2025 | IMPACT REPORT

Kirtland's Warbler - Threatened

ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Endangered species are not just animals on a list. They are the threads that hold our ecosystems together, shaping forests, rivers, and plains in ways we often take for granted. Healthy wildlife means healthy landscapes, and healthy landscapes mean a future where nature - and we - can thrive. At Endangered Species Coalition (ESC), our work is about more than policy; it's about protecting the living, breathing tapestry of life that makes this planet extraordinary.

Our team is small but deeply committed - able to stay nimble and respond quickly in a constantly shifting political, cultural, and environmental landscape. This past year tested us in every way. We faced a steady stream of attacks on the laws that protect wildlife, especially the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In response, we focused our energy where it was needed most: defending the bedrock laws that safeguard species and their habitats.

The ESA is one of America's most popular laws, with 84% of Americans – republicans and democrats – supporting it. That kind of shared belief is powerful. Throughout the year, we worked to carry that public support into the places where decisions are made, ensuring policymakers understand both the value of this law and the depth of commitment behind it.

I know the constant pressure on wildlife and wild places can feel overwhelming. But what gives me hope is this: every harmful proposal we stop, every delay, every small win matters. For the species on the brink, those moments can mean everything. Despite the attacks of the past year, I am proud to say the ESA remains intact, still standing as a powerful safeguard for wildlife across this country.

As you read this report, I hope you see what is possible when people choose to care, to speak up, and to act. This community is a constant source of inspiration to me, and I'm grateful to be part of it with you.

Thank you for your commitment to this work, and for believing in a more biodiverse future.

With gratitude,

Susan Holmes

Susan Holmes
Executive Director,
Endangered Species Coalition

Monarch Butterfly - Threatened

DEFENDING THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

In 2025, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) faced relentless political pressure and repeated attempts to weaken its protections. The Endangered Species Coalition (ESC) was founded to defend this law, and we continue to rise to the challenge.

Since the 2024 election, Congress has proposed 61 separate attacks on the ESA, yet the law remains unchanged. These outcomes were not guaranteed. They required rapid coordination, persistent advocacy, and relationships built through four decades of collaborative action.

In 2025, we defeated or stalled every Congressional attempt to weaken the ESA. Through shared strategy and collective effort, we mobilized the resources and strengths of our 475 Coalition Members and 525,000 activists. Here's how we repeatedly defended the ESA and ensured it continues to safeguard the nation's most at-risk species.

- During the May Endangered Species Day Fly-in, 46 top advocacy leaders from 17 states traveled to Washington, D.C., holding 68 meetings with Congressional offices to underscore the importance of strong wildlife protections.

- Our network generated more than 275,000 actions—including letters, emails, calls, public comments, and petitions—giving people a powerful voice in the halls of Congress.

