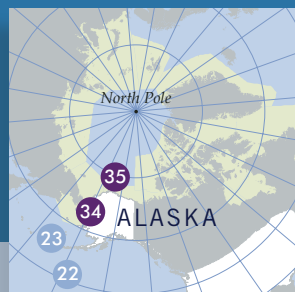
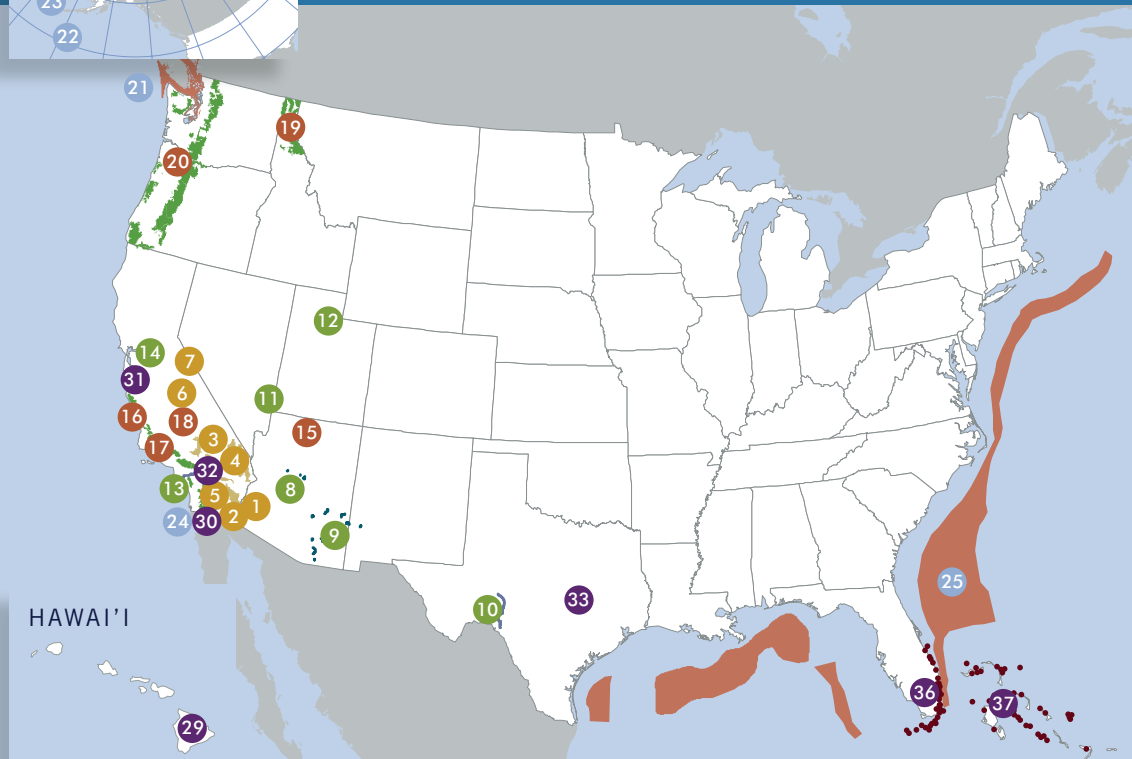




PROMISE



A SAMPLING OF THE CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY'S WORK IN 2005



DESERTS

1. Won court ruling restoring proposal to list flat-tailed horned lizard as endangered species.
2. Advocated for Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for 17 invertebrates endemic to Algodones Dunes.
3. Halted off-road vehicle use on 572,000 acres of desert tortoise habitat.
4. Blocked installation of game "guzzlers" harmful to tortoises in Mojave National Preserve.
5. Fought attempt to overturn critical habitat for Peninsular bighorn sheep.
6. Advocated for habitat protections for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.
7. Petitioned for ESA protections for greater sage grouse.

RIVERS

8. Restored full flows to Fossil Creek by forging partnership to decommission 100-year-old hydroelectric complex.
9. Won ESA and critical habitat protections for Gila chub.
10. Advocated for stronger protection of Devil's River minnow.
11. Stopped illegal channel relocation on the Virgin River.
12. Advocated for ESA protections for Bonneville cutthroat trout.
13. Advocated for increased habitat protections for Santa Ana sucker.
14. Won proposed ESA protections for California's southern population of green sturgeon.

FORESTS

15. Halted old-growth logging on Grand Canyon's North Rim.
16. Appealed inadequate management plans for four southern California forests.
17. Appealed new oil and gas drilling in Los Padres National Forest.
18. Halted old-growth logging in Giant Sequoia National Forest.
19. Challenged increased snowmobile use in habitat for last few U.S. woodland caribou.

20. Challenged administration's elimination of key wildlife protection program in Pacific Northwest forests.

OCEANS

21. Won ESA protections for Puget Sound's "Southern Resident" killer whales.
22. Won ESA protections for sea otters in Alaska peninsula and Aleutian islands.
23. Won court ruling resulting in proposed habitat protections for North Pacific right whale.
24. Challenged plans for liquefied natural gas terminal near important nesting habitat for Xantus's murrelet in Coronado Islands.
25. Secured settlement moving Atlantic white marlin closer to ESA protection.
26. Fought plans for military airbase near endangered dugong habitat on Okinawa coast.
27. Compelled environmental review of proposed longline fishing off Antarctica.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

28. Challenged plans for massive hydroelectric dam project in Panama's La Amistad International Biosphere Reserve.
29. Advocated for ESA protections for 12 species of Hawaiian picture-wings.
30. Advocated for ESA protections for Hermes copper and Thorne's hairstreak butterflies.
31. Compelled Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to evaluate pesticide effects on California red-legged frog.
32. Secured settlement to protect critical habitat for six rare San Bernardino Mountains wildflowers.
33. Compelled EPA to evaluate pesticide effects on Barton springs salamander.
34. Challenged oil and gas drilling in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve and Western Arctic Reserve.
35. Advocated for ESA protections for polar bear.
36. Advocated for emergency ESA protections for Miami blue butterfly.
37. Advocated for ESA protections for elkhorn and staghorn corals.



