OUR PLACE IN THE WILD

When we protect wild places — and the Center for Biological Diversity has now achieved the designation of more than 470 million acres of “critical habitat” — we help protect the animals and plants that live near them as well as those that live within protected areas. And some of those animals — quite a few, in fact — are us.

With our ideological tendency to hold human beings apart from other animals and from the wild, we sometimes forget how closely our wellbeing is linked to the integrity of the Earth’s biological systems. We couldn’t even breathe without abundant vegetation and healthy oceans; trees and other land plants produce about half the oxygen that makes our atmosphere livable, while the oceans’ phytoplankton produce the other.

And in the era of climate change, denying the profound dependence of people upon the rest of the natural world is once again becoming impossible — just as it was in the days before the Industrial Revolution distanced us from the rhythms of day and night, weather and seasons. Increasingly we’re being brought face to face with a stark physical reality: We have exactly one world, with a delicate balance of life-support systems.

So at the Center we’ve been working more and more intently to address major social drivers of environmental problems, because if we don’t take on those root causes, we won’t have a serious shot at damming the cascade of species extinctions or averting the worst effects of global warming.

Our Population and Sustainability program was the first major step in this direction, and in 2014 we took our second: forming the Environmental Health program, aimed at reducing toxins in the environment, from pesticides to fracking pollution to coal and lead, that hurt both people and wildlife. Human health is linked to other species as surely as other species’ survival, in so many cases, has come to rest in our hands. This brand-new program has already helped bring about a ban on bee-killing pesticides in Portland and launched a lawsuit over a dangerous new insecticide.

I’m excited to continue to build platforms like these for tackling the world’s worst conservation crises — and I’m grateful to you for staying with us in this always-astonishing, always-ambitious fight for life.

Kierán Suckling
Executive Director
Protected more than 219 million acres of wildlife habitat.

The Center won final protection for 685 miles of East Coast beaches and 300,000 square miles of ocean for loggerhead sea turtles; almost 25 million acres of habitat for Canada lynx; and 764,000 acres for jaguars. And a Center petition won the biggest proposed critical habitat preserve in history for ringed seals in the Arctic: 226 million acres.

How you can help: We’ve protected more than 470 million acres of habitat over the past 25 years. Help us preserve more wild land with a major gift today.
How you can help:

We’re at a critical moment to curb the climate crisis. Help us turn up the heat on the White House and other political leaders to do what’s right.

Joined the largest climate march in the nation’s history.

We helped mobilize some of the largest climate change protests yet, including a 400,000-person turnout at the People’s Climate March in New York City (200 of whom rode our People’s Climate Train to get there). Center polar bear mascot Frostpaw was even arrested for protesting Wall Street’s role in driving climate change, garnering headlines around the world.

How you can help: We’re at a critical moment to curb the climate crisis. Help us turn up the heat on the White House and other political leaders to do what’s right.
Led the fight to save America’s wolves.

As we fought to protect wolves nationwide, the Center played a key role in restoring wolf protections in Wyoming, stopping a planned hunt and uncontrolled killing across 84 percent of the state. We helped achieve state protection for wolves in California and secured a 2015 deadline for the feds to decide whether to protect Alaska’s Alexander Archipelago wolves.

How you can help: We won’t give up on our fight to save wolves. Help us stay strong by becoming a sustainer with a monthly, recurring gift.
“Young people care about wildlife but they need help knowing how to get involved. That’s what the Center did for me. After I contacted one of their lawyers, concerned about how a new development near my home would affect local Texas horned lizards, I was invited to join the Center in filing a petition to protect them under the state Endangered Species Act. It’s great to be part of a solution for saving wildlife.”

— Kade Wilson, teen activist

We’re helping build the next generation of wildlife activists — #GenerationWild.

BiologicalDiversity.org/generationwild
Won federal protection for 20 corals.

