

WILD AT HEART

THE WORD FROM WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

No. 25, Summer 2016

Grizzlies in the Crosshairs





MISSION STATEMENT

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS protects and restores the wildlife, wild places, wild rivers, and health of the American West.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robin Smith, PRESIDENT
Mimsi Milton, VICE PRESIDENT
Todd Ringler, SECRETARY
Glen Colton, TREASURER

Cathy Bailey Peter Schoenburg
Nat Cobb Jon Spar
Debbie Lewis Bill Syme
Kristina Martinez David Will
Dyan Oldenburg Esther Yazzie

STAFF

Madeleine Carey, GILA CAMPAIGN ADVOCATE
Lori Colt, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
Bethany Cotton, JD, WILDLIFE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Greg Dyson, JD, WILD PLACES PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Laurele Fulkerson, JD, GRANT WRITER
Kevin Gaither-Banchoff, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
John Horning, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Taylor Jones, MS, ENDANGERED SPECIES ADVOCATE
David Levine, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
Michelle Lute, PhD, WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE CAMPAIGNER
Jim Matison, RESTORATION PROJECTS DIRECTOR
Sarah McMillan, JD, SENIOR ATTORNEY
Erik Molvar, MS, SAGEBRUSH SEA CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR
Marla Nelson, JD, REWILDING ATTORNEY
Jeremy Nichols, CLIMATE & ENERGY PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Claire Nickel, MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS MANAGER
Kelly Nokes, JD, MELP, CARNIVORE CAMPAIGN LEAD
Carol Norton, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Amy Paloranta, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE
Jen Pelz, JD, WILD RIVERS PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Samantha Ruscavage-Barz, JD, PhD, STAFF ATTORNEY
Rebecca Sobel, SENIOR CLIMATE & ENERGY CAMPAIGNER
Tim Ream, JD, CLIMATE & ENERGY CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR
Jodie Wheeler, FISCAL MANAGER
Marlies Wierenga, MS, PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONSERVATION MANAGER
Stuart Wilcox, JD, STAFF ATTORNEY

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

SANTA FE OFFICE:
516 Alto Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501
TEL 505.988.9126

DENVER OFFICE:
2590 Walnut St.
Denver, CO 80205
TEL 303.437.7663

OFFICES ALSO IN: Laramie, Missoula, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Tucson

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Janice St. Marie
COVER PHOTO: Sam Parks,
samparksphotography.com

Like us: Facebook.com/wildearthguardians

Follow us: twitter.com/wildearthguard

100 percent recycled, 50 percent PCW

A BOLD VISION

Gearing Up to Defend Grizzlies

John Horning

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



As highlighted in this issue of *Wild at Heart*, there is plenty wrong with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s proposal to remove grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem from Endangered Species Act protections.

Of course there are the scientific, legal, and cultural factors that the agency ignored or repressed. For example, legal precedent and the law itself prohibit piecemeal delisting of a species, as the agency is trying

to do with Yellowstone’s grizzly bears. Then there is the agency’s failure to respectfully engage First Nations about grizzly bear management.

But the thing that outrages me the most is the fact that if and when ESA protections are stripped away, the new governance over grizzly bears will come from agencies, institutions, and individuals that have—in the words of grizzly bear biologist David Mattson—“systematically marginalized and disenfranchised virtually everyone who values wild animals for reasons or purposes other than hunting.”

Why should a small (and shrinking) minority of almost exclusively older white males who primarily relate to bears and other wildlife by killing them be the decision makers about how we relate to these magnificent, iconic, and awe-inspiring animals?

When the states talk about “managing” grizzly bears, what they really mean is dividing the body count. What kind of paradigm is that?

Our bottom line is that until we get a change in governance that creates more democratic, fair, and representative state wildlife management in states in the Northern Rockies—and elsewhere—then WILDEARTH GUARDIANS will never support the removal of the grizzly bear from the endangered species list.

For the Wild,

GUARDIAN GIVER

Alicia Falsetto and Doug Strauss



Alicia and Doug are lifelong activists—from saving coyotes to advocating for wildlife highway crossings—while also living a vegan lifestyle.

“We support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS due to their diligent and wide-ranging work, from planting trees to long-term legal issues such as ending the macabre tactics of the federal government’s Wildlife Services program.

Witnessing the WILDEARTH GUARDIANS’ legal team in action is amazing. They are steady, professional, and driven,” Alicia and Doug said. “All the employees are incredibly passionate, and we are grateful they are true voices for the animals.”

