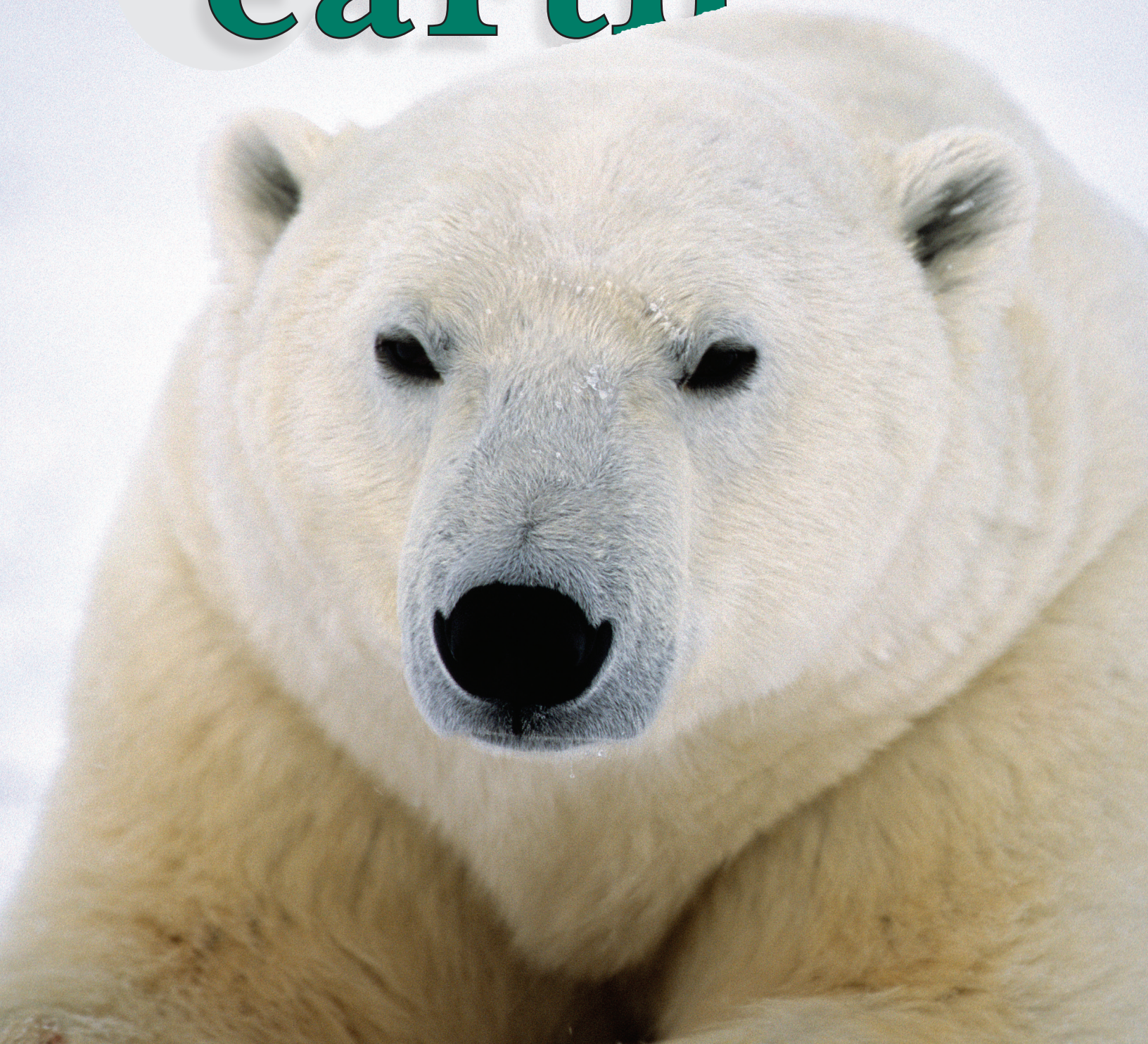


# Endangered earth



CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

WINTER 2016



# LOVE

## IS THE ROOT OF EVERY BATTLE AGAINST EVERY EXTINCTION

**N**ews of the dramatic decline of monarch butterflies prompted a global media explosion, and heartfelt offers by children, scientists, gardeners, car dealers and people of all stripes to help in any way possible.

