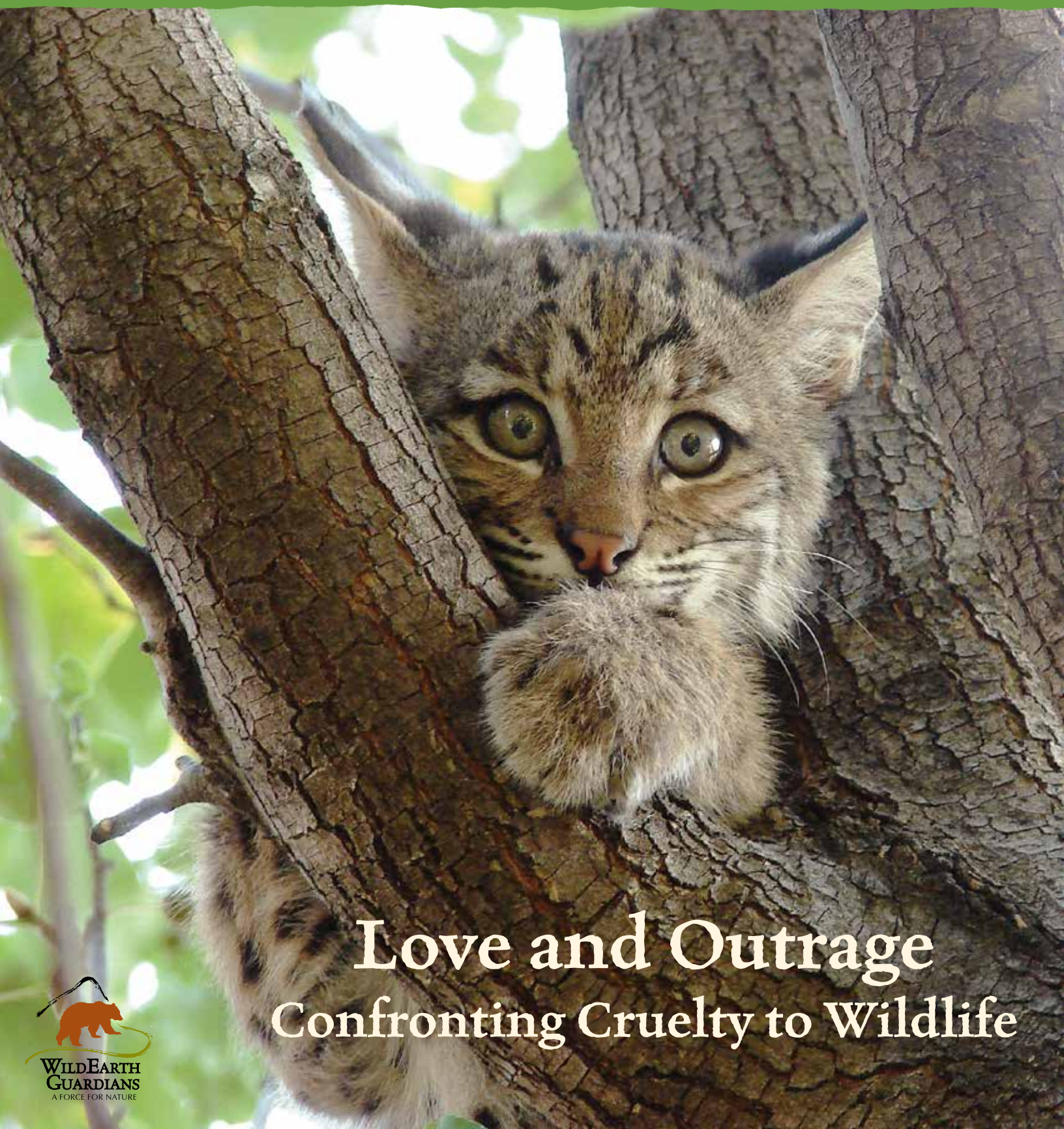


WILD AT HEART

THE WORD FROM WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

No. 23, Fall 2015



Love and Outrage
Confronting Cruelty to Wildlife





MISSION STATEMENT

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

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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:
1536 Wynkoop Street, Ste. 310
Denver, CO 80202
TEL 303.437.7663

OFFICES ALSO IN: Boulder, Laramie, Missoula, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Tucson

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Janice St. Marie
COVER PHOTO: David R. Tribble

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A BOLD VISION

John Horning

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



In nearly every state in the American West, including my home state of New Mexico, the agencies charged with protecting wildlife are instead carrying out a war on wildlife, especially native carnivores.

