



## Legacy Giver DYAN OLDENBURG



yan Oldenburg, who came to New Mexico via Chicago, Yellow Springs, New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Portland 45 years ago, claims the Rocky Mountain West as her spiritual home. When she began her search to be part of something, she found WILDEARTH GUARDIANS.

"Guardians gets things done for the West's wildlife, wild places, and wild rivers that I love," she says. "We have always sought creative, innovative solutions on campaigns like Ending the War on Wildlife."

Dyan has been an active volunteer with Guardians and is proud to be a member of the Wild Bunch, Guardians' monthly donor program. "Guardians works collaboratively with all parties to drive real progress and yet they are not afraid to litigate when needed," she says. "They will stand up to this administration's

anti-environment agenda. I am giving a legacy gift so that Guardians will always be on the job. I urge you now more than ever to join with me in becoming a legacy giver." Look for Dyan at Guardians' actions and rallies.

Legacy giving is a means to ensure Guardians will continue to be a force for nature far into the future. We are grateful to Dyan Oldenburg 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

hen you're in the eye of a mighty and turbulent storm as we are at this moment in our nation's history, it can be hard to look back and reflect on what you've accomplished. But just as it's vital to keep an eye on the future, so too is it important to take stock of the past. In 2016:

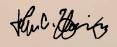
We celebrated our belief in *diversity* by winning legal actions for lynx, wolverine, and wolves and concluded our historic Endangered Species Act legal agreement, which protected 193 different imperiled species, including a sage grouse and a jumping mouse. Likewise, we advanced our compassionate coexistence work with native carnivores.

We initiated a suite of new legal actions to ensure *safe passage* for the Rio Grande's water and its wild inhabitants. We also set forth a whole new vision for rethinking reservoirs and water management to ensure we sustain a living river in an era of climate change.

We deepened our efforts to address the climate crisis by *shifting power* with our Keep It in the Ground campaign. We secured a moratorium on the further giveaway of public coal, shuttered power plants, and intensified legal and political pressure on fracking throughout the West.

We protected the *commons* of our public lands throughout the American West by challenging efforts to privatize our lands through our merger with the Western Lands Project. Our rewilding campaign helped restore our national forests through closing roads and reconnecting habitat.

In these difficult times, take a moment to celebrate our accomplishments.





hat's the role of a Guardian in a time of crisis? It's a question we asked ourselves frequently in the wake of the election as we prepared for environmental rollbacks and fossil fuel handouts becoming standard practice under President Trump's team of climate crisis denying billionaires.

While our answer is a healthy dose of resistance, for certain, we also believe resistance alone is not enough. To protect our democracy and prevent the privatization of the commons—whether our land, water, wildlife, or climate—we also need to engage in building the future we yearn for and keep our dreams of a better world alive.

Our integrated approach for these times is to litigate, agitate, and yes, even legislate. And since the federal courts remain the last refuge of our democracy, we're already engaged and will continue to deploy a healthy dose of aggressive, creative litigation. It's what we do well and we've been doing

it for more than 25 years. Agitators with a vision—that's Guardians.

But we also need to strengthen our culture of activism and build power by engaging our growing base of activists who yearn to be part of our work. We feel a growing imperative not only to work with conservation allies to protect the natural world but also to think—and act—more at the intersections of other justice movements building power for women, minorities, and those with less power.

Crisis is also opportunity: opportunity through the overreach and arrogance of those in power and opportunity to bring together all of us who believe that the environmental and social safety nets that exist in our nation serve not only the voiceless and the less powerful but also the vision of a great and compassionate nation.







wins for wildlife in 2016. These victories come only after hundreds of hours invested in laying the groundwork, with no guarantee of success:

- settlement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service resulted in new protections for 193 imperiled animals and plants. Our report detailing the settlement's successes, Progress for Protection, is on our website.
- Our battle to fundamentally reform the roque federal wildlife-killing program, Wildlife Services, included several legal strategies:

~ We halted wildlife killing on

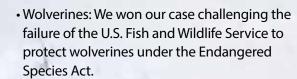
~ We ensured Wildlife Services

would never again rely on

lands in Nevada.

