

# Endangered earth

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Spring 2004

## Too Long on the Waiting List Center petitions on behalf of 226 species still declining as unprotected “candidates”

In late March, the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list 226 plants and animals as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. These 226 species are currently listed only as “candidates.” That means USFWS has determined that these plants and animals are in need of protection, but has decided to postpone protecting them as endangered species for economic or political reasons.

The Center’s petitions seek to move all 226 plants and animals off that waiting list and onto the Endangered Species list, which would mandate the protections they sorely need.

A number of highly respected scientists joined Center Executive Director Kieran Suckling in signing the petitions, including Harvard nobel laureate E.O. Wilson, Stanford population biologist Paul Ehrlich, and world-famous primate biologist Jane Goodall, as well as nature authors Barbara Kingsolver and Charles Bowden.

Candidate status provides no protection for these species—a frightening proposition since some of the candidates have languished

on the waiting list for more than 20 years. In fact, of the 226 plants and animals we are seeking to protect, 127 have been candidates for at least a decade, 67 have been candidates for at least 20 years, and 58 have been on the list since 1975.

Furthermore, more than 30 species have gone extinct or missing while waiting on the candidate list for endangered species protections. Many others have seriously declined, making recovery even



The Oregon spotted frog has been listed as a Candidate since 1991, but has received no protections even though it has continued to lose habitat and is now missing in as much as 90 percent of its range.

more difficult if the species is ever listed as endangered.

Though fully aware of the gravity of the listing backlog, the Bush Administration has done nothing to turn it around. The Administration has

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not listed a single species except under court order or petition, has delayed and drastically reduced designations of protected “critical habitat,” and is pushing for executive rule changes to undermine the ESA.

By filing these petitions, the Center seeks to end the political stall tactics that have delayed protections for the candidate species too long. The petitions will pressure USFWS to initiate legal timelines to review these species for endangered listings.

Although by law the agency has two years to complete the listing process, it will likely require considerably more time to list these species due to the fact that USFWS is vastly under-funded and unable to meet its legal commitments to protect species under the ESA. In fact, the Bush Administration, through Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, continues to deliberately under-fund the ESA listing program so that USFWS is unable to implement these protections.

Waiting List continued on back page...



# ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

Corrie Bosman, Alaska Program Coordinator

## Unsung Wilderness Under Threat

Not as famous as its counterpart to the east, Alaska's Western Arctic Reserve is every bit as magnificent as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—and every bit as threatened.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a 19 million-acre expanse of wildlands in the northeast corner of Alaska, has been in the national spotlight due to a heated Congressional battle over short-term oil development versus protection of this wilderness and the Alaska natives the land has sustained for thousands of years. However, in Alaska's western Arctic, an equally contentious but less well-known battle is also unfolding.

The Western Arctic Reserve, formally known as the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), is an ecologically unique 23 million-acre expanse of wildlands stretching across the northwest portion of Alaska's Arctic. In fact, the Western Arctic Reserve contains America's largest single block of unprotected federal wilderness.

Like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to the east, the Bush Administration has targeted the western Arctic for oil and gas development. This development threatens the area's diverse fish and wildlife, as well as the Inupiat Eskimos' subsistence lifestyle that has relied on wildlife to provide food, clothing and shelter for thousands of years. Threats to wildlife from oil and gas development include among other things: habitat destruction and fragmentation, risk of oil spills and other chemical contamination, increased predation, and nest disturbance.

The Western Arctic Reserve is comprised of largely pristine wetlands, rolling foothills, and wild rivers that are home to moose, caribou, polar bears, brown bears, grizzly bears, wolves and a number of raptors including the highest breeding densities of peregrine



Teshekpuk Lake wetlands

Photo courtesy of Northern Alaska Environmental Center



Spectacled eider

Photo by Wolfgang Kachler



Polar bear and cubs

falcons, gyrfalcons, and rough-legged hawks in the world. The Reserve also provides critical nesting and molting habitat for several species of geese, as well as dozens of species of other migratory birds including the rare yellow-billed loon (see sidebar).

The marine environment offshore of the Reserve is home to numerous marine mammals including beluga whales, spotted seals and the endangered bowhead whale, for which the Center is working to secure designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act.