These agencies are engaged in a smear campaign that relies on fear—not facts, science, or the law—to make decisions about the fate of our wildlife.

The fear of the “other,” whether human or wild animal, is a powerful psychological tool that’s

been used throughout human history by leaders whose control over political and economic systems is threatened by the emergence of new cultures and new value systems.

In the American West, it is ranchers and hunters whose political clout and economic status have been on the wane for decades. Those two groups nevertheless continue to exert a stranglehold on wildlife policy through state game commissions and the federal Wildlife Services agency.

The fact that the blood sport of body-count contests of prairie dogs, coyotes, and other beautiful creatures is blessed by these institutions provides the most damning but hardly the only evidence of their illegitimate but still legal governance over our wildlife.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS believes that we desperately need new governance structures that include all public interests and that recognize the intrinsic value of wildlife and the tremendous ecological value of native carnivores.

This issue of *Wild at Heart* highlights our work to weaken the foundation of the old governance structures and create changes, both large and small, that bring an end to the cruelty and barbarism that are sadly so common.

While fear will continue to govern some, our belief is that compassion and coexistence are the guiding ethics that the majority of Americans want to be manifest in our relationship with native wildlife.

For the Wild,

GUARDIAN GIVER

Sally Mackler

SALLY MACKLER



“I support GUARDIANS because they take a strong stand against the obscene and unethical wildlife ‘management’ practices and tools used by state and federal wildlife agencies. GUARDIANS’ materials and website are excellent and full of links and facts to educate as well as motivate. Their legal actions are carefully chosen, executed beautifully, and often successful. And their position on issues is uncompromising and for the benefit of wildlife and wild lands. I am grateful for their fantastic work.

“My conservation ethic can be found on the website of the organization that I work with, Predator Defense. Our ethic is in tandem with that of GUARDIANS, and both organizations are unique in taking a hard and uncompromising stance on behalf of wildlife. I appreciate GUARDIANS for addressing wildlife/human conflicts and for exposing and confronting lethal actions on the part of government management agencies.”

GET ON THE BUS

Getting Through the Courthouse Door Kelly Nokes



DON MOLDE

Don and Jean Molde.

The ominous roar of a low-flying airplane startles a raven from a tree. Hanging out of the airplane's door, a gunman takes aim at a coyote desperately fleeing for cover. This was the harrowing scene that propelled Don Molde, a resident of Reno, into action.

Aerial gunning, the practice of shooting so-called "nuisance" animals from airplanes, is just one of many gruesome killing techniques employed by Wildlife Services, a shadowy program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

An avid birdwatcher, hiker, and lover of carnivores, Don spends much of his time exploring Nevada's wildlands, searching for coyotes and ravens. When Don witnessed aerial gunning firsthand, he knew he had to stop this cruel practice. In the decades since, Don has challenged Wildlife Services' scientifically unsupported and unwarranted slaughter of wildlife. With GUARDIANS' help, he is closer than ever to accomplishing his goal.

Because of his love for wildlife, Don agreed to become a "standing declarant" in GUARDIANS' lawsuit challenging Wildlife Services' killing program in Nevada. Every individual or organization that files a lawsuit must establish standing. Broadly, this means being able to demonstrate that they are harmed by the action they are challenging in court. As an organization, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS cannot hike the backcountry or look for wildlife, but GUARDIANS' members can and do. Standing declarants are individuals like Don who designate GUARDIANS to protect their favorite place or species in court.

Being a standing declarant is not for the faint of heart; it is a public stance with all that entails.

