

ENDANGERED

EARTH

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY • WINTER 2020



OUR FIGHT FOR THE WILD

THE WILDLIFE EXTINCTION CRISIS CAME INTO FULL FOCUS IN 2019.

As the Trump administration gutted key provisions of the Endangered Species Act, the United Nations warned the world that *1 million species* are in danger of extinction.

There are loved faces behind that number. Wolverines in the lower 48 states have dwindled to fewer than 300. Red wolves left in the wild in North Carolina number fewer than 45. The vaquita porpoise is down to single digits.

The extinction crisis isn't only about wildlife. It's also a spiritual and cultural emergency.

Human beings are still deeply emotionally dependent on the wild world in which we've always lived, although this connection is often obscured by the noise, confusion, machinery and rush of modern life. The loss of the other life forms that have inspired our own histories, myths, language and characters will impoverish us, leaving the planet a lonelier, colder place.

This is a profound crisis that we can't — and won't — shrink from.

In the coming year, we'll be taking on this emergency using the unique strengths the Center has honed over the past three decades: unparalleled legal work, in-depth science, unyielding activism and grassroots organizing.

We know we can win. Since 1989 the Center has secured protection for more than 700 animals and plants along with more than 700 million acres of habitat.

But there are so many fights ahead, and this isn't the time to let up. I'm so grateful to have you with us each and every day.



Kieran Suckling
Executive Director

2019 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR IN REVIEW

ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Challenged the Trump administration’s disastrous weakening of the Endangered Species Act in federal court and rallied the public: 800,000 opposing comments were submitted.
- Achieved final endangered species protection for Barren’s topminnow, two glacier-dependent stoneflies, and southern mountain caribou, plus proposed protection for five others, including Pacific fishers.
- Obtained court-ordered dates for endangered species protection decisions for 16 species, among them elfin-woods warblers; also secured dates for designation of critical habitat for four mussels, two garter snakes and Mt. Graham red squirrels.
- Won bans on the trapping of Humboldt martens in Oregon, beavers in California, and the use of cyanide traps on 10 million acres in Wyoming.

PUBLIC LANDS

- Defeated Trump’s attempts to expand drilling, mining and livestock grazing across 51 million acres of greater sage grouse habitat in seven western states.
- Halted construction of the massive Rosemont open-pit copper mine in Arizona’s Santa Rita Mountains, habitat for jaguar and other endangered species.
- Blocked old-growth logging in Alaska’s Tongass National Forest, the nation’s largest, where ancient trees store and absorb climate-changing greenhouse gases.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Secured an agreement forcing the EPA to assess the threats posed to endangered species by eight commonly used weed-killers, insecticides and rodenticides.
- Forced Tulare, California, the nation’s largest dairy-producing county, to reduce emissions and improve oversight of air pollution and greenhouse gases from livestock.
- Sued the Trump administration over its approval of a new bee-killing pesticide, sulfoxaflo, for use across more than 200 million acres of crops.

CLIMATE LAW INSTITUTE

- Won a major victory when California’s governor launched new protections from oil industry pollution and an overall strategy to phase out oil production.
- Continued to fight almost every Trump climate rollback in court, supported youth climate strikes and fought for justice at the U.N. climate summit.
- Launched a 10-point plan, endorsed by 500 groups, for the next president to phase out fossil fuels.

URBAN WILDLANDS

- Halted Walt Ranch, a proposed vineyard that would tear out more than 14,000 trees in Napa County, with a courtroom victory.
- Beat back California’s “twin tunnels,” which proposed diverting water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta while endangering salmon, steelhead and delta smelt.
- Stopped Cadiz, a destructive water-mining project that would have depleted an ancient desert aquifer and built a 43-mile-long-pipeline through the Mojave Desert.

OCEANS

- Protected whales from entanglement in fishing gear off California through a lawsuit shortening the commercial crab season and incentivizing ropeless gear.
- Forced the Trump administration to delay, and possibly abandon, a massive expansion of offshore oil leasing.
- Won a proposal for protection of 175,812 square miles of habitat for endangered Pacific humpback whales, plus Southern Resident orcas’ entire West Coast range.
- Launched a national, 300-organization campaign demanding the EPA impose new rules on plastic polluters, including zero discharge of plastic pellets.

POPULATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Celebrated the milestone of 1 million Endangered Species Condoms given away to make the connection between human population growth and the wildlife extinction crisis.
- Partnered with the University of California, Davis, to publish a groundbreaking study on 20 commonly overlooked benefits of distributed-solar energy.
- Released an analysis of the environmental impact of food served at events and the potential savings of shifting toward Earth-friendly, plant-based menus.

INTERNATIONAL

- Successfully advocated for trade protections for giraffes, sea cucumbers, tarantulas and other wildlife under the CITES treaty.
- Released a major scientific report documenting plastics found in fish stomachs in major Mexican seafood markets.
- Forced the Trump administration to move forward granting protections for giraffes and emperor penguins under the Endangered Species Act.

ORGANIZING

- Gathered more than 53,000 handwritten comments to stop the removal of Endangered Species Act protection from gray wolves and submitted over 650,000 digital comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service to protect wolves.
- Held more than 518 events nationwide to protect endangered species.
- Sent more than 550,000 texts in support of Center campaigns, and helped secure more than 80 cosponsors for the Paw and Fin Act to restore the power of the Endangered Species Act.



OUR PROMISE FOR 2020

FIGHT. PROTECT. WIN.

ACTIVATE: With our network of thousands of volunteers, we'll continue mobilizing across the country to stand up and speak out every time Trump, Congress and destructive industries try to harm wildlife, weaken pollution laws, destroy public lands or attack vulnerable communities.

PROTECT: We'll use every tool we have to secure and preserve protections for public lands, habitat and endangered wildlife including bears, birds, wolves, fish and plants.

LITIGATE: We've sued the Trump administration more than 170 times since he came into office — and we're not about to let up. There are too many threats to the air we breathe, the water we drink, our climate, wildlife, public lands and public health.

INVESTIGATE: Our investigators, including at *The Revelator*, will shine a light into the darkest corners of the intersection of politics and the environment in order to bring transparency and accountability to the most important issues of our time.

ILLUMINATE: We'll continue to file Freedom of Information Act requests and take any other necessary steps to expose the Trump administration and those in Congress who value profits and pollution over people and wildlife.

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American Pika on the cover
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