Among the many species that would be further imperiled by oil and gas development in the Reserve are the threatened Steller's and spectacled eiders. Following a precipitous decline, the spectacled eider was officially listed as threatened under the ESA in 1993. Spectacled eiders historically nested along much of the southwest and arctic coast of Alaska, but today primary breeding grounds have been reduced

to three locations: the arctic coastal plain of Alaska, the central coast of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and the arctic coastal plain of Russia.

The Steller's eider, the smallest of all the eiders, was listed as threatened under the ESA in June 1997. While historically its U.S. range included the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, other western Alaska habitat and the eastern portion of the North Slope, its range is currently restricted to northern Alaska.



Bowhead Whales



In response to a lawsuit and legal settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity and Christians Caring for Creation, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service designated 40,832 square miles (26,133,120 acres) in Alaska—one of the largest critical habitat designations ever made—for these two eiders in 2001. Unfortunately, the habitat designation did not include essential areas on Alaska's North Slope, including the Western Arctic Reserve, that were included in the proposed designation. Clearly these areas are essential to the survival of these species, but the Bush Administration removed them from the final designation. Not coincidentally, these areas are also the most politically contentious because of their potential to interfere with oil and gas drilling plans.

Now the Steller's and spectacled eiders and their habitat are at risk.

Since it was established in 1923, 10 percent of the land in the Western Arctic Reserve has been leased to oil corporations. In 1998, the Bureau of Land Management elected to open 87 percent of the 4.6 million acre Northeast Planning Area of the Reserve to oil and gas leasing. The Bush Administration is now seeking to open the remaining 13 percent originally set aside as important wildlife habitat—including the Teshekpuk Lake area—to oil and gas development.

The Teshekpuk Lake area is recognized as globally unique for its vast network of coastal lagoons, deep-water lakes, wet sedge grass meadows, and braided streams. It serves as an important nesting area for loons, waterfowl, and shorebirds and a critical goose molting and staging area.

Nearly one-fourth of the world's population of a small goose known as the Pacific black brant use this area as well as the threatened Steller's and spectacled eiders.

In January 2004, the Bush Administration approved opening up all of the nearly nine million acres of the northwest portion of the Reserve

to oil and gas development, offering no special protections for wildlife. This decision clearly ignores more than 95,000 citizens who commented during the review process that they wanted a better balance of development with environmental considerations, as well as more than 100 American scientists who signed a letter to Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton advocating protection of the Reserve's most important wildlife areas.

In February, the Center joined six other conservation groups in a lawsuit challenging the Administration's extreme and unbalanced decision, which violates the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to provide adequate analysis of potential oil and gas leasing and development activities in the Reserve, impacts of these activities, or proposed mitigation measures, and for failure to consider a reasonable range of

alternatives. We have also challenged the decision as violating the Endangered Species Act for failing to consider the full impacts of additional oil and gas leasing on the threatened Steller's and spectacled eiders. The Center's suit seeks to compel the Bureau of the Land Management to go back to the drawing board and address the deficiencies in the analysis, and to strive for ways to protect the wildlife and the people who depend upon the wildness of the Reserve for their survival. ■



## Yellow-billed loon at risk

The yellow-billed loon (*Gavia adamsii*) has the lowest population of all loon species with a global population estimate as low as 16,650 individuals. The primary breeding grounds for the yellow-billed loon in the U.S. occur within the Western Arctic Reserve (an estimated 18 percent of the global population occurs in the Reserve), which is now threatened by oil and



Yellow-billed loon

gas development. While the yellow-billed loon has been recognized as a species of special conservation concern, it continues to face a high risk of extinction due to its small population size, certain natural history characteristics, reproductive isolation, threats from oil and gas and other pending development, and a lack of protective regulatory mechanisms. The Center is spearheading the effort to protect this species and its habitat.

# PROGRAM NEWS...

## Center seeks protection of rare aquatic snake

The Center filed a petition in December 2003 to list the Mexican garter snake as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The aquatic snake is found in Arizona, southwest New Mexico, and Mexico. It is one of hundreds of native riparian species threatened by degradation of rivers and streams in the Southwest and introduction of exotic species.