We won protection for 20 corals threatened by ocean warming and acidification in the Pacific and the Atlantic and secured a recovery plan for elkhorn and staghorn corals that includes actions to curb climate change. Elsewhere in our work to save oceans, our plastics campaign pushed the EPA to advance a plastic-littered Hawaiian island as a potential Superfund site for federal cleanup; we also petitioned for the agency to regulate PVC plastic from cradle to

How you can help: Tell your friends and family about our fight to save sea life — the more people who understand the plight of our oceans, the more power we have to affect change.
Kept the fracking frenzy in check.

We had several wins in the fight against fracking, supporting grassroots activists in passing California’s first successful local ballot measure banning fracking and other dangerous oil development, with more such measures on the way. We exposed the dangerous practice of offshore fracking along the California coast and filed a legal petition with the EPA to ban the discharge of toxic fracking chemicals into the ocean.

**How you can help:** The fracking battle continues to heat up. Local, state and national politicians need to hear from you that fracking poses a serious threat to our wildlife and environment.
Jump-started the national discussion on the meat industry’s impact on climate and wildlife.

We launched Take Extinction Off Your Plate to address the devastating role that meat production plays in endangering wildlife; mobilized supporters to submit more than 1,500 letters to the editor around the country about the effects of population growth on wildlife; and talked about family planning on dozens of college campuses through our Endangered Species Condom distributions, presentations and conferences.

How you can help: Sign up for our online newsletter, Pop X, and join the growing ranks of our population and sustainability activists.
Elevated the plight of the nation’s disappearing monarchs.

Our petition to protect these iconic butterflies under the Endangered Species Act sparked a nationwide media frenzy. Center staff talked to thousands of people (and dozens of news outlets) about our culture’s love of these backyard beauties; we built a coalition of more than 200 groups and businesses pushing for their protection — and the feds quickly issued a positive preliminary finding.

**How you can help:** Stay in the fight to keep monarchs around forever by making the Center a beneficiary of your estate.
Owls — ancient symbols of wisdom, helpfulness and protection — have long been among the vast suite of species we are fighting to save. Joining the Owls Club and making a planned gift to the Center, such as a bequest, a charitable trust, a gift of insurance or a pension, helps ensure the future of one of the most widely recognized and effective species and habitat protection organizations in the world.

By naming the Center in your will, or making the Center a beneficiary to your retirement plan or other estate plan, you can help us continue our superb work fighting for the iconic wildlife, trees and landscapes we love — not just for our lifetimes, but for generations to come. These gifts are designed to help you and your family as well as the Center. Please call to get more information.

To request a free information packet, please call Chief Development Officer Paula Simmonds at (646) 770-7206 or email psimmonds@biologicaldiversity.org.

To view our planned giving information online, visit: BiologicalDiversity.org/owlsclub.

“I give as much as I can every year to the Center, because the environment needs my help now. But it’s good to know that even after I’m gone, I’ll still be helping to protect our wild places and creatures. How? I’ve made the Center part of my family by providing for them in my will.”

— Bill Collins, Owls Club Chair, Center for Biological Diversity

Protect Tomorrow’s Wildlife and Wild Places Today:
Join the Owls Club
Protected the 20-year ban on new uranium mining near the Grand Canyon.

We successfully defended the Grand Canyon region from uranium industry efforts to squelch the 20-year ban on new toxic mining in its watershed, and we also averted mining exploration on the boundary of Death Valley National Park. Our long fight for Arizona's San Pedro River saw a major victory in reforming water law.

How you can help: Join our crucial campaign to designate 1.7 million acres near the Grand Canyon as the nation's newest national monument.
Won a ban on bee-killing pesticides and genetically engineered crops in all national wildlife refuges.

In response to our petition, the Fish and Wildlife Service banned these damaging pesticides and crops from the entire 150-million-acre refuge system. We also helped achieve a ban on residential sales of super-toxic rodenticides across the country, and as 2015 dawned we launched a new Environmental Health program to protect both biodiversity and human health from toxics.