Among them was a prominent attorney, who emailed me tattered pages from a children's book called *The Travels of Monarch X*. His mother had given it to him in 1970, when he was 10, inscribed with the words: "To our little environmentalist." He's kept it to this day.

This is why the Center for Biological Diversity exists: love. Love for the beauty, diversity and mystery of the Earth's species. Love is the root of every battle against every extinction.

Our love of wild creatures begins in childhood — in a fascination with squirrels and salamanders in the backyard, doves fluttering down to the apartment balcony, ants parading bits of bread across the road.

It grows with books and film and toys and songs. There we encounter the rest of the plant and animal kingdoms — exotic, far-flung creatures we'll never see for ourselves. Plants half a world away, but strangely familiar. Animals that live in the depths of the ocean or that roamed the Earth before we were born.

Plants and animals are the images, sounds and lives that anchor the child's burgeoning imagination. We learn the world and explore society through their richness, splendor and diversity. Like the Chilean poet, children come to know the Earth and themselves bird by bird, frog by frog, story by story.

Ours is a culture of science, law, politics and writing. So for 25 years the Center has researched, litigated, lobbied and published. We bring every possible power to bear to save monarchs, jaguars and asters. But it is the love of life and what lives, and a sense that humanity itself is at stake, that moves us.

We've been around for 25 years now, and each of those years has been a song of praise for the animals and plants that make up, but are too swiftly disappearing from, this world. Each has been inspired by nature lovers who call and email, who send notes and dollar bills, who knock on our windows to say: *Please, don't let them slip away.*

Thank you for being with us in our love of the wild.



—Kieran Suckling, Executive Director





# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ADVOCACY

- Restored protections for wolves in Wyoming through a court victory, oversaw the third year in a row of no wolves killed in Oregon, and led the effort to return wolves to the West Coast and expand wolf populations in the Southwest.
- Opposed efforts by Congress to gut protections for endangered species, including by releasing a report documenting a 600 percent increase in legislative attacks on endangered species and the oil and gas money behind those attacks.
- Won final endangered species protection for eight species, including black pine snakes, northern long-eared bats and Langford's tree snails. Won proposed protection for another 33, including eastern massasauga rattlesnakes, Big Sandy crayfish, Kentucky arrow darters and Elfin Woods warblers in Puerto Rico.

## POPULATION & SUSTAINABILITY

- Redesignated our Endangered Species Condoms with new artwork, and sustainable, fair-trade materials; distributed more than 100,000 condoms through our volunteer network to highlight the connection between human population growth and the wildlife extinction crisis; and launched a "Whacked for Wildlife" campaign urging men to get vasectomies.
- Mobilized students at 175 colleges and universities across the country to lead actions to improve sustainability by reducing meat consumption on their campuses.
- Helped lead a coalition of environmental, animal and health-advocacy groups to drive a national conversation about the need for meat reduction and sustainability in food guidelines.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- The Center solidified our long commitment to battling the proliferation of toxins that hurt both humans and wildlife by launching the Environmental Health program in 2015.
- Won a landmark settlement forcing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to analyze the impacts of the two most commonly used pesticides in the United States, atrazine and glyphosate — accounting for nearly 40 percent of total pesticide-use volume — on 1,500 endangered plants and animals nationwide.
- Gained strong protections for California's drinking water and fish from destructive suction dredge mining.

