

# Endangered earth

WINTER 2011



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CENTER *for* BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

# 2010 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## ARCTIC

- Won 120 million acres of protected habitat for **polar bears** along Alaska's north coast.
- Stopped oil and gas drilling in Alaska's Chukchi Sea via court order, blocked Shell Oil's plans to drill in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas, and successfully pressured BP to postpone its planned Liberty project — which would construct the world's most powerful drilling rig and longest horizontal well in the Arctic Ocean.



*Bearded seal*

- Secured proposed protections for the ice-dependent **ringed and bearded seals** under the Endangered Species Act.

## OVERPOPULATION

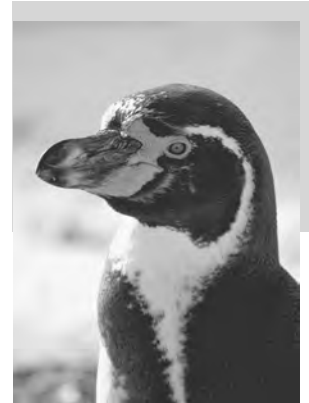
- Distributed 350,000 free Endangered Species Condoms in our campaign to raise awareness of the link between human overpopulation and the extinction crisis.
- Launched *Pop X*, a monthly newsletter exploring overpopulation's impacts on endangered species and wild places.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ADVOCACY

- Won restored Endangered Species Act protections for northern Rocky Mountains wolves, advanced Mexican gray wolves toward distinct protections under the Act, and filed a groundbreaking petition to recover **gray wolves** across more of their former U.S. range nationwide.
- Petitioned to stop the spread of white-nose syndrome — which has killed more than 1 million U.S. bats — by closing federally managed caves; sought Endangered Species Act protection for the **eastern small-footed, northern long-eared** and **little brown bats**, hit hard by the disease.
- Launched a nationwide boycott of restaurants serving **bluefin tuna** — which has been nearly overfished to extinction — and petitioned to gain Endangered Species Act protection for the majestic fish's Atlantic population.
- Filed a scientific petition to protect 404 freshwater animals in the southeastern U.S. under the Endangered Species Act.
- Hired the world's first and only attorney dedicated exclusively to protecting amphibians and reptiles.
- Won a long-overdue federal agreement to grant American **jaguars** protected critical habitat and a recovery plan.
- Pressured the Obama government, in the courts and the media, to speed action for long-delayed protection of 254 “candidate” plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act.

## CLIMATE

- Won Endangered Species Act protection for six species of penguin threatened by global warming: the **Humboldt** of Peru and Chile; the **yellow-eyed, white-flipped, erect-crested** and **Fiordland** of New Zealand; and the **African penguin**.
- Petitioned to gain Endangered Species Act protection for four warming-threatened mountaintop species: the **'i'iwi** (a Hawaiian songbird), **white-tailed ptarmigan**, **Bicknell's thrush** and **San Bernardino flying squirrel**.
- Through petitions and lawsuits, pressed the EPA to cut pollution from U.S. coal mines, trains, ships and aircraft, as well as black carbon pollution, or “soot,” on sea ice and glaciers.
- At United Nations climate talks in China and Mexico, urged world leaders to prevent catastrophic warming by reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide to 350 parts per million or fewer.
- Compelled the EPA to urge states to identify coastal waters impaired by ocean acidification.



*Humboldt penguin*



*Northern long-eared bat*

# SAVING SPECIES AND HABITAT



*California red-legged frog*

- Secured Endangered Species Act protection for 73 plants and animals, including the **Chilean woodstar**, **Andean flamingo** and 12 other foreign birds; the **Kaua'i creeper**, **flying earwing damselfly** and 48 other Hawaiian species; the **Georgia pigtoe mussel** and two snails in the southeastern U.S.; and six penguins on three continents.
- Protected more than 166 million acres and 170 river miles as “critical habitat” for 60 threatened and endangered species, from the **polar bear**, **leatherback sea turtle** and **California red-legged frog** to the **large-flowered woolly meadowfoam**, **Hine's emerald dragonfly** and **vermilion darter**.