With the decline of riparian habitat in the Southwest to less than 10 percent of its pre-European extent, the Mexican garter snake has declined to



Photo by Phil Rosen

Mexican garter snake

near extinction in the U.S. This loss has been furthered by the introduction and rapid spread of the inexorable bullfrog, which has been eating its way through the aquatic fauna of the Southwest, including the Mexican garter snake and most of its native prey species.

Populations of the Mexican garter snake are severely fragmented and isolated due to loss and destruction of suitable riparian habitat.

Once listed, the Mexican garter snake will join 30 other southwestern aquatic species already listed under the ESA. Listing of the Mexican garter snake will facilitate conservation of riparian habitat and species by prohibiting habitat destruction from livestock grazing, groundwater pumping

and other factors, directing federal funding toward removal of non-native species, and encouraging additional research on the status of the species.

## Rail line threatens bighorn sheep

Renewed service on a long unused rail line through San Diego and Imperial counties is likely to kill endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep and mar a remote desert wilderness. The Center has notified Carrizo Gorge Railway Inc. of a possible lawsuit if the company proceeds without additional conservation measures.

Regular freight train service will mar the scenic solitude of Anza-Borrego State Park wilderness with noise, blight and fumes.

Train traffic will also harm one of the most robust remaining populations of endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep. The railway traverses roughly 13 miles of essential bighorn habitat through Carrizo Gorge and the surrounding Jacumba Mountains. Construction and renewed service is likely to disturb this population and fragment its habitat.

Freight trains are also likely to kill bighorns. At least two bighorn were struck and killed by trains in this area in the 1970's. The death of at least one bighorn in the 1970's occurred when a train apparently struck an animal seeking shade in a tunnel.

Fires from passing trains also pose a significant threat to people and property, to delicate desert vegetation ill-adapted to fire disturbance, as well as to the endangered sheep.

Center research indicates that neither Anza-Borrego



Peninsular bighorn sheep

State Park officials nor other government environmental oversight agencies were notified of work to re-open the rail line. The Center is working closely with the Sierra Club and Congressman Bob Filner to address harm to this rich desert habitat.

## Wildfire report tracks impacts on habitat

In October 2003, more than a dozen wildfires swept across southern California, burning over 740,000 acres. Various government agencies looked at the impacts of individual fires on imperiled wildlife, but no holistic assessment was conducted of the impacts of all the fires on federally protected species. A cumulative assessment was sorely needed because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continues to permit massive development projects without knowing the combined effects of development and the fires on endangered species habitat.

In February, Center biologist Monica Bond and GIS Specialist Curt Bradley produced a report on the wildfires' impacts on habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and southern California mountain yellow-legged frog. These species have U.S. ranges restricted to southwestern California and are listed as threatened or endangered

under the Endangered Species Act. The report used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data derived from satellite images and individual species observations to quantify the fires' impact.

The results were that wildfires burned 28 percent of habitat for the gnatcatcher, 12 percent of habitat in southern California for the yellow-legged frog, 2 percent of habitat for the vireo, and 27 percent of documented locations where the checkerspot butterfly had been observed.

Fire is a natural and important ecological disturbance in southern California. However, burned habitat can be rendered unsuitable for many species until vegetation re-grows. The response of organisms to fire is complicated by human-caused impacts such as invasion of non-native species, habitat fragmentation, and isolation of habitat patches due to urban sprawl. The Center's report shows that the 2003 fires have had significant impacts on habitat for imperiled wildlife and calls on federal and state wildlife agencies to consider these impacts before approving new development projects.

## Wind turbines illegally slaughter thousands of birds

Each year, more than 1,000 birds—including golden eagles, hawks and other raptors—are killed by wind turbines at Altamont Pass in the San Francisco Bay Area. Birds fly into the whirling blades or are electrocuted by transmission lines. And because of its location along a major migration corridor flush with golden eagles, the Altamont wind farm kills

more birds than any other wind facility in the world.

These alarming deaths led the Center to file a lawsuit in January against two corporations that own or operate about half of the Altamont turbines: FPL Group, Inc., a Florida energy producer, and NEG Micon A/S, a Danish wind power company. The suit seeks to stop activity by the companies in Altamont Pass, alleging that they have engaged in unfair business practices under California law by violating state and federal laws that protect birds, and by profiting from subsidies and tax credits intended to reward environmentally sound business practices.