In written testimony, Don described how Wildlife Services' endless killing of ravens and coyotes makes it more difficult and dangerous to see them in the wild. In a significant initial victory, the court agreed that GUARDIANS has standing in our case because if we win, Don will be able to search for wildlife without fear of traps and poisons on the ground and planes with gunmen overhead.

GUARDIANS employs a host of legal strategies and tactics to protect our wildlife and wild places, and we could not do it without members like Don—or you. Please contact us if you would also like to be a voice for nature in court.

Visit wildearthguardians.org:
Take Action / Activist Spotlight

Don described how Wildlife Services' endless killing of ravens and coyotes makes it more difficult and dangerous to see them in the wild.



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



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!

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MARK BAILEY



“As publishers of an environmental literary press, we get to know a lot of marvelous writers, thinkers, and advocates as we promote conservation through literature. We resonate personally with the values that guide WILDEARTH GUARDIANS’ work to heal wounded landscapes and defend wildness, but the people, the GUARDIANS, are why we’re monthly supporters—why, even a son of ours has worked as a GUARDIAN. Smart people with heart, making a difference for the wild places and wild creatures we cherish in the West. We’re inspired and grateful.”

—KIRSTEN ALLEN AND
MARK BAILEY,
Torrey House Press,
Salt Lake City, Utah

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OBAMA: KEEP FOSSIL FUELS IN THE GROUND!

Tim Ream

When it comes to saving our climate, everyone understands the world must soon power itself without coal, oil, or natural gas. That means more than just cutting climate pollution—it means keeping fossil fuels in the ground in the first place.

But where do we start to keep fossil fuels in the ground?

How about in the United States, historically the world’s biggest polluter? And how about on our public lands, lands that belong to all Americans? In fact, why not ask President Barack Obama to end all new leasing of coal, oil, and gas on all public lands and waters right now?

Well, we just did, and wow, have we started something big!

For over a year, GUARDIANS has been spearheading the formation of a national movement to end fossil fuel leasing on public lands. On September 15, our “Keep It in the Ground” movement and our vision went live.

Together with allies from Alaska to the Navajo Nation and from Utah to Florida, we demonstrated outside the White House, calling on the president to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Representing 300 indigenous groups, health professionals, unions, faith groups, and climate scientists, the message was delivered loudly and clearly.

Public lands and waters larger than 55 Grand Canyon National Parks are already leased to fossil fuel companies. And right now, we’re letting them extract and burn coal, oil,



Navajo activist Louise Benally at the rally outside the White House. Benally is tired of Peabody Coal ruining the lives of her people. She calls on President Obama to keep it in the ground.

and gas that belongs to us, effectively frying our future.

All told, fossil fuels from our public lands and waters produce more than 20 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. And with half of all carbon reserves in the nation on our public lands or waters, it’s high time to keep them off limits.

We’ve already been leading the charge to keep oil, gas, and coal in the ground in the American West. Yet as part of a national movement calling on the president to stop selling our fossil fuels, our efforts stand to gain more momentum than ever.

That’s critical. Because even as keeping fossil fuels in the ground just makes sense, we continue to face stiff opposition from the Obama administration. In fact, the U.S. Department of the Interior continues to auction off hundreds of thousands of acres of our Western public lands for coal mining and oil and gas fracking.

We have a ways to go, but we’ve made a great start by opening up a whole new front in the fight to protect our climate and public lands. We know that someday, and it must be someday soon, carbon will be locked safely underground. Just know that GUARDIANS will be fighting every day and night until we lock it down first on our public lands.