## CLIMATE

- Successfully pushed the EPA to acknowledge that airplane pollution poses a major climate threat — the first step toward regulation of this soaring, uncontrolled source of greenhouse gas.
- Exposed the water contamination scandal in California, where oil companies are using protected underground drinking water as a dump for toxic waste fluid.
- Halted construction of a new oilfield on California's Central Coast and challenged numerous other fracking, oil drilling, and rail and barge oil-transport projects.
- Celebrated the victory of President Obama's rejection of the Keystone XL pipeline and traveled to Paris in December to urge action on the global climate crisis.
- Led the fight against oil trains, including by publishing a major report showing that more than 1 million California students attend school near oil-train routes.



## WILDLIFE HABITAT

- Won more than 4.6 million acres of protected critical habitat for endangered species, including:
- Nearly 7,000 square miles for Hawaiian monk seals;
- 5,000 acres for Mount Charleston blue butterflies in Nevada;
- 229,000 acres for rabbitsfoot mussels, threatened by water pollution, mining, dredging, dams and displacement by exotic mollusks in the Southeast.

## OCEANS

- Advocated to stop dangerous offshore drilling in California by mobilizing public outrage and challenging offshore fracking permits.
- Won a lawsuit challenging the Navy's unfettered use of sonar and bombing in biologically sensitive areas for whales and dolphins.
- Celebrated Shell's withdrawal from drilling in the Chukchi Sea and the government's cancellation of new Arctic oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic following a long-standing campaign, lawsuits and protests.

## PUBLIC LANDS

- Launched our innovative "Keep It in the Ground" campaign urging the president to halt all new federal fossil fuel leases of coal, oil, gas, oil shale and tar sands to prevent climate catastrophe and the industrialization of America's public lands and oceans.
- Pushed for protections for greater sage grouse across 11 western states by reining in mining, oil, gas and roads.
- Built diverse public and political support for four new spectacular national monuments: the proposed Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in Arizona and Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains national monuments in California.

## INTERNATIONAL

- Opened our first international office in La Paz, Mexico, to continue our fight to protect Mexico's incredibly diverse wildlife, including efforts to stave off extinction for the vaquita, stop Mexico's massive bycatch of loggerhead sea turtles, and defeat a major seabed-mining project in prime whale habitat.
- Petitioned to protect several animals imperiled by the wildlife trade, including both species of African elephants (forest and savannah) and pangolins, the world's most-trafficked mammals.
- As a result of our lawsuit, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed new regulations to ban the import of seafood that doesn't meet U.S. marine mammal protection standards.



## IN THE COMING YEAR, WITH YOU AT OUR SIDE, WE WILL:

- Protect America's wolves and other wildlife at the brink of extinction by ensuring their protection, securing safeguards for their habitat and fighting off congressional attacks by those looking to weaken the Endangered Species Act.
- Build a powerful national movement around our "Keep it in the Ground" campaign to halt new fossil fuel leasing on public lands and oceans; and expand our efforts to protect forests, deserts and grasslands.
- Harness the power of grassroots activism and existing law to block new fossil fuel projects and speed the transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy over the next decades.
- Transform the national conversation around sustainability to include family planning and reproductive justice, the urgent need to reduce meat production and consumption, and a vision for a wildlife-friendly energy future.
- Seek protections for wildlife big and small, including elephants and pangolins, imperiled by international trade and extend strong U.S. wildlife conservation standards abroad.
- Secure protections for imperiled marine species and sensitive habitat; challenge offshore oil and gas leasing and fracking; stop whale entanglements in fishing gear; and stem the tide of plastic into our oceans.
- Continue to challenge the EPA's broken pesticide-approval process to ensure that people and endangered wildlife are protected from dangerous new products; work to protect North America's most imperiled pollinators; enforce the Clean Air Act to help all of us breathe easier; stop heavily polluting projects that hurt people and wildlife.

# 2016

LOOKING  
FORWARD







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## Endangered earth

is the membership newsletter of the Center for Biological Diversity. With the support of more than 900,000 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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*Because life is good.*

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