



WILDEARTH
GUARDIANS
A FORCE FOR NATURE

Annual Report
2010





From the Executive Director

John Horning

2010 was a year to remember. For the campaigns we completed, those we sustained and those that we began. A few actions highlight our creativity and effectiveness. First, our three BioBlitzes during the year, which by their scope and intensity—we filed actions to protect more than 100 imperiled species—forced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to begin to respond to the biodiversity crisis; second, we invoked a little-known but powerful provision in the Clean Water Act to designate 700 miles of “outstanding waters” in New Mexico; and third, we created a grazing permit retirement account to fund voluntary grazing permit retirement to enhance wolf conservation in the Southwest.

But there was also plenty of actions to fight in 2010, including the Interior Department’s continued refusal to protect species like the Sonoran desert tortoise, the wolverine and the greater sage-grouse—three of the more than 250 species that wait and wait for the Endangered Species Act listing logjam to be broken. Though our financial bottom line did not end up where it needs to be, we have a diversified and loyal funding base that we will continue to nurture.

With so much good work going on, the support of our nearly 12,000 members, and a passionate, hard-working staff there’s a lot to look forward to in 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Horning". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Guardian Giver

MARGARET ATWOOD AND GRAEME GIBSON



Acclaimed authors Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson became involved with WILDEARTH GUARDIANS while working on books that explore the notions of wilderness and wildlife. Atwood was on a book tour for her *Year of the Flood* while Gibson published *The Bedside Book of Beasts*.

Both saw a fit between their work and WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' work to protect native carnivores.

"We both have been lucky enough to hear wolf packs howling at the moon—and to learn about the necessary part wolves play in keeping down overpopulations of herbivores such as deer. So connecting with WILDEARTH GUARDIANS felt like a good fit," says Atwood.

Atwood continues, "WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' work to connect the idea of wilderness (which will not be a true wilderness without alpha predators) with the idea of mental and physical health, will make large strides. Co-existence, not extinction, is the problem to be solved."



Wildlife 2010 Recap

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS Wildlife Program celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity with an unprecedented scale of actions all year long. Our efforts were aimed at compelling the federal government to implement the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) as a contribution to the world's efforts to preserve biodiversity.

As a result of our energetic campaign, a number of species have a renewed chance at survival.

- We secured court victories for the Gunnison's and Utah prairie dogs that require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to review how to best protect these animals.
- Another member of the prairie dog ecosystem, the mountain plover, was proposed for ESA listing due to our pressure.

2010 Timeline: Guardians in Action

- January 4** Launched E.O. Wilson Week – a series of actions for the little things that run the world
- January 19** Launched On the Prowl Week – a series of actions for carnivores

- Court settlements we obtained resulted in recovery plans for the fin and sperm whales.
- The thick-billed parrot and jaguarundi have a chance at a binational recovery planning as a result of our court settlements.
- Four of the five species in our Western Grouse Project – lesser prairie-chicken, Mono Basin sage-grouse, greater sage-grouse, and Gunnison sage-grouse-- progressed toward ESA listing.
- Umbrella species, such as the Sprague's pipit in the Great Plains and southwest and the Sonoran desert tortoise in the Sonoran Desert, were designated as candidates deserving of federal protection under the ESA.
- The sand dune lizard, for which we have steadily pressed for federal listing, was proposed for protection at long last.



- January 25** Launched Borderlands Week – a series of actions for imperiled species that live along US borders
- January 26** Hosted screening of *Lords of Nature: Life in the Land of Great Predators* at University of Colorado with panel discussion afterward



Wild Places 2010 Recap

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' Wild Places program worked on numerous fronts in 2010 to secure greater protections for the last best landscapes in the West. From challenging ecologically damaging land uses such as mining and off-highway vehicles to re-wilding areas previously scarred by human hands, the Wild Places program made great strides.

Our accomplishments mean not only greater protection for wild landscapes but also the wildlife, water and air that make them the treasures we cherish.

- Advocated greater restrictions on off-highway vehicles uses in Arizona and New Mexico national forests.
- Advocated for beaver reestablishment, river ecosystems, and road obliteration as part of an historic and collaborative effort with local communities in the Jemez Mountains in northern New Mexico.