GUARDIANS is grateful for the partnership of members like you and like Doug and Alicia.

GET ON THE BUS

Power Couple Are Grizzly Guardians

Kelly Nokes



LOUISA WILLCOX



Louisa and David have dedicated their lives to restoring and protecting grizzlies.

As I pulled down a muddy dirt road blanketed in icy white by the season's first snow, the jagged teeth of Montana's Beartooth Mountains stole my gaze. I passed by an old barn and then saw puffs of white smoke emanating from the chimney of the small, rustic farmhouse just ahead. A zestful Australian shepherd rushed across the valley floor to greet me.

This was Tashi, welcoming me to the home of two of the grizzly bears' greatest protectors, wildlife advocate Louisa Willcox and esteemed grizzly bear scientist David Mattson. After a week of attending government meetings where I had argued for the grizzly's restoration, I was there to learn from the masters.

Louisa and David have both played key roles in driving grizzly bear recovery since the late 1970s. And today, despite having officially "retired" from the traditional professional realm, they continue to guide and shape the future of grizzly bear recovery in the Lower 48.

For 14 years, David played an integral role on the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, performing critical scientific research on grizzly bear ecology, population demography, and habitat requirements until

his data proved distasteful to the political bureaucracy that would soon come to hamper grizzly bear recovery efforts in the West.

Before she started the hard-hitting blog and podcast Grizzly Times (www.grizzlytimes.org), Louisa spent decades serving as program director and senior wildlife advocate for a number of regional and national environmental organizations that focus on grizzly issues. Together, David and Louisa are two of the most informed and vocal critics of federal grizzly management, rightfully calling out political injustices and scientific biases in the complex world of grizzly bear recovery.

This indispensable power couple continue to selflessly share their wealth of knowledge to aid GUARDIANS' and our allies' efforts to halt the government's latest attempt to prematurely remove Endangered Species Act protections from Yellowstone's famous bears. As true mentors to the next generation of grizzly bear advocates—including myself—their passion for the grizzly and the wildness the species represents will continue to evolve until we wholeheartedly welcome these great bears home.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Top Priorities / Carnivore Protection



We invite you to join the Wild Bunch, our amazing monthly donors. Whether your contribution is \$5, \$20 or \$250 a month, monthly givers form the backbone of our organization, and provide the sustainability and flexibility that enables us to work on urgent and critical issues. Your pledge deepens our capacity to respond quickly and decisively.

SIGN UP TODAY!

GUARDIANS PARTNERS

There are many ways to partner with WILDEARTH GUARDIANS. Your support makes a difference.

Check out the businesses on the following pages and if you are inspired, email Claire Nickel at cnickel@wildearthguardians.org.

BUSINESS PARTNER C.G. HIGGINS CHOCOLATE, ESPRESSO & TOFFEE

CHUCK HIGGINS



“Support for WILDEARTH GUARDIANS provides protection and a voice to those who are not allowed to vote and unable to speak for themselves. Animals are an integral part of our global existence and we must always remember, we are ALL in this together (animals included).”

—CHUCK HIGGINS
C.G. Higgins Chocolate,
Espresso & Toffee,
130 Lincoln Ave.,
Santa Fe, N.M.,
featuring outstanding
coffee, incredible
chocolate truffles,
homemade quiche,
cinnamon rolls,
and more!
cghiggins.com

BRING BACK THE LOBO

Mexican Wolves Belong in the Southwest

Madeleine Carey

The third week of June, I camped high on the Mogollon Rim, listening for wolves. As I sat amid the long shadows of tall ponderosa pines, I knew that I was in the home range of the Dark Canyon wolf pack. It's a home range that is now a little more secure for wolves because there are no longer cattle, or a complaining rancher, on the allotment. In 2014 we retired the nearly 30,000-acre grazing allotment. While some still refer to it as the Gila National Forest's Deep Creek grazing allotment, I like to think of it as the Dark Canyon pack's territory.

That night, my wait was rewarded when, for the first time in my life, I heard Mexican wolves howling in the wild. The sound left a permanent tingle along my spine. Just as their howls died out, though, I heard low, nervous mooring. The cow stood just across the fence on the actively grazed Devil's Park allotment, one we have yet to retire. The Dark Canyon wolves and the range cow, separated by only a barbed wire fence, highlighted for me the ever-present threats

the wolves struggle against to survive.