## GULF OIL SPILL

- After the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, exposed government mismanagement that exempted hundreds of drilling operations, including BP's Deepwater Horizon, from environmental review.
- Filed the largest citizen suit ever under the Clean Water Act to make BP pay \$19 billion for Gulf devastation.
- Filed an emergency lawsuit that helped save **sea turtles** from BP's spill-containment oil burns.
- Fought other dangerous offshore operations with lawsuits in the Gulf and the Arctic.

## WILD LANDS

- Won a legal settlement protecting more than 1 million acres of roadless areas in four Southern California national forests — home to the **arroyo toad**, **Santa Ana sucker** and **California spotted owl** — from development.
- Stopped a destructive 4,400-acre hydrofracking plan in a West Virginia national forest.
- Halted logging on more than 100 acres of ancient redwood forest in California and filed suit to block highway expansion through more redwoods in Richardson Grove State Park.
- Stopped grazing on more than 500,000 federal acres to protect **steelhead trout** in Oregon and **grizzly bears** in greater Yellowstone.
- Filed suit to stop the 677-mile Ruby natural gas pipeline, which would cross more than 1,000 waterways in five western states, from hurting the **Lahontan cutthroat trout** and eight other endangered fish.

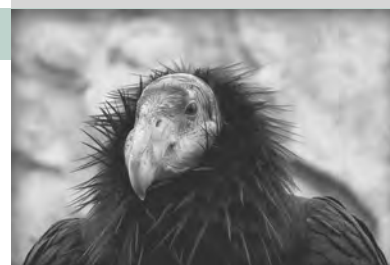


*Stephen's kangaroo rat*

- Saved a 1,100-acre California preserve for the **Stephen's kangaroo rat** — also home to the **least Bell's vireo**, **burrowing owl** and **southwestern willow flycatcher** — from industrial development.

## TOXICS

- Took the EPA to court after it denied our petition for a national ban on the use of lead hunting ammunition and fishing tackle, which poisons wildlife like **eagles** and **California condors** and also harms people.
- Won a ban on the use of 75 pesticides threatening 11 endangered species in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- Launched legal action against the EPA for its failure to consider the impacts of nearly 400 pesticides on hundreds of protected species.
- Petitioned the EPA to regulate endocrine-disrupting chemicals — which pollute waterways and cause reproductive and other developmental harm to wildlife and humans.



*California condor*

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# 2010 THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

**260,000:** Square miles of protected “critical habitat” secured by the Center for endangered species in 2010

**187,000:** Square miles secured for the polar bear in the largest designation of critical habitat ever

**3:** Rank in size of the newly designated polar bear habitat if it were a state, after Alaska and Texas

**73:** Species protected in 2010 under the Endangered Species Act through Center efforts

**51:** Those in Hawaii

**26:** Average number of new species protected by the Obama government each year so far

**65:** The Clinton annual average

**58:** The George H.W. Bush annual average

**254:** Species stuck on the “candidate” waiting list for Endangered Species Act protection even though the government admits they could go extinct there

**16:** Number of species the Obama administration has put on that list but not protected

**30:** Years the white fringeless orchid has been a candidate

**29:** Measurement in inches of the longest Ozark hellbender, North America’s largest amphibian

**9:** Years the hellbender languished on the candidate list before Center efforts advanced it toward full protection this year

**24:** Species that have gone extinct after being listed as a candidate

**More than 1.1 million:** Number of actions taken by members of the Center’s online activist network in 2010 to protect endangered species, wild lands, clean air and water, and a healthier planet

