

Annual Report 2017



Mission Statement

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

“Climate change is a civilizational wake-up call, a powerful message delivered in the language of fires, floods, storms, and droughts. Confronting it is no longer about changing the light bulbs. It’s about changing the world—before the world changes so drastically that no one is safe. Either we leap—or we sink.”

—NAOMI KLEIN

Legacy Giver DOYLE McCLURE



“ I have volunteered for numerous conservation organizations and agencies for almost 25 years. Related work included wildlife surveys, riparian restoration, watershed assessment, and monitoring forest practices. Over time, I became aware these activities didn't meet essential needs for protection of wildlife and other ecological values.

“Knowing the protection of wildlife and pristine natural areas derives largely from legal efforts to ensure compliance with environmental laws, I'm honored to support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS. The effort required to protect our public lands from destructive development and resource extraction, along with climate change, presents formidable challenges. GUARDIANS provides superb examples of the passionate dedication and skills necessary to succeed in this

David and Goliath contest with the extractive industries, which have enormously larger financial resources. The extractive industries now are abetted by arguably the most outrageous cast of officials to ever devise and enact government policy. We can win this contest only through the support of donors whose whole-hearted belief in protecting our environmental values matches that of GUARDIANS' dedicated staff.”

Legacy giving is a means to ensure GUARDIANS will continue to be a force for nature far into the future. We are grateful to Doyle McClure and to all of you who include us in your estate planning. Thank you!

Please contact Kevin Gaither-Banchoff for more information on how you can create a legacy with GUARDIANS: kevin@wildearthguardians.org.



From Our Executive Director JOHN HORNING

In an era when the White House and Congress are puppets for a corporate elite, the last refuge of our democracy—and the public interest—is our judicial system.

In 2017, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS advanced a robust portfolio of litigation to protect our national monuments, iconic wildlife, and clean water throughout the American West, and the courts delivered us many wins. Our successes not only restored key protections for wolves, bighorn sheep, and the climate, they also restored our faith in our system of government at a time when that faith is shaken.

We also used the courts to dismantle the veil of secrecy that now shields federal agencies in the age of Trump—decisions that benefit the billionaire robber barons at the expense of our commonwealth. Immediately after the election, we hired a “transparency” attorney who, in combination with other in-house and outside counsel, has now filed dozens of lawsuits to protect our right to know how our government operates.

Our successes notwithstanding, we recognize that the courts are increasingly vulnerable as Trump stacks the judicial system with appointees. That’s why we continue to believe that community organizers and campaigners are our future. In the last two years, we’ve hired four new staff to build power the old-fashioned way—from person to person and community to community.

Our voices, brought together in defense of the common good—whether our public lands, public schools, or public healthcare system—are the only things that can resist the demagogues and rogue populism that plague our times.



Courage, Tenacity, Love

In trying times like these, our outrage burns bright and fear is our fuel. But when those emotions fade and we're faced with the Herculean task before us, it might be easy to descend into hopelessness. That's when we need a GUARDIAN—a person who protects the vulnerable and nurtures that deeper connection to the wild places and things we love.

Sometimes our opponent's actions are so heinous that doing the right thing is obvious. Take the federal wildlife-killing agency, Wildlife Services, and its deadly cyanide bombs. After learning that one of these devices poisoned a 14-year-old boy in Idaho and killed his pet dog—among other tragedies this past year—we pushed for legislation in Congress, filed legal action, and shined a national spotlight, all in an effort to ban these cyanide bombs from the agency's barbaric arsenal.

But many times, being a GUARDIAN also means fighting for the unpopular thing.

In 2017 we won a groundbreaking federal court of appeals lawsuit against massive new coal mining in Wyoming's Powder River Basin. It was hailed as a victory

over a pro-coal administration. But we began that fight seven years ago, long before the refrain "Keep It in the Ground" and advocacy on supply-side climate policy were popular.

Equally, our once-sacrosanct public lands and national monuments are now more vulnerable than ever. Nevertheless, we're standing up in court, defending these sacred places in the face of increasing attempts at privatizing them by the fossil fuel industry and its climate-denying allies.

