

WILD AT HEART

THE WORD FROM WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

No. 27, Spring 2017



solidarity

engage

PUBLIC TRUST

compassion

resist

connected

resilient

commonwealth

LOVE

safe
passage

in a time
of peril



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

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A BOLD VISION

How We Will Ensure Safe Passage John Horning

WHITNEY WERNICK



Since I can remember, I've cared deeply about creatures and the places they call home. That's why I've loved being a GUARDIAN all these years.

For nearly three decades WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has been fearless in our advocacy and we've taken on big fights. Whether for spotted owls or silvery minnows, we stood up for the voiceless—in the courts, Congress, and countless other arenas. We won far more often than we lost, but the point is we stood on principle.

The principle that the law matters and our common natural heritage—land, water, wildlife, climate—is worth fighting for.

Well, we've got one hell of a fight on our hands confronting the dark force that is President Trump and his cabinet of climate deniers. While many of my colleagues have sought to strike a reassuring tone by highlighting the fact that our democracy has survived other administrations hostile to the natural world and the common good, I don't see it that way.

The economic and social forces that elected Trump and the condition of our fragile democracy give me greater pause and fear—not just for the natural world—but also for the ideals (like diversity, compassion, and the common good) that have been cornerstones of the American experience.

That's why I believe the theme of "Safe Passage" resonates so deeply for our work at GUARDIANS.

Because when public schools suffer and public health is weakened, it's not surprising that public lands are at risk too. It is not just our environmental laws and norms that are in peril, it is almost everything that protects the common good.

That's why for the next four years we'll be digging in and reaching out to new allies. Expect to see a healthy dose of litigation because the judicial branch is the last, imperfect refuge of our democracy. But also expect to see us ensure Safe Passage by stitching together networks, communities, and landscapes to strengthen our democracy. In these times of great peril, it's what a GUARDIAN does.

For the Wild,

GUARDIAN GIVERS

Janet and Ted Ranney, Tucson, Arizona

KELLI GAITHER-BANCHOFF



Janet and Ted Ranney came to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS after a lifetime of hiking, camping, and occasional backpacking. On one such hike in the Escudilla Wilderness of Arizona, they learned about GUARDIANS and our work in the Greater Gila. "It was inspiring to learn about GUARDIANS' work to protect the Mexican wolf and the entire Greater Gila region. This is where we come most summers to recharge. We've not yet heard wolves howling on one of our many hikes around the Gila, but we support GUARDIANS because they are fighting to ensure wolves will one day roam free across the region. The Gila is one of the wildest places left... We want it wild and protected." GUARDIANS is grateful to have many supporters like Ted and Janet who share our vision.

GET ON THE BUS

Courting Big Changes

Carol Norton



DON MOLDE



Dr. Don Molde enjoys time outdoors with his hiking companion.

Ask Don Molde if GUARDIANS' lawsuits can have big impacts, and not only will he say "yes," he will talk about how to be part of one.

In 2012, Dr. Molde, a longtime, outstanding activist working to stop the inhumane treatment of wildlife, agreed to be a standing declarant in our lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rogue killing program, Wildlife Services. GUARDIANS has been working for over a decade to force Wildlife Services to stop the bloodshed on our public lands. Every year, our nation's most majestic wildlife, including wolves, coyotes, and mountain lions, are poisoned, trapped, and gunned down by Wildlife Services. Family pets and federally protected species are also injured or killed by the program's indiscriminate killing methods.

With a significant win in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, our standing declarant, Dr. Molde, helped to ensure Wildlife Services will now be forced into the spotlight. Our settlement halts all its killing activities in wilderness and wilderness study areas in Nevada—more than six million acres of our public lands—and requires Wildlife Services to abandon its woefully outdated 1994 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, which it relied on to justify

killing wildlife nationwide.

You know that GUARDIANS fights in court to shutter coal plants, protect imperiled species, and keep ORVs off our precious public lands. But what may be less well known is that we rely on you—our members—to get into court. We sue on behalf of our members and we need to show the court through standing declarations by individual members that we have members who care about these issues. It can be an inspiring role to play.

In Dr. Molde's words, "In 2012, I provided an affidavit as a Nevada resident to help bring a lawsuit. Since I enjoy wildlife and have long been a critic of Wildlife Services, I was delighted to put my 40 years of outdoor and wildlife viewing experiences

"In 2012, I provided an affidavit as a Nevada resident to help bring a lawsuit... With the help of GUARDIANS... the case went forward and was used by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to establish standing in the case.