Photo by Diana Rhoades

Michael Finkelstein,
Executive Director

Today's headlines are tough to read —

and the top environmental headlines are no exception. Polar bears perishing as global warming melts away Arctic sea ice. Ancient trees falling to the ax. Attacks on our most important wildlife protection law, the Endangered Species Act. Worst of all, an administration working to shortsightedly squander our natural resources instead of holding them in trust for future generations.

Those of us who care deeply about our planet have two choices: turn away and give up, or face today's environmental challenges and fight for a better tomorrow. We should be inspired to fight — because for every headline shouting the Bush administration's latest blow to the environment, there are headlines celebrating the courage and hard work of citizens, conservationists, and local leaders who are determined to stand up and save what we can of the wild.

In these pages we've shared our own success stories defending some of the Earth's greatest treasures in 2005. When the administration tried to log ancient trees in Giant Sequoia National Monument and alongside the Grand Canyon, we stopped them. When the administration failed to join 141 nations in enacting the greenhouse-gas reducing Kyoto Protocol, we took the first steps to protect gravely threatened polar bears under the Endangered Species Act and sparked new media debate on national energy policy. And when the Endangered Species Act itself came under attack by Richard Pombo and his allies in Congress, the Center worked tirelessly in Washington D.C. and nationwide to hold those attacks at bay.

The work of the Center's dedicated and passionate staff inspires me. But I also take heart from grassroots campaigns across the nation to deliver on a promise to the planet, our fellow species, and future generations. Communities all over the country have passed their own resolutions supporting a strong Endangered Species Act. Eleven states and more than 225 U.S. mayors have rebuked the administration's lack of leadership on confronting climate change and have pledged to adopt Kyoto-like standards for greenhouse gas emissions. And our membership, which has grown to 25,000, reminds me everyday how individuals working together can make a difference; just this summer, we've heard from some of our youngest members, who've run lemonade stands in their own towns to fight global warming and protect endangered species.

To every one of our courageous and committed supporters, I thank you.

Michael Finkelstein
Executive Director

"We have not
inherited the
world from our
forefathers, we
have borrowed
it from our
children."

~ Kashmiri proverb

DESERTS

Much of the desert's beauty is in its brave stand against the elements: a persistent blossom peering from wind-swept sand dunes, a desert stream determinedly trickling its way along an impossible course. But underlying the astounding tenacity of desert life are some of our most fragile ecosystems, where many plants and animals have an increasingly uncertain foothold on survival.

The Sonoran Desert's Algodones Dunes are one such ecosystem, where ever-shifting sands shelter spectacularly unique plants and animals that live nowhere else on Earth. The Center has long worked to preserve the Dunes and their wildlife, and in 2005, we kept vigil—upholding protections for nearly 50,000 acres in spite of Bush administration plans to open them to devastating off-road vehicle abuse. We turned back attempts to strip Endangered Species Act protection from the threatened Peirson's milk-vetch, one of the Dunes' signature flowering plants. We went to court to seek protection for the Andrew's scarab beetle and 16 other invertebrate species endemic to the Dunes, and we challenged the

Algodones Dunes
Photo © Andrew M. Harvey/
visualjourneys.net

**Greater sage grouse
tail feather display**
Photo © 2003
Carol Davis



administration's move to deny protection to the flat-tailed horned lizard. In the western Sonoran Desert, we intervened against developers to uphold protections for endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep critical habitat from Palm Springs to Baja California. In the Mojave National Preserve, we successfully blocked installation of "guzzlers" for game hunting, which are known to drown



desert tortoises or expose them to increased predation. In the northern Mojave, eastern Sierra, and Great Basin, we filed suit to compel the administration to designate critical habitat for endangered Sierra Nevada bighorns, where the government has absurdly proposed to "protect" bighorns by shooting those who come into contact with disease-spreading domestic sheep—instead of more appropriately barring domestic sheep grazing on public lands in bighorn habitat. And elsewhere in the Great Basin, we petitioned to gain Endangered Species Act protection for the plummeting Mono Basin population of greater sage grouse, whose sagebrush-steppe habitat has been severely fragmented by roads, development, livestock grazing, off-road vehicles and other threats.



Peninsular bighorn sheep
Photo © 2003 Christopher L. Christie



CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT: RANGE RESTORATION
In October 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a nonpartisan research arm of Congress, released a report showing public lands grazing programs deeply in the red, costing taxpayers at least \$123 million annually. The report also revealed that grazing lease fees collected from public lands ranchers fell far short of footing the bill in 2004, covering just one-sixth of the cost of the program. The Center has long worked to expose the antiquated grazing fee formula that allows ranchers to graze livestock on public lands at a fraction of the rates paid by ranchers on comparable private lands. But our range restoration campaign also aims to bring attention to the whole story of grazing's costs to our public lands, including accelerated erosion, degraded watersheds, invasive weed infestation, and devastation of wildlife habitat, among others—costs not considered by the GAO report. A 2002 Center study examined both the economic and ecological costs of the federal grazing program and estimated the true costs at closer to \$500 million annually. Building on the momentum from the GAO report last year, the Center and other groups petitioned the government to revisit its fee formula and raise grazing fees on federal lands to a more equitable level that aims to recover the full costs of the public lands grazing program.

