

**DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE ACTION FUND
2010 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name:
Office sought:
State:
District (if applicable):
Party:
Office currently held (if applicable):
Email:
Phone:
Campaign website:
Campaign contact person:

Please check each answer individually. After answering each question by checking an option, please feel free to elaborate on your position on these issues, attaching any statements or supporting documents you wish. Once you have completed the form, please fax or mail it back to Defenders Action Fund, 1130 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036, Fax: (202) 463-8891. Please send it to the attention of William Lutz. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

1. **Global Warming – Conservation scientists worldwide say that global warming constitutes the single most significant threat to wildlife, habitat and natural biological diversity, which support all life. They regard it as urgent that the nation significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and adopt policies and programs that will help us minimize and adapt to the negative impact of global warming on habitat, impact that is projected regardless how quickly and thoroughly emissions are reduced.**

a. Do you support at least a 20 percent reduction in U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 in order to reduce the most damaging effects of global warming?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

b. **House only:** Would you have voted for the American Clean Energy and Security Act (HR 2454) which would create a cap and trade program to reduce America's greenhouse gas emissions and help minimize the negative impact on wildlife species and natural ecosystems from global warming?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

- c. Do you support allocating a 5% portion of the allowance credits created by a cap and trade program to help wildlife species and natural ecosystems adapt to a warming world?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

2. **Energy – To deal with global warming it is critical that our energy policies move us away from our extreme reliance on fossil fuels to embrace clean, renewable energy solutions. Wind and solar projects should be a key part of America’s energy future, but they can carry significant risks for wildlife and habitat.**

- a. Do you support requiring adherence to science-based criteria to sustain wildlife populations and their habitat, when considering siting of renewable energy facilities on public lands?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

- b. Do you support requiring adherence to science-based criteria to sustain wildlife populations and their habitat when building new transmission lines, in a manner that would avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive resources?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

- c. Do you oppose expanded oil and gas drilling on environmentally sensitive areas on federal lands and waters, including federal Outer Continental Shelf areas previously closed to drilling by presidential or congressional moratoria?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

3. **Endangered Species Act – The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is one of our nation’s most important and successful conservation laws. It is also a favorite target of some corporate and private property interests that have tried to weaken the law to benefit developers and extractive industries. The Act is overdue for reauthorization and clearly can be amended so that it better serves all stakeholders including endangered wildlife.**

Do you oppose amending the Endangered Species Act in a way that weakens its ability to save species from extinction and help them to recover?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

4. **ESA precedent – Wolves in the Northern Rockies have been removed from the federal list of endangered species, in spite of the absence of state plans that assure continued wolf conservation. Indeed, one state in the region has already implemented large-scale wolf hunting/killing programs that could lead to the deaths of up to 50% of wolves in the state.**

Do you agree that states in the northern Rockies should have been required to demonstrate concrete commitments to wolf conservation within their borders before the species was delisted and federal endangered species protections removed?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

5. **Aerial Wildlife Gunning – While it is generally considered permissible to use aircraft for legitimate wildlife predator control, the State of Alaska is exploiting a loophole in the 1971 federal Airborne Hunting Act to resurrect the mass killing of wolves from aircraft. Bears are targeted by the program too. The State’s goal is to artificially enlarge the moose and caribou populations, largely for the benefit of out-of-state and urban hunters. The State’s programs are not based on scientifically credible analysis, and some 200 scientists have written to the State to object to the program. A bill, the Protect America’s Wildlife (PAW) Act, has been introduced to close this loophole and assure that the Airborne Hunting Act’s original intent is satisfied. The bill does not interfere with legitimate, science-based predator control or legal hunting in the United States.**

- a. Do you support placing a firm prohibition on the non-scientifically justified use of aircraft to hunt and kill wild predators to boost big game populations?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

- b. Will you co-sponsor the PAW Act if elected?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