Keeping dark forces at bay—often for years—requires courage, tenacity, and a lot of love. But our love for the wildlife, wild places, wild rivers, and health of the American West transcends the current political moment. It powers our continued work to defend the Endangered Species Act, demand transparency from our public agencies, and ensure a living Rio Grande. Our hard-won victories and continued growth bear testament to this truth: nothing can dissuade us from a vision that entails protecting all of the American West, from its Rocky Mountains and Great Plains to its vast Sagebrush Sea.



FIGHTING FOR WILDLIFE

Rising to the challenge of confronting anti-wildlife policies on the national, state, and local levels, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS scored major wins for biodiversity across the American West in 2017:

- Thanks to our lawsuit, a federal judge threw out the Department of Justice's misguided "McKittrick Policy," holding that "Congress placed the burden to know the identity of the wildlife species being killed on the killer." The policy had crippled prosecutions of killers of animals protected by the Endangered Species Act by requiring the government to prove killers knew what species they were killing. The decision means killers of imperiled animals, like Echo, the Grand Canyon wolf shot by a coyote hunter, can again be punished for their crimes.



- We continue our fight to reform the U.S. Department of Agriculture wildlife-killing program, misnamed Wildlife Services, by going to court in Idaho, Oregon, Colorado, and California. The settlement in our California suit requires Wildlife Services to implement numerous protections for wildlife in Northern California, including a ban on traps and aerial gunning in designated Wilderness. Wildlife Services also must thoroughly analyze the environmental impacts of its killing of coyotes, bobcats, and other wildlife in 16 counties.
- Our petition led Wildlife Services to abandon its use of M-44 cyanide bombs across Idaho. We also petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to outlaw the devices, which cause agonizing deaths for thousands of animals every year.
- We are defending the Endangered Species Act against unprecedented attacks, including

59 attempts in the current Congress to repeal or cripple the Act.

- We sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over its deeply flawed decision to strip beloved grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of Endangered Species Act protections.
- We won our appeal of New Mexico's anti-wolf refusal to allow releases of critically imperiled Mexican wolves into the wild.
- We sued the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, and Wildlife Services over their cruel plans to kill cougars and black bears in a misguided attempt to boost mule deer populations.