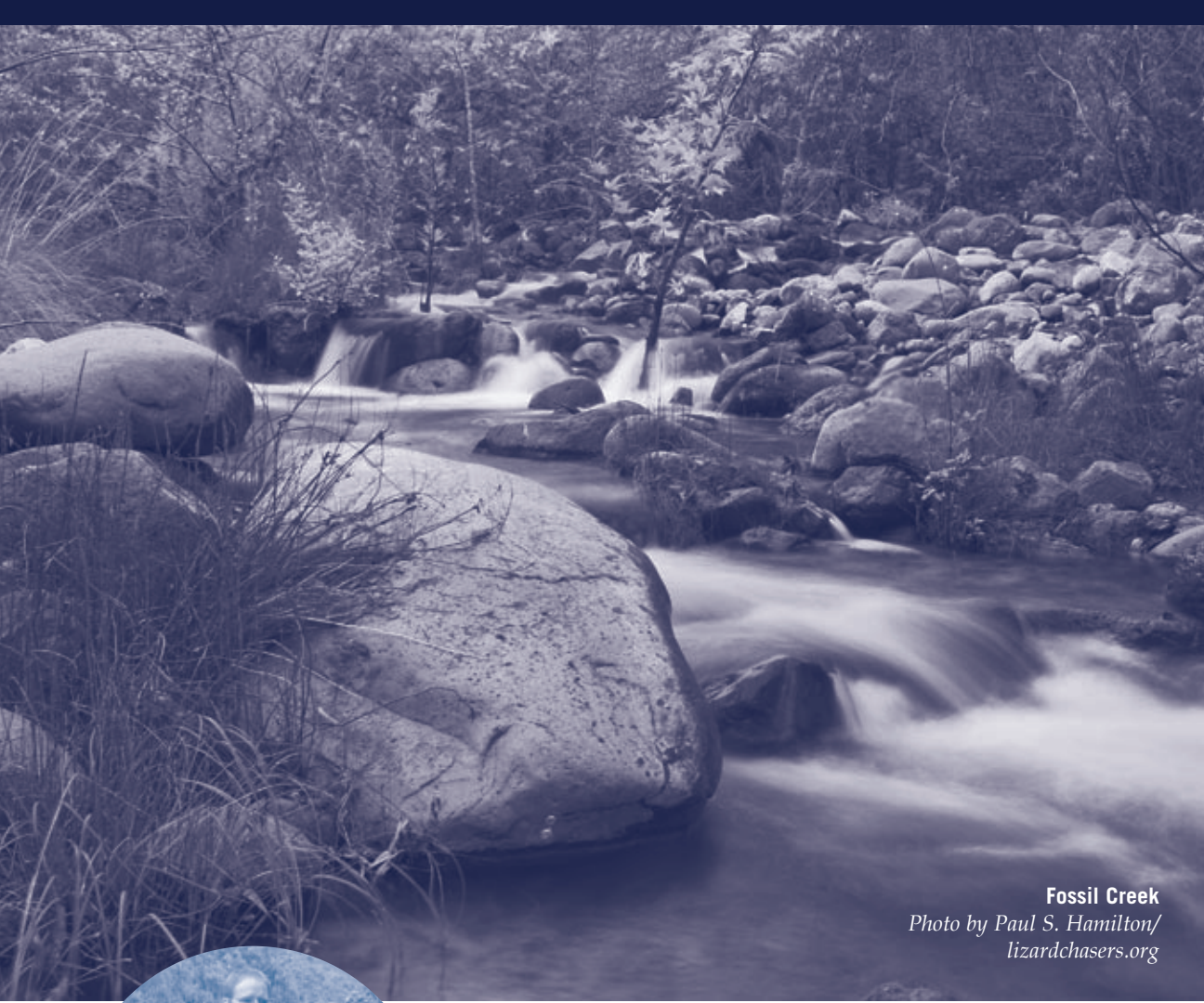


Greta Anderson,
Range Restoration Coordinator, Tucson

"Livestock grazing has become so much a part of how we see the western landscape that most people can't imagine what our deserts and grasslands might look like, or how many species and habitats could be restored, by removing livestock from fragile ecosystems. I work to educate the public and identify opportunities where management changes on our public lands can benefit native plants and animals."



Flat-tailed horned lizard
Photo © BonTerra Consulting



Fossil Creek
Photo by Paul S. Hamilton/
lizardchasers.org



Jeff Miller,
Bay Area Wildlands Coordinator, San Francisco

"My greatest passions are exploring rivers and restoring native fish, so there is a special satisfaction in rafting down a river the Center has worked hard to protect. I also love working for an organization that allows me to advocate for the conservation of underappreciated fishes, such as lamprey, sturgeon, minnows and smelt."

Southwestern willow flycatcher
Photo courtesy of USGS



Mexican garter snake
Photo by Erik Enderson/erikenderson.com



Humpback chub
Photo by
Matt Lauretta, USGS

RIVERS

One hundred years ago, Arizona's Fossil Creek was truly a testament to nature's artistry. Artesian springs fed the creek at an astounding 300 gallons per second, eternally reshaping and refining a rare riparian masterpiece. The springs' calcium-rich deposits sculpted an exquisite "travertine"

Arctic grayling
Photo by
Ernest R. Keeley



system of small dams, pools and waterfalls — perfect pockets of habitat for native fish. Sycamores, alders and cottonwoods lined the banks,



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Winning Endangered Species Act protection for the Gila chub and 160 miles of its river habitat in Arizona and New Mexico.
- Reaching settlement agreements to protect the Yellowstone cutthroat trout, Kootenai River white sturgeon and Montana fluvial arctic grayling in the Northern Rockies, and the Mexican garter snake in the Southwest.
- Going to court to increase Endangered Species Act protections for the Rio Grande Basin's Devil's River minnow, and to secure protection for Utah's Bonneville cutthroat trout.

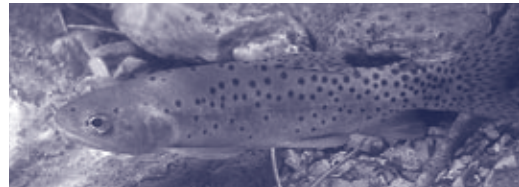


adding to the river's refuge for birds and other wildlife.

Few desert rivers are what they were 100 years ago. Many have not survived at all; more than 90 percent of the Southwest's native riparian areas have been lost or terribly degraded. But thanks to a rare partnership, Fossil Creek has a singular chance at rebirth. In 2005, the Center celebrated the decommissioning of two hydroelectric power plants

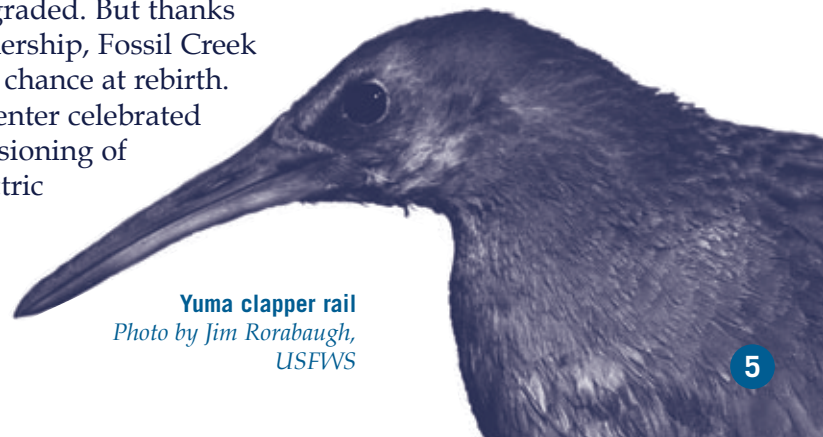
and the dam that had drained the river for nearly a century. The historic return of full flows to Fossil Creek marked a milestone for the Center's eight-year campaign, which led the plants' operators to agree to shut down the complex and join in the effort to restore the river.