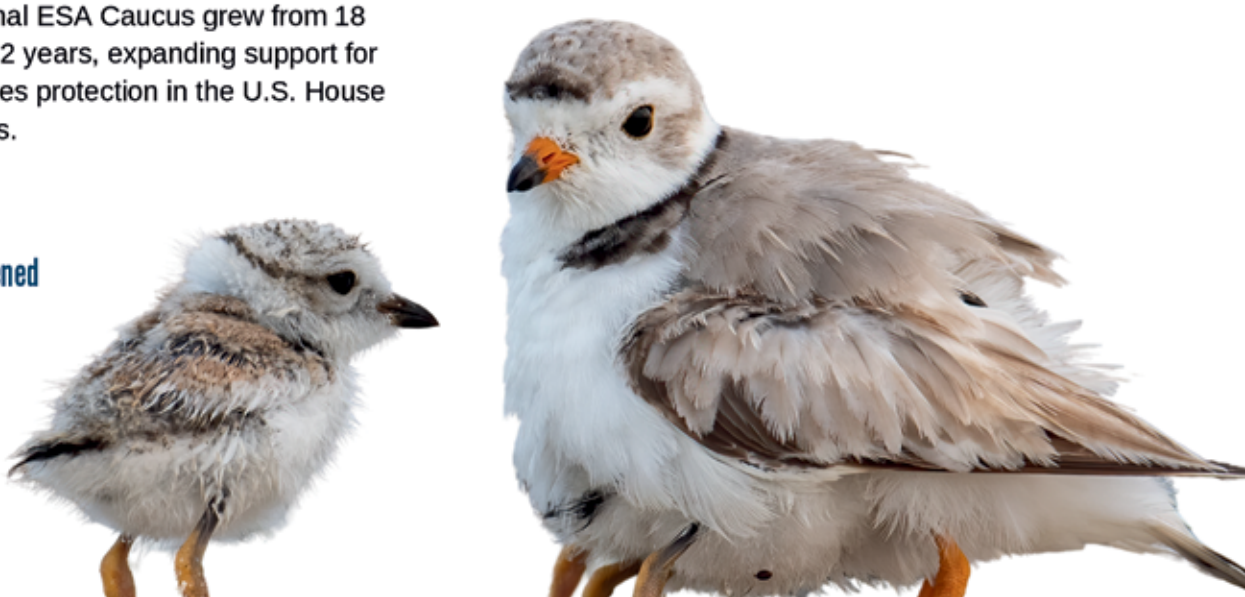
- On Capitol Hill, we hosted 5 congressional briefings for more than 100 staffers, held more than 30 one-on-one meetings, organized a Voices for Conservation and ESA Amendments rally, screened a film on the North Atlantic right whale, and brought scientists to the capital to demonstrate that ESA protections work.

- The Congressional ESA Caucus grew from 18 to 38 members in 2 years, expanding support for endangered species protection in the U.S. House of Representatives.

- H.R. 65, the Armed Forces Endangered Species Exemption Act, was defeated. The bill would have granted sweeping ESA exemptions to the Department of Defense and its contractors, creating a dangerous loophole threatening wildlife and critical habitat protections.

- We launched the Defend the Great American Grizzly campaign, successfully preventing a vote to remove federal protections for grizzly bears, in collaboration with Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club, and the National Parks Conservation Association.

- ESC slowed legislative momentum and prevented the rapid rollback of federal wolf protections by elevating public opposition to wolf delisting.



Piping Plover - Threatened

PROTECTING KEYSTONE AND ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT SPECIES

Keystone species serve as indicators of broader ecological health or play critical roles in the food chain, meaning their survival affects countless others. By building public support through advocacy, we strengthen policy and push back against efforts to undermine endangered species recovery. Here are some 2025 milestones in which ESC played a leadership role through communications, advocacy, public education, and pressure for science-based wildlife management.

• Gray wolves established packs and began reclaiming their place in Colorado's landscape. There is now a minimum population of 32 gray wolves, comprising 18 adults and 14 pups.

• In 2025, the federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program awarded $125 million to support 16 wildlife crossing projects across 16 states. In North Carolina, officials will install wildlife underpasses and fencing along US-64 within the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge to help protect endangered red wolves and other wildlife from vehicle strikes.

• Last year was a good year for grizzlies, with reduced poaching, better conflict management, fewer euthanizations and natural deaths, an expanding range, and the relocation of a Montana bear to improve genetic diversity in Wyoming's Teton wilderness.

• Twenty-three North Atlantic right whales were born during the last calving season. Reduced wake and speeding, inspired by the ESA and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), resulted in more breeding females and greater protections for dolphins, manatees, seals, and other marine mammals.

• Our Pollinator Protectors program created five new native plant gardens in lower-income, marginalized Pennsylvania communities with fewer trees, less green space, and higher pollution levels. Projects included outreach, educational events, and creative programming such as sculptures, festivals, signage, and workshops—highlighting that pollinator gardens aren't just about saving bees; they're about who gets to live in a healthy environment.