I'm so glad I could help make a difference."

into the document. With the help of GUARDIANS' staff to polish it and put it in proper form, the case went forward and was used by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to establish standing in the case. I'm so glad I could help make a difference. I hope others may have a chance to help in a similar way."

Email Carol Norton at cnorton@wildearthguardians.org if you are interested in being a standing declarant.



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!

WHY ARE YOU
A GUARDIANS
MEMBER?

STEPHEN JONES



"Whenever I look up, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is leading efforts to preserve native ecosystems and their native species populations. I know of no group, anywhere, so effective in protecting our sacred natural heritage."

—STEPHEN JONES
Boulder, Colorado
Boulder Rights of Nature, author/co-author of *Peterson Field Guide to the North American Prairie, The Last Prairie, and Butterflies of the Colorado Front Range.*

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OUR COMMITMENT TO CONQUERING TRUMP

Standing Strong in Community

Jeremy Nichols



MOBILUS IN MOBIL: CREATIVE COMMONS

As the reality of a Trump administration settles in, GUARDIANS is rising to the challenge. While we certainly have our work cut out for us, we're poised to continue defending our planet and making gains to protect the wildlife, wild places, wild rivers, and health of the American West.

The tactics and strategies that distinguish GUARDIANS and that have yielded success will stay the same: zealous litigation, bold vision, powerful organizing, and the courage to speak truth to power will remain hallmarks of our advocacy.

However, if we have any chance of creating a bulwark against Trump's war on the environment, we'll need to dig in more deeply on defense and build more power than ever among communities and leaders right here in the West.

Our Program Directors came together in late 2016 to hammer out their key initiatives to sustain success. The result was a list of key commitments we're making to our members, as well as the broader American public, to assure you we are up to the challenge. Below is our pledge of resistance:

We pledge to...

- **Defend living rivers**, like the Rio Grande and Colorado, and beat back plans to siphon water to fuel unsustainable growth of cities and agricultural industries.
- **Keep Public Lands in Public Hands**, fighting the giveaway of national parks and monuments and other public lands to states or private interests that would abuse those lands for profits.
- **Fight back against climate-change denial**

and the fossil fuel industry's attempts to seize control of our public lands for mining and fracking.

- **End the War on Wildlife**, reining in the tools of cruelty used by Wildlife Services and steadfastly undermining their license to indiscriminately kill wildlife.
- **Stand against the division** of a river, communities, cultures, and wildlife by an impenetrable wall proposed for the United States-Mexico border.
- **Join First Nations** allies against efforts to strip Yellowstone's grizzly bears of protections, open Tribal lands for fracking and mining, and erode Indigenous sovereignty.
- **Work together with local allies** to build support for clean energy and a just transition away from fossil fuels.
- **Unite with allies** from all walks of life to stand up for democracy, human rights, dignity, and equality.
- **Fiercely guard** our nation's bedrock environmental laws from hostile attempts to weaken, defund, or repeal protections that safeguard us all.
- **Speak the truth** about the importance of clean air and water, a healthy climate, flowing rivers, public lands, and preventing extinction, and boldly counter all lies advanced by the administration.

It's times like this that our world needs a group like WILDEARTH GUARDIANS. With your continued support and engagement, we will rise to the challenge and overcome.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Take Action / Current Actions

Madeleine Carey

WHY ARE YOU
A GUARDIANS
MEMBER?

Public rallies for public lands, wolves

GUARDIANS and a host of organizations rallied and lobbied at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe on Feb. 1 in support of our public lands and national monuments. The annual Public Lands Rally drew hundreds of New Mexicans to the state capitol, demonstrating the unifying effect our wild public spaces have.



KERRY HALASZ



KERRY HALASZ

The Feb. 1 rally in support of public lands brought together diverse land users from across New Mexico. Sportsmen, conservationists, Native dancers, schoolchildren, and even a few politicians joined a march to show support for keeping public lands public.

On Feb. 8, conservationists from across New Mexico rallied at the N.M. legislature to protest Gov. Susana Martinez's anti-wolf politics. Under Martinez, the state has attempted to block releases of new wolves into the wild and sued the federal government for continuing to carry out releases as part of the Mexican wolf recovery program.



KERRY HALASZ



BRIAN STOVER

"In this time of new threats, I believe it's more important than ever to continue to support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS. GUARDIANS allows me to increase my voice and impact on the issues that are important to me. I trust GUARDIANS to ensure our voices are heard in the fight for our wildlife, wild places, clean air, and water