Endangered Species Act
protections won for

19
species

7,815
acres
of



critical habitat
designated

0 Canada
lynx
trapped



in
**Montana Lynx
Protection
Zones**



3.5 billion tons
of coal
kept in the ground

20 FOIA lawsuits

filed to enforce transparency under Trump



100,000 people
rallied against new fracking in Greater Chaco

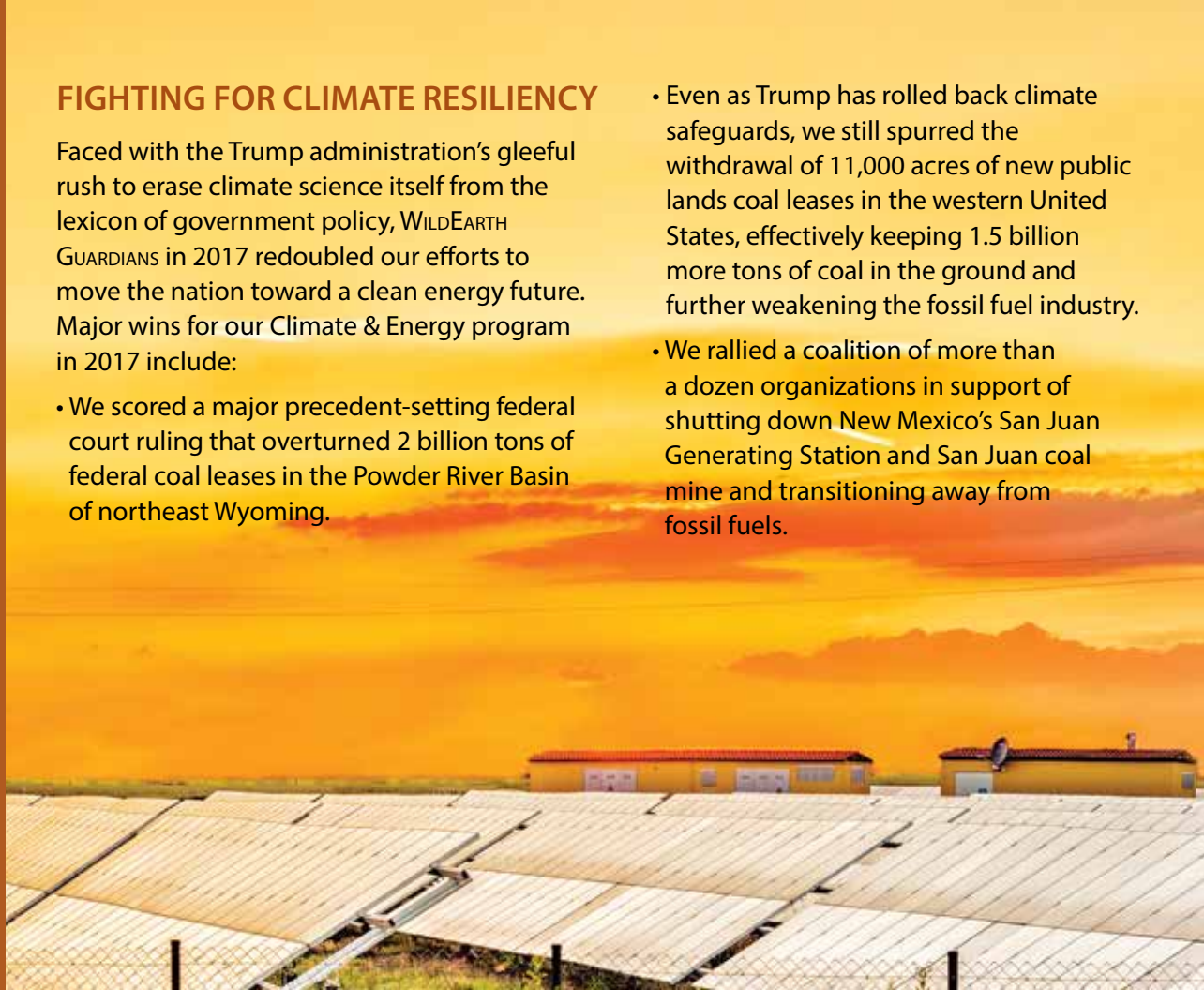


FIGHTING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Faced with the Trump administration's gleeful rush to erase climate science itself from the lexicon of government policy, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS in 2017 redoubled our efforts to move the nation toward a clean energy future. Major wins for our Climate & Energy program in 2017 include:

- We scored a major precedent-setting federal court ruling that overturned 2 billion tons of federal coal leases in the Powder River Basin of northeast Wyoming.

- Even as Trump has rolled back climate safeguards, we still spurred the withdrawal of 11,000 acres of new public lands coal leases in the western United States, effectively keeping 1.5 billion more tons of coal in the ground and further weakening the fossil fuel industry.
- We rallied a coalition of more than a dozen organizations in support of shutting down New Mexico's San Juan Generating Station and San Juan coal mine and transitioning away from fossil fuels.



- We thwarted an attempt by Trump and his Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke, to auction off 30,000 acres of public lands next to Rocky Mountain National Park for fracking.
- We played a pivotal role in confronting attempts by Trump and Zinke to auction more than one million acres of public lands across the American West to the oil and gas industries.
- We launched a Clean Air Act enforcement lawsuit against the

Martin Drake coal-fired power plant in Colorado Springs, Colo., in hopes that we can finally put an end to this plant's toxic air pollution.

- We filed a lawsuit to halt new oil and gas pipeline approvals on public lands in the American West, challenging the Trump administration's failure to inspect pipelines on more than 250,000 acres of public lands as required by federal law.