How you can help: Join our growing network of activists pressuring local, state and national agencies to protect wildlife from toxics, including pesticides.
Mounted a powerful campaign against Wildlife Services, which kills millions of animals every year.

We petitioned for reform of this agriculture department program — which has killed 32 million creatures in 20 years without telling the public how or why — in December 2013. In January 2014 the agriculture secretary began looking into the problem. We awarded the program our infamous Rubber Dodo for its offenses against the wild and meanwhile fought to stop wildlife-killing contests across the country.

How you can help: The fight to reform this rogue agency will be a long one. Tell your friends to become a member and support our work.
Secured new protection for 33 animals and plants.

We won Endangered Species Act protection for eight amphibians and reptiles this year — including Georgetown salamanders and Yosemite toads — along with 25 freshwater species, 12 plants, five mammals, three fishes, three butterflies and two birds. Also, sixteen years after we first petitioned for them, western yellow-billed cuckoos were finally protected under the Act.

How you can help: Renew your membership early and annually to ensure we can continue to fight for lifesaving protection for scores of other wildlife.
Fought Keystone XL and other dangerous fossil fuel projects.

Our advocacy to halt the climate-destroying Keystone XL pipeline was highly successful in 2014, culminating in the Senate’s rejection of Keystone XL and an early 2015 presidential veto when a new Congress tried to push through the project. We also did path-breaking work to expose the dangers of oil trains, including the publication of a major report on their disastrous safety record.

How you can help: Grassroots activism is crucial to stopping dangerous fossil fuel projects. Stay tuned for our alerts and calls for action.
Thank You, Members

The Center extends special thanks to our Leadership Circle members, who give at the $1,000+ level.

$100,000*
Anonymous
Bill Collins
Estate of Charles Goodman
Estate of Ken Johnson
Maryn Olajuyigbe
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County
Cynthia Merrin
Philippa Shrom
Rhy Taylor
Mary Wiley

All donors are acknowledged in the donor list that appears in the annual report to the Foundation's members.
The Center for Biological Diversity thanks the following members of the Owls Club (formerly LEGACY SOCIETY) who are leaving a legacy for our planet and the diversity of life it supports by including the Center in their retirement plans, wills or other estate plans. The Owls Club is so named in recognition of the Center’s beginnings 25 years ago when we set about protecting the Mexican spotted owl and its old-growth forest habitat of ancient Ponderosa pines, ultimately halting the clear-cutting of New Mexico’s pristine Gila wilderness. Owls, universally recognized as ancient symbols of wisdom, helpfulness and protection, have since been among the last suite of species we’ve fought for. Joining the Owls Club and making a planned gift to the Center helps ensure the continued success of one of the most widely recognized and effective species-

**OWLS CLUB**

**SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

**Grants and donations**

$2,134,073

**Membership and donations**

10,777,598

**Total public support**

12,911,671

**Revenue**

Legal returns: 1.260,754

Contracts: 100,203

Investment income: 15,869

**Total revenue**

17,173

**Change in Value - Sale of Contributed Property**

-268,918

**Total support and revenue**

14,036,752

**EXPENSES**

**Program services**

Climate: 1,681,431

Endangered species: 2,370,966

Oceans: 1,835,610

Population & Sustainability: 450,733

Urban wildlands: 682,732

Public Lands: 856,310

Other (International & Litigation): 75,356

Strategic Litigation: 397,513

Total program services: 8,481,802 (83%)

**Supporting services**

General and administrative: 1,393,999

Fundraising: 1,260,754

Total supporting services: 2,654,713

**Total expenses**

8,136,195 (91%)

**Change in net assets**

3,794,757

**Net assets, beginning of year**

13,341,013

**Net assets, end of year**

17,135,770

**Matchmaking Gifts:** The Center thanks the many foundations and companies that match their employees’ individual giving. For more information about how to request matching gifts from one or more agencies, please contact membership@biologicaldiversity.org or call 1-866-357-3349.

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