

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Endangered earth

WINTER 2015



YEAR IN
REVIEW

2014



2015

LOOKING
AHEAD

2014 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Climate

- Helped compel the EPA to issue the first-ever proposal to limit greenhouse pollution from power plants using the Clean Air Act and pushed the EPA to finally begin regulating airplanes' massive greenhouse pollution.
- Helped draft and pass California's first successful local ballot measure banning fracking and other dangerous oil development, with more such measures on the way.
- Helped mobilize some of the largest climate and fossil fuel protests in history, including a turnout of more than 400,000 at the Peoples' Climate March in New York City, nearly 200 riders on the People's Climate Train and more than 3,000 at a California anti-fracking rally in Sacramento.

Arctic & Alaska

- Won a year-long ban on the hunting of Kenai Peninsula brown bears in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.
- Secured a deadline of Dec. 31, 2015, for the government to make a protection decision for Alexander Archipelago wolves, which are in trouble because of old-growth logging in the Tongass National Forest; also filed a lawsuit challenging the largest old-growth timber sale on the Tongass in 20 years.
- Won a 9th Circuit lawsuit challenging the Chukchi Sea oil and gas leases on which Shell's dirty Arctic drilling plan is based.

Population & Sustainability

- Launched Take Extinction Off Your Plate, the first full-time program by a major environmental group addressing the devastating impact of the meat industry on wildlife; reached nearly 2 million people on social media for our "Extinction-free BBQ" campaign for Labor Day.
- Created #CrowdedPlanet, an innovative social media campaign that inspired people from around the world to share photos of what living in a world of 7 billion looked like and felt like to them.
- Talked about human population and family planning with thousands of students on dozens of college campuses and distributed more than 165,000 Endangered Species Condoms nationwide.

Toxics & Pesticides

- Forced the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ban bee-killing pesticides and genetically engineered crops from the entire 150 million-acre national wildlife refuges system.
- Prompted the Fish and Wildlife Service to analyze the impacts of five pesticides harming endangered species.
- Helped achieve a ban on residential sales of super-toxic rodenticides across the United States.

Endangered Species Advocacy

- Restored endangered species protections for wolves in Wyoming, won state protection for wolves in California and fought efforts to kill wolves around the country.
- Won endangered species protection for 33 freshwater species and seven amphibians and reptiles, as well as new protection for western yellow-billed cuckoos and protection for more than half a million acres of critical habitat spread across 13 western states.
- Filed a historic petition for Endangered Species Act protection for the monarch butterfly, which has declined by 90 percent in under 20 years.
- Filed a petition calling for reintroduction of grizzly bears across parts of the western United States.

Wildlife Habitat

- For loggerhead sea turtles, won habitat protections for 300,000 square miles of ocean and 685 miles of beaches — the largest critical habitat designation ever.
- Won habitat protections on 24.9 million acres for Canada lynx, spread across six states, including Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Washington and Wyoming.
- Obtained final protection for 764,207 acres of critical habitat for jaguars in Arizona and New Mexico, including the area where the disastrous Rosemont Mine is proposed.
- Closed 146 miles of ORV trails in Big Cypress National Preserve, protecting important habitat for Florida panthers and other species.

Oceans

- Initiated a campaign that resulted in the EPA advancing Tern Island as a potential Superfund site for federal cleanup because of the hazard plastic pollution poses to wildlife.
- Secured Endangered Species Act protection for 20 corals because of threats from ocean warming and acidification and spurred the release of a groundbreaking recovery plan for elkhorn and staghorn corals that includes actions to reduce global warming.
- Filed a lawsuit challenging the Navy's use of deadly sonar off Hawaii and Southern California that will harm marine mammals as many as 9.5 million times.

Urban Wildlands

- Fought the massive Newhall Ranch project in northern Los Angeles all the way to the California Supreme Court, where we now have a chance to affect destructive development projects throughout California, in addition to protecting the Santa Ana River's steelhead, unarmored threespine stickleback, San Fernando spineflower and Least Bell's vireo.
- Won a major court victory in California's water wars, securing full environmental review of the controversial Kern Water Bank.
- Halted construction on Highway 199, adjacent to the wild and scenic Smith River in Northern California, forcing state officials to go back and ensure the project will not harm the river's run of threatened coho salmon; we won a similar victory over a plan to expand a highway through the redwoods in Richardson Grove State Park.