FIGHTING FOR WILD PLACES

With public advocacy and public action, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' Wild Places program has stood fast for our public lands while threats multiplied in 2017. Though the extractive industries are ratcheting up their efforts to acquire our public lands for personal profit, our vision remains strong: to nurture vast, protected, wild landscapes interconnected by corridors that are free from the impacts of human activity and teeming with the diversity of life. Here are our major wins in 2017:

- We completed the three-year Upper Jaramillo Creek restoration project in the



Valles Caldera National Preserve, N.M. We also restored over three miles of Jaramillo Creek, including over 57 acres of riparian habitat, and planted 50,000 willows, 600 cottonwoods, 600 alders, and 600 aspens. Per year, the project took 12,000 hours of work along with 2,200 hours from volunteers.

- We helped beat back legislation that would have sold off up to 3.3 million acres of public lands.
- We moved 20,000 GUARDIANS to speak out against shrinking or revoking our national monuments, and 14,000 GUARDIANS to help convince the Forest Service to rewild old roads.



- We persuaded the King County (Washington state) Council, representing 2.1 million people, to pass a resolution opposing public lands sell-offs.
- We convinced the Forest Service to decommission over 300 miles of roads around the West for the protection of wildlands, wildlife, and clean water.
- We bought out the 8,454-acre Alamocita cattle allotment on the Gila National Forest, N.M., and came to terms on the 37,151-acre Govina allotment, also on the Gila, protecting

these areas for Mexican wolves, elk, and a host of other wildlife.

- We protected lynx habitat across 200,000 acres of National Forest along the Western Slope of Colorado.
- We moved to protect dwindling winter steelhead and spring Chinook populations in the Willamette River, Ore., by filing notice to sue the Army Corps of Engineers on their management of four Willamette River dams.



7,953
miles 

of Forest Service roads
decommissioned
in **9** years 

27,000
hours restoring
streams 

in New Mexico
+ 3,000
hours from **volunteers**

Advocated for
wildlife and
clean water on



60 projects on
45 National Forests in
10 states

**new
partnership**



with **Waterkeeper Alliance**
to establish

**Rio Grande
Waterkeeper**

Sued
to
prevent
**9 billion-
gallon-
per-year**
diversion from
Colorado River

**5 water
transfer
protests**

filed in
Middle Rio
Grande Valley

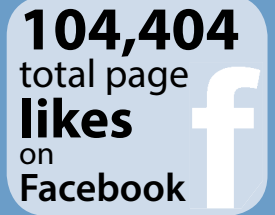
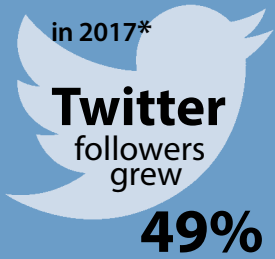


FIGHTING FOR WILD RIVERS

In this time when our values are being shaken to the core and our rivers are exploited without regard for natural limitations, GUARDIANS is envisioning how to chart a new course for our Western rivers. Here are our major wins of 2017:

- We reached out to stakeholders across the Rio Grande Basin to discuss our vision to rethink water management in the Rio Grande (www.rethinkingtherio.org).
- We filed five water transfer protests with the New Mexico State Engineer to ensure that the city of Rio Rancho's plan to move water from farming to municipal uses upstream does not impact flows on 50 to 100 miles of the Rio Grande and harm the public welfare.
- We joined with new allies—the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, the Bureau of Reclamation, and several middle Rio Grande Pueblos—to challenge the application by the city of Rio Rancho to ensure scrutiny of this transfer.
- We pursued protection of a newly discovered population of the imperiled Rio Grande chub as local ditch companies continue to push re-engineering five dams that threaten the survival and passage of the chub and other native fish in the Rio Grande. We are pressing to ensure that aquatic and riparian habitat of the river is improved, not compromised, and continue to push for listing of the chub under the Endangered Species Act pursuant to our 2013 petition.
- We joined a coalition of environmental groups to file a lawsuit in federal court challenging the Windy Gap Firing Project—a plan to divert 9 billion gallons of water annually from the Colorado River to use to fuel urban growth on the Front Range.





*Jan–Nov

Learn & Protect

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is releasing two new digital portals:

BraveNewWild.org. Learn about what's happening on the ground in the American West.