Only two weeks earlier, GUARDIANS moved to intervene in an ongoing lawsuit brought by the State of New Mexico against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, attempting to block the Service from releasing more wolves into the wild. Mexican wolves face a genetic emergency that makes the release of captive-bred lobos essential to recovery for the critically imperiled species. At last count, just 97 Mexican wolves roamed the American Southwest, threatened by baseless anticarnivore rhetoric, overblown conflicts with an entrenched livestock industry, and constricted and politically motivated boundaries drawn around the area wolves are allowed to call home.

The state's meritless action is just the latest attempt by antiwolf interests to doom lobos to extinction. GUARDIANS will defend the Service's right and mandate to recover Mexican wolves while also holding the Service's feet to the fire for its own failures to ensure Mexican wolves truly recover.

We are pushing the Service in federal court to reclassify the remaining wild lobos as an “essential” population, abandon the unprecedented and scientifically baseless population limit, and draw boundaries based on the wolves' habitat needs rather than arbitrary political lines.

Hearing the wolves howl that night made me think of all the hurdles they face to return to their native lands and their perseverance in the face of those myriad threats. Yet at the same time it made me proud to be part of an organization that is leading the fight, on the ground and in the courts, to return Mexican wolves to their home in the Greater Gila.

Visit wildearthguardians.org:
Top Priorities / Grazing
Permit Retirement

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



Black River, Ariz., supposed location of where Aldo Leopold shot the wolf he described in his famous “Thinking Like a Mountain” essay.

Jim Matison

GUARDIANS PARTNERS

EVENT PARTNER
KAREN PETERSEN

Stream Team: Small Steps Make Big Changes

On May 14 and June 4, more than 50 Stream Team volunteers helped plant these 4,000 willow trees along Jaramillo Creek, where WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is in the midst of a multiyear restoration project.



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

Willows wait to be planted by Stream Team volunteers along Jaramillo Creek in the Valles Caldera National Preserve, N.M.—America’s newest national park. The shade from the willows will improve stream health and wildlife habitat and make for a perfect picnic spot.

Nico Turner sets a willow in its new home. Her mother, Mindy Turner, has been a Stream Team volunteer for 12 years. She says: “Twelve years ago I decided to make a difference for the future of my children. Nico was a year old at our first Stream Team. I wanted to teach them the value of working toward a goal through small steps, over a series of years. Now when we visit the places we’ve worked on, we rejoice in the positive effects of our efforts.”



MINDY TURNER



“When I moved to New Mexico from New York three years ago, it was after a long career spent overseas as a photojournalist and foreign correspondent. I saw many wild places and also the effects of overpopulation and pollution. Coming across WILDEARTH GUARDIANS here was like a breath of fresh air and I was impressed by the practical nature of their projects and their commitment to them. It’s a conservation organization I can stand behind wholeheartedly.”

—KAREN PETERSEN

Interested in becoming a GUARDIANS Event Partner? Email Claire Nickel at cnickel@wildearthguardians.org

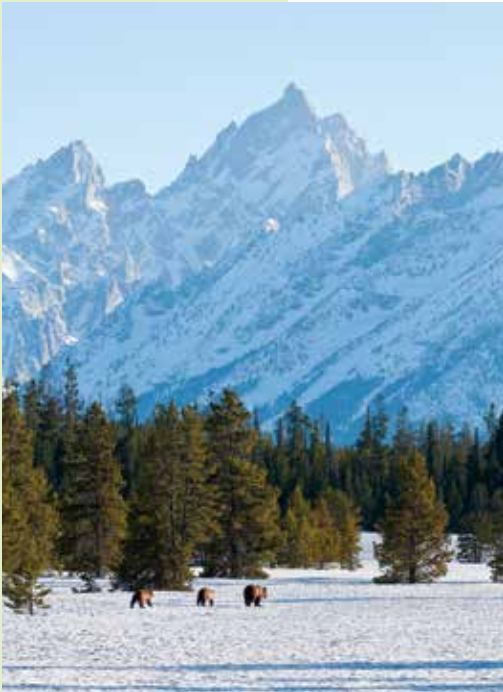
Visit wildearthguardians.org: Programs / Wild Places

DEFENDING GRIZZLIES AND THE ESA

GUARDIANS Fights the Latest Efforts to Strip Yellowstone's Grizzly Bears of Vital Protections

Kelly Nokes

SAM PARKS



Neither science nor the law supports the removal of Endangered Species Act protections from Yellowstone grizzlies, as perils to the bears' survival persist.