Photo courtesy of The Raptor Center, University of Minnesota



Golden eagle

Despite extensive studies demonstrating the tragic toll the turbines take on migratory birds, Alameda County renewed permits for more than 3,000 wind turbines this winter without requiring environmental reviews. In response, the Center joined with Californians for Renewable Energy and Golden Gate Audubon Society to file appeals to overturn those permits. The appeals ask the County to require an environmental review of the turbines' impacts on the birds and to take protective measures that would decrease raptor fatalities.

Although the Center vigorously supports wind power as an alternative energy source, it believes the wind power industry has not

taken reasonable steps that could lower the number of bird deaths. Such steps include relocating turbines out of canyons and clustering turbines; letting grasses grow around turbines so raptors are less likely to see and dive for prey; and making turbine blades more visible to birds.

## Forest Service must re-evaluate stream poisoning

The U.S. Forest Service is re-evaluating a stream poisoning project in a Sierra Nevada Wilderness area because of a successful legal challenge filed by the Center last summer.

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest plans to replace non-native rainbow trout planted by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) in Silver King Creek with Paiute cutthroat trout, a native fish listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

However, the Forest Service favors using the pesticide Rotenone to remove the rainbow trout and gave CDFG the go-ahead last fall to administer the poison in 11 miles of the creek for three consecutive years. Silver King Creek lies within a federally protected wilderness area in the central Sierra Nevada range.

The Center and an aquatic ecology specialist stated in the lawsuit that the project failed to thoroughly evaluate the potential ecosystem damage from the poisoning and possible irreversible damage to the food chain Paiute trout depend upon. In fact, the Forest Service monitored Silver King Creek three years after Rotenone was

used from 1991 to 1993 and found that invertebrate diversity, an indicator of stream health, still had not returned to normal levels.

The Forest Service withdrew the project last fall and issued a new environmental analysis released in mid-February. However, the new analysis, while offering a non-toxic alternative, still advocates using poison to remove non-native trout. The agency's revised action plan is due in July, with work on the project slated to begin in the fall.

This would be the fourth time Rotenone is used to remove non-native fish in this creek, yet the Forest Service has failed to seriously consider less toxic and more long-lasting alternatives.

## Center seeks protection for Yellowstone trout

Yellowstone cutthroat trout were once widely distributed throughout the Yellowstone River from its headwaters to the Tongue River, and the Snake River above Shoshone Falls, including portions of southern Montana, northwestern Wyoming, southeastern Idaho, and northern Nevada and Utah. They have been eliminated from most of this historic range by a combination of habitat degradation and replacement by non-native trout.

In response to this catastrophic loss of range, the Biodiversity Legal Foundation (now merged with the Center) filed a petition in 1998 to list the Yellowstone cutthroat as a threatened or endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rejected this petition in 2001. In January

2004, the Center, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, Ecology Center and Pacific Rivers Council filed suit to overturn this negative finding, arguing that USFWS did not properly consider the multitude of threats faced by the Yellowstone cutthroat.

Threats to the Yellowstone cutthroat trout are mounting even in the heart of its diminished range. In 1994, lake trout, a voracious, nonnative predator of cutthroat trout, were discovered in Yellowstone Lake, home of the largest remnant populations of Yellowstone cutthroat. And in 2003, whirling disease, an exotic trout parasite, was found to have decimated Yellowstone cutthroat in Pelican Creek, the principal spawning tributary of Yellowstone Lake.

Listing the Yellowstone cutthroat trout will force better habitat protection, closer monitoring of non-native fish stocking, and raise the profile of the subspecies leading to increased funding for restoration and research.

## Petition filed to list sage grouse as endangered

Greater sage grouse populations have declined precipitously over the last 20 years due to escalated destruction of their habitat. In response, the Center, along with 19 other conservation groups, petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in January to protect the bird under the Endangered Species Act.

Experts think greater sage grouse populations totaled as high as two million in the early 1800's. Now they number only 140,000 to 250,000, with



# PROGRAM NEWS...



Greater sage grouse

their populations plunging 45 to 80 percent in the last 20 years. Agriculture, development, grazing, and substantially increased oil and gas drilling are the major forces eliminating sagebrush ecosystems that the grouse depends on for nesting and food.