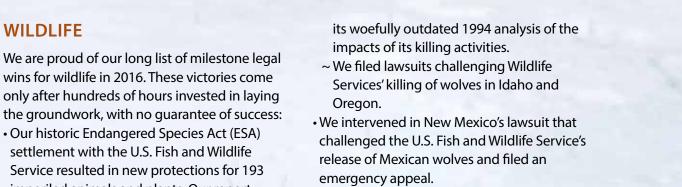
6.2 million acres of our public

- release of Mexican wolves and filed an emergency appeal.
- We sent a notice of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the use of dangerous poisons on our public lands.



- Canada lynx: We won our challenge against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over its failure to designate critical habitat for the snow cats in the Southern Rockies.
- Sage grouse: We're suing for stronger federal protection plans.
- Mono Basin sage grouse: We are challenging inadequate federal protections.
- New Mexico meadow jumping mouse: Critical habitat protected.

Guardians is stalwart in our commitment to protecting and restoring our most imperiled wildlife, and we will continue to counter actions that weaken, attempt to prevent, or prematurely strip protections for at-risk species.





1.9 million acres & 302.9 river/stream miles of critical habitat designated for imperiled species

6.2 million acres of Wilderness & Wilderness Study Areas temporarily closed to

## 150,000 comments generated to reject fossil fuel development

our research revealed



of federal coal unlawfully leased

we forced



lease-sale cancellations

### **CLIMATE & ENERGY**

Our determined campaigning and coalition building paid off in 2016 with a huge victory—a moratorium on coal leasing on federal lands, potentially keeping 1.8 billion tons of coal in the ground.

Making *Keep It in the Ground* a signature national issue helped us create broad public awareness of coal's impact on climate and health. We spent many hours working in the public eye and behind the scenes: applying legal pressure, mobilizing supporters, working with a wide coalition of national organizations,

and energizing elected officials. With this powerful foundation, we have confidence we can sustain progress in the midst of immense challenges.

#### **MAJOR WINS IN 2016:**

- We forced the federal government to analyze the environmental impacts of mining more than 200 million tons of coal on federal public lands in Colorado, Montana, and New Mexico.
- We secured a legal agreement to shutter two coal-fired power plants and a coal mine in western Colorado, taking 500 megawatts of coal-fired power offline.
- Alongside Native communities, we campaigned against the 130-mile Piñon oil pipeline—and we won! The proposal was canceled—a big boost for protecting the Greater Chaco region. The pipeline would have opened the door to more than 500 new fracking wells.
- We put Colorado Springs, Colo., on notice last year of an impending lawsuit over thousands of clean air violations at its Martin Drake coal-fired power plant. (We filed the lawsuit early this year.) The urban facility spews millions of tons of toxic air pollution annually.
- We revealed the federal government unlawfully leased more than 2 billion tons of coal across four Western states.
- With Physicians for Social Responsibility, we filed suit to overturn the federal government's sale of nearly 400,000 acres of public lands for fracking in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

Clean energy remains the key to halting the devastation of the West's wildlife, wild places, and wild rivers.













## **WILD PLACES**

The trail was nonexistent. Guardians' Marlies Wierenga, Marla Fox, and Greg Dyson threaded their way through underbrush only to confront a steep slope that defied any attempts to descend. They turned back, happy with what they'd seen. This slope, covered with young native trees and shrubs, had been "rewilded," transformed by human labor from a decaying, sediment-bleeding forest road into its former natural state.

This was on the Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon in 2016. GUARDIANS' Rewilding Team is involved in more than a

dozen large-scale projects in national forests across the American West.

Correcting the damage from logging, livestock grazing, ORV traffic, and unneeded roads improves habitat and protects clean water for the public. Our long-term goal is to pressure the Forest Service to create resilient forests in the face of climate change.

Our rewilding work dovetails with our protection of the Greater Gila bioregion, grassroots campaigns, administrative appeals, and court actions to challenge destructive public lands management policy and proposals.

#### **MAJOR WINS IN 2016:**

- We joined with allies and the Forest Service last April to celebrate the 1,000th culvert replaced on national forest roads.
- We pushed the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington state to decommission 38 miles of roads in one watershed.
- We challenged a plan for excessive motorized travel on the Tonto National Forest in Arizona that threatened endangered species, habitat, streams, and roadless areas.
- Partnering with Youth Conservation Corps, Colorado College, and others, we planted 100,000 trees along streams in New Mexico and performed other restoration to rehabilitate damage from past livestock grazing.
- Faced with our pending suit, Sawtooth National Forest, Idaho, agreed to examine how roads and trails harm bull trout habitat.
- Under pressure from GUARDIANS, the Forest Service must address threats to bighorn sheep from domestic grazing in Montana's Greenhorn Mountains.