A sigh of relief reverberated around the globe earlier this spring when America's most famous grizzly bear, dubbed "399," emerged from her snow-covered den. Grizzly 399 beat the odds and emerged triumphant in spite of a hunter's hateful claim that he'd illegally killed her in the midst of a harsh Yellowstone winter.

At 20 years old, and having produced 11 cubs, one of which produced five cubs of her own, 399 is among Greater Yellowstone's most reproductive female grizzly bears. Her many fans were thrilled to see she was a

mama yet again this spring, clambering from her lair with a single cub bounding at her heels.

Aptly named "Snowy" for its light-colored face, 399's newest cub provided much-needed hope for the recovery of the grizzly bear to the American West. The good news came at a difficult time, as Yellowstone's famous grizzly bears are in the crosshairs once again, thanks to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's latest attempt to strip the iconic species of federal Endangered Species Act protections.

Tragically, before the last of the spring snowmelt watered the blooming lupine of the Teton Valley, Snowy was struck and killed by a vehicle in a hit-and-run accident in Grand Teton National Park. This terrible death occurred despite federal protections, and notwithstanding Snowy's idyllic home within

the sanctuary of a national park. Snowy's loss provides a grim reminder of the harsh realities grizzlies face as we attempt to restore them fully to the West. From dwindling food sources to climate change and illegal poaching, the threats are many and grave.

Once numbering in the thousands across the West, 99 percent of the Lower 48's grizzly bears had been exterminated from nearly their entire historic range by the 1960s. Government-led efforts to eradicate the bears via shooting, trapping, and poisoning reduced the Yellowstone population to only 134 bruins.

Today, these bears are making a comeback from their brush with extinction. At last count, 717 grizzlies roamed the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, which includes Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks as well as the surrounding lands. Roughly 960 bears call the region surrounding Glacier National Park home. Still, much work remains to restore grizzly bears across their historic range. Fewer than 48 bears survive in the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems, fewer than 20 bears exist in the North Cascades, and no bears roam the premier habitat of the Selway-Bitterroot recovery zone.

Critically, aside from these few isolated recovering populations, grizzlies are absent from the spaces in between. Vital corridors connecting these cloistered populations remain uninhabited by bears and largely unprotected. A recovery success story is in the making, but the happy ending cannot be penned just yet.

Though grizzly populations remain low and isolated, our federal and state wildlife managers are falsely declaring victory. Lower-48 grizzlies were one of the first species to receive Endangered Species Act protections in 1975. But in March, the Service announced



HEALING OLD LANDSCAPE SCARS BENEFITS GRIZZLIES



When we consider what a wild place looks like, we envision a landscape where wildlife roam unimpeded, rivers and streams flow clean and uninterrupted, and native vegetation flourishes. Yet this is not the scene on most of our public lands—lands that are riddled with scars from past mismanagement. These scars are the roads that were built to extract timber, minerals, and oil and gas from lands that are to be held in trust for the American people. National forests alone contain over 370,000 miles of roads—that’s nine times the length of the federal highway system. Sometimes these roads are so close to each other, you only have to walk a quarter mile up or downhill to hit another one.

For wildlife, roads are devastating. Collisions with cars are an obvious hazard, but less obvious is how roads affect the behavior of wildlife, especially species like the grizzly bear. Grizzlies generally avoid being within a half mile of a closed road and three-quarters of a mile of an open road, even a forest road with little traffic. But it’s difficult to avoid a road when roads are draped like climbing vines across the landscape, allowing only small patches of road-free habitat.

Stitching together important blocks of habitat and corridors by ripping up and recontouring roads has been shown to help wildlife. Switalski et. al. (2011) found that bears and other wildlife used recontoured roads far more readily than roads that were simply closed, partially because of the emergence of food and cover. Our public land managers could open enormous opportunities for grizzly bears simply by reclaiming even a small percentage of their vast road network, particularly in critical areas. This could allow for key links between grizzly populations. Reclaiming roads is the crucial way to mend the scars from past abuse, restoring wild places for grizzlies. — MARLIES WIERENGA

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Top Priorities / Rewilding

plans to remove those federal protections from the cherished Yellowstone subpopulation of grizzly bears. However, neither science nor the law supports the removal, as perils persist.