Gray Wolves -Threatened

BUILDING A MOVEMENT FOR BIODIVERSITY

Every conservation victory begins with ordinary Americans who refuse to stand by while wildlife disappears.

Eastern Hellbender - Threatened

In 2025, as the Trump Administration launched unprecedented attacks on endangered species and the laws that protect them, ESC intensified its work to answer the moment. We recruited, organized, and united hundreds of communities across the country, trained and empowered leaders, and mobilized thousands of people to speak out, organize, and fight for the wildlife and wild places that sustain us all.

- Endangered Species Day reached hundreds of millions of people across the world with activities and education, and hundreds of news stories. We collaborated with zoos, classrooms across the country, and ESC's member organizations. From Florida to Australia, hundreds of beach cleanups, rallies, and more than 100 youth chalk art entries celebrated endangered species.

- Together with our Coalition Member Groups, our Webinars for All hosted 15 issue-focused public webinars that trained thousands of individuals on policy, actions, and strategy for legislative concerns, including The House's Big Extinction Bill (H.R. 4754) and the ESA Amendments Act (H.R. 1897), which helped defeat these anti-ESA bills.

Thick-billed Parrot - Endangered

- Our Biodiversity Movement School seeded a growing network of 43 emerging advocacy leaders, providing them with the skills to launch and win grassroots campaigns in their own communities.

- Our National Policy Director and National Grassroots Organizer trained Coalition Members in core campaign strategies, including power-mapping and targeted advocacy for the Defend the Great American Grizzly campaign and to defend the ESA and other campaigns.

- We grew our Coalition Members by 15 organizations, bringing our total to 475 member groups for broader reach and increased impact, strengthening our collective power to defend the ESA.

- In 2025, our media reach expanded, bringing ESA messaging further than ever before. Through social media and other platforms, we reached millions of people, generating more than 530 news stories, editorials, and op-eds, and receiving 3,500 mentions across news and media outlets.

Coastal Marten - Threatened

SUPPORT

In 2025, ESC expanded its revenue and base of support, strengthening both the sustainability and reach of our conservation efforts. This growth enabled us to respond more quickly to emerging threats, deepen partnerships across the country, and scale the programs that protect endangered species and their habitats. Fundraising growth isn't just a financial milestone; it's a clear signal that people support the ESA and the wildlife and wild places it protects. We're proud to partner with institutions and donors who share a deep commitment to conservation and the value of the natural world.

Support from **institutional partners** allows us to take on complex challenges, invest in long-term strategies, and stay focused on protecting species and ecosystems for the future.

Volgenau Foundation	444S Foundation	Harder Foundation	Wallace Global Foundation
Woodtiger Foundation	Park Foundation	Sacharuna Foundation	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wilburforce Foundation	Firedoll Foundation	New-Land Foundation	Anonymous Foundation

ESC launched our **Keystone Society** to unite and celebrate donors making significant investments in transformative conservation initiatives to drive endangered species recovery. The power of collective giving amplifies resources and ensures a sustainable future for ESC, all while making a deeper impact.

Lorraine Akiba
Beatrice Alden
Chris Allieri
Anonymous
Lawrence Bogolub
Erik Byargeon
Susan Carafiol
Leslie Catherwood
Stephan Chenault
Samuel Chen
Dr. Clarissa and John Confer
Matthew Eick
Dan Emmett
Rebecca Erickson
Linda Facer

James Fackert
Edyne & Allen Gordon
Elizabeth Greenlee
Diana Hadley
Holly Hamilton, DVM
Joyce Hodel
Susan Jo Holloway
Valerie Hunter-Goss
David Inouye
Jeanie Kilgour
Linda Kitchen
Rachel Klapper
Max Lagally
Ann Lauer Waterman
Peter and Deborah Lipman

