



WILDEARTH
GUARDIANS
A FORCE FOR NATURE



Annual Report
2012



From the Board President ROBIN SMITH

By many measures, 2012 was a successful year. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' helped ban the trapping of wolverines in Montana, protected 54 imperiled plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act, curbed mercury emissions from a steel mill in Colorado, planted 170,000 trees along degraded streams to restore wildlife habitat, and so much more. Despite a weak economy, we raised \$2.1 million to fund this work. Thanks to your generosity, that's nearly \$125,000 more than we thought we would raise this year!

Why is this last bit of information important? Because environmental problems are not diminishing, but rather growing in scale. In order to protect and defend nature's right to exist and flourish, we must operate on a larger scale. Thus, GUARDIANS' is growing our staff and building our key programs. To accomplish this, we must develop our financial resources.

In 2013, with your continued support and belief, we will grow programs to defend wolves, eliminate the trapping and poisoning of wildlife, and establish the right of rivers to their own water. We will also expand our efforts to halt global warming by shuttering fossil fuel power plants and move the country toward a sustainable future based on renewable energy sources. A thriving wild world depends on us. Thank you for being a GUARDIAN.

Robin Smith



Guardian Givers

JERRY GINSBURG

I owe my conservation ethic to a handful of influential writers who have impacted my life since my college years. Since I retired, I've increasingly involved myself in a number of conservation groups. WILDEARTH GUARDIAN's breadth of interest, their tenacity in pursuing goals, and their record of accomplishments in preserving the natural world are what makes this organization stand out from the rest. I have a special interest in water management issues in New Mexico, so I'm very happy that GUARDIANS shares my concerns. However, the most important thing to me is that GUARDIANS understands the interconnectedness of the many environmental issues we confront.

The problems we face are truly existential ones. Our best hope is to channel our time, energy, and support into organizations like WILDEARTH GUARDIANS that have identified the problems and the solutions. The more resources GUARDIANS have at their disposal, the better they are able to fight for the future: not just the future of my family, but that of our planet and its inhabitants. Henry David Thoreau said, "In Wildness is the Preservation of the World," and those words evoke a feeling that guides both GUARDIANS and me.





The Year in Review

We're in it for the long haul, which means we're in it not only to win important short-term fights, but also until we create change that can withstand the whims of politics. It means that a loss now doesn't change our vision or diminish our energy towards our goal. At times, events during 2012 tested our commitment, especially as we watched wolves get gunned down throughout the Northern Rockies and the Obama Administration rubber-stamp leases to mine billions of tons of coal in Wyoming. But thanks to a slew of victories in 2012 that reformed oil and gas development, shuttered coal plants, protected endangered species, and banned cruel devices such as traps,



"We believe that the sky's the limit. We are biocentric and we are proud to stand up for what we believe – even when it entails risk."

—JOHN HORNING

we are confident in the GUARDIANS vision. Thanks for being a part of it—and for staying with us for as long as it takes to create enduring change.

MEMBERSHIP

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS represents you—our more than 25,000 members and activists. We ensure that your belief in visionary laws like the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act are enforced to protect imperiled plants and animals and secure a better future for wildness. We are grateful that you choose to be a GUARDIAN. You have consistently heeded our call to be a voice for endangered species, native carnivores, and our collective vision for what's possible. Thank you! On page 13 and 14, and on a new page on our website, we acknowledge those members who have been with us for ten years or more.



"The work that GUARDIANS does helps to make ecosystems whole again via policy and on the ground. We put thought, heart, and soul into every project." — WHITNEY BACON



WILDLIFE

Our efforts to confront cruelty and promote coexistence with native carnivores took a leap forward when we won a legal injunction in November that halted wolverine trapping in Montana. It's a great victory for these charismatic creatures and complements our other efforts—in state legislatures, Congress, and in the federal courts—to ban traps, poisons, and aerial gunning throughout the West. All of these initiatives are about creating a world where native carnivores, from wolves and wolverines to bears and cougars, can thrive on the landscape without persecution.



"I believe **GUARDIANS** is the last line of defense for all that is natural and wild in our world. We ensure justice for the voiceless natural world."