Foolishly, after spending four decades restoring grizzlies to the landscape, the feds plan to allow the states to call an open season on grizzly bears, including reproductively vital bears like 399, once their federal protections are removed. The Service is proposing the states to maintain a mere 600 bears in the Greater Yellowstone region, allowing more than 100 bears to become trophies on walls. And the states are falling all over themselves to put grizzly hunting frameworks into place. Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming have gone so far as to divvy up the dead bear share. Bloodthirsty hunters are armed and ready to begin undoing forty years of conservation

progress as soon as management authority is transferred to the states.

Yellowstone’s grizzlies are not the only ones at risk from the government’s latest plot to remove essential safeguards. By carving out the Yellowstone subpopulation for removal of federal protections, the government is undermining the recovery of the species as a whole, not to mention violating the Endangered Species Act.

For over 100 years, Yellowstone’s grizzlies have suffered from genetic isolation. Connecting these unique bears to neighboring subpopulations is key to the species’ long-term survival. Glacier’s more than 900 bears could foster necessary genetic exchange, but the corridors to safely connect Yellowstone’s bears to Glacier’s are not yet secure. Likewise, bears remain largely absent from important

Below: If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gets its way, as many as 100 Greater Yellowstone bears could become trophies on walls.

PHOTO: SAM PARKS





Connecting these unique bears to neighboring subpopulations is key to the species' long-term survival.

connectivity corridors, including the Centennial and Gravelly mountains. Yellowstone's bears need the freedom to roam throughout their former range, not be confined by arbitrary lines on a map.

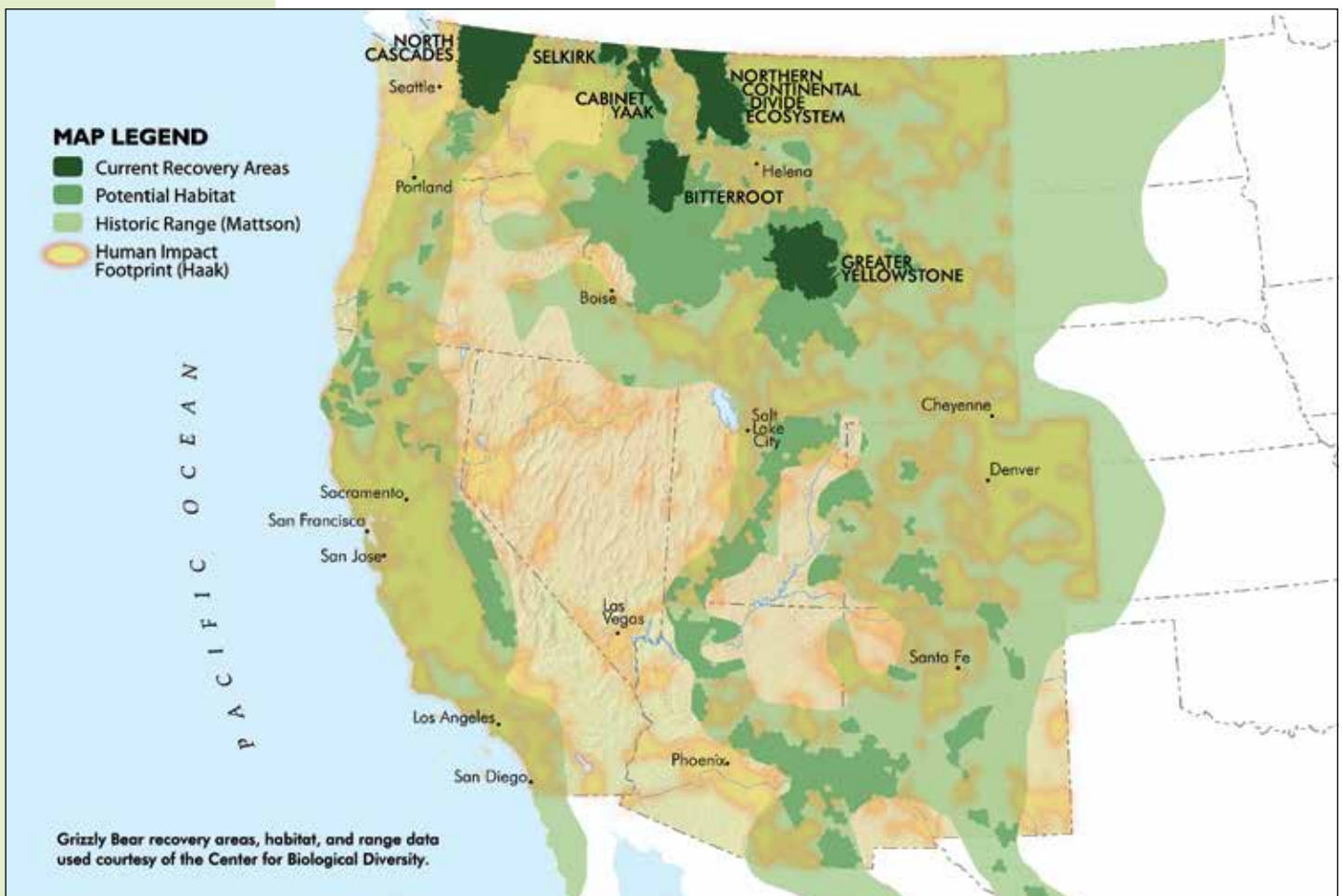
Disturbingly, Yellowstone's grizzly bears are being threatened most, it seems, by the very agency charged with their recovery. The Service is trying to strip bears of protections on a subpopulation-by-subpopulation basis, a move flatly prohibited by the plain language of the law and rejected by our federal courts. The agency is blatantly ignoring the purpose of the law it is charged with upholding, concurrently increasing threats to Yellowstone's bears and undermining the broader needs of a recovering species.

