

Endangered earth

WINTER 2014



YEAR IN
REVIEW

2013



2014

LOOKING
AHEAD

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

2013 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Climate

- Organized more than 70 cities across America calling for national climate action and use of the Clean Air Act to cut greenhouse gas pollution.
- In a historic win, halted oil and gas leasing on federal lands in California.
- Exposed offshore fracking for oil in California's coastal waters and presented evidence of this dangerous practice to the California Coastal Commission, which had not been aware of fracking in state waters.
- Organized protests around the country against the Keystone XL pipeline.
- Pressured President Obama to make good on his promise to address the climate crisis.
- Brought our climate message to media outlets around the country, including *USA Today* and *The New York Times*.

Arctic & Alaska

- Kept offshore drilling companies out of the Arctic.
- Won a lawsuit against the National Marine Fisheries Service for authorizing oil and gas exploration in Alaska's Cook Inlet that would harm endangered **Cook Inlet beluga whales**.
- Halted the Big Thorne timber sale in the Tongass National Forest, forcing the Forest Service to reconsider the sale's impacts on imperiled **Alexander Archipelago wolves**.
- Secured a long-overdue recovery plan for the **North Pacific right whale**, one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world.

Population Pressure

- Commissioned a national poll confirming that the majority of Americans agree that population growth is a driving factor in many of today's environmental crises.
- Hit the milestone of half a million Endangered Species Condoms distributed around the country, resulting in countless conversations about the connection between human population growth and extinction.
- Celebrated the 7 billionth baby's 2nd birthday with an op-ed on growing up and living in a world with room for other species.
- Participated in national conferences on human population and conservation.

Endangered Species Advocacy

- Won final Endangered Species Act protection for 55 species, including the **streaked horned lark**, **Florida bonneted bat**, **Acuña cactus** and **Jollyville Plateau salamander**.
- Fought and organized rallies against a federal plan to strip Endangered Species Act protection from most wolves in the lower 48 states.
- Protected **Mexican gray wolves** from plans to capture wolves coming from Mexico and ensured a plan to allow wolves to roam more widely is finalized.
- Issued a groundbreaking report highlighting the disastrous impacts of the Keystone XL pipeline on a dozen endangered species.
- Obtained international trade protections for three U.S. turtles — **Blanding's turtles**, **spotted turtles** and **diamondback terrapins**.
- Obtained an injunction on logging state forests in Oregon to protect **marbled murrelets**.
- Continued to win new protections for imperiled species under our historic 757 species agreement from 2011 that so far resulted in final protection of 105 species and proposed protection for another 33 species, including the **American wolverine**, **yellow-billed cuckoo**, **Jollyville Plateau salamander** and **fuzzy pigtoe mussel**.

Wildlife Habitat

- Secured final critical habitat protection for 18 species totaling more than 750,000 acres.
- Won 739 miles of critical habitat for **loggerhead sea turtles** along the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf coasts.
- Won proposed protection for 26 million acres of critical habitat for **lynx** in Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Washington and Wyoming.
- Won more than 2 million proposed acres for **yellow-legged frogs** and **Yosemite toads** in the Sierra Nevada mountains.
- Won an additional 19,095 acres of proposed protected habitat for endangered **jaguars** in southern Arizona and New Mexico, including areas being proposed for a copper mine that the Center has been fighting for years.

Oceans

- Prompted the EPA, for the first time ever, to assess an area contaminated by plastic pollution as a potential Superfund cleanup site — an island in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands near the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.
- Secured a court settlement ensuring that toxic oil-dispersing chemicals used in federal waters off California will not harm **sea turtles**, **whales** and other endangered species or their habitats.
- Filed a lawsuit against the EPA for failing to address ocean acidification that is killing **oysters** and harming marine life in Oregon and Washington.
- Won a court settlement requiring the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop recovery plans for **elkhorn** and **staghorn corals**, two species hit hard by climate change.
- Continued to fight to protect **whales**, **dolphins** and other marine animals from the Navy's deadly sonar testing.

Toxics

- Rallied support to pass legislation for a historic victory that banned poisonous lead ammunition in California.
- Continued our fight against the National Rifle Association to enact a national ban on lead hunting ammunition.
- Helped generate public pressure that led to the Food and Drug Administration withdrawing approval of 97 percent of the arsenic compounds used in animal feed.
- Secured a pioneering settlement to better protect **California red-legged frogs** from seven common pesticides known to be highly toxic to amphibians.
- Led a diverse coalition of more than 250 conservation, public-health and sustainable farming groups in calling on the EPA to ban the dangerous herbicide atrazine.