Henry Lord
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John and Patricia Marcum
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Leslie Miller
Henry Nachtsheim
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John and Nuri Pierce
Dionne Polk
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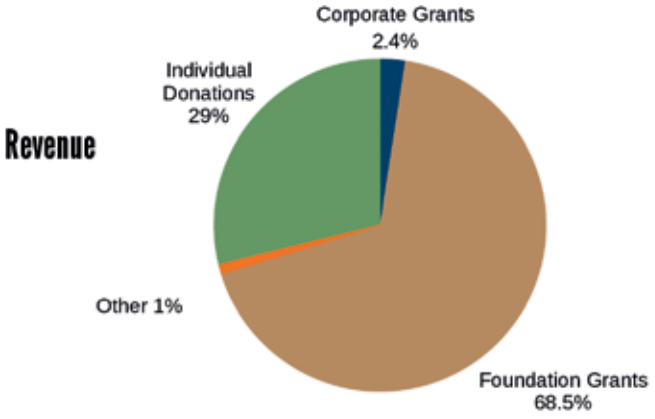
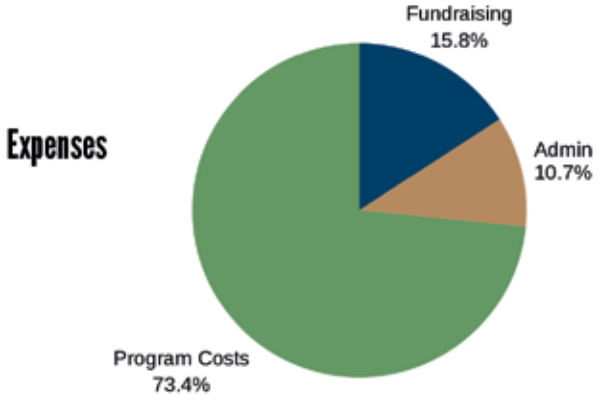
Tami and Scott Schneider

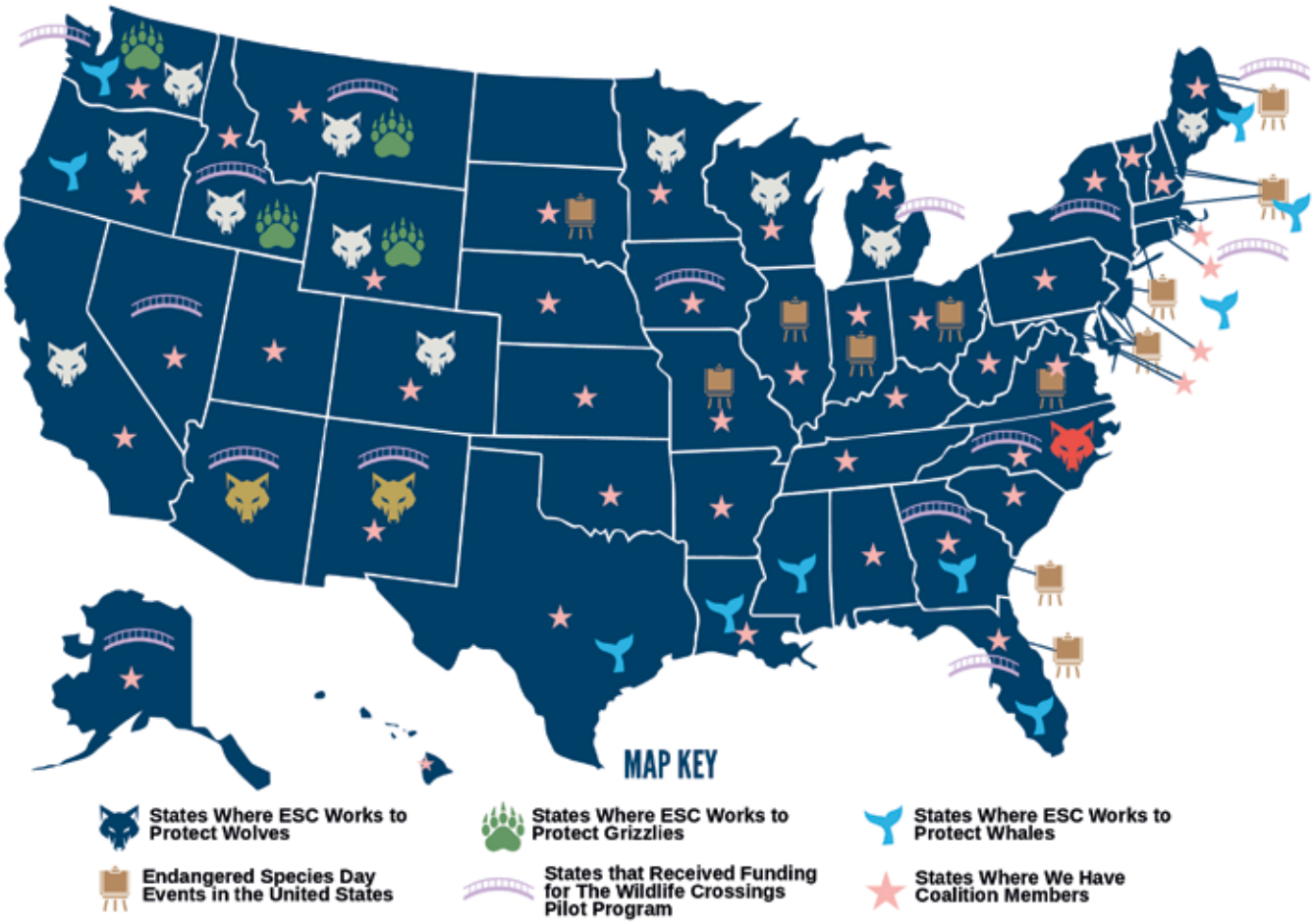
Graham Sharman
David Silvera
Robin Smith
Ruth Anna Stolk
Karl Striedieck
Carol Taggart
Martha Talbot
Paul Torrence
Kathleen Tucker
Lory and Paul Utz
Mavany Verdugo
Leslie Williams
Joanne Witty
John Zey
Elise Zoli