Snowy's unfortunate death and the precarious future of 399 and other important

mother bears are reminders of just how precious each bear is to the species' overall rebound. Snowy existed in large part thanks to the strength and proven effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act. Yet, even with these vital protections in place, Snowy fell victim to the harsh realities of surviving in today's world. A world dominated by state wildlife managers spewing anticarnivore rhetoric and believing that killing is the optimum management tool at their disposal.

GUARDIANS will not sit idly by as the next generation of Yellowstone grizzly bears is placed in the crosshairs. We will fight for the Snowys of the future, not only in Yellowstone but in the places grizzlies have yet to return home—places like Colorado's wild San Juan Mountains, where the last grizzly in the Southern Rockies was killed, New Mexico's Greater Gila Bioregion, and elsewhere across their historic range. We will use our healthy sense of outrage, your passion, and the power of the law to ensure grizzly bears are restored across the American West.

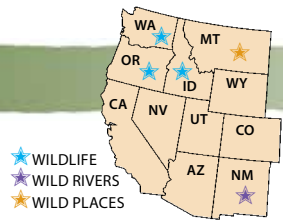
Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Carnivore Protection*



From historic population estimates of over 50,000 bears in habitats ranging north to the Canadian border, south to Mexico, east to the Mississippi's banks, and west to the High Sierras, fewer than 2,000 grizzly bears exist in the Lower 48 today.

IN THE HALLS OF JUSTICE

Jen Pelz, Greg Dyson, Bethany Cotton



JUSTICE SOUGHT FOR THE RIO GRANDE

ADRIEL HEISEY



After 80 years of inaction by the New Mexico State Engineer’s office, GUARDIANS filed suit this spring to force the agency to rein in water use in the middle Rio Grande Valley to protect critical river flows. The suit calls on the state to require an accounting of the irrigation district’s water use (as required by the state’s permits) to prove it has actually used the water it claimed in 1925. The district has never irrigated the acreage it originally claimed and continues to disregard the law to retain its unfettered access to the river. The goal of our suit is to provide much-needed

accountability in the region and reallocate the water now erroneously controlled by the district back to the river, giving the Rio Grande a right to its own water.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Rio Grande: America’s Great River*

FEDERAL COURT SIDES WITH BIGHORN

GUARDIANS is one step closer to protecting bighorn sheep in Montana’s Greenhorn Mountains, thanks to a ruling in U.S. District Court that the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest failed to disclose and review information about bighorn sheep when it approved domestic sheep grazing in the neighboring Gravelly Mountains. Bighorn sheep historically occupied both the Greenhorns and Gravellys, but were wiped out primarily by overhunting and disease passed to them by domestic sheep. As long as domestic sheep are allowed to graze and trail through these mountains west of Yellowstone, bighorn sheep will not persist there. The court has given the Forest Service the opportunity to fix its mistake, and we will watch closely to ensure they take the opportunity seriously.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Bighorn Sheep in the Greenhorns One Step Closer to Protection*