Visit wildearthguardians.org:
Take Action / Current Actions /
Keep It in the Ground

SUCHAT PEDERSEN

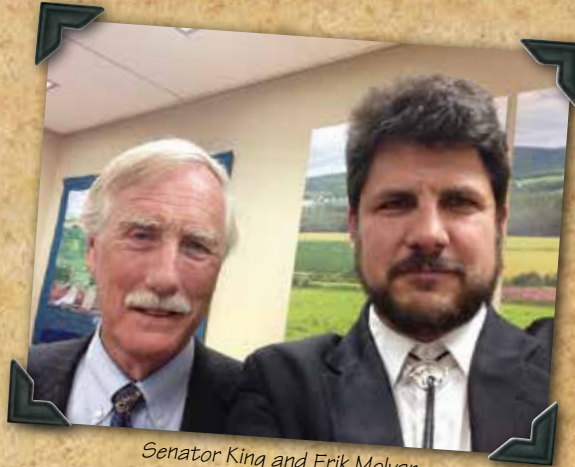


GUARDIANS’ Climate and Energy Campaign Director Tim Ream is outside the White House calling for an end to leasing our public lands’ coal, oil, and gas.

Erik Molvar

The Sage Grouse Goes to Washington

Sage grouse can't speak for themselves. So I advocated on their behalf in Washington, urging congressional officials and agency decision-makers to secure the strongest possible federal plans to safeguard sagebrush habitats. Lawmakers like Sen. Angus King (I-Maine), shown here, will be key to blocking attacks on the Endangered Species Act.



Senator King and Erik Molvar



Capitol reception: Erik, Noppadol Paothong, and former GUARDIANS staffer Mark Salvo

I joined Noppadol Paothong, photographer for the book *Save the Last Dance*, along with Mark Salvo of Defenders of Wildlife at an event GUARDIANS helped organize in the Capitol. Noppadol gave an eloquent presentation, and his tales of the heath hen's tragic extinction on Martha's Vineyard and the current decline of sage grouse moved both agency personnel and congressional staff.

Even the strongest sage grouse plans could be nullified by a single bill; already, several right-wing riders have been introduced to block grouse protections. This kept me going in the 103-degree heat as I crossed the Capitol grounds between House and Senate meetings, arming sage grouse defenders in Congress with the science they'll need to repel anti-environmental legislation.



Erik at the Capitol

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Top Priorities / Saving the Sagebrush Sea

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

"You may say I'm a dreamer / but I'm not the only one."

"Those words, so telling, penned by (John Lennon) an iconic storyteller, are my compass in the journey through the 'web of life.' Serpentine recollections of looking out the window of my granddad's homemade camper mounted on the bed of his 1953 Chevy, as a herd of pronghorn gathered around our campsite next to Lander Creek, Wyoming. With that came a commitment to the decency and purity of nature. This is why I am a GUARDIAN. Many things have been lost forever. My partnership with them declares STOP! No more destruction!"

— FRED GRINDLE, Asheville, N.C.

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CONFRONTING ANTI-CARNIVORE CRUELTY

The War on Wildlife Must End

Bethany Cotton

SAMPARKS



It turns out the very best cure for the frustration and anger that come from watching a state game commission ignore the vast majority of the public's interests in the humane and science-based treatment of wildlife is to head into the wild and hear

Mexican wolves howling at the full moon.

The day after the New Mexico State Game Commission voted this August to allow cougar trapping on public lands and increase bear hunting, I escaped to the solace of the Gila National Forest in southwestern New Mexico.

As the full moon rose over the ponderosas, a wolf pack's howls echoed across the valley, temporarily soothing my outrage at public representatives who blatantly ignore the public in favor of a tiny, vocal, and vitriolic anti-carnivore minority.

Most state game commissions, the sponsors of wildlife-killing contests, and the ironically named "Wildlife Services" federal wildlife-killing program all practice an institutionalized form of cruelty against wildlife. New Mexico's Game Commission targeted bears and cougars in August. Next month in another state it could be bobcats, wolves, or wolverines.

These perpetrators of barbarism differ in form and source of legal authority, but they are all cut from the same cloth: the illogical hatred of carnivores. Operating with a frightening degree of autonomy and shrouded in secrecy,

they spread instruments of torture across the wild landscape: body-crushing and steel-jawed traps, snares, poisons, and people armed with guns and bent on killing for killing's sake.

The brutal killing of Cecil the lion in Zimbabwe sparked outrage across the United States, yet the public remains largely unaware that equally barbaric killings occur here with shocking frequency, without repercussion, oftentimes sponsored by our own government. So long as these biologically and ethically bankrupt activities continue, the United States can claim no moral high ground.