**71,740:** Actions taken urging the Obama administration to ban new offshore oil drilling after the Gulf disaster

**36,565:** Actions taken to fight mountaintop removal coal mining

**56,325:** Actions taken to protect North American bats from white-nose syndrome

**More than 1 million:** Bats that have already died from the disease

**12,240:** Online supporters calling on the Discovery Channel to drop the not-so-wildlife-friendly show *Sarah Palin’s Alaska*

**\$1.2 million:** Palin’s estimated paycheck per episode

## 2,440

Miles biked from Fairbanks, Alaska, to San Francisco by Center supporter George Makrinos, who with teammates raised \$2,000 for the Center’s Gulf Disaster Fund



## 3

Photo shoots held by the Center’s Frostpaw for media at climate talks in Cancún, to send world leaders the message that failure to drastically cut emissions now will mean extinction for polar bears and other species



**315,000:** Number of Center members and supporters in 2010

**9,897:** Those in California

**3,143:** Those in New York

**2:** Those in Iceland

**350:** Parts per million atmospheric carbon dioxide that climate scientists call the upper limit to prevent catastrophic global warming and protect life on Earth

**387:** Current parts per million of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>

**62,000:** Signers of our People’s Petition to Cap Carbon Dioxide Pollution at 350

**25 million:** Estimated number of people who saw our gigantic extinction crisis TV ad in New York City’s Times Square over the holidays

**62:** Lawsuits filed by the Center in 2010

**391:** Center press releases issued

**55:** Press releases issued in June during the height of the Gulf oil spill



99

Number of countries represented by signers of the Center's bluefin boycott pledge

**50:** Miles per hour that a bluefin tuna can swim

**80:** Percent by which Atlantic bluefin have declined since 1970 due to overfishing

**More than 23,400:** Number of people who have signed the Center's bluefin boycott pledge since its late-November launch

**206 million:** Gallons of oil spilled in the Gulf of Mexico

**6,813:** Dead birds, sea turtles and mammals collected in the wake of the spill

**7:** Center lawsuits launched in response to the spill

**\$19 billion:** Amount sought in penalties in Center lawsuit against BP

**150,000:** Estimated number of people who signed the petition to save sea turtles from being burned alive during BP's cleanup

**2:** Days after Center and allies announced legal action that BP and the Coast Guard agreed to new procedures to protect sea turtles from "controlled" oil burns

**1,283:** Average number of monthly Center media mentions from January through April

**2,018:** Average number of monthly Center media mentions during the height of the Gulf oil spill in May, June and July

**21:** Interviews given to Iranian radio about the Gulf disaster

**350,000:** Endangered Species Condoms the Center distributed in the 50 states and abroad, to highlight the connection between overpopulation and the extinction crisis

**42:** Mexican gray wolves counted during a January 2010 survey in Arizona and New Mexico

**19:** Percent decline of the Mexican wolf population from 2009

**0:** Mexican wolves released into the wild from the captive-breeding program since 2006

**8:** Mexican wolves whose release has been indefinitely delayed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**10 million to 20 million:** Estimated wild bird deaths per year from consuming lead hunting ammo and lead tackle

**493:** Number of scientific studies submitted in the Center's petition to ban lead in tackle and ammo

**66:** Number of conservation, hunting and veterinary groups that have signed on in support of our lead petition

**1:** Number of lawsuits the Center filed against the EPA for denying the lead petition

**77,441:** Downloads of the Center's endangered species ringtones and cell phone wallpapers in 2010

**8,021:** Downloads of ringtones and wallpapers for the orca

**4,063:** Downloads of ringtones and wallpapers for the coquí guajón (Puerto Rican rock frog)

10,817

Estimated miles traveled by Endangered Species Condoms that reached a women's health workshop in Madagascar



START YOUR YEAR OFF RIGHT

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

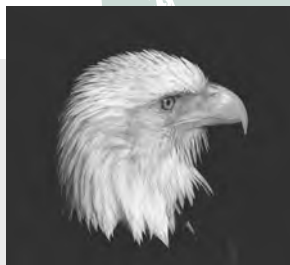
Our members' support helped the Center win record-setting victories for endangered species in 2010 — from taking more legal actions than ever for imperiled plants, animals and wild places, to securing for Alaska's polar bears the designation of the largest habitat preserve in Endangered Species Act history. With your help, we led the way in the fight to hold BP accountable for the Gulf oil spill disaster and in hard-hitting national campaigns to protect wildlife from lead ammunition and wolves from renewed government attacks.

But 2011 brings a new Congress hostile to wildlife and wildlands; already, it's moving to strip wolves of protection, increase oil drilling and launch new attacks on the Endangered Species Act. We've weathered these attacks before, with a track record no other endangered species protection group in the country can match. **Your membership support will ensure our team of scientists, lawyers and activists meets the challenges ahead with another year of landmark victories.** To renew your support for 2011, simply call our membership team at (866) 357-3349 or renew online at [renew.biologicaldiversity.org/winter](http://renew.biologicaldiversity.org/winter). Or to contribute regularly to the Center as a Monthly Sustaining Member, sign up online at [sustain.biologicaldiversity.org/winter](http://sustain.biologicaldiversity.org/winter).



We'll build on 2010 victories for **polar bears**, fighting to preserve the bears' newly won 120-million-acre critical habitat along Alaska's north coast and pressuring the Obama government to give the species maximum protection. We'll add to recent court victories to block offshore drilling in Alaska, where a spill would devastate polar bears, **beluga whales** and **sea lions**. We'll also fight oil drilling in pristine habitat like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Arctic Reserve, the largest unprotected wilderness in the United States and home to rare species like **Steller's eiders** and **yellow-billed loons**.

We'll move forward our landmark lawsuit against the EPA to ban toxic lead in hunting ammunition and fishing tackle that kills millions of birds in the wild every year, including **bald eagles** and endangered **California condors**.



The Bush years may be over, but President Obama's Interior Department is still waging a brutal war on endangered species. We'll stop it from obliterating critical Endangered Species Act protections for species — such as Yellowstone **grizzly bears** — still in danger of going extinct; we'll make sure science, not politics, decides what protections are needed.



The new Congress has wolves in its crosshairs. We'll keep pushing for recovery of **Mexican gray wolves** in the Southwest, fight the federal government's plans to take wolves off the endangered list, advocate for a national recovery plan and stop state agencies from gunning down wolves.



We'll ensure our public lands are healthy enough to serve as refuges for embattled species such as the tiny **Coleman's coralroot**, an orchid that's just been discovered and — thanks to livestock grazing, off-road vehicles, climate change and a massive proposed open-pit copper mine — is already close to vanishing.



Saving the cold-blooded, slimy and scaly will be front and center this year, kicking off with a landmark suit against the EPA for failing to evaluate and regulate the harmful effects of nearly 400 pesticides on **arroyo toads** and hundreds more federally listed species nationwide — including nearly 200 fish, reptiles and amphibians.

In the aftermath of the biggest oil spill in U.S. history, we'll doggedly pursue our \$19 billion lawsuit against BP to pay for recovery of the Gulf of Mexico and help its wildlife — like the rare **Kemp's ridley sea turtle** — come back. We'll keep after government regulators to ensure a spill like this never again happens in the Gulf, Arctic or anywhere else in U.S. waters.



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# 2011 ACTION PLAN

We'll use the full might of our Climate Law Institute to prevent global warming from driving **Arctic foxes** and other species extinct. To avoid the worst effects of warming — the greatest environmental threat in human history — we'll need to use the Clean Air Act and other existing national laws to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels to 350 parts per million or below.



White-nose syndrome has already cut a deadly swath through **bat populations** in the Northeast and is moving westward at an alarming rate. We'll force the federal government to finally take action to halt its spread and provide much-needed funding for disease research.



Overfished and hit hard by the Gulf oil spill, **Atlantic bluefin tuna** are careening toward extinction. We'll build on the intensity of our high-profile, coast-to-coast bluefin sushi boycott launched in 2010 and win federal protection for this remarkable species.



As we map out the Center's top priorities for 2011, we're counting on the commitment of our 315,000 supporters to extend our reach and multiply our victories. The new year ushers in the challenges of a decidedly anti-environment Congress and mounting threats to species' survival, but our hardworking, fast-acting staff is ready to do what's needed to keep winning protections for rare and imperiled plants, animals and places.

Together, we'll defend the Endangered Species Act against attack, shielding gray wolves, polar bears and jaguars from attempts to undercut their hard-won safeguards and pressing to bring them crucial new protections. We'll keep pushing to get rid of offshore oil drilling that threatens marine ecosystems coast to coast — including Alaska, where a single spill could have devastating consequences for animals such as seals, walruses and whales. We'll hold polluters' feet to the fire, win federal protection of majestic bluefin tuna, work to halt the runaway spread of white-nose syndrome before it wipes bat populations off the map, and ramp up our fight for fish, amphibians and reptiles with groundbreaking pesticides-reduction and freshwater-species campaigns.

And to ensure the survival of every species — including us — we'll tackle the gravest threats on Earth: climate change, human overpopulation and overconsumption, and the extinction crisis. We'll expand our innovative overpopulation campaign, distribute more Endangered Species Condoms and expose the link between unsustainable human population growth and species extinction in *Pop X*, our new overpopulation newsletter. Working through our Climate Law Institute to save wildlife from global warming, we'll also make sure the lessons of 2010's catastrophic Gulf oil spill don't go unlearned.



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## Building on an Epic Year

From the Director

*Kieran Suckling*

**ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, 2010 WAS AN EPIC** year for the environment — and the Center was in the thick of it at every turn.

We exposed an unbelievably corrupt U.S. Minerals Management Service in the wake of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill crisis, ultimately succeeding in having the agency abolished and deep reforms made to offshore oil drilling across the country.

We celebrated the designation of 120 million acres of protected habitat for the polar bear in Alaska, and we marked major court victories for wolves, steelhead trout, grizzly bears, sea turtles and dozens of other endangered species. We sounded the alarm for white-nose syndrome, a fungus wiping out eastern bats; stopped pesticide spraying in New Mexico and San Francisco Bay; launched a campaign to ban lead poisoning from bullets; and traveled to China and Mexico to fight for drastic cuts in greenhouse pollution.

We gave away 350,000 Endangered Species Condoms, starting a vigorous national conversation about overpopulation

and species extinction; launched a nationwide boycott of imperiled bluefin tuna; won an award for our polar bear television public service announcement; and ran an “extinction crisis” public service announcement on a massive electronic billboard in the middle of Times Square over the holidays.

It was an exciting, dramatic and at times heart-wrenching year. What I’ll remember most is that all of us — and all of you — were in the fight every single day to save wolves, polar bears, snails, birds, plants, flowers, fish and coral reefs. You, our members, made more than 1 million phone calls, emails and letters to government decision-makers to help us protect endangered species and their habitats.

2011 is shaping up to be just as fast and furious. In fact, we’re expecting many of the issues we tackled in 2010 to be on the agenda again this year, plus a new set of challenges. The Obama administration continues to move slowly in protecting imperiled species, the new Congress is already waging war on the Endangered Species Act, and threats to imperiled plants and wildlife — from habitat destruction to climate change and overpopulation — show no sign of letting up.

But I’m optimistic as a new year begins. We’re in this fight for the long haul, and every year we build on a string of new victories and new protections for species that need it most. So whether you’ve supported the Center for years or you’ve just joined, I thank you. Here’s to 2011. •

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## Endangered earth

is the membership newsletter of the Center for Biological Diversity. With the support of more than 315,000 members and online activists, 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 November and printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper with solvent-free vegetable-based inks.

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CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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