; released our "110 Species Success Stories" report on the Act's incredible 99 percent success rate; used our 757 species agreement to lock in more protections for plants and animals than at any other point in U.S. history; and launched a sweeping campaign to protect 200 species from pesticides.

But 2013 brings us a legion of new challenges. Right-wing politicians are gunning for the Act, with no regard for its proven success, and looking for legal loopholes to let more lead, pesticides and other toxics into our landscape. Big industry will push hard to drill in the pristine Arctic Ocean, build the disastrous Keystone XL pipeline and expand dangerous fracking in places like California — putting private profits before the survival of species like wolves, polar bears and sea turtles and beyond the long-term welfare of human beings, too.

We've weathered these kinds of attacks in the past; your help in 2013 will ensure that our team of scientists, lawyers and activists meets the challenges ahead with another year of victories for wild creatures and wild places.

To renew your support for 2013, please send in the enclosed envelope, call our membership team at (866) 357-3349 or renew online at renew.biologicaldiversity.org/winter. Or, to support the Center's work every month, please sign up to become a Monthly Sustaining Member at sustain.biologicaldiversity.org/winter.



Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act by highlighting the success of this landmark law and the hundreds of species it protects—from the **northern spotted owl** to the **Florida panther**—and defending it from attacks by politicians.



Defend the Arctic, and the **polar bears**, **walrus** and **ice seals** that depend on it, from disastrous offshore drilling by Shell and government efforts to expand leasing.



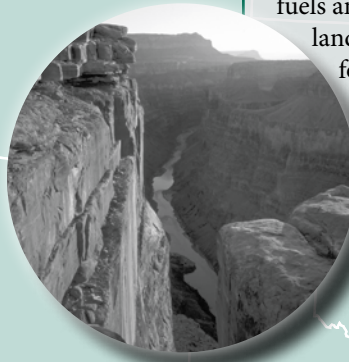
Protect wolves by fighting removal of protections from wolves in Wyoming; winning safeguards for wolf expansion along the West Coast; protecting Alaska's **Alexander Archipelago wolves'** habitat in the Tongass National Forest; pushing for larger-scale recovery of **Mexican wolves** in the Southwest.



Protect wildlife across the country, such as **grizzly bears**, **California condors** and **Tehachapi slender salamanders**, from dangerous pesticides, lead and other toxics.



Push to ban dangerous fracking in California, which threatens hundreds of species, including the **San Joaquin kit fox**.



Work to ensure public lands are managed for the protection of endangered species and **wilderness**. Prevent the extraction of fossil fuels and other destructive uses of public lands so these special places can be refuges for beleaguered species in the face of a changing climate.



Mount a vigorous campaign to protect our oceans and marine life, including **killer whales**, **Hawaiian monk seals** and **corals**, by addressing ocean acidification, plastic pollution and overfishing.

Fight to secure protected critical habitat for imperiled species across the country, including millions of acres for **jaguars** in the Southwest.



Push for new protections for fish, turtles, mussels and other freshwater animals across the country, especially in the Southeast, that are rapidly headed toward extinction, including the **fluted kidneyshell**, **slabside pearl mussel** and **diamond darter**, a small fish threatened by mountaintop removal.



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2013 ACTION PLAN

Build on our historic agreement to speed protection decisions for 757 species around the country, including upcoming decisions on the **yellow-billed cuckoo**, **wolverine** and **Oregon spotted frog**.



Follow up on our recent, biggest-ever amphibian and reptile petition to get protection for even more cold-blooded critters, like the **Illinois chorus frog**, **alligator snapping turtle** and **eastern diamondback rattlesnake**.



Confront the global climate crisis threatening people and wildlife through vigorous legal, policy and grassroots campaign work, including our Clean Air Cities campaign, which already includes more than 40 cities — from **Miami** to **Los Angeles** — calling for stricter regulations on CO₂ emissions through the Clean Air Act.



The Center's top priorities for 2013 include tackling the biggest threats we face on Earth today, with the much-needed support of 450,000 deeply dedicated members and grassroots activists. The coming year will bring challenges, including accelerating climate chaos, ocean acidification, droughts and floods — all of which pose formidable threats to the survival of endangered species. But with you on our side, and the devotion of our staff, we'll keep fighting and winning crucial battles for animals, plants and places.

Together, in 2013, we'll celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act.

That'll mean defending the Act itself from special-interest congressional attacks, as well as protecting the individual species it shields — like polar bears, wolves and jaguars — from efforts to undermine their safeguards. We'll challenge Shell's program to drill in the Arctic, where oil spills would be devastating for Far North animals already desperately beleaguered by sea-ice melt; we'll fight unregulated fracking in California, lead poisoning of wildlife and state-sanctioned wolf-killing sprees. We'll redouble our efforts to protect fish, amphibians and reptiles with our pesticide-reduction, herpetofauna and freshwater-species campaigns.

2012 showed us a summer of record-breaking heat. Frankenstorm Sandy showed us the furious effects climate change will increasingly have on coastal cities. To ensure the survival of every species — including our own — we'll expand our Clean Air Cities campaign and push for full enforcement of the Clean Air Act to bring CO₂ levels back down to 350 ppm. We'll confront unsustainable human population growth, overconsumption and wilderness destruction with the momentum of more than 20 years of highly successful grassroots biodiversity activism.



CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
P.O. Box 710 • Tucson, AZ 85702-0710

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A Year of Saving Lives

From the Director

Kieran Suckling

THE BEST MEASURE OF SUCCESS

is whether endangered animals and plants have a better shot at survival today than they did yesterday.

And the unequivocal answer for hundreds of species in 2012 is yes — mostly because of the tenacious work of our staff here at the Center for Biological Diversity and your moral and financial support.

Pacific leatherback sea turtles now have 40,000 square miles of protected habitat along the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California.

Twenty-three newly protected species in Hawaii now have 40,000 acres to live free from harm and harassment.

Two rare fishes here in the Southwest — the spikedace and loach minnow — now have 700 miles of protected streams.

And in the second year of our historic agreement speeding protection decisions for 757 species, we've seen life-altering progress for dozens of animals and plants across the country, progress that will give them significantly and tangibly better odds of avoiding extinction.

Just this year, 31 species were fully protected under the Endangered Species Act, including the coquí llanero tree frog in Puerto Rico and the Chupadera springsnail (which lives nowhere on Earth save two springs in New Mexico).

Fifty-six more species were proposed for full protection, including the Florida bonneted bat, the Northwest's streaked horned lark and Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, the Jollyville plateau salamander in Texas and the Acuña cactus in the Southwest.

As ever, we can't rest.

In 2013 we'll be in pitched battles to keep drilling out of the Arctic; address climate change and ocean acidification; return wolves to the West Coast and protect populations elsewhere; prevent a hostile Congress from weakening environmental laws; save hundreds of species still flirting dangerously with extinction, and defend wild and beautiful places from profiteers who want to mine, drill, log and develop them into oblivion.

We've got our work cut out for us, and I'm glad we're not going it alone.

Thank you.●

COVER PHOTO: SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX BY B. MOOSE PETERSON/USFWS

Endangered earth

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Russ McSpadden

PAGE DESIGN AND PHOTO EDITING

Russ McSpadden

COPY EDITING

Lydia Millet, Russ McSpadden, Mike Stark

CONTRIBUTORS

Kieran Suckling
Mike Stark
Russ McSpadden
Sarah Bergman

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