International

- Sought trade sanctions against Mexico to stop the country's illegal totoaba fishery, which is driving both the endangered totoaba and the vaquita — a porpoise that's one of the planet's most imperiled animals — to extinction.
- Filed a lawsuit to ensure that fish imported into the United States meet U.S. standards for marine mammal protection.
- Filed a lawsuit to halt construction of a U.S. military base in Japan that would destroy habitat of endangered Okinawa dugongs.

Public Lands

- Assisted in successful defense of the Santa Fe National Forest travel-management plan that closed more than 3,000 miles to motorized vehicles and more than 440,000 acres to cross-country use, as well as establishing habitat protection for the Jemez Mountain salamander.
- Successfully challenged Tonto National Forest authorization of livestock grazing on 155,000 acres of core breeding habitat for Sonoran desert tortoises.
- Played a key role in first-time recognition by the Forest Service of the importance of post-fire landscapes as distinct habitat types in need of conservation, not salvage logging.





In the Arctic and Alaska, ensure that a proposal to protect 226 million acres for **ringed seals** becomes a reality; defend **Alexander Archipelago wolves** and their home from logging in the Tongass National Forest; keep Big Oil out of the Arctic; and defend protections for **polar bears**, **ice seals** and **walrus**.



Reform the pesticide approval process to provide more protection for people and wildlife; keep river mining from hurting endangered **salmon**, polluting water and damaging sacred cultural sites in California; fight destructive fossil fuel and hard rock mining, including limiting the expansion of tar sands oil production in Canada.



Secure a wild future for America's **wolves** by fighting federal efforts to strip their protections across most of the lower 48 states; push for larger-scale recovery for **Mexican wolves** in the Southwest and establishment of healthy wolf populations along the West Coast.



For our oceans, stop fracking off the California coast; protect **whales** and **dolphins** from deafening, deadly seismic and sonar blasts; focus public attention on the looming ocean acidification crisis; and safeguard habitat for marine life, including coral.



Fiercely defend America's public forests, deserts, grasslands, rivers and streams, including launching new campaigns to secure protections and fight exploitation, industrialization, logging, mining and grazing.



Defend California's public waters from schemes to privatize groundwater storage; protect the San Francisco-San Joaquin Bay Delta from industrial agriculture; fight megadevelopments that threaten endangered animals and plants; and demand greener alternatives to new, dirty power plants.

Harness the Clean Air Act and grassroots activists to secure strong rules to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, fight new dirty energy development and speed the transition to a clean energy future for people and wildlife.

2015 LOOKING AHEAD

Secure the strongest possible protections for apex predators, including **wolves**, **grizzly bears**, **Florida panthers**, **Canada lynx**, **jaguars** and **wolverines**.



Tackle the rising dangers that oil trains pose to people, wildlife, waterways and pristine ecosystems; stop the Keystone XL pipeline and other deadly energy schemes that threaten our environment and exacerbate the global climate crisis.



Defend the Endangered Species Act from political attacks in the new 114th Congress aimed at weakening protections for individual species and watering down this bedrock environmental law.



Launch a new sustainable energy campaign as part of our population and sustainability work, while mobilizing students across the country to become advocates for curbing human population growth and overconsumption as a critical part of protecting the planet.



Secure new protections for imperiled species from coast to coast, including Utah's **woundfin fish**, **Mexican garter snakes** and **Miami tiger beetles**.



2014 THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

33: Total number of terrestrial or freshwater species that gained Endangered Species Act protection in 2014 as the result of the Center's work, including 12 **plants**, 8 **amphibians** and **reptiles**, 5 **mammals**, 3 **fish**, 3 **butterflies** and 2 **birds**.

4: Number of species protected in 2014 with a color in their name, including the **Zuni bluehead sucker** and the **mountain yellow-legged frog**.

226 million: Acres of critical habitat proposed for Alaska's **ringed seals**.

300,000: Square miles of habitat in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico declared protected for threatened **loggerhead sea turtles**.

38,954: Number of square miles of critical habitat designated for the **Canada lynx** in the United States.

165,000: Endangered Species Condoms given away in 2014.

12: Days it took the Aspen Art Museum to cancel its exhibit with iPads mounted on the shells of **African tortoises**, after receiving more than 7,000 signatures from Center activists.

72: Years since a **gray wolf** had been seen on the Grand Canyon's North Rim, before one was spotted in October.

9 billion: Gallons of wastewater offshore oil and gas rigs are allowed to dump into the ocean off Southern California yearly, including toxic fracking chemicals.