February 2 Released *Report from the Burrow* in celebration of Prairie Dog Day

February 12 Lawsuit to protect San Juan basin citizens from harmful air pollution moved forward in court

February 16 Launched Ocean week – a series of actions to protect endangered sea creatures

- Advocated for strong protection of Utah's national forests from logging and oil and gas development.
- Fought forest biomass energy development in New Mexico.



- Advocated for strong environmental analysis and public participation in the Obama Administration's national forests planning rule.
- Challenged numerous Uranium prospecting projects in New Mexico.
- Removed miles of barbed wire fencing within the Valles Caldera National Preserve in northern New Mexico to reestablish wildlife migration corridors.



- Advocated for beaver reestablishment as a climate adaption strategy on federal lands.
- Created homes for more than 200 Gunnison's prairie dogs in New Mexico.

March 10 Challenged Xcel's Comanche 3 coal-fired plant stands up in court

March 18 BLM agreed to suspend 41,000 oil and gas leases in Montana to protect the climate

March 22 Filed suit with the EPA to overturn air permit for Valmont coal-fired plant in Boulder

April 1 Hosted Fossil Fool's Day to rally public support for a clean energy future in Denver



Climate and Energy 2010 Recap

The tragedy of the Gulf oil spill this past year was a disturbing reminder of

just how much we stand to lose by relying on fossil fuels. That's why WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' goal has been and continues to be simple: To help clean energy take root by exposing the true cost of fossil fuels.

In 2010, our efforts set the stage for watershed gains toward clean energy.

- Filed lawsuits to overturn billions of tons of new coal mining in the nation's largest coal producing region, the Powder River Basin of Wyoming.
- Brought pressure to bear against the region's largest coal-fired power plants, including New Mexico's San Juan Generating Station and Four Corners Power Plant, two of the largest coal-fired power plants in the American West.
- Helped thwart 41,000 acres of oil and gas drilling in Montana.

April 2	Bumphead parrotfish progressed toward ESA protection
April 13	48 species in Hawaii were finally given federal protections under the ESA
April 15	Axe the Tax Day spotlighted US spending on wildlife slaughter
April 21	Filed suit over Powder River basin coal mining

- Applied pressure until Xcel Energy committed to retiring four coal-fired power plants in Colorado.
- Halted 41,000 acres of oil and gas drilling in Montana.
- Successfully pressured the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt the first-ever rules to limit greenhouse gas emissions from industrial sources of air pollution.
- Filed first-ever lawsuit challenging global warming impacts of coal mining in Wyoming's Powder River Basin.
- Put five coal-fired power plants on the road to retirement in Colorado.



April 28 Widespread media attention spotlighting TX Governor's killing of a coyote
May 6 Largetooth sawfish proposed for ESA listing
May 7 Took on San Juan power plant for its failure to rein in carbon dioxide emissions
May 17 Called on Dept. of Interior to hold BLM to accountable oil and gas leasing

Wild Rivers 2010 Recap

From the mighty Rio Grande to the little-known La Jencia Creek, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' efforts to protect the West's waterways have gained momentum each year. In 2010, our Wild Rivers program forged ahead with unprecedented river restoration projects. In addition, the program worked on raising public awareness and re-connecting communities with the rivers and streams that sustain us all.

- Planted 6,000 cottonwoods, 2,500 gooding willow, 500 pacific willow, more than 100,000 coyote willow, 100 boxelder maple, and 600 riparian forage species such as chokecherry, golden currant, netleaf hackberry, stretchberry, skunkbush sumac, bluestem willow, false indigo bush, and American plum.



- May 25** Hosted mountain lion forum at the Boulder Audubon
- June 3** Requested a range-wide conservation strategy for sage-grouse
- June 10** Sued federal government seeking to increase grazing fees on public lands
- June 11** Requested an end to trapping and snaring of Mexican wolves in southern NM