Downstream from Fossil Creek, the 170-mile Verde River — vital habitat for the desert nesting bald eagle, southwestern willow flycatcher, and numerous native fish — is threatened by a pipeline that would dramatically deplete the aquifer that sustains the river's flow. Last year, we continued our campaign to halt plans for the pipeline; we also stopped



Bonneville cutthroat trout
Photo by Peter Rissler, USGS

Virgin River channel relocation that further endangered several imperiled species, including the willow flycatcher, Virgin River chub, Yuma clapper rail, Virgin spinedace and woundfin. We continued to challenge excessive groundwater pumping that threatens southern Arizona's San Pedro River, and we filed suit to address the Glen Canyon Dam's degradation of the Colorado River, the endangered humpback chub, and other native fish.



Yuma clapper rail
Photo by Jim Rorabaugh,
USFWS

FORESTS

California's Giant Sequoia

National Monument protects two-thirds of the world's Sequoia redwoods. The monument was set aside by presidential proclamation in April 2000, preserving this national treasure for future generations.

But the "redwood forests" immortalized by Woody Guthrie in 1940 as a priceless piece of our national heritage have been put up for sale by the Bush administration, which rewrote the rules to enable logging of Giant Sequoias and other ancient trees. In a glaring breach of the public

trust, the administration turned loose bulldozers and chainsaws inside the monument last year. After the Center and other groups stepped in, the courts ruled that the administration had acted irresponsibly and illegally, and blocked further logging in the monument.

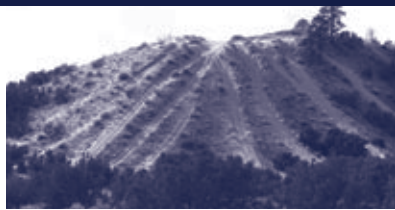
In Southern California, we appealed pro-development management plans for the Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino and Cleveland National Forests and completed a study of biodiversity "hotspots" in those forests, advocating for stronger

protections. We also appealed plans to expand oil and gas drilling in Los Padres, which shelters 26 federally threatened or endangered species.

Last year we furthered many more campaigns to protect our nation's forests, successfully challenging the administration's attempts to fast-track old-growth logging from the Pacific Northwest to the Grand Canyon's North Rim. And in the Northern Rockies, we filed suit to curb increasingly heavy snowmobile traffic in high-elevation forests that house winter feeding and calving grounds for the last few remaining woodland caribou in the United States.

We also worked to shape forest policy on other levels in 2005. We fought the administration's reversal of the "Roadless Rule," gaining appointment to the National Roadless Advisory Committee and mobilizing thousands of Center members to persuade western governors to demand strong protections for the national forests under their watch. Both in the West and nationally, we took lead roles developing scientifically sound forest restoration policies and projects. And in the Southwest, we worked to guide new Forest Service policies for off-road vehicle use on national forests.

Off-road vehicle hill-climbing wear and tear, Santa Fe National Forest
Photo by Chris Kassar



CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT: OFF-ROAD VEHICLE REFORM

Many scientists warn that off-road vehicle (ORV) use is the

greatest threat to wildlife on our public lands, damaging soil, vegetation, water and air quality. The Forest Service has identified it as one of the four "key threats" to national forests, and in November 2005 released a "Travel Management Rule" to address this threat.

The Center advocated for key provisions in the rule, which reverses the long-standing practice of giving ORVs default access wherever "closed" signs are not posted. Each national forest will now work with the public to determine which areas it will designate for ORVs on a "travel use map" that more explicitly preserves forest lands for wilderness and non-motorized recreation.

Wildlife Biologist Chris Kassar has been busily building support for strong off-roading guidelines: meeting with staff on every national forest in Arizona and New Mexico; organizing collaborative workshops representing diverse interests; documenting areas of concern in each forest; planning field

trips and restoration projects; and building a team of Off-Road Vehicle Reform Advocates, volunteers who will make sure that wildlife, plants, and other "quiet users" have a voice in this process.



Chris Kassar,
Wildlife Biologist, Tucson

"Protecting wild places and the critters that live in them is my passion. Working at the Center has given me the opportunity to pursue this passion and to be surrounded by incredible people who want to do the same. Each day I wake up and know that I am part of a larger effort that really is making a difference."



Caribou
Photo by
Jon Nickles,
USFWS

Southwestern pond
turtle, Los Padres
National Forest

Photo © 2005
Christopher L.
Christie



Pacific Northwest
old growth

Photo by
David M. Cobb/
dmcobbphoto.com



Logged ancient tree,
three feet across,
Giant Sequoia
National Monument
Photo by Carla Cloer



Michelle Vasquez,
Regional Office Manager, Tucson

"Working for the Center has educated me about ways we can protect our earth and the species that live here. The passion and courage our staff and members bring to this goal is awesome. There's no place I would rather work than the Center."

Orca breaching in Puget Sound
Photo © Chris Huss/SeaPics.com



Sea otter and pup
Photo © Steven J. Kazlowski/
lefteyepro.com

Many of us feel a certain awe and affection for the mammals that inhabit our seas; we are drawn to their charisma, fascinated by their intelligence, humbled by their might and magnificence. But while they are among our culture's most

enough to protect, refusing to act until a judge denounced its "arbitrary" delay tactics in 2003.

We kept the pressure on, finally securing full protection for the Southern Residents in December 2005. Endangered Species Act protections will help stop polluters from dumping toxins that travel up the food chain and deposit in high concentrations in whale blubber—a menace that not only has made the Sound's orcas one of the most contaminated species on Earth, but dooms young whales that inherit toxins through their mothers' milk. Protection will also help prevent harassment by vessels and degradation of the whales' food supply, two other primary threats to the species' survival.