Greater sage grouse are now found primarily in eastern Montana, Wyoming, northwestern Colorado, Utah, southern Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, and northeastern California, with an isolated population in central Washington. The grouse is known for its elaborate courtship displays

in which large numbers of males gather in leks and strut, swish their wings, whistle, fan their tails and the feather plumes on their heads, and inflate air sacs underneath their breast feathers to attract female grouse.



## Pesticide use threatens salamander, human health

An endangered salamander found only in a popular Austin, Texas swimming hole is the subject of a federal lawsuit filed by the Center in January. The suit, filed jointly with Save Our Springs Alliance, seeks to compel the Environmental Protection Agency to consult with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to analyze the impact of pesticides on the Barton Springs salamander, a species that has been

developing strange deformities and declining in recent years.

USFWS in 2002 suggested that the EPA examine the impact of at least five pesticides on the salamander, but the EPA has ignored the agency's concerns—even though it is responsible for authorizing pesticide use in the U.S. and making sure pesticides do not harm endangered species.

The pesticides threatening the salamander are known to be a threat to human



Barton Springs salamander

photo by W. Meiner, USFWS

health, as well. Annually, more than 340,000 people visit Barton Springs, located near downtown Austin, and the springs contribute to the city's municipal water supply.

In other pesticide-related news, the Center filed suit with five other conservation groups in January to stop EPA officials from meeting in secret with chemical corporations. According to documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, the corporations have been urging the EPA, during illegal closed-door meetings, to prevent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists from participating in meetings that determine the effects of pesticides on wildlife. As a result, the EPA has proposed new rules that would eliminate expert oversight and give itself sole responsibility for making determinations about the impact of pesticides on wildlife.



## Pima County members:

# Your vote needed to support conservation plan

by Susan Shobe

After close to six years of work, this could be the biggest year yet for Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP). The County is nearing completion of this landmark effort to plan for future growth in a manner that protects our natural environment while meeting the requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act.

The County has scheduled an Open Space Bond Election for May 18. A "yes" vote on Question 1 on the ballot will support putting the SDCP into action by providing the funding to permanently protect some of the lands that have been identified as the most important to the conservation plan. As of yet, Pima County has not proposed any other significant funding source for this much-needed plan.

The Center for Biological Diversity, along with 40 other conservation and neighborhood

groups comprising the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, has worked diligently to see the SDCP through this process. They have joined with other community members such as Friends of the Sonoran Desert to promote a victory for Question 1, including responding to attacks from those opposing the measure.

But we need you to vote for these years of work to make a difference.

In the last ten years, our community has grown by 27 percent—double the national average. With Pima County's population anticipated to reach nearly one million people in the next decade, unplanned development will pave over our beautiful desert and our water resources, bringing more traffic and pollution—and higher taxes.

The Sonoran Desert Open Space and Habitat Protection bond raises \$164.3 million dollars to purchase environmentally sensitive land and wildlife habitat from

willing sellers. Another \$10 million will purchase open space land around Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

**Help us get out the vote early! Request your Vote-by-Mail ballot today!**

Even though the election isn't until May 18th, you don't have to wait that long to cast your vote on Question 1. Pima County has an optional vote-by-mail system and are now accepting requests for ballots. Once you receive your ballot in the mail, you can vote as early as April 15th.

To request your early ballot, call the **Pima County Division of Elections** at (520) 740-4330, or visit their website at [www.co.pima.az.us/elections](http://www.co.pima.az.us/elections).

*Susan Shobe is the campaign manager for Friends of the Sonoran Desert. For more information, please visit their website at [www.OpenSpaceBond2004.org](http://www.OpenSpaceBond2004.org), or call the office at (520) 321-1900.*

## Grazing reform program: A Changing of the Guard

The Center bids farewell to one dear friend and welcomes another, as our grazing reform program changes hands.

In November, conservation biologist Dr. Martin Taylor left our full-time staff to devote more time to his international conservation work. He will continue to work as the Center's consulting scientist in international forums such as the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

As the Center's grazing reform coordinator for three and a half years, Martin worked tirelessly to challenge ecologically destructive ranching on western public lands. In addition to lending his talents as a biologist and population ecologist to endangered species listing petitions and research, Martin conducted extensive on-the-ground assessment of grazing allotments to ensure compliance with environmental laws. Martin often worked with volunteer "Cow Cops" in the

field, encouraging citizen oversight of public lands ranching.