Wildlands

- Blocked logging of thousands of acres of fire-charred forest in California's Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades to protect the **black-backed woodpecker** and other species that rely on burned forests for habitat.
- Worked with state agency and allies to return **bighorn sheep** to their ancestral homeland in Arizona's Catalina Mountains.
- Protected wet meadows from off-road vehicles in the Eldorado National Forest, which are critically important for wildlife and the health of forested watersheds.
- Successfully defended designated critical habitat for the endangered **Santa Ana sucker** on the Santa Ana River in California's Riverside County.
- Continued our long fight against the privatization of California's State Water Project in an effort to return the world's largest underground reservoir to public control.
- Successfully fought efforts to develop a steep and rugged part of the Tehachapi Pass area north of Los Angeles, winning a lawsuit against the Frazier Park Estates project and then celebrating when the developer sold the land to California State Parks.

PHOTO CREDITS: POLAR BEARS BY SCOTT SCHLIEBE / USFWS; CANADA LYNX COURTESY WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; BELUGA WHALE BY CLAUDE ROBILLARD / FLICKR COMMONS; YOSEMITE TOAD BY NATALIE MCNEAR / CREATIVE COMMONS

2013 THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

40: Number of years the Endangered Species Act has been saving species from extinction.
99: Percentage of species on the endangered species list that has been saved from dying out.
55: Number of species granted final Endangered Species Act protection in 2013, including the **Florida bonneted bat**, **Acuña cactus**, **Jollyville Plateau salamander**, **rabbitsfoot mussel** and **Mount Charleston blue butterfly**.
17: Number of **Mount Charleston blue butterflies** found during the last count.
0: Number of furry feet on the **rabbitsfoot mussel**, which received the Act's final protection and 1,655 proposed river miles of critical habitat in 2013.
750,000: Acres designated as critical habitat for 18 species including the **streak horned lark** and the **diamond darter**.
32: Number of species proposed for federal protection in 2013, including the **yellow-billed cuckoo**, **Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog** and **American wolverine**.
13: Number of winged species protected or proposed for Endangered Species Act protection in 2013 (one **bat**, six **birds**, five **butterflies** and a **picture-wing fly**).
26 million: Acres of critical habitat proposed for the **lynx**.
2 million: Acres of critical habitat proposed for the **yellow-legged frog** and the **Yosemite toad**.

2: Years since the global human population hit 7 billion people.
40: Years until global human population could hit 10 billion.

6.5: Average number of feet sea-levels could rise by 2100.
233: Number of plants and animals already on the endangered species list that are at risk of sea-level rise.
1: Number of important breeding islands for endangered **Hawaiian monk seals** that have already disappeared under water.



1

Number of black eyes Amaroq Weiss, the Center's West Coast wolf organizer has received while playing roller derby under the pseudonym "AmNasty International."

625,000: Number of Center members and online activists.
1.6 million: Number of actions taken by Center supporters on behalf of wildlife in 2013.
7,681: Number of members in California.
1: Number in Lithuania.

35,816: Number of Center fans on Facebook.
19,774: Number of Twitter followers.
1: Number of times Al Gore retweeted our video "America's Dangerous Pipelines."
2.7 million: Number of followers Al Gore has on Twitter.

27,982: Estimated number of Center media hits for 2013, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *Los Angeles Times*.

More than 10,000: Number of pages on the Center's website.

More than 1 million: Estimated number of words in original content produced every year at the Center.

15 billion: Number of barrels of oil the U.S. Energy Department estimates are now technologically recoverable from California's Monterey Shale.

280 billion: Gallons of toxic wastewater generated by fracking in 2012.

652: Number of fracking products containing chemicals "of concern."

More than 150: Number of groups in California united to ban fracking in the Golden State.

200: Number of wells fracked in the waters off California's coast.



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Number of days Frostpaw spent outside the White House at Thanksgiving urging President Obama to reject Keystone XL.

3.6: Degrees Fahrenheit the world is set to heat up by 2035 according to the International Energy Agency.

59: Minimum number of endangered **California condors** killed since 1992 by lead poisoning from ingesting ammunition fragments.

217: Number of **California condors** currently living in the wild.

20,000: Acres of threatened old-growth forest protected by Center appeals and litigation in 2013.

75: **Mexican gray wolves** counted in the annual 2013 census of wolves in the wild in New Mexico and Arizona.

3: **Mexican gray wolves** breeding pairs in the wild in January 2013.

\$19: Cost of a hunting license to kill a **gray wolf** in Montana in 2013.

75,279: Number of Center actions taken to urge the Obama administration not to take away protection for **gray wolves** nationally.