GREG LEWIS

TAKING WILDLIFE-KILLING PROGRAM TO COURT FOR TARGETING WOLVES

SAM PARKS



On the heels of our victory in Washington state, we are in court in both Oregon and Idaho, challenging the federal wildlife-killing program, Wildlife Services, for its wolf-killing activities. The Washington court agreed that Wildlife Services failed to take into account the impacts of indiscriminately killing wolves both on wolves themselves and on the broader environment, including ecosystems that do not recognize state borders, and ordered the killing stopped until a full analysis is complete. Wildlife Services kills

millions of native animals each year, largely at the behest of the livestock and agriculture industries. In 2015 alone, the program admitted killing 384 gray wolves. We continue to hold the program accountable in the courtroom and to work to end this senseless cruelty across the West.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Ending the War on Wildlife*

GUARDIANS PARTNERS

**BUSINESS PARTNER
RECORDS & DATA
MANAGEMENT**



“Records and Data Management’s tagline is ‘Saving the Planet One Page at a Time.’ We are staunch supporters of the environment and wildlife, and support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS as part of our mission. We are thankful they are here and a part of our community.”

—DEBBY KRUZIC, Records & Data Management, recordsanddatamanagement.com

Interested in becoming a GUARDIANS Business Partner? Email Claire Nickel at cnickel@wildearthguardians.org

GUARDIANS PARTNERS

BUSINESS PARTNER BUGLET SOLAR ELECTRIC INSTALLATION



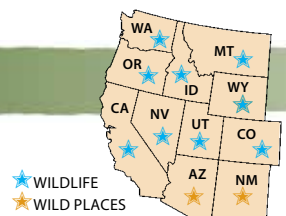
"We support Guardians because its Climate and Energy program is the fiercest, most forward-looking of any entity fighting for the West and its future. GUARDIANS draws the vital connections between species protection and fossil fuel exploitation. This holistic approach supports a consistent set of strategies focused on the urgency of immediate gains, combined with a long-term commitment to the complete overhaul of infrastructure and economy necessary to combat human-caused dangers to our region and our planet."

—BART SHELDRAKE AND
WHITNEY PAINTER
bugletsolar.com

Interested in becoming a GUARDIANS Business Partner? Email Claire Nickel at cnickel@wildearthguardians.org

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Erik Molvar, Bethany Cotton, Greg Dyson



A VICTORY FOR THE MONO BASIN SAGE GROUSE



GUARDIANS and our allies recently won strong habitat protections for a tiny, isolated sage grouse population in the Mono Basin area along the California-Nevada border. Through hard-nosed negotiations, we secured protections in national forest and BLM plans, including seasonal bans on motorsport events, no surface development of future mineral leases, and limits on livestock grazing in grouse habitats. The resulting plans cover the eastern half of the Mono Basin. These strong plans demonstrate the real protections the government could have provided but failed to across the Sagebrush Sea. We are still working to ensure Endangered Species Act protections for the imperiled Mono Basin birds, because most live in the western half of the area, where obsolete federal plans lack these strong and specific sage grouse protections.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Species Conservation / Birds / Mono Basin sage grouse*

WOLVERINES WILL GET ANOTHER SHOT AT PROTECTIONS



GUARDIANS and our allies won a precedent-setting victory for imperiled wolverines this spring. After over a decade of delay, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had proposed listing wolverine as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act,

only to change course and reverse its own biologists' recommendations in the face of political pressure from states and industry and withdraw the proposal in 2014. We filed suit immediately and won. The judge confirmed the dire threats to wolverine, stating: "No greater level of certainty is needed to see the writing on the wall for this snow-dependent species standing squarely in the path of global climate change." The judge chastised the Service for not following the best science and ordered the Service to make a new decision.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Carnivore Protection*

NO MOTOR VEHICLES RUNNING RAMPANT IN SOUTHWEST FORESTS

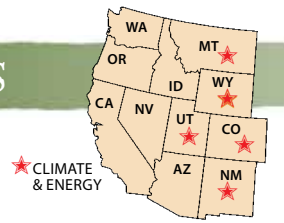


GUARDIANS is taking action to force national forests across the Southwest to protect wildlife and wild places from unregulated motor vehicle use. On the Santa Fe National Forest, we intervened in a lawsuit brought by an OHV group hoping to gain more motor vehicle access to the forest. Thanks to our intervention, the OHV group's lawsuit failed. We also recently filed suit on Kaibab National Forest—which surrounds Grand Canyon National Park—when they allowed motor vehicles to travel up to one mile off roads, thus opening almost the entire forest to use and abuse by motor vehicles. And we are gearing up to contest a decision by the Tonto National Forest, northeast of Phoenix, to allow far too much motor vehicle across that fragile landscape.