*The greatness of a nation
and its moral progress
can be judged by the way
its animals are treated.*

—MAHATMA GANDHI

Many of us at WILDEARTH GUARDIANS come to our work out of a potent combination of deep and abiding love and fierce and profound outrage. Love of the wild world—wildlife, wild places, and wild rivers—and outrage at the treatment of these most essential and vulnerable treasures.

By confronting cruelty, GUARDIANS works to realize a society that shares our fundamental belief that all species have an inherent right to exist and thrive. We are working to bring transparency and accountability to the institutions of cruelty.

While the institutions we target in our work to end cruelty are varied, the task is essentially the same: methodically removing instruments of brutality from the cruelty

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS envisions a world where wildlife and wild places are respected and valued and our world is sustainable for all beings.

JUSTIN SHOEMAKER, USFWS

BY THE NUMBERS: Wildlife Services' Killing Record

The numbers are likely much higher, because Wildlife Services routinely undercounts or entirely fails to count animals it kills.





SAM PARKS

In 2014, Wildlife Services admitted to killing 454 river otters. It's time for the killing to end.

toolbox. Through advocacy, litigation, and education, we are eroding the social license and legal authority these institutions rely upon to operate. Like any social change movement, the effort to reform the institutions of cruelty has both moments of darkness and moments of light.

The New Mexico State Game Commission's approval of cougar trapping on 9 million acres of state public lands, increase of 25 percent in the black bear hunting quota, and refusal to allow releases of critically imperiled Mexican wolves into the wild are yet more examples of how tone-deaf these governing bodies are to the ecological value of native carnivores and the interests of the majority of people who simply want to enjoy wildlife on our public lands. Darkness manifest.

Contrast that with our recent legal victory in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which confirms what we've long known: that our interests in viewing wildlife in the wild, not under threat of being poisoned, aerial gunned, or trapped, are real and we are injured when those interests are harmed by Wildlife Services.

The decision also confirms that we have a right to seek a remedy for those injuries in court, and that Wildlife Services is not immune from the requirement that it analyze the environmental impacts of its inhumane activities. Shining light into the shadows.

Wildlife Services, state game commissions, and killing-contest sponsors are all perpetuating a cycle of increased human-wildlife and livestock-wildlife conflict. The science is clear: lethal control, particularly of native carnivores, does not work.

For example, when cougars are killed, especially dominant males, younger subordinate males opportunistically expand their territories, which invites increased human-wildlife conflict. When wolves are killed, their pack dynamics are destabilized, increasing the likelihood

COURT RULING ALLOWS GUARDIANS TO CHALLENGE WILDLIFE SERVICES' CRUELTY

GUARDIANS recently won a victory in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that makes clear that we and our allies can challenge the cruel activities of Wildlife Services, the USDA's ironically named wildlife-killing program. The court ruled the program's reliance on a 20-year-old analysis, which itself relies on 40-year-old, largely disproven "science," is not immune from environmental or judicial review. The court also recognized that our interests in viewing native wildlife are real and that the injuries to those interests caused by Wildlife Services could be remedied by the program having to publicly analyze the impacts of its killing activities. In 2012, GUARDIANS challenged Wildlife Services' refusal to analyze the impacts



TRIP JENNINGS

of its wildlife-killing activities in Nevada. Our case challenging the program's use of poisons, cruel traps, and unnecessary shooting to kill coyotes, ravens, and other wildlife now moves forward in Nevada. The decision will also help our cases against Wildlife Services in Idaho and Washington as well as future efforts to confront cruelty to wildlife.

In 2014 Wildlife Services reported killing over 2 million native animals, including:

520
black bears

305
cougars

796
bobcats

322
wolves

61,702
coyotes

454
river otters (390 unintentionally)

15,698
black-tailed prairie dogs



Coyotes serve a valuable ecological function by helping to control rodent populations and maintaining ecological integrity and species diversity.

of livestock depredations. When coyotes are indiscriminately killed, a biological response is triggered that increases the total population, undermining the killers' oft-repeated goal of reducing the population.