55: Percent of votes that were cast for this year's Rubber Dodo winner, the Koch Brothers, the ultra-secret and super-rich duo that shamelessly funnels money to the climate-denier movement and campaigns promoting the Keystone XL pipeline.

20: Number of threatened and endangered species that would be impacted by the Keystone XL pipeline.

60,364: Number of signers who pledged to engage in protests and, if necessary, civil disobedience to stop Keystone XL.

16: Number of "No Keystone XL" rallies and actions the Center helped organize.

8: Number of Obama events Frostpaw the **Polar Bear** showed up at to tell the president to reject Keystone XL.

17: Number of rivers that Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center, jumped into during 2013 (sadly falling shy of her 2012 record of 34).

26.2: Number of miles run at a San Francisco marathon by Jessica Herrera, senior communications associate at the Center, while 6 months pregnant.

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Number of inches that North America's largest salamander — the **hellbender** — can grow in length.



14,717

Votes submitted to the Center's 2013 Rubber Dodo Award, which is given annually to those who have done the most to drive endangered species extinct.

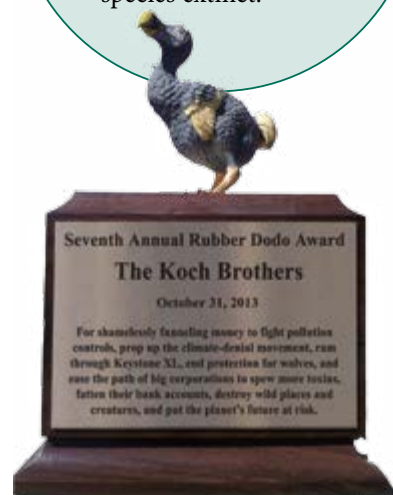


PHOTO CREDITS: HELLBENDER SALAMANDER BY BRIAN GRATWICKE / FLICKR COMMONS

START YOUR YEAR OFF RIGHT RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

In 2014 we'll celebrate the Center's 25th anniversary. With help from our 48,000 members, the Center has been winning lifesaving protections for rare wildlife and wild places for a quarter-century — in record numbers. Last year, with your support, we won more than 28 million acres of proposed critical habitat; released scientific reports like *Deadly Waters* outlining how rising seas threaten 233 endangered species; used our 757 species agreement to lock in more protections for plants and animals than at any other point in U.S. history; enforced federal and state laws to fight fracking; and launched a sweeping campaign to tackle the planet's population explosion.

But 2014 brings a legion of new challenges. Right-wing politicians are gunning for the Endangered Species Act, with no regard for its proven success, and they are looking for legal loopholes to let more lead, pesticides and other toxics into our landscape. Big industries will push to drill in the pristine Arctic Ocean, build the disastrous Keystone XL pipeline, and expand dangerous fracking in places like California and the Rockies. They'll keep fighting to put private profits before the survival of wolves, polar bears and sea turtles — and before the long-term welfare of human beings.

Your help in 2014 will ensure that our scientists, lawyers and activists meet the challenges ahead with another year of victories for wild creatures and wild places.


To renew your support for 2014, please send in the enclosed envelope, call our membership team toll-free at (866) 357-3349, or renew online at renew.biologicaldiversity.org/winter. Or, to support the Center's work every month, please sign up to become a Monthly Sustaining Member at sustain.biologicaldiversity.org/winter.

2014 ACTION PLAN


In 2014 the Center for Biological Diversity — inspired by the passion of our 625,000 supporters — will achieve major victories for wolves, grizzlies, jaguars and hundreds of other endangered species; we'll fight for our climate and our oceans and we'll fight to protect our lands. There will be challenges — threats to the Endangered Species Act, increased climate chaos and ocean acidification — but with you on our side and the devotion and skill of our staff, we will fight and we will win.

We'll fight to stop the stripping away of federal protection for wolves, and we'll demand an end to state-sanctioned wolf-killing sprees. Pushing ahead with our historic 757 species agreement, we'll win protections for imperiled plants and animals, like the American wolverine, Oregon spotted frog, northern long-eared bat and Mono Basin sage grouse — along with millions of acres of critical habitat for them. We'll hold polluters' and developers' feet to the fire, challenging them at every step of the way using science and the law. From the Far North to South Florida, we'll safeguard species from oil spills, toxic poisoning from pesticides and lead, deadly CO₂ emissions, logging and urban sprawl. Following up on our major 2013 victory halting oil and gas leasing on federal lands in California, we'll seek a moratorium on fracking in the state and tackle offshore fracking in the Pacific Ocean.