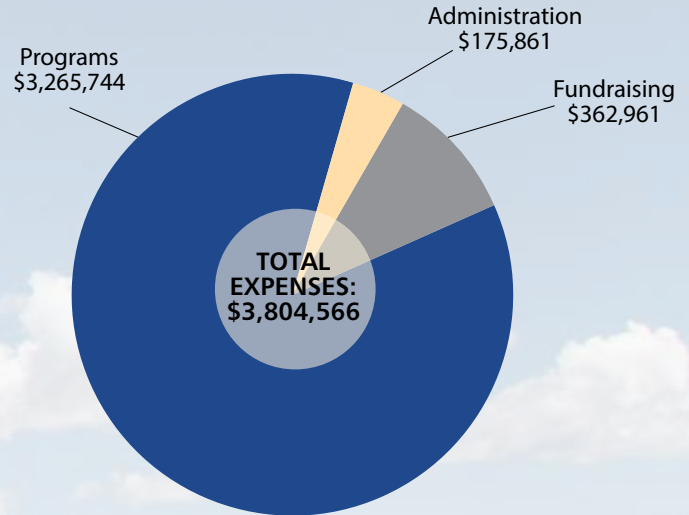
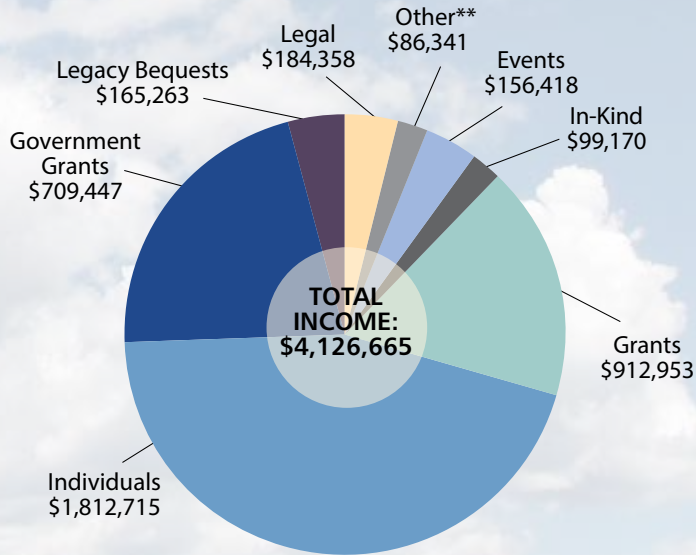
GuardiansInAction.org. Raise your voice, act on your values, and protect the wild.

Tell a Friend

Just as prairie dog "sentries" stand guard at the entrance to their burrows, alerting their community when they see danger, we must also sound a warning when what we hold most dear is threatened. Tell your friends. They, too, can be A Force for Nature.

2017 Financials*

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' fundraising results remain diversified; our overhead and fundraising costs remain low. We continue to earn Charity Navigator's top rating.



*Unaudited

**Grazing permit retirements

We are so grateful for our members.

This year, in addition to listing grant givers, we are including a list of members who have been with us for 10 years. Thank you!

RESTORATION GRANTS

National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
National Forest Foundation
National Park Service
New Mexico Environment
Department
New Mexico Youth
Conservation Corps
Rio Grande Return
State of New Mexico
Sustainable Ecosystems
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

FOUNDATIONS

444S Foundation
Anderson-Rogers Foundation
Ark Foundation
Aveda Foundation
Burning Foundation
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Cottonwood Foundation
Cross Charitable Foundation
Deer Creek Foundation
Emmett Foundation
Firedoll Foundation
L.H. Foley and M.H. Frischkorn
Wildlife and Conservation Fund
Foundation for Sustainability
and Innovation
George and Miriam Martin
Foundation
Glickenhau Foundation
Harder Foundation
Jubitz Family Foundation