Last year we also won a court ruling ordering the administration to end long delays protecting critical habitat for the North Pacific right whale, an animal once hunted to near-extinction and now the most imperiled whale on Earth. Our court victory resulted in a proposal to protect 36,000 square miles in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska for the whale. And in response to another five-year campaign by the Center, the administration finally listed as "threatened" sea otters in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands—identified by scientists as the world's most endangered sea otters.

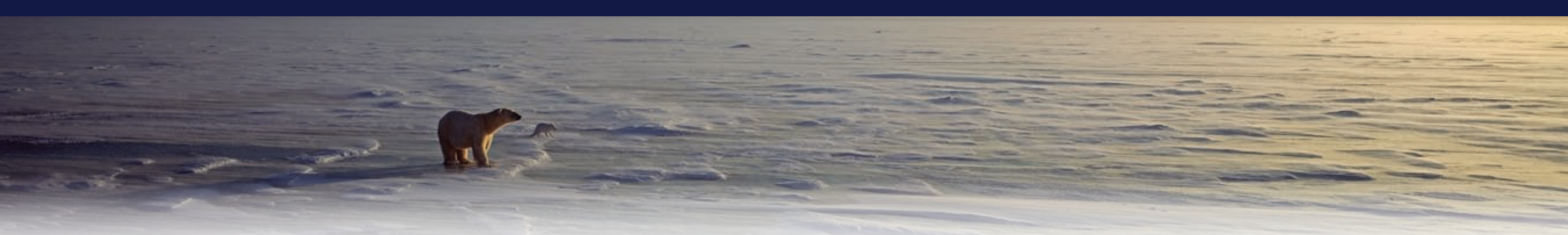
OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Initiating a team to reduce unintentional by catch and killing of marine mammals by longline fishing vessels in the Atlantic.
- Maintaining closures of harmful California drift gillnet and longline commercial fisheries.
- Securing a proposal to protect California's southern population of green sturgeon as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act.

beloved creatures, many marine mammals are also some of the most imperiled animals on Earth.

In 2005, the Center celebrated hard-won victories for three gravely threatened marine mammals. In Puget Sound, a five-year battle against the Bush administration led to the long-awaited protection of the "Southern Resident" killer whale population as an endangered species. The Center's journey to protect the Sound's orcas began in 2001, when we published a scientific study showing that without special protection, the population would go extinct within 100 years. The Bush administration nevertheless declared the population "not significant"

Background image:
Miles of fishing rope are trailed through the ocean for longline fishing
Photo by William B. Folsom, NOAA



Polar bears, "Born of the North Wind"

Photo © Thomas D. Mangelsen/ Imagesofnature stock.com

Summers for the polar

bears of Western Hudson Bay are a feat of endurance. Polar bears fast through the warmest months, and wait for the return of the sea ice upon which nearly every aspect of their survival depends.

But as temperatures rise due to global warming, polar bears have a longer wait until the sea ice returns and hunting can resume. The season for nourishing themselves and their young grows shorter, and fewer bears survive.

With their sea-ice habitat melting out from under the bears, some scientists predict their extinction by the end of this century. Saving the polar bear requires immediate action to dramatically curb the greenhouse gas emissions that produce global warming.

Last year, we advanced several campaigns to compel the U.S. government to adopt urgently needed responsible energy policies.

We filed a scientific petition to protect polar bears under the Endangered Species Act, and when the government refused to act on our petition, we took the bears' case to court—prompting the government to take the first step toward listing the species as "threatened." We secured a proposal to protect the Caribbean's elkhorn and staghorn corals, now the first species to gain

Endangered Species Act protection due to threats from global warming. And we filed suit to gain long-overdue protections for the Kittlitz's murrelet, a vulnerable Alaskan seabird. Protecting these animals under the Act will obligate the government to address the greenhouse gas emissions that threaten their survival.

We also filed suit against 14 federal agencies for their failure to comply with the Energy Policy Act, a Gulf War-era law requiring increased use of alternative fuel vehicles. And finally, we laid groundwork for a legal challenge of the Bush administration's abysmally weak fuel economy standards for sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Raising the profile of biodiversity protection in international climate negotiations as an official Observer Organization to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's failure to update standards for harmful air pollutants.
- Filing suit to block oil and gas drilling in Alaskan wildlands and California's Wind Wolves Preserve.



Elkhorn coral

Photo by C. John Easley/ Deepseaimages.com



Staghorn coral

Photo by Mark Rosenstein

Black brants and caribou at Teshekpuk Lake, National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

Photo © 2000 Gary Braasch/braaschphotography.com



Kittlitz's murrelet

Photo by R.H. Day

Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl
Photo by Glenn Proudfoot, USFWS



“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

~ Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, 1949

A favorite tactic of the

Bush administration has been to pit economic “benefits” against so-called “costs” of protecting endangered species and habitat — ignoring the benefits of preserving healthy ecosystems, clean air and water, and open space. In 2005, the Center

endangered species, inflating the costs of setting aside habitat while disregarding long-term benefits to human communities.

Our Urban Wildlands Program works within some of the West’s fastest growing regions to promote a vision of “community” that recognizes the value of wildlife and wild places. Last year we continued to take lead roles shaping several “habitat conservation plans,” which profess to balance urban growth with preservation of wildlife and open space, but too often result

in weakly enforced and poorly budgeted “guidelines” exploited by developers looking to sidestep the Endangered Species Act. We prepared to legally challenge Western Riverside County’s conservation plan — which has failed to designate adequate land, funding or scientific oversight to ensure that development projects do not harm the Quino checkerspot butterfly, Stephen’s kangaroo rat and other endangered species. And we continued to advocate for the strongest possible conservation plans in San Diego County and Arizona’s Pima County.