6. **Sustaining wildlife on public lands — The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) together manage nearly 450 million acres of federal land for multiple social, economic and environmental purposes. Managing for wildlife is one of the primary tenets of their multiple-use missions. Yet, both agencies lack balanced wildlife policies and science-based land management planning tools to ensure that wildlife is adequately accounted for in land planning decisions. The America’s Wildlife Heritage Act is a bill that would: establish a standard of native wildlife sustainability for both agencies; create a practical, flexible and effective monitoring protocol to provide land managers the information they need to make informed planning decisions; and substantially improve cooperation among the federal, state and tribal land management agencies to enhance data-sharing and planning.**

a. Do you support a wildlife sustainability standard for the BLM and the Forest Service to ensure that wildlife sustainability becomes an integral objective of land planning decisions on lands managed by these agencies?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

b. Would you co-sponsor the America’s Wildlife Heritage Act, if elected?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

7. **Border issues – America’s nearly 2,000-mile border with Mexico includes many national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, tribal reservations and other environmentally important areas. Some of this country’s most spectacular wildlife, including jaguar, ocelot, pronghorn, and hundreds of bird and butterfly species, and the substantial economic benefit these species provide to local communities, depend upon maintaining connected and intact habitat on public borderlands. Illegal border crossings and related enforcement activities, including the construction of hundreds of miles of large-scale walls have created serious obstacles for federal land management agencies trying to minimize significant long-term damage to sensitive natural and cultural resources.**

a. Do you believe protection of environmentally-sensitive border areas and resources such as national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and endangered species should be taken into consideration when developing and approving border enforcement legislation?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

b. Do you support repealing the sweeping and controversial provision enacted in the 2005 Real ID Act that gives the Secretary of Homeland Security unprecedented authority to waive all federal, state and local laws to construct border barriers and walls?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

c. Would you support requiring the Department of Homeland Security to provide funding to mitigate the damage to sensitive environmental resources caused by border security infrastructure and enforcement operations?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

8. **Takings – Some property rights groups often propose new federal “takings” laws that go well beyond historic, constitutionally based restrictions on the taking of private property. They would impose major new limitations and requirements on government agencies as they consider regulatory requirements to limit the negative environmental impacts of proposed development projects.**

Do you oppose changing the historic way takings issues have been decided by the courts, so that we do not impose unrealistic time constraints or compensation requirements on government agencies exercising their regulatory authority to protect the environment?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

9. **Federal Land Agency Funding – During its eight-year tenure, the Bush administration, while supporting huge increases in overall federal spending, reduced funding well below current services levels for nearly all federal conservation programs, which independent experts already considered under funded given their mission. Programs significantly impacted by this Bush policy include the National Wildlife Refuge System, Forest Service, Land and Water Conservation Fund, national system of public lands, endangered species conservation, wildlife law enforcement, and wildlife scientific research.**

Do you support increasing funding for federal natural resource management programs so that they can more adequately meet their conservation missions for present and future generations?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

10. **Off-shore drilling – Oil drilling, even with the best available “clean” technology, is a dirty business. Despite safety protocols, leaks and spills are inevitable—each year U.S. drilling operations send an average of 880,000 gallons of oil into the ocean. That oil is toxic to the plants and microscopic animals that form the basis of the marine food chain. It also directly poisons birds, mammals and fish. Those not killed outright can suffer a slow death from debilitating illness and injury. Recently, our coasts and the marine life that depend on them have lost the protection of a 27-year-old bipartisan federal moratorium on offshore drilling, putting our fragile coastline ecosystems at risk. Now there are attempts to encourage states to permit drilling off their coasts by providing federal revenue to states that allow drilling.**

Do you oppose efforts to encourage states, through state-revenue sharing arrangements, to permit drilling off their coasts in these fragile areas?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

If elected, would you support efforts to protect coastal economies and marine resources?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

11. **Senate only: Convention on Biological Diversity – The U.S. is one of only three nations that has not yet ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity that is intended to foster an improved worldwide effort to save wildlife species from extinction. The other two are Andorra and Somalia.**

Do you support ratification of this important international agreement?

Yes No

If your answer is no, please explain:

12. IMPORTANT: Committee Assignments

In order of priority, what are your three top choices for congressional committees to which you will ask to be assigned if elected?

13. Other

If it is not evident from the above, what conservation issue will you make your main priority in Congress? Please feel free to discuss any environmental issues that you feel are important and anticipate addressing in Congress.

Signed,

Candidate