In 2002, Martin started the Arizona Grazing Permit Buyout Campaign, an historic coalition of ranchers and conservation groups who support giving federal grazing permit-holders the option of giving up those permits in exchange for federal compensation. As a result of this work, a bill for a pilot buyout program in Arizona was introduced in Congress in October 2003. An equivalent bill for a national scale buyout is also in Congress. If passed the bills will make a quantum leap in protection of endangered species by removing cows and fencing from millions of acres of public lands.

Martin's work furthered many Center efforts outside the grazing program—most remarkably his international work to protect whales. In 2001, Martin's population viability analysis of Puget Sound's southern resident orca population formed the basis for the Center's work to protect the orca.



In March, the Center welcomed Rod Mondt as our public lands organizer. Rod will be primarily carrying forward Martin's coalition work with ranchers and state decision-makers to build support for the Arizona buyout bill.

A Wyoming native, Rod has been a public lands conservation advocate for more than 30 years. Prior to joining the Center, Rod served as a lecturer and field program coordinator for Columbia University's Biosphere 2 Earth Semester. He is a co-founder of several conservation organizations, including the Wildlands Project, Sky Island Alliance, and the Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads. Rod also works with the National Public Lands Grazing Campaign. ■

## Send us your photos of "Nature's Finest Forests"

Members and friends of the Center, we're celebrating our natural heritage and love of forests by adding a new feature to our Ancient Forests web site entitled "Nature's Finest Forests." We'd like to feature photos of your favorite forest places to hike, watch wildlife, camp, boat, study, relax, and so on. We know you love the outdoors and probably have the photos to prove it. Please share your experiences by showing us your favorite forest places!

E-mail us your digital photos, or scanned print photos, with a short caption describing where you are (i.e., name of the National Forest, National Park, or Bureau of Land Management unit; and the state or country) and anything special about the photo (e.g., "This is my dog Speck standing next to an old-growth Douglas fir tree on the North Fork of the Umatilla River, Umatilla National Forest, Oregon"). We'll post photos of people, pets, adventures, wildlife, or forests all by themselves—be creative. This site is devoted to you and the forests we cherish!

Submit photos to AJ, education and outreach coordinator, at [aschneller@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:aschneller@biologicaldiversity.org). We reserve the right to decide what to post and for how long.

Visit this site in a couple of weeks to see amazing photos from other members: <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/programs/forests/index.html> ■



Photo submitted by John T. Palmer

Big Creek, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina

## Endangered earth

Endangered Earth is the quarterly newsletter of the Center for Biological Diversity, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting endangered species and wild places through science, policy, education and environmental law. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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Or visit the "join us" page on our secure server: [www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org)

On occasion, we trade our mailing list with organizations that share our mission. If you would prefer that your name not be exchanged, please contact us.

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## *Waiting List continued from front page*

For example, when the Administration requested only \$12.3 million for species listing in 2004, Congress provided full funding and invited the Administration to increase its request. Norton refused the invitation, but a few months later the Department of Interior announced that USFWS could not follow court orders to list species due to a lack of funds. In short, the Administration is purposely manufacturing a budget crisis to provide an excuse for undermining the ESA.

Therefore, along with working to list the candidate species, the Center is working to educate Congress so they can provide full funding for the ESA listing program. Since the Administration is unwilling to request the funding needed to protect endangered species, we will ask Congress to provide that money to USFWS.

The 226 candidate petitions, along with a campaign to provide adequate



Illustration by Andrew Rodman

The Hawaiian plant na'ena'e has been listed as a Candidate since 1980, but has received no protections even though the species has since declined to two small populations totaling a mere 25 individuals.

funding to USFWS, are necessary to break out of the political gridlock that has allowed so many species to decline and potentially go extinct with no protections at all.



Illustration by Andrew Rodman

Puerto Rico's elfin-woods warbler has been a Candidate since 1982, even though the warbler's forest habitat continues to be destroyed and the bird is now found in only four locations.

To find more information about the candidate petition project, visit <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/programs/bdes/cp/index.html>. ■

Cover article by Brian Nowicki,  
Endangered Species Policy Coordinator