We also worked to challenge several sprawling projects that

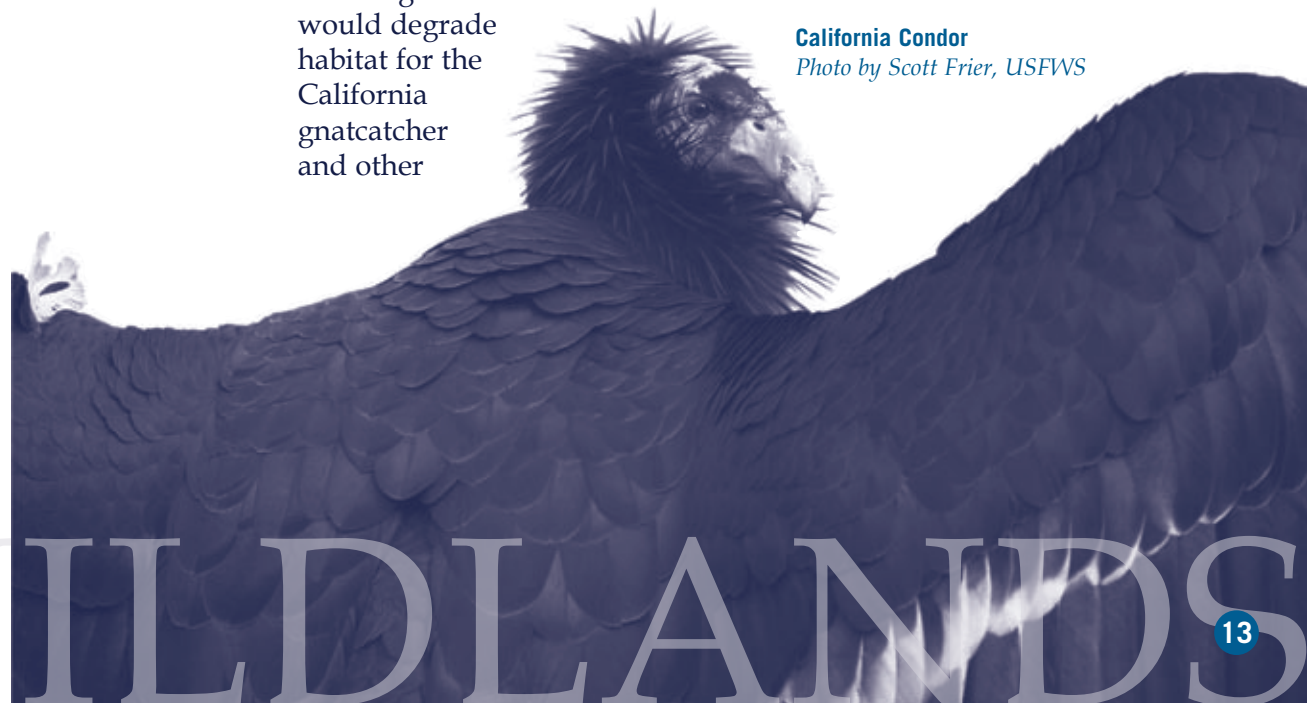


Thorne's hairstreak butterfly
Photo by Douglas Aguillard

would severely jeopardize endangered plants and animals: among them an upscale resort development on Southern California’s Tejon Ranch, a vital wildlife corridor and critical habitat for the California condor; a “McMansion” development on top of Rattlesnake Mountain near San Diego that would degrade habitat for the California gnatcatcher and other

imperiled coastal sage scrub species; and construction of a 12-mile long, 150-foot wide triple fence south of San Diego along our shared border with Mexico, a project that would plow over two mesas and through two canyons, irreversibly damaging the biologically rich Tijuana Estuary.

California Condor
Photo by Scott Frier, USFWS



Arroyo toad
Photo by Jason Jones



defended California’s arroyo toad after the administration slashed its protected critical habitat 97 percent from the area originally proposed by the government’s own scientists. Bowing to pressure from developers, the administration justified its hatchet job with the same “voodoo economics” it has invoked to slash protections for other



Tejon Ranch
Photo © Andrew M. Harvey/
visualjourneys.net

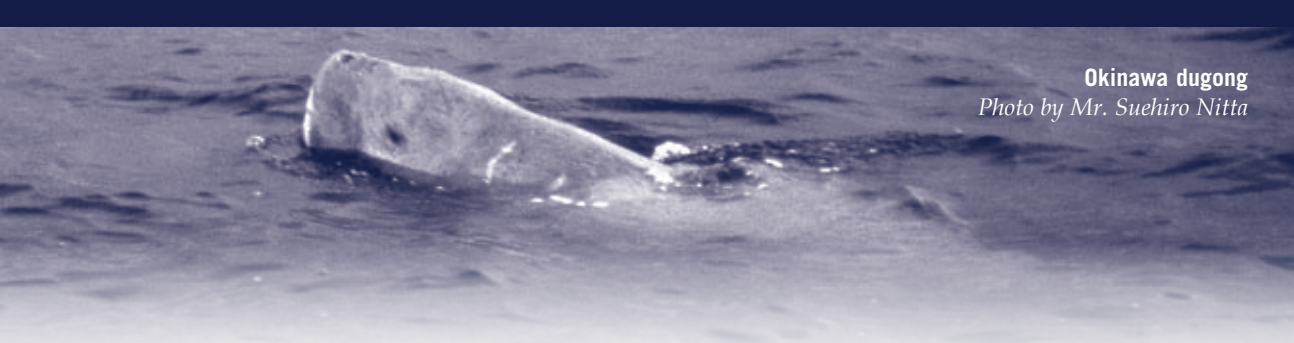
Ileene Anderson,
Ecologist, Los Angeles

“How many places in the world can you go from the ocean to 11,000-foot mountain peaks to deserts in less than 100 miles? Southern California is still one of our planet’s world-class biodiversity hotspots. The Center gives me the opportunity to channel my passion for local plants and animals into making a conservation difference.”



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Advocating for Endangered Species Act protection for 10 populations of west coast steelhead trout, whose runs are threatened by water diversion and development.
- Taking legal action to advance protection for San Diego County’s Hermes copper and Thorne’s hairstreak butterflies, threatened by wildfire and urban sprawl.
- Moving to keep southern Arizona’s last few cactus ferruginous pygmy owls on the federal list of endangered species, after developers sued to remove protection from the owl.



Okinawa dugong
Photo by Mr. Suehiro Nitta

Las Islas Coronado off

Baja California, Mexico, are exceptionally biologically rich; the islands host 10 plant and animal species found nowhere else on Earth and provide nesting habitat for six imperiled bird species, including the largest known nesting area for the rare Xantus's murrelet. In 2005, the Center led a coalition of scientists and conservationists on both sides of the border to protect the murrelet and other seabirds from a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal near the islands that would pose hazards to nesting birds. Our petition, filed with an international environmental commission created under NAFTA, seeks proper environmental review for this "energy maquiladora."