The scientific reality is that carnivores are immensely important members of any healthy ecosystem and their ecological role should be celebrated, not vilified.

The best available science shows that wolves provide enormous ecological benefits that cascade through ecosystems. Wolves bring elk and deer populations into balance, which allows streamside vegetation to recover, in turn creating habitat for songbirds and beavers and shade for fish. Coyotes, like wolves, serve a valuable ecological function by helping to control rodent populations and maintaining ecological integrity and species diversity. Cougars also trigger trophic cascades and influence the energy flow through ecosystems.

We are working to end wildlife-killing

contests and ban trapping on our public lands. We are working to deny Wildlife Services its ability to operate with impunity. We are working to ensure that the interests of the vast majority of us who simply want to enjoy the beauty of wild animals are heard and represented by state game commissions.

As Wallace Stegner wrote, "We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope."

Being in the Gila in August just after the N.M. Game Commission meeting and hearing the howls of the San Mateo Mexican wolf pack helps me remain hopeful. At GUARDIANS, our geography of hope includes each of you who shares our love and our outrage. That potent recipe will continue to fuel our work of confronting cruelty and ending the war on wildlife.

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



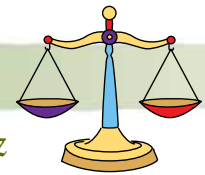
THE TOOLS OF CRUELTY: WILDLIFE SERVICES' BARBARIC KILLING METHODS

For decades, at the behest of the ranching industry and funded by our tax dollars at the federal, state, and local levels, Wildlife Services has killed millions of native wild animals each year. Most citizens are unaware, though public knowledge and outrage are steadily growing.

Wildlife Services' toolbox of cruelty is replete with horrific instruments of death. The program deploys these devices across our public lands, putting people, their companion animals, and already imperiled wildlife at risk. Wildlife Services conducts aerial gunning forays, shooting animals—usually coyotes and wolves—from small airplanes or helicopters and leaving the bullet-riddled carcasses to rot. It deploys M-44s, which are sodium cyanide ejectors. M-44s waft a fetid bait to lure unsuspecting animals and then shoot poison into their mouths, killing within minutes. M-44s cannot and do not discriminate among species. M-44s have killed domestic dogs and injured people recreating on public lands. Wildlife Services also deploys a poison targeting birds, so toxic that only federal agencies can get a permit for its use. It uses traps of all kinds: body-crushing conibear traps, steel-jawed traps, leg-hold traps and snares, all in many shapes and sizes. It is long past time to end this war on wildlife.

IN THE HALLS OF JUSTICE

Tim Ream, Jeremy Nichols, Jen Pelz



APPEALING TO PROTECT GREATER CHACO FROM FRACKING

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



The fight to protect the Greater Chaco area of northwestern New Mexico from an out-of-control fracking boom is moving forward in the courts. In August, GUARDIANS received news that our motion to block ramped-up oil and gas drilling near Chaco Canyon was rejected. While a disappointment, it opened the door for us to immediately appeal and press our case at an even higher level. With the U.S. Bureau of Land Management continuing to illegally approve fracking permits in the region, it's critical not only to keep on the pressure in the courts, but also to build our political power. With Chaco's cultural values, American Indian communities, and our climate at stake, we can't afford to lose.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Judge Fails to Halt Fracking in Greater Chaco*

STEPPING IT UP AGAINST COAL

Last May, GUARDIANS won a groundbreaking court ruling that overturned the U.S. Department of the Interior practice of rubberstamping coal mining. In spite of this, Interior has continued to sign off on more mining, doing the bidding of coal companies at the expense of our climate. In September, we said enough. We filed suit challenging mining approvals in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, targeting Interior's lack of transparency and lack of accountability to climate concerns. These approvals open the door for 570 million tons of new coal mining. When that coal is burned, more than a billion metric tons of carbon stand to be unleashed, equal to the amount released annually by 250 million cars. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is now in court challenging 10 mines in five Western states.

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



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

WIN OPENS PATH TO GREATER PROTECTION FOR RIO GRANDE IN N.M.