Visit three articles at wildearthguardians.org:
Newsroom / Press Releases:
Court Rules Against Unrestricted Motorized Travel ...
National Forest in Arizona Challenged ...
Forest Service Fails to Protect Tonto National Forest ...

GOOD NEWS FROM THE GUARDIANS

Jeremy Nichols



NO MORE COAL CLEANUP LOOPHOLES

The nation's largest coal companies have avoided paying billions to guarantee cleaning up their mines, but thanks to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, that's changing.

Responding to a petition we filed in March, the Obama administration is moving to get rid of loopholes allowing the coal industry to saddle Americans with the cost of cleaning up mines. At issue is the practice of self-bonding, where companies post corporate IOUs instead of real money to guarantee reclamation.

As coal giants like Peabody and Arch have gone bankrupt, it's critical they pay up and not stick us with their cleanup bills.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Keep It in the Ground*



NORRADOL PHOTO/ONGC



DONATE WITH CONFIDENCE!

Good news is made possible by your generous donations. As evidenced by our consistent 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS gets the job done with your dollars. Help keep the good news flowing by making a gift to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS today.

505.988.9126 x3
or donate at wildearthguardians.org.

GETTING THE FRACK OUT OF OUR PUBLIC LANDS

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is stepping it up to put an end to leasing our public lands for fracking. Over the months, we've rallied hundreds of people in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming to thwart the oil and gas industry. Our friend, author Terry Tempest Williams, even joined us in Salt Lake City and took the bold step of buying leases away from industry. Her goal: to keep the lands

undeveloped and "fuel a movement to keep it in the ground." Watch our latest GUARDIANS Voices video and see why we're ramping up our Keep It in the Ground campaign.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Keep It in the Ground / Guardians Voices videos*

THIS IS HOW WE KEEP IT IN THE GROUND

This past May, GUARDIANS put the brakes on a new coal mine expansion in western Colorado, overturning a new lease that would have unleashed millions of tons of carbon pollution. In response to an appeal we filed in 2014, the U.S. Department of the Interior found that the lease, which would have undermined nearly 2,000 acres of the Gunnison National Forest, was illegally approved. The ruling isn't just good news for the climate, it keeps our public lands safe from the coal industry. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS isn't just talking about keeping our fossil fuels in the ground, we're doing it.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Take Action / Current Actions / Victory Over Fossil Fuels*



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

JOIN OUR DIVERSITY OF LIFE SOCIETY!

Make your legacy a force for nature by including WILDEARTH GUARDIANS in your estate planning. Contact Kevin Gaither-Banchoff at kevin@wildearthguardians.org or 520.869.4673 for more information.



516 Alto Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Albuquerque, NM
Permit #476

SPOTLIGHT ON GUARDIANS' SUMMER LEGAL INTERNS



Kendra Hartmann



KENDRA HARTMANN, a rising third-year student at the University of Colorado Law School, formerly worked as a print journalist in San Diego. At GUARDIANS she is learning the critical skill of commenting on proposed federal plans for our Wild Rivers and Wild Places programs. She enjoys spending time in the mountains and playing with her rescue dog.

Laura Callanan



LAURA CALLANAN spent 15 years as an English professor before moving to Albuquerque to enroll in UNM School of Law to pursue a career in public interest environmental law. As Samantha Ruscavage-Barz's right hand for the last couple months, Laura is deep into Climate and Energy briefs, responses, and petitions.

Sarah Danno



SARAH DANNO is a student at the University of Montana School of Law, focusing on environmental law and policy. This summer Sarah is learning the ropes in GUARDIANS' legal shop under the tutelage of Sarah McMillan. Her work is laying the foundation for potential litigation. The daughter of National Park Service Rangers, Sarah loves exploring Montana's wilderness and connecting others to the great outdoors.

Kadin Pasley



KADIN PASLEY, a Wisconsin native, is now pursuing his J.D. at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Ore. He is deeply embedded in our Wild Places program, working on both policy and legal rewilding projects with Marla Nelson and Marlies Wierenga. Kadin's passion for the environment stems from his fascination with science, time spent at his family cabin in Minnesota, and love for outdoor recreation.