Monthly donors are the heart of ESC. Reliable support allows us to remain nimble, reactive, and stay focused in marathon efforts to protect endangered species. ESC grew our monthly donors by 30% in 2025. This growth is critical for long-term sustainability and allows us to budget efficiently. It reduces administrative and fundraising costs, and allows more support to go directly toward impact.

475 MEMBER GROUPS, 156 ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY EVENTS, AND MUCH MORE



LOOKING FORWARD

At ESC, we're working toward a world where wolves and grizzlies roam freely across their historic ranges, monarch butterflies once again fill the skies, and salmon run strong from sea to stream. A strong Endangered Species Act makes this vision possible, and together, we protect and defend it every day.

We're building a strategy that is working. In 2026, we're expanding our presence on Capitol Hill with additional interns and deeper relationships in key congressional offices, amplifying our voice through strategic media campaigns, strengthening coordination with our member groups, and growing our field capacity to meet critical moments on the ground.

There is energy behind this work and a clear path forward. We're stepping into the year with confidence, momentum, and a shared commitment to accelerating progress for endangered species and the ecosystems we all depend on. This work belongs to all of us, and we are deeply grateful to be part of this community committed to protecting life on this planet.

Together, we are stronger.

Ways to Give

Monthly Giving: Sustain the marathon to protect wildlife with reliable monthly support.

Leadership Giving: Join our Keystone Society with an annual leadership gift.

Donor-Advised Funds: Recommend a grant from your DAF to protect wildlife.

Stock Gifts: Donate appreciated securities for potential tax advantages.

IRA Charitable Gifts: Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA.

Planned Giving: Leave a legacy for future generations through your estate plans.

Workplace Giving: Double or even triple your impact through payroll deductions and/or your employer's matching gift program.

Corporate Partnerships: Protect wildlife and engage your employees and customers.

Make an immediate gift to defend endangered species and the habitats they depend on at endangered.org/donate, or contact us at development@endangered.org.

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