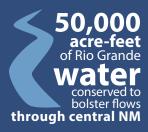
The majority of Americans believe public lands belong to all of us. We will stay on the frontline of this battle to keep public lands public.

10 million acres of national forests where we are advancing our rewilding vision

In 2016 we planted 100,000 trees

\$40,000,000 allocated to remove forest roads

the commons

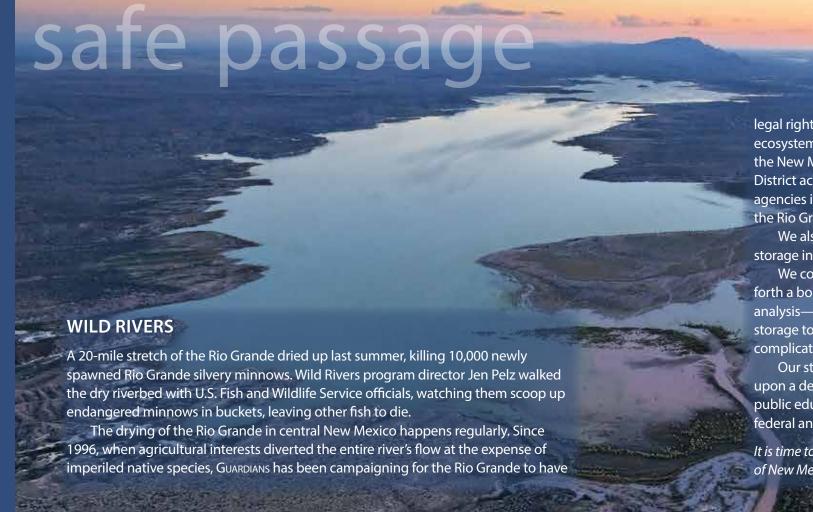


1 population of Rio Grande

discovered & protected

in Colorad

1 new website for Rio Grande: Rethinking TheRio.org



legal right to its own water. Too many competing demands are placing the ecosystem—and the iconic river itself—in danger. Last year we filed suit against the New Mexico State Engineer to hold the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District accountable to use only what it needs. We are currently suing three federal agencies in two lawsuits for failing to ensure the survival and recovery of several of the Rio Grande's imperiled species.

We also filed two applications with the N.M. State Engineer claiming water for storage in Abiquiu Reservoir and to sustain environmental flows in the Rio Grande.

We completed last year a new report and website, "Rethinking the Rio," setting forth a bold vision and detailed solution for restoring flows in New Mexico. Our analysis—to determine the water savings possible by moving low-elevation storage to high-elevation reservoirs—presents a 21st-century solution to this complicated problem.

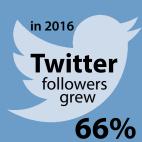
Our strategies to change water management and secure the river's flows rely upon a delicate balance of strategic litigation, collaboration, policy work, and public education. As a result, we're seeing numerous, sometimes dramatic, shifts in federal and state water policy and practices.

It is time to make the river whole again and ensure that current and future generations of New Mexicans have a living Rio Grande.