With the momentum of 25 years of highly successful grassroots activism, we'll challenge Shell, the NRA, the White House, the rogue killing agency Wildlife Services, and other powerful forces to do what's right for life on this planet — and we'll win. We'll fight for biodiversity in our oceans, tackling overfishing, deadly Navy sonar, and the terrifying effects of ocean acidification. We'll expand our innovative population and sustainability program by shaping the national narrative around overconsumption and the extinction crisis, passing out thousands of free Endangered Species Condoms and confronting the cattle industry for its role in CO₂ emissions and other environmental costs. We'll be tireless — and, with you by our side — we'll be powerful.



Defend the Arctic, and the **polar bears**, **walrus**es and **ice seals** that depend on it, from disastrous offshore drilling by Shell and government efforts to expand leasing.




Confront the deadly toll that pesticides and other toxic poisons have on people and endangered species (including vulnerable amphibians and reptiles).




Build on our historic 757 agreement to speed protection decisions and critical habitat protection for species around the country, including upcoming decisions on **wolverines**, **fishers**, **walrus**es and **northern long-eared bats**.



Protect America's **wolves** by fighting federal efforts to strip their protections across most of the lower 48 states; secure new protections for Alaska's **Alexander Archipelago wolves**; and push for larger-scale recovery of **Mexican wolves** in the Southwest.



Save **grizzly bears**, **polar bears**, **wolverines** and other apex predators that play vital roles in their ecosystems and whose protection benefits other species that share the same landscapes, such as the Arctic and the northern Rocky Mountains.




Secure and expand protection of public lands, including publicly owned forests, grasslands, deserts, rivers and streams threatened by industrialization, exploitation, logging, grazing and mining.




Confront the biggest threats to the oceans — climate change, ocean acidification, destructive fishing, oil drilling, noise and plastic pollution — to prevent the destruction of marine biodiversity, from the greatest **whale** to the smallest **pteropod**.




Stop the expansion of dirty energy by seeking a moratorium on fracking in California; a ban on offshore fracking (which threatens **whales**, **sea turtles** and other wildlife); and the rejection of the Keystone XL pipeline and other fossil fuel projects that worsen climate change and threaten people and wildlife.




Expand our population and sustainability program to highlight the importance of cutting consumption — from meat to energy — to reduce our impact on the planet.



Fight the global climate crisis — including rising sea levels — threatening people and the integrity of the natural world by pushing for greenhouse gas reductions, waging cutting-edge legal battles and grassroots campaigning, including our Clean Air Cities campaign, with almost 80 cities nationwide calling for use of the Clean Air Act to cut CO₂ emissions.



Fight to secure protected critical habitat for imperiled species across the country, including millions of acres for **jaguars** in the Southwest.



Continue to challenge urban sprawl development and water grabs in the West, including fighting for the San Francisco—San Joaquin Bay Delta and the **salmon** and other species that call it home.

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End of an Epic Year

From the Director

Kierán Suckling

I always get energized this time of year.

It's a moment to step back and look at everything we've done and what we're going to do next.

One thing is clear: The Center is becoming bigger, stronger, more nimble, and ready to take on the fiercest environmental issues of our age.

In 2013 we won new Endangered Species Act protections for 55 species (from streaked horned larks in the Pacific Northwest to Florida's bonneted bats and Nevada's ultra-rare Mount Charleston blue butterflies). Another 32 species were proposed for protection, including wolverines.

More than 750,000 acres were protected as critical habitat for wildlife — and another 28 million acres were proposed for protection, much of it for the Canada lynx.

We halted fracking on federal land in California and a huge timber sale in Alaska, rallied thousands against the Keystone XL pipeline, stopped a Las Vegas water grab in its tracks, opened the door for a Superfund designation for a plastic-litter island near Hawaii, unleashed Frostpaw the Polar Bear on President Obama and worked with thousands of supporters and allies around the country to save wolves, polar bears, whales

and sea turtles, as well as rare birds, fishes, invertebrates and plants.

Of course, there's even more to do in 2014.

We'll keep up our battle to combat the climate crisis and dirty energy issues (including fracking and Keystone), fight corporate profiteers, Tea Partiers and others who want to cripple our work to protect America's most fragile species. We'll redouble our efforts to protect oceans, urban wildlands and the forests, rivers and wild places that they depend on. We're also expanding our population and sustainability work and dramatically ramping up our grassroots organizing.

The Center will also turn 25 this year. It's been an unbelievable run, but none of it happens without you and your support — financial and moral.

Thank you for standing with us.



ON THE COVER:
hellbender salamander
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Endangered earth

is the membership newsletter of the Center for Biological Diversity. With the support of more than 625,000 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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CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Because life is good.