1966 stamp commemorating the dugong's designation as a natural monument



Henoko Coast, Okinawa
Photo courtesy of Dugong Network Okinawa

Middle photo: Dugong advocacy meeting



dam projects, promoted by the Panamanian government and U.S. and Columbian corporations, that would dramatically alter several hundred miles of stream habitat and devastate native fish populations. Last year, the Center joined indigenous tribes and international organizations to protect this ecological jewel, successfully pressuring the Inter-American Development Bank to drop funding for the dams. Unfortunately, the destructive dam projects continue to move forward,

now with private financing. We continue to work with Panamanian groups to oppose the projects.

Okinawa, Japan, second only to Australia's Great Barrier Reef in the biodiversity of its coral reefs, has been called the "Galapagos of the East." In 2005, we gained momentum in our campaign to protect the Okinawa dugong, an endangered manatee-like creature, from construction of a massive military airbase along a fragile reef. In an historic ruling, a U.S.

Another of the planet's biodiversity hotspots, Panama's La Amistad International Biosphere Reserve shelters Central America's largest intact tropical rainforest. Unfortunately the surrounding ecosystem is under threat from four proposed hydroelectric

Resplendent quetzal, one of many rare bird species found in La Amistad Biosphere Reserve
Photo by Greg & Mary Beth Dimijian



federal judge acknowledged the dugong's revered place as an Okinawan cultural treasure and allowed our lawsuit to proceed under the U.S. National Historic Preservation Act. In response to our international coalition's advocacy, the U.S. and Japanese governments abandoned plans for construction on top of the reef. However, the two governments have announced modified plans to build the base along the nearby coastline – thus still jeopardizing a vast expanse of ocean, including sea grass beds, a critical food source for the dugong. The Center and our U.S. and Japanese partners will continue to oppose any plans that would devastate the Okinawa dugong's last remaining habitat.

Poison arrow frog, Panama
Photo by Cynthia Elkins



Adam Keats,
Staff Attorney & General Counsel, San Francisco

"The Center's work seeks answers to fundamental moral questions about how we're going to continue living on this planet. We'll need a lot more people raising these questions for them to be heard, let alone answered, but the Center sure is doing its part. It's an honor to be able to add my voice to that clamor."

Xantus's murrelet
Photo by Glen Tepke/pbase.com/gtepke





“Every scrap of biological diversity is priceless, to be learned and cherished, and never to be surrendered without a struggle.”

~ E.O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*

The Center’s work to preserve biodiversity honors both the web of life that sustains us and the distinct animals and plants within that web. In 2005, we protected mighty creatures: the killer whale, the polar bear, the bald eagle. But we also strove to give voice to the obscure and tiny creatures that make an overwhelming contribution to the health of Planet Earth.

Among our campaigns for “forgotten” species was our continued effort to gain protection for 283 species on the federal “candidate” list, a waiting list for plants and animals that the government agrees warrant protection but that are denied due to “higher priorities.” Unfortunately, the

Bush administration has all but shut down the program to place species on the endangered list, leaving more species in limbo than ever. Not surprisingly, most species relegated to “candidate” status are those that escape the public eye; nearly half are plants, and nearly a third are invertebrates. On average, they have been waiting for protection for 17 years.

In 2005, the Center filed a lawsuit challenging the administration’s failure to move the candidate species onto the endangered list. We also took legal steps to speed protection for the San Fernando Valley spineflower, a candidate plant, and for the Miami blue butterfly – a candidate species so close to disappearing forever that it was believed extinct after 1992’s Hurricane Andrew.

We reached a settlement to establish critical habitat for six extremely rare wildflowers in California’s San Bernardino Mountains – four of which survive nowhere else on Earth – and gained proposed habitat for the endangered southern mountain yellow-legged frog. We won

Miami blue butterfly, candidate species
Photo by Jaret C. Daniels, PhD,
McGuire Center for Lepidoptera
and Biodiversity



Lanai tree snail, candidate species
Photo by W.P. Mull



Michael Robinson,
Carnivore Conservation Coordinator, Pinos Altos

“I’ve seen amazing changes along the Gila River since I first hiked there in 1984. When I kayak the Gila these days, the resurgence of healthy plants and lively animals reminds me that when the Center protected the river for an endangered songbird a decade or so ago, an entire beautiful ecosystem was unleashed.”

court victories requiring the Environmental Protection Agency to address pesticide effects on the California red-legged frog and the Barton Springs salamander in Texas. And we represented some truly tiny species, securing Endangered Species Act protections for three snails and a freshwater shrimp, indicators of water quality in rare wetlands of the Pecos River Basin in New Mexico and Texas, and 12 species of Hawaiian picture-wings, insects thought to harbor traits that may help find cures for life-threatening diseases in humans.

We also continued campaigns to protect the larger “keystone” creatures that keep healthy ecosystems in balance. In addition to securing endangered species listings for ocean predator killer whales and sea otters, we compiled science to advocate for protected jaguar habitat in the

Rota bridled white-eye, candidate species
Photo by Fred Amidon,
USFWS



Southwest and won court victories upholding protection for gray wolves across the lower 48 states. And we redoubled our efforts to ban lead ammunition use in habitat for endangered California condors, which are dying from toxic levels of lead consumed while scavenging on hunter-shot animals.



Barton Springs salamander
Photo by Wyman Meinzer



Hawaiian picture-wing
Photo by W.P. Mull



With the signing of the

Endangered Species Act in 1973, the federal government acknowledged that imperiled “species of fish, wildlife, and plants are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people.” Broadly supported by citizens and Congress alike, the



Melissa Waage,

Legislative Director, Washington, D.C.

“Today, it’s not rare to see bald eagles swoop over the Potomac right here in Washington, D.C. What a victory — and a symbol of the commitment America has made to bring species back from the brink of extinction. I’m proud to work with the Center as we fight to uphold that commitment by defending and strengthening the Endangered Species Act.”

Act became our nation’s collective commitment to save species faced with extinction, and to hand forward that legacy to future generations.

