

Mary Beth Beetham  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
Defenders of Wildlife  
1130 Seventeenth Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
202-682-9400

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Mary Beth Beetham has spent her entire career working in the conservation field. Currently, she is the Director of Legislative Affairs for Defenders of Wildlife, a leading non-profit organization whose mission is the conservation of plants and animals in their natural communities. She has worked for Defenders since 1995, where she helps to oversee all legislative priorities for the organization, with a current focus on endangered species and federal budget and appropriations issues related to the protection and conservation of wildlife, wildlife habitat, and biodiversity.

Prior to her employment with Defenders of Wildlife, Ms. Beetham worked as legislative assistant for the Honorable Dan Hamburg (D CA-1), carrying out his legislative program in environment and natural resources with an emphasis on: marine and anadromous fisheries; land use, especially forestry; endangered species; watershed restoration and management; coastal zone management; and water use.

Ms. Beetham has also worked for the Maryland Zoological Society where she managed and studied exotic animals. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Antioch University and a Master of Science in Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Sciences from the University of Maryland. Her master's thesis was an original research project on the toxic effects of acid deposition and aluminum upon natural aquatic microbial populations at the Department of Interior's Patuxent Environmental Sciences Center. Ms. Beetham was a recipient of a Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship through the National Sea Grant Fellows Program.