— BRYAN BIRD

Being nature's first responders to stem the extinction crisis is a job at which we continue to excel. Our historic legal settlement under the Endangered Species Act continues to move more than 820 imperiled species steps closer to the full protection they so desperately need. In 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed 54 species—plants, animals, mollusks—that occur throughout the United States. The ecological safety net is deployed and we can now use it to advocate more effectively for each of these species.

WILD RIVERS

Our work for the Rio Grande focused on creating political support to reform archaic western water policies that favor irrigation and growth over a living river. We engaged Congress and administration officials and sought their support to ensure that the river had a right to its own water. In addition to challenging transfers of water from



"We care about wild places, wildlife, rivers, and a healthy planet not for what they render us materialistically, but for what they render for our souls and spirits." —LORI COLT



farms to cities, we sought to create a permanent pool of environmental water in upstream reservoirs.

Unquestionably, our fight to protect and restore the Rio Grande got its biggest boost with the long-overdue hiring of our first Wild Rivers Program Director. Jen Pelz will be doing the critical work we need for a living Rio Grande.

WILD PLACES

Protecting our national forests and other public lands continues to be a cornerstone of the GUARDIANS agenda. In 2012, we once again successfully challenged U.S. Forest Service plans to allow logging on national forests in New Mexico and Colorado and also worked to rein in off-road vehicle use within New Mexico's national forests.



"I am inspired by our mission. We also inspire others to engage with and advocate for wild places, wild rivers, and wildlife."

—ANGELISA ESPINOZA



Our Leopold's Legacy campaign in the Greater Gila Bioregion continues to make modest progress towards our bold vision. Most significantly, we signed our first permit retirement agreement with a public lands rancher who agreed to relinquish his permit in exchange for financial compensation. Though the agreement is potentially good news for wolves and for reframing the social conflict in the region, we are still working on Congressional authorization for permit retirement.



"GUARDIANS believes in a wild world – one with big wild places, where all species have a right to exist, and rivers flow free. We fight for this at GUARDIANS."
—KEVIN GAITHER-BANCHOFF



CLIMATE & ENERGY

Four years ago, when we set out to bring an eventual end to coal mining in the Powder River Basin, we knew that it would be a classic case of David vs. Goliath. Not only were we taking on two multi-national giants in Peabody Coal and Arch Coal, the Basin is also where nearly 50 percent of our nation's coal is mined. Our litigation, political pressure, and consistent media attention have made a national—if not global—issue of the federal decisions to authorize the mining of billions of tons of new coal. In fact, we have a de-facto moratorium on coal leasing with which the highest level of the Interior Department is now engaged. Next, we plan to create more controversy and to win a major legal injunction that will put another nail in coal's coffin.

A second priority is cleaning up existing coal-fired power plants throughout the



"We believe that nature, be it a river, an insect, a wolf pack, or a mountain range, is deserving of respect and has an inherent right to exist freely."
—TAYLOR JONES



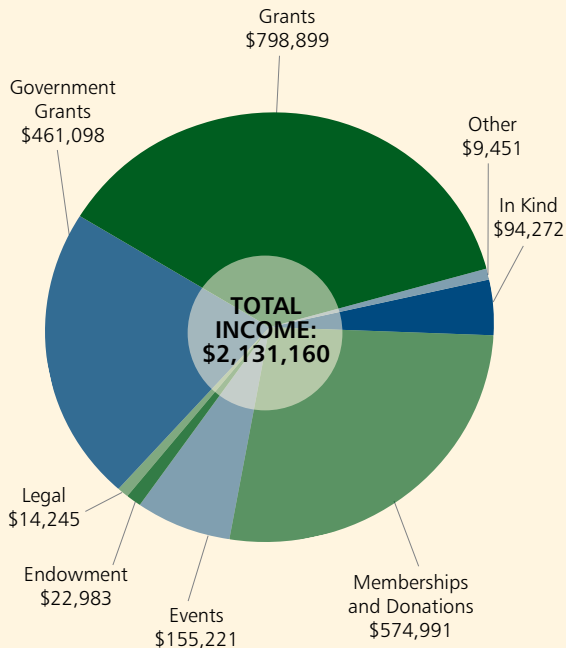
American West. Over the last few years our Clean Air Act litigation has targeted nearly all the plants throughout the West with one aim: shutting down dirty plants and forcing a transition to cleaner energy, for both our health and the planet's. After years of struggle we finally had our first major success with the announcement that half of the San Juan Generating Station is set for closure in 2017. Up next are closures at plants in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada.