More than 30 years later, the Endangered Species Act has been a resounding success, keeping hundreds of species from disappearing forever. And our nation’s commitment to protect endangered species is undiminished; the majority of Americans today support the promise made by the Act’s authors. Unfortunately, that promise has been betrayed by an administration with the worst endangered species record in the Act’s history — and in 2005, the Act came under unprecedented attack by its enemies in Congress.

In September, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an “Extinction Bill” authored by Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif., that would dramatically weaken the landmark law. Sped through the House on a largely partisan 229-193 vote with virtually no debate, the bill includes measures to eliminate critical habitat, exempt dangerous pesticide use

from environmental review, give politicians precedence over scientists in deciding when to protect endangered species, and ask taxpayers to pay off developers for obeying the law.

In a year when the Act’s enemies made destroying it a top priority, the Center made defending it ours. Last year, we stepped up our presence in Washington, D.C., educating members of Congress and mobilizing opposition to the Extinction Bill. We staved off even more severe attacks,

exposing one draft of Pombo’s bill that would have repealed the Act in its entirety in 2015, and thwarting his timeline to move a bill to the Senate earlier in the year. And we didn’t miss a beat to derail the bill in the Senate — which to date has not taken any action to amend the Act.

We also stirred up a sweeping grassroots movement nationwide. We worked with editorial boards across the country to generate more than 120 editorials supporting the Act, and helped organize hundreds of scientists and educators to speak out on its behalf. We supported a Congressional resolution establishing a national Endangered Species Day, and helped local communities pass their own resolutions supporting the Act. And our members spoke loudly as well, helping place more than 60,000 signatures on an Endangered Species Act Legacy Pledge asking Congress and the administration to stand by the Act’s promise.

ESA ADVOCACY



Hundreds of plants and animals have escaped extinction because they have the strong protections of the Endangered Species Act, including our national symbol, the bald eagle. Pictured here are just a few of the other species whose numbers have rebounded significantly since they were listed under the Act.

Clockwise, from left page: whooping crane, humpback whale, Robbins' cinquefoil, American burying beetle, Canada lynx, grizzly bear, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, and American alligator.

Photo credits:

Crane and grizzly by Robin Silver; humpbacks courtesy of NOAA; cinquefoil by Doug Vveihrauch; beetle by Doug Backlund, SD Game, Fish & Parks; lynx by Don Getty/DonGettyPhoto.com; sea turtle by Bill Reeves, Texas Parks & Wildlife; alligator by Don Jenne.



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Keri Dixon,
Membership Director, Tucson

“I really believe in the Center’s work to protect the rare, unique, and often forgotten species. Humans are an important species in this intricate web of life—we have the opportunity to make a difference for others by taking a stand. I’m pleased to be part of the Center’s membership and staff.”

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Members Paul Torrence and Bonnie Johnson,
with dog Zeus, at the summit of Colorado’s Mount Harvard.
Paul and Bonnie have been dedicated supporters of the Center
since 1999. They live in Flagstaff, Arizona.

“We support the Center’s work because the earth and her flora and fauna have given us great joy. We believe that our children and grandchildren have a right to experience that same natural world and joy, undiminished by human actions.”

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“I enjoy my work at the Center because it is an opportunity to make the world a better place for all beings. I am committed to helping plants and animals that can’t protect themselves, and I am inspired by all of our wonderful supporters who share this mission.”



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• 2005 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY •
for Year Ended 12/31/05*

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

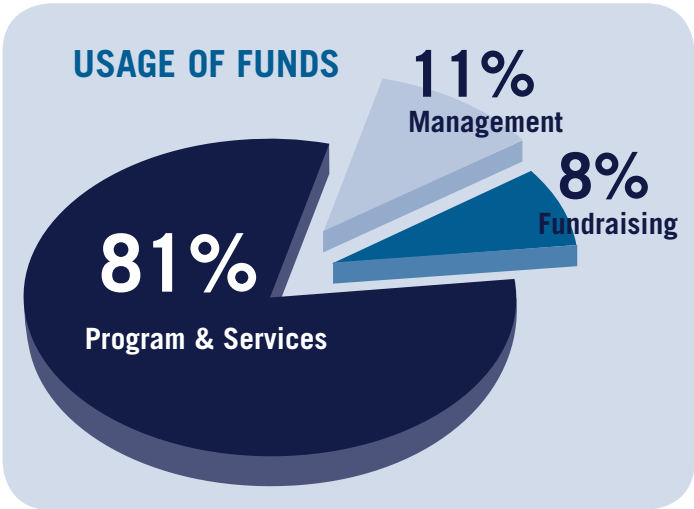
Grants and Donations	
Grants	\$1,840,398
Membership and donations	731,508
Total public support	<u>2,571,906</u>
Revenue	
Legal returns	684,936
Contracts	25,358
Sale of property	186,161
Miscellaneous	200
Investment income	44,483
Total revenue	<u>941,138</u>
Total Support and Revenue	\$3,513,044

EXPENSES

Program Services	
Conservation programs, education and information	2,380,746 (81%)
Total program services	<u>2,380,746</u>
Supporting Services	
General and administrative	337,886 (11%)
Fundraising	237,249 (8%)
Total supporting services	<u>575,135</u>
Total Expenses	\$2,955,881
 **Lawsuit settlement	 500,000
Change in net assets	57,163
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>2,290,828</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$2,347,991</u>

* Totals include restricted and unrestricted revenues. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

** Judgment from a lawsuit that has been appealed. Management is optimistic that the decision will be overturned.



Cover: **"Stalking Beneath the Ice"**
photo © Jenny Ross,
www.jennyross.com

Polar bears depend upon sea ice for nearly every aspect of their survival, as do the ringed seals that are the bears' primary prey. Despite excellent swimming ability, a polar bear cannot catch a fast and agile seal in open water; all the bears' specialized seal hunting skills rely on the ice. With our cover image, the photographer illustrates the "aquatic stalk," in which a swimming bear underwater stalks a seal lying on the fractured ice. Suddenly exploding from the water, the bear attempts to catch its prey before the seal dives into the sea. That future generations still share the planet with polar bears, whose sea-ice habitat is surrendering to global warming, is a promise this generation must make—and a promise the Center is working to keep.



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