15 million: Acres of public land in California given a reprieve from drilling and fracking by Center legal action.

93: Percentage of soybeans grown in the United States that have been genetically modified to be resistant to pesticides, threatening the survival of pollinators like the **monarch butterfly**.

138,000: Marine mammals the Interior Department openly admits will be harmed by seismic testing for oil in the Atlantic.

75: Burgers produced per second by McDonald's.

175: Number of endangered species living on U.S. federal land that are threatened by livestock.

14.5: Low-end estimated percentage of global greenhouse gases that come from livestock — more than from cars, trains and airplanes combined.

19,166: Number of Center activists who pledged to reduce the amount of meat they eat.

211,513: Number of river miles in California now protected from suction-dredge mining.

38: Number of years the **Mexican gray wolf** has been listed as endangered without a valid recovery plan.

21: Number of activists arrested in Utah at the first potential tar sands mine site in the United States, including the Center's No Tar Sands campaigner.

400,000: Number of activists we marched with in New York City during the People's Climate March.

12: Number of hours that the Center's executive director and cofounder spent in jail after Flood Wall Street action in New York City.

7.7: Metric tons of insects not consumed each year in the eastern United States because of die-off of the **northern long-eared bat** due to white-nose syndrome.

35,000: Number of **walrus** that hauled out on an Alaskan beach on a single day because of dwindling sea ice.

7: Number of states Frostpaw visited to birddog President Obama on Keystone XL.

1: Number of times Obama said hi to Frostpaw.

400: Number of television stations that were sent our PSA on saving **polar bears** with the hopes of reaching 100 million viewers.

25: Number of years the Center for Biological Diversity has been fighting for the wild.

450 million: Number of acres of wildlife habitat the Center has protected...so far.

Join us: They all deserve a chance.

Wild animals great and small — wolves, polar bears, grizzlies, sea turtles and more — are relying on us.

And we're relying on you. Your membership gift in 2015 will ensure that our scientists, lawyers and activists meet the challenges ahead with another year of victories for wildlife and wild places.

Renew your membership today.

To renew your support for 2015, please send your donation in the enclosed envelope, call our membership team toll-free at (866) 357-3349 or give online at Donate.BiologicalDiversity.org/winter.

To join the Owls Club by making a planned gift to the Center, such as a bequest, a charitable trust, a gift of insurance or a pension, contact Director of Development Paula Simmonds at (646) 770-7206 or email psimmonds@biologicaldiversity.org. To view our planned giving information online, visit BiologicalDiversity.org/owlsclub.





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Saving Homes

From the Director

Kierán Suckling

You don't save endangered species without saving the places they live.

Sometimes that means protecting thousands of miles of ocean for massive bowhead whales; sometimes it's protecting a few bathtub-sized tidal pools for nearly-invisible fairy shrimp.

By any measure 2014 was a landmark year in critical habitat protection, both for the Center and for some of the rarest animals in the United States. After fighting for loggerhead sea turtles for 15 years, we won an unprecedented 300,000 square miles of protected Atlantic Ocean habitat for these great and highly endangered ancient reptiles — as well as 685 miles of beaches stretching up and down the East Coast from Mississippi to North Carolina.

This was the largest critical habitat designation in history — and in December, also in response to years of Center work, an even larger preserve was proposed for Alaska's ringed seals,

beleaguered by global warming and the melting Arctic. By the end of 2015, the federal government announced, it would finalize protection for up to 226 million acres of habitat — at more than 350,000 square miles, it's an area twice the size of California.

These are phenomenal outcomes, as were the 25 million acres of land protected this year for Canada lynx, 750,000 acres for jaguars and 1,000 square miles of water for rockfish in Puget Sound — but we're equally proud of the 5,500 acres we got protected for a Nevada butterfly and the 2,000 we secured for a Kentucky flower. Even small designations can make the difference between life and death — survival and extinction.

The Center has achieved definitive legal protection for more than 450 million acres over the past 25 years, and we're not done yet — not by a long shot. I thank you for trusting us with your support and belief.

Endangered earth

is the membership newsletter of the Center for Biological Diversity. With the support of more than 800,000 members and supporters, the Center works through science, law and creative media to secure a future for all species, great or small, hovering on the brink of extinction. *Endangered Earth* is published three times yearly in January, July and October and printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper with solvent-free vegetable-based inks.

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ringed seal
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CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Because life is good.