"I'm proud that GUARDIANS puts its core values before political expediency, and that this commitment to integrity informs our campaigns."
—WENDY KEEOVER

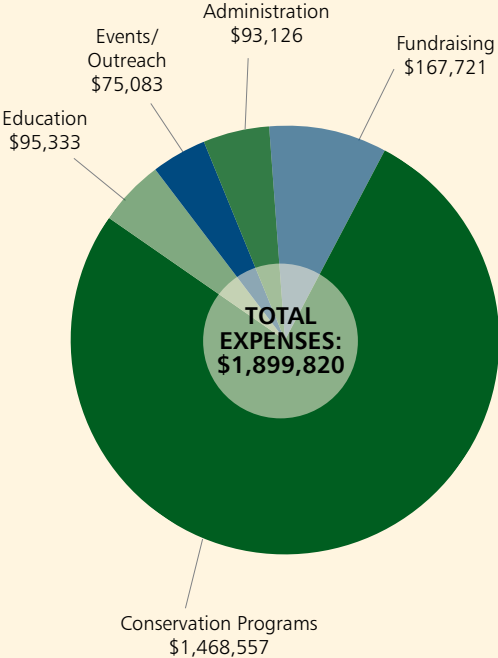


WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



"I'm inspired by GUARDIANS because I want to be part of a community that does not compromise the ethic that nurtures, respects, and protects our natural resources." —JIM MATISON

2012 Audited Financials



"GUARDIANS inspires and empowers us and others to love nature, to have hope that we can make change, and to join together in making the world a better place."
—JEREMY NICHOLS

Ten-Year

*Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all of our members. Here are three
Together we defend wildness, empower life, end injustice, and stand
Our members*



DONA UPSON

What drew me to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS was its local endangered species work, specifically the Mexican spotted owl program, and the emphasis on protecting habitat. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' ability to adapt and expand in response to an evermore-threatened natural environment

has maintained my support. My heart aches for endangered animals and the loss of natural habitat. All of us on this planet, and our habitat, are connected and interdependent, and all benefit immeasurably when balance is maintained and restored. We all have a responsibility to do what we can to lessen our role in disturbing that balance, and those efforts sustain our souls so that we can do more.



Supporters!

*unique yet typical members who have said “your values are our values.”
for healthy, sustainable ecosystems and human communities.
inspire us!*



ROBERT AND LINDA ROSE

We have been supporters of wildlife and natural conservation for a long time, and were members of both Forest Guardians and Sinapu before they merged to form WILDEARTH GUARDIANS. We were drawn to the work that GUARDIANS does to protect native ecosystems and the animals that they sustain. We appreciate the focus on small but important efforts that have achievable results and grassroots support. Everyone should support conservation groups like WILDEARTH GUARDIANS because they do real work on the ground, put resources to effective use, and get results!

**To see all of our ten-year supporters
visit wildearthguardians.org: About Us > Long Time Supporters**



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"Every day I am able to contribute towards the protection of
wilderness, and to the wildness that is in all of us and in every
other species."
—CAROL NORTON

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"GUARDIANS think and act outside the realm of what is possible and in so doing inspire and achieve things few are brave enough to try."

—JEN PELZ



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—SAMANTHA RUSCAVAGE-BARZ



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—MARK SALVO



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"I work for GUARDIANS to use the law in pursuit of justice for those who cannot fight for themselves." —JAY TUTCHTON

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"As GUARDIANS we don't just 'talk the talk' – we 'walk the walk.'"

—JODIE WHEELER



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“GUARDIANS protects wildlife and wild places that might otherwise be left unprotected by our legal system.”

—ASHLEY WILMES

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Mission Statement

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