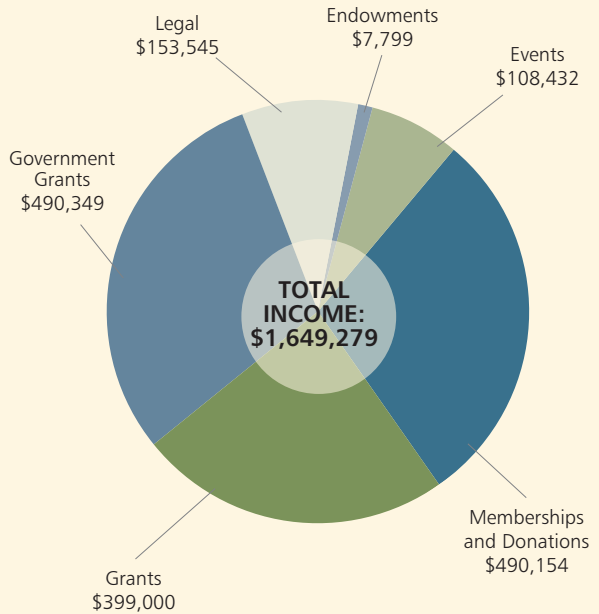


- Hosted river restoration community events at Bluewater Creek, La Jencia Creek, Rio Puerco, Santa Fe River, and Rio Ojo Caliente.
- To improve watershed health and wildlife habitat, eight miles of roads were closed and decommissioned within the Santa Fe National Forest for a total of 40 miles over the last three years.
- Completed significant portions of the National Environmental Policy Act process to conduct restoration efforts on 6.6 miles of the Santa Fe River Canyon.
- Applied for and awarded over \$1.1 millions dollars in federal, state, and private funding for continued restoration projects in 2011 and 2012.

June 14 Led 100 scientists and groups in opposition of the Secretary of Interior
June 16 Called on EPA to set air limits on air pollution from US coal mines
June 21 Encouraged lawmakers in D.C. to support bill to banish wildlife poisons on public lands
June 23 Lawsuit filed to protect Mexican spotted owl in NM and AZ

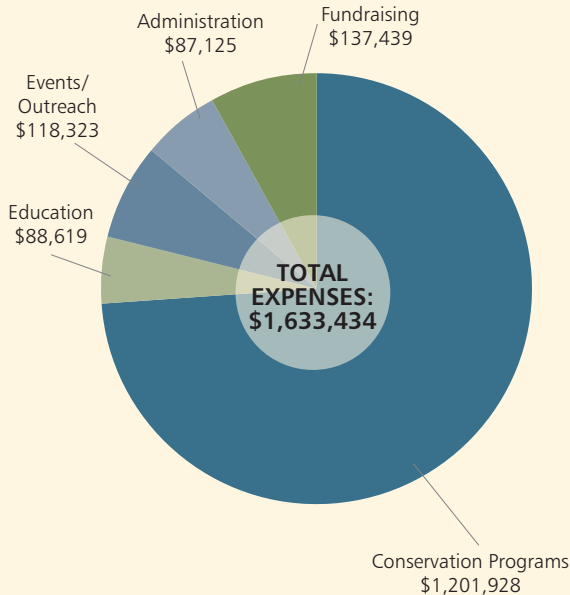


WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



- June 29 Mountain plover moved closer to ESA protections
- June 29 Sued federal government for failure to list two sage-grouse species under the ESA
- July 15 Recommended Obama administration save money by reforming hand-outs to public lands ranchers

2010 Financials



- July 15 Filed suit with the EPA over their failure to safeguard clean air
- July 15 Filed suit to list the New Mexico jumping mouse under the ESA
- July 22 Called out former BLM Field Manager now working for oil and gas industry
- July 28 Wolf trapping in the Gila wolf recovery was temporarily banned



Jay Tuthton

Liberty and Justice for All: Litigating for the Wild

When you're fighting short-sighted and industry-driven decisions regarding wildlife and land use, having a good lawyer is a must.



*Samantha
Ruscavage-Barz*

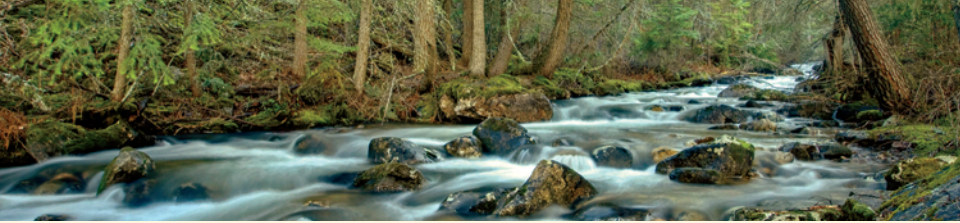
WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has always used litigation as a means to hold the federal government as well as private industry accountable to our nation's environmental laws. However, in the past, we had to beg and plead with collaborating attorneys to take on our cases. Sometimes those attorneys simply couldn't take on our lawsuits and a species suffered, a wild place was scarred or a precious stream ran dry.