membership
up 0 0
from
3,852 to 4,237

51% more Facebook page likes in 2016: 99,765

# **GET INVOLVED!**

Host a house party

Write

letters to and call your representatives

Attend rallies

Plant

## Volunteer

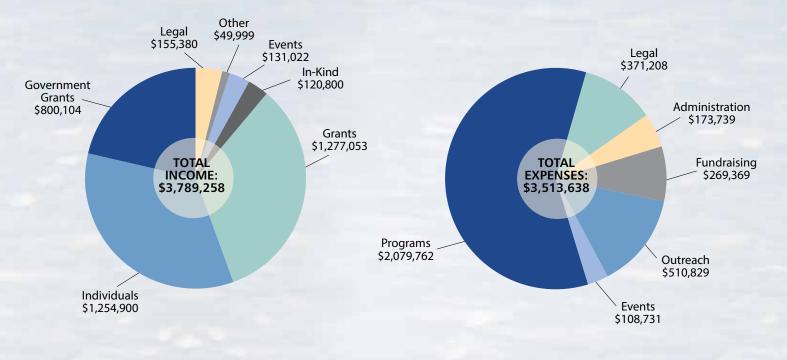
at Guardians' events

Include us in your legacy plans

Follow us on and share our social media

Stand up
for wildlife in court

## 2016 Audited Financials



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

## 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** 

**Campbell Foundation** Kisco Cares Foundation Cottonwood Foundation Leonard X. Bosack & Bette M. **Deer Creek Foundation** Kruger Charitable Foundation **Emmett Foundation** Max & Anna Levinson George and Miriam Martin Foundation Foundation McCune Charitable Foundation Good Works Institute, Inc. Met Foundation Inc. Harder Foundation **Moore Family Foundation** JiJi Foundation **New Cycle Foundation** John S. Scurci Foundation New Land Foundation **Jubitz Family Foundation** Just Woke Up Fund, Santa Fe Community Foundation

Foundation Northwest Fund for the Environment Park Foundation Patagonia Foundation Paul M. Angell Family Foundation Regina B. Frankenberg Foundation SB Foundation Schaffner Family Foundation Steven C. Leuthold Family Foundation Sulica Fund Inc. V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation Wallace Genetic Foundation Weeden Foundation Whole Systems Foundation Wilburforce Foundation

**New Mexico Community** 

## **10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY** MEMBERS

Elizabeth and David Adams Cathy Bailey and Dan Shaw **Bob Banks** Ty and Barb Belknap Richard Besser and Shirley Russman **Brent Bonwell and** Sally Wright Candace Boulay Carolyn Chase City-O-City **Community Foundation For** The National Capital Region Sue and Alan Conklin Chip Conway

Helen Davis

Barbara Fix

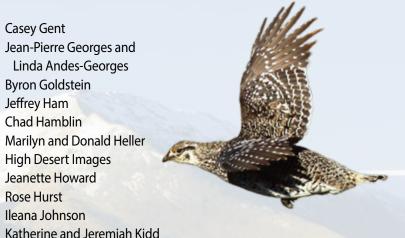
Jan Gabin

Frank Drysdale and

Murray Gell-Mann

Margaret Hadderman John and Diane Forsdale

Casey Gent Jean-Pierre Georges and Linda Andes-Georges Byron Goldstein Jeffrey Ham Chad Hamblin Marilyn and Donald Heller High Desert Images Jeanette Howard Rose Hurst Ileana Johnson



## **Guardian Giver: CANDACE BOULAY**



On her tenth anniversary of being a GUARDIAN, Candace Boulay notes that she "found WILDEARTH Guardians in reading about nonprofit organizations around New Mexico (where I relocated in 2000). The campaign closest to my heart is keeping our wild places free of poisons and traps." In 2006, Candace

began to share her creativity with Guardians by donating her beautiful art and jewelry for our auctions. We are grateful for her belief in us: "WILDEARTH GUARDIANS works hard with integrity on behalf of so many."









\$3,683,629 \$4,199,646



## Guardian Givers: SUE AND ALAN CONKLIN



Craig Lamb

Susan Morris

"We love WILDEARTH GUARDIANS because of the people! We participated in river restoration for several years and found GUARDIANS easy to work with and fun to be with. It was eyeopening to learn what a river should look like after we planted cottonwoods and willows.

We have put these restoration practices to use on our own 25 acres. This land has been put into a conservation easement, which has improved wildlife habitat, attracting more wildlife and preventing fires. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has a lot in common with us on environmental issues. We love their commitment to animal welfare and improving the environment."

Constance Koch John Osgood Kathie and Late Nite Grafix, Inc. Terry Owen Liquid Light Glass John Scott and Katie Lutz Joshlyn Marino Lisa Quane Esther and Joseph Martinez Ariana Mindelzun Will Ruggles Ramona Mitchell Allen Sanborn

Natures Own Inc. Deborah Paulson Douglass Rankin and Mary Anne and

Debashis and Meara Satpathi Hayes Karal Schlundt Kathleen Scott James and Cathy Shelton Sierra Club Northern NM Group Janice St Marie Stone Forest, Inc. Sally Strain Jeanne Turgeon Turn And Return Fund Angie Unruh John Verheul Patricia Whalen Judy Williams and Elliot Stern

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