Just Woke Up Fund, Santa Fe
Community Foundation
Leonard X. Bosack & Bette M.
Kruger Charitable Foundation
Leuthold Family Foundation
Livingry Foundation
Margaret Kendrick Blodgett
Foundation
McCune Charitable Foundation
MET Foundation
Moore Family Foundation
New Cycle, Santa Fe
Community Foundation
New Mexico Community
Foundation
New-Land Foundation
Park Foundation
Patagonia Foundation
Regina Bauer Frankenberg
Foundation
The River Foundation

SB Foundation
Schaffner Family Foundation
Sulica Fund
Susie Tompkins Buell Foundation
The Taft Foundation
Wallace Genetic Foundation
Weeden Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation
William H. and Mattie
Wattis Harris Foundation
Winslow Foundation

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY MEMBERS

Paul Austin
Deb Beeson
Robert Brown
John Butler and
Marsha Oldakowski
Tim and Amy Cannon
Patricia Carlton



Suzanne and John Carolla
Frances Carter
Charles de Saillan
Jeffrey Diamond and
Diane Pearlman
Frank Drysdale and
Margaret Hadderman
Sheila Dugan
Jeanette and Terry Dunbar
Ronald Dunn
John Eckert and Sue McKelvey
Joan and Daniel Embree
Jane and Mark Epstein
Angelisa Espinoza
John Fielder
Marshall Forrest
Marlene Garone and LJ Baylis
Darlene Goska and
Scot Campbell
Chuck Greaves and
Lynda Larsen
Diana Hadley
Barbara and Delmer Hamblin
Richard Hughes

Guardian Giver: CHRISTINE LOIZEAUX



"My mother started me earth-thinking with her donating to the Redwoods group and talking to me about Aldo Leopold (and entertaining his son one afternoon for lunch) and about Rachel Carson's struggles. Every day I have to reorient my focus to the good being done. Of all the environmental organizations to which I contribute yearly, I really think GUARDIANS has the best, most efficient, most dedicated group of workers. This is the most important work of all being carried out."

Robert Johnson
Tim Johnson
Shirley and George Karas
Chris Keefe
Lynette Kennard
Mireille Key
Alexia Kniska and Paul Smith
La Posada de Santa Fe
Deborah Lans
Chet and Karen Leach
Christine Loizeaux
Laura and Robert Malone
Kathi and Michael Mansur

Deward and Ginny Manzer
Francoise May
Liz McGrory and Ric Plaisance
Kay Monaco and
Dick Winterbottom
Susan Morris
David Muller
Mark Naylor and Dale Gunn
Cammie and Loren Nichols
Wallace Orr
Chris Otahal
Francois-Marie Patorni
William Syme and Joyce Phillips



9
**opinion
pieces**
published
online &
in print
in 2017*

2017*
average

**action rate
from emails
5.21%**


average
**email
open rate**
2017*:

17.7%

*JAN-NOV

 **105**
press
releases
sent in
2017*

\$\$\$\$\$\$
budget
in 2017:
\$4,196,856


number of
staff
in 2016: **25**
in 2017: **30**

* JAN-NOV

Guardian Givers: ELIZABETH MCGRORY AND RIC PLAISANCE



"We have been GUARDIANS members for ten years for many reasons. We have a great deal of trust in the work. Their prairie dog campaign is a great example—smart advocacy, long-term commitment, and strong legal challenges. The staff is fierce and committed and their work is strategic, innovative, and effective. We love the snowy peaks and gorgeous prairies of the American West and we know GUARDIANS is the best way to invest in our public lands."



Bill Rose
Rothstein Donatelli LLP
Samantha Ruscavage-Barz and
Dave Barz
Katie Lutz and John Scott
Ken and Carole Sharp
Paul and Jennifer Shippee
Carol and Bill Smallwood
Cheryl Smith
Rebecca Sobel
Camille and James Spar
Sherry Stein
Kay Stillion
Sonja Stupel
Fred Teitelbaum
Deborah Thompson and
Todd Ringler
Harry and Jere Turner
Holly Vliet
Jerry Williams
Richard and Jody Wilson
Frederick and Florence Wright

Pranzo Italian Grill
Anne Ravenstone
Ronald Reading
Kathryn and George
Resseguie
Bill Riley and
Candy Rand-Riley
Mike Roach and Lori Colt

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WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

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