Ashley Wilmes

Fortunately, those days are over. Three years ago, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS began assembling our own in-house legal team. Jay Tuthton became our first on staff attorney and currently spearheads our fearless team as our General Counsel. Coming from University of Denver's law school, Jay is one of the preeminent biodiversity advocates in the country. Samantha

- August 3** Federal government decided that the Mexican wolf may warrant protections under the ESA separate from other wolves
- August 10** Hosted mountain lion forum at Boulder's REI store
- August 27** Hosted Lobo Lover's Rally in Albuquerque



Ruscavage-Barz and Ashley Wilmes subsequently joined the team as staff attorneys. Their docket is as vast as the West's sagebrush sea. They pour over legal arguments to fight polluting coal-fired power plants, the persecution of wolves, the dying-off of rare diving beetles, and the destruction of the Greater Gila Bioregion.

Our lawyers are willing to take risks to pioneer new legal ground to advance legal safeguards. They further conservation advocacy by obtaining court decisions that have real world, on the ground effects.

The plaintiffs our legal team represents – wildlife, wild places and wild rivers – won a lot in 2010. Not only did these winnings result in the conservation successes you see in our program recaps, they also resulted in the financial capital to continue our advocacy work. As you may have noticed, ten percent of our 2010 income came from our legal victories. While our litigation strategies are never driven by financial gain, the settlements we are awarded when we make a winning case for the environment help our organization to survive and thrive. We can, in turn, help wild treasures survive and thrive for future generations.

- August 30** Launched Gulf Week – a series of actions for animals affected by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster
- September 1** Marked Passenger Pigeon Day by filing suit for the lesser-prairie chicken
- September 13** BLM grazing permittees identities became public information

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September 22 Jaguarundi to receive formal recovery plan to safeguard them from extinction
September 25 Launched collaborative website ProtectNMCougars.org
September 29 Federal government ordered to consider upgraded protections for the Utah prairie dog

Major Contributors

make our work possible from January 1 - December 31, 2010.

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- September 30** Federal government ordered to consider listing the Gunnison's prairie dog under the ESA
- October 1** Fought for cougars as New Mexico Game and Fish kill numbers were announced





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- October 25** Launched the Halloween BioBlitz – a series of actions for wolves, bats, snakes, spiders and the Gila monster
- October 28** New Mexico Game Commission made cougar hunter education mandatory, creating protections for breeding females and their dependent young

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- November 4** Rare wetlands thistle is given a chance at ESA protections
November 17 Rallied for wolves at the University of Denver with over 200 supporters in attendance
November 22 Pressured EPA to ban wildlife poisons



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November 24 Sought President Obama's pardon for endangered western grouse, cousins to the turkey, by granting them protection under the ESA

November 30 New Mexico protected over 700 miles of headwater streams under the Clean Water Act

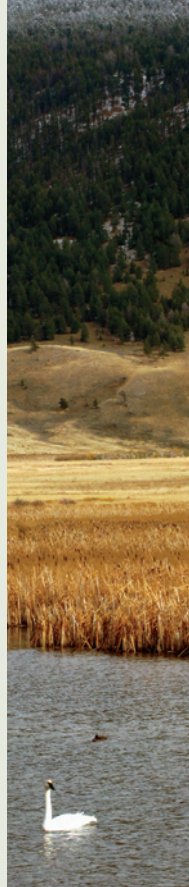
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- December 6-7** Hosted book signing for Doug Chadwick's *The Wolverine Way* in Colorado
December 13 Federal government found that Sonoran desert tortoise warrants ESA listing
December 13 Sand dune lizard finally proposed for ESA listing
December 14 Coal-fired power plants were retired in the Denver metro area



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December 16 The thick-billed parrot finally got a chance at an ESA recovery plan
December 31 Close of International Year of Biodiversity showed forward progress for 80 species due to GUARDIANS' year-long campaign

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Mission Statement

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