ADRIEL HEISEY



In late September, a federal court gave GUARDIANS' lawsuit to protect and restore dynamic flows in the Rio Grande the green light to proceed. The court rebuffed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' attempt to evade review of its authority and provided a path forward for GUARDIANS to prove the Corps' obligation to ensure the survival and recovery of a growing list of imperiled river-dependent species. The Corps largely created the dire situation that exists today when it constructed Cochiti Dam in central N.M. in 1975. The decision is important

because the Corps' operation of the dam is key to ensuring spring peak flows that are essential to a healthy Rio Grande ecosystem and the survival of fish and wildlife.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Ruling Opens Door for Greater Protection of the Rio Grande*

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



DEB WERENKO

Deb Werenko with granddaughter Neva.

"I care for people all day long. It's what I do. What moved me to join the Wild Bunch is that WILDEARTH GUARDIANS takes care of all of us in a way that one person can't do alone. I am impressed with the goals they have accomplished and the court battles they have waged and won. I want to be part of this greater game to do the right thing and keep our home habitable for generations to come."

— DEB WERENKO, Santa Fe, N.M.

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"In 2015, First National was proud to sponsor WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' Stream Team initiative and its efforts to restore the Rio Grande watershed. Operating throughout New Mexico and Colorado as First National Rio Grande, First National Santa Fe, and First National Denver, we are rooted in the communities we serve. Our bank is committed to representing the rich heritage of our region while helping secure its future success, and we are pleased to partner with organizations that share this vision."

— MICHELLE COONS,
President, First National
Rio Grande & First
National Santa Fe

First
National



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CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Taylor Jones and Erik Molvar



PLANNING FOR PRAIRIE DOGS: A COEXISTENCE HOW-TO GUIDE

RICH READING



In partnership with the Prairie Dog Coalition of the Humane Society of the United States, we are creating a guide for anyone who wants to conserve

prairie dogs in their city, town, or county. The guide will walk interested individuals and community groups through the process of creating a management plan. The guide emphasizes the key role prairie dogs play in grassland ecosystems, reasons to conserve them, and nonlethal methods to solve problems and minimize conflicts with our wild neighbors. If you are interested in field-testing this guide by creating a management plan in your community and providing feedback about the process, please contact Taylor Jones at tjones@wildearthguardians.org. Big thanks to the Foundation for Sustainability and Innovation for supporting our latest effort for prairie dogs.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Protecting the Prairie Dog Empire*

FEDS ANNOUNCE WEAK FEDERAL PLANS, NO ESA LISTING FOR SAGE GROUSE

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



At a press conference outside Denver in September, with a brown cloud of smog from fracking as a backdrop, Interior Secretary

Sally Jewell announced what she called "a milestone for conservation." She then announced the denial of Endangered Species Act protections for the greater sage grouse and unveiled new federal sage grouse plans for 10 Western states. The new plans truly are a landmark, elevating grouse protections on public lands. But these protections, while better than the near-complete absence of conservation in older federal plans, still fail to provide sufficient limits on harmful activities that threaten sage grouse. Despite ongoing population declines, inadequate federal plans, and new science showing mounting threats and elevated likelihood of extinction, the grouse was denied protection based on politics. GUARDIANS vows to fight on.

Visit wildearthguardians.org:
Top Priorities / Saving the Sagebrush Sea

JOSHUA TREES NEED PROTECTION FROM CLIMATE-CHANGE IMPACTS

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



The Southwest keeps getting hotter and drier, and it's starting to look grim for some of the region's most iconic species. As the changing climate shifts or contracts wildlife and plant species' ranges, Joshua trees will lose a large amount of habitat in the next century, according to climate models. The trees already reproduce slowly and will have a tough time establishing new populations in more hospitable areas. Longer periods of drought and more intense fires could spell disaster for this desert icon. GUARDIANS recently submitted a scientific petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, requesting these incredible desert plants be granted the strong protections of the Endangered Species Act. We want to preserve the strange and wonderful Joshua tree forests for future generations.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Joshua Trees Petitioned for Endangered Species Act Protection*

GOOD NEWS FROM THE GUARDIANS

Kelly Nokes, Bryan Bird, Jeremy Nichols



WOLVES AND WOLVERINES RECLAIMING WESTERN HOME TERRITORIES

After long absences caused by human eradication efforts, big critters are returning to their home habitats across the West. In August, trail cameras documented the return of the first pack of wolves to call the Golden State home since the species was eradicated from California in the 1930s. The Shasta pack is living proof that wandering wolves will return to their native homelands if we let them be. And in September, researchers documented a wolverine in Wyoming's Gros Ventre Range for the first time since the species was almost entirely killed off in the lower 48. Early results of the multiyear study of where rare wolverines live in the Northern Rockies confirm this unique carnivore also calls Wyoming's Wind River and Absaroka ranges home. Welcome back, friends!



DOUG CHADWICK

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

MAJOR ROAD RECLAMATION PROJECT APPROVED ON MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



After receiving over 120 letters of support from Americans across the country, the Lewis and Clark National Forest in Montana approved 70 miles of road obliteration in a sensitive watershed. The restoration work will provide a substantial boost to Montana's wildlife and water quality. The project is located in the Little Belt Mountains of central Montana, south of Great Falls. The U.S. Forest Service manages one of the largest road systems in the world—375,000 miles total—nine times as much

as the federal highway system. The oversized road system was built during a time of prominent logging. The agency is now backlogged with more roads than it needs or can maintain under current budgets. Unmaintained roads and motorized trails fragment wildlife habitat, pollute pristine water sources, lead to poaching, and increase accidental wildfires. The Jefferson Chamberlin road obliteration project is just one of many across the national forest system.

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WESTERNERS SPEAK OUT TO KEEP OUR COAL IN THE GROUND

GUARDIANS led the charge in August to deliver a resounding message to the U.S. Interior Department: it's time to keep our coal in the ground. In Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, people spoke out during a series of public hearings on the future of publicly owned coal. The hearings came in response to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell acknowledging a need to reconcile the federal coal program with our nation's climate objectives. With Interior overseeing 40 percent of all U.S. coal production, the agency is a root contributor to global warming. Even in Farmington, N.M., traditionally a coal industry stronghold, Navajo residents and other community members told Interior that, for our climate and our communities, it's time to keep it in the ground.



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

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SPOTLIGHT ON BOARD AND STAFF

Glen Colton and Debbie Lewis

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



GUARDIANS is excited to welcome two new board members, GLEN COLTON and DEBBIE LEWIS. Glen and his wife have lived in Fort Collins, Colo., since 1979. Glen has been active in the community for many years, serving on numerous boards and commissions involved with community planning, the environment, open spaces, natural resources, sustainability, and economic health. He has been especially active in population and growth issues at the local, state, and national levels. For many years, he wrote a bi-monthly business column for the *Coloradoan* in Fort Collins, providing an alternative view to the pro-growth bias dominant in the media. Glen worked at Hewlett-Packard and Agilent Technologies in finance and retired in 2001.

Debbie, an attorney, most recently worked with Western Resource Advocates. As Lands Program Attorney, she advocated against the twin threats of unauthorized off-road motorized recreation and energy development on federal lands. Debbie has lived in Denver for 35 years with her husband, Stuart, where they raised their two daughters. Drawn to the outdoors from an early age, she has enjoyed the great opportunities for back-country skiing, hiking, and biking in the Colorado mountains.

We believe their service will be invaluable.

John Meyer

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



JOHN MEYER joined WILDEARTH GUARDIANS as a staff attorney in October. Before that, he earned a J.D. from Vermont Law School in 2009 and practiced environmental law in Bozeman, Mont., for six years. John grew up playing in the woods of northwest Indiana, where he caught snapping turtles and crayfish in streams. After 18 years in the Midwest, John attended the University of Montana in Missoula and received a B.A. degree in biology and Spanish in 2003. He worked seasonally for the U.S. Forest Service in Montana and Alaska from 2004 to 2006. John's passions (in no particular order) include climbing, mountain biking, skiing, and suing the federal government.