

ENDANGERED

EARTH



CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY • WINTER 2026

From the Director: **ACTS OF HOPE**

There's no doubt the past year has been tough, but it's in hard times that character is revealed. I've felt proud watching the Center's grit and perseverance rise to the occasion in a climate so hostile to conservation, resulting in crucial, on-the-ground wins for wildlife from coast to coast.

We've secured new protections for species at the brink of extinction, including fish, snakes and flowers, and proposed safeguards for some 850,000 acres of their wild homes. In West Virginia we shut down coal mining in key habitat for beautiful, endangered fish called candy darters; in California we reached a historic agreement to end most cattle grazing in the Point Reyes National Seashore. We've won trade bans on pangolins, the most trafficked mammals in the world, and stood up against Trump's "Alligator Alcatraz" detention center in the heart of the Everglades.

We notched legal victories for grizzly habitat in Montana, secured new protections for corals overseas and, fighting sprawl in California, won permanent habitat safeguards for foothill yellow-legged frogs, western pond turtles, and rare plants. In North Carolina, as we celebrated the arrival of four litters of red wolf pups born in the wild, we also helped secure funds for one of the country's largest wildlife crossings to provide them safe passage.

Every action we take, every lawsuit we file, every petition we write, and every time we speak up for the wild is an act of hope. Each victory is a win for the future, a step closer to fulfilling our promise to the wild, and each other, for generations to come.

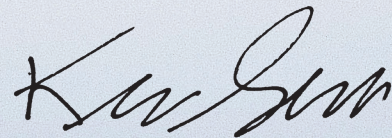
But there are colossal fights ahead.

Just before the year ended, the Trump administration rolled out plans to decimate the Endangered Species Act, the world's most powerful tool for stopping extinctions.

Around the same time, they released a proposal that could open up more than 1 billion acres of offshore ocean areas to oil and gas lease sales. That's in addition to wanting to drill in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, one of the largest and most spectacular reaches of our public lands system.

They're trying to rescind the roadless rule, which protects some of the wildest and most unspoiled places on the continent. And they're ramming through plans to allow for more mining, logging, pesticides, and pollution.

We know what we're up against and, with your support, we'll be ready for every fight that comes our way. Now more than ever, I'm grateful to have you at our side.



Kieran Suckling
Executive Director



2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Protecting Endangered Species

- Obtained proposed Endangered Species Act protections for southern hognose snakes, Barrens darters, and ghost orchids.
- Won lawsuits requiring consideration of Endangered Species Act safeguards for Chinook salmon, southern bog turtles, roughhead shiners, Berry Cave salamanders, Clover's cactus and Rio Grande shiners, as well as increased protection for streaked horned larks.
- Filed Endangered Species Act petitions to protect scores of species, including mimic glass lizards, Bendire's and LeConte's thrashers, Willamette phlox, Wilcox playa tiger beetles, Columbia yellowcress, thin-leaved peavine, Goose Lake suckers, Goose Lake lampreys, and Goose Lake tui chubs.

- Our landmark constitutional case challenging unchecked oil and gas pollution in New Mexico advanced to the state Supreme Court. Also won a ban on the disposal of toxic fracking waste into the soil and water outside of oil fields in New Mexico.
- Successfully opposed a massive industrial project in California that would have logged forests so wood pellets could be burned in coal-fired power plants in Europe and Asia.
- Sued over the Delfin deepwater LNG project, an industrial facility 40 miles off the Louisiana coast that would be the first offshore project in the United States to export fracked gas.



Climate

- Obtained the proposed designation of 760,000 acres of critical habitat for foothill yellow-legged frogs and 91,000 acres for the San Francisco Bay population of longfin smelt. Won lawsuits requiring protection of critical habitat for Mt. Graham red squirrels and eastern black rails.
- Shut down coal mining in critical habitat for stunning, highly endangered candy darter fish in West Virginia's Cherry River Watershed.
- Reached a historic agreement to end most cattle grazing in California's Point Reyes National Seashore.



Safeguarding Habitat



International

- Secured bans on seafood imports from 42 nations that lack whale and dolphin protection measures in their fisheries.
- Prompted an international investigation criticizing Mexico's failure to protect critically endangered vaquitas from dying in fishing nets.
- Obtained a U.S. trade ban for imperiled pangolins — the world's most trafficked mammals — and butterflies from Brazil through Endangered Species Act listing.



Carnivores

- In response to one of our lawsuits, a federal judge ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had broken the law when it denied our petition to protect wolves across the West under the Endangered Species Act.
- Won crucial legal victories that defended grizzly bear habitat from destructive logging in Montana's Kootenai National Forest and from expanded grazing near Yellowstone National Park.
- Through advocacy and organizing for Mexican wolves, persuaded decisionmakers to release "Asha" and her family from captivity into wildlands of New Mexico.
- Celebrated news of new wolf packs in California and Colorado and continued pushing for ongoing state and federal protections.

- Helped defeat a dangerous U.S. Senate scheme that would have sold millions of acres of public lands to private developers and corporations.
- Kicked off a landmark campaign to defeat the Trump administration's plans to strip protections from 45 million acres of the last undeveloped portions of our national forests and open them to harmful roadbuilding and extractive activities.
- Halted logging of old-growth forests in North Carolina's Nolichucky River Gorge, one of the wildest river gorges in the East.



Public Lands

2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Environmental Health

- Obtained court-ordered deadlines for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete Endangered Species Act consultations for six of the pesticides most harmful to wildlife: chlorpyrifos, diazinon, atrazine, simazine, carbaryl, and methomyl.
- Marked our 50th win in an epic decade of clean-air lawsuits aimed at cutting smog, soot, and other air pollution, winning lifesaving protections for countless imperiled species and nearly half the country's human population — some 152 million people living in 34 states.
- Successfully challenged the air-pollution permit for a massive new heavy metals mine in the Patagonia Mountains of southern Arizona and launched challenges to air-pollution permits for other dirty mines in the U.S. Southwest.

- Following a win in the California Court of Appeal against the Guenoc Valley development, permanently protected over 3,500 acres of habitat for oak woodlands, golden eagles, foothill yellow-legged frogs, western pond turtles, and rare plants in Lake County.
- Secured a significant win against Tejon Ranch's Centennial development when the California Court of Appeal concluded that Los Angeles County had failed to thoroughly analyze and reduce climate and wildfire risk from the massive development, which proposes to bring 57,000 residents to a high fire-risk, remote area on the county's outskirts.
- Submitted petitions to secure California state protections for Pacific pocket mice and Quino checkerspot butterflies, both awarded candidacy protections.



Urban Wildlands

- Stood up to the Trump administration over Florida's "Alligator Alcatraz" detention center with litigation to halt operations, force environmental reviews, and protect the Everglades.
- In Alaska, challenged a state plan to kill an unlimited number of brown and black bears across 40,000 square miles and teamed up with Alaska Native tribes to sue the Trump administration for trading away federally protected wilderness to pave the way for a road through Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.
- Celebrated the arrival of four litters of red wolf pups born in the wild in North Carolina, the most successful breeding season of the past decade, and helped secure funds for one of the country's largest wildlife crossings, slated for construction.



Across Regions



Oceans

- Filed the first environmental lawsuit against the second Trump administration, challenging an illegal executive order attempting to undo ocean protections from offshore oil and gas drilling.
- Won critical habitat protections for five threatened species of Indo-Pacific coral around Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Pacific Remote Island Areas.
- Spurred the formation of the first federal task force to protect Pacific humpback whales from deadly entanglements in fishing gear, stemming from a 2023 legal victory.



Population and Sustainability

- Led the successful effort to update FDA food code guidance to support swapping single-use for reusable containers.
- Celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Endangered Species Condoms project with special giveaways and events featuring species the Center fights to protect.
- Published a guide to expand our award-winning campus Library of Things project to colleges and universities across the country.

- Won a precedent-setting victory at the California Supreme Court, which ruled for the first time that California courts must independently determine whether decisions by the state utilities commission are lawful, rather than simply deferring to the commission. Now the California Court of Appeals will address how the utilities commission violated the law when it gutted California's net-metering program.
- Won a key lawsuit in Puerto Rico over FEMA's multibillion-dollar plan to rebuild the fossil-fuel-based grid after Hurricane Maria. A federal judge ruled that FEMA must prepare an environmental impact statement that considers whether the money would be better spent on distributed renewable energy like rooftop solar and batteries, rather than propping up the ever-failing and polluting centralized grid.



Energy Justice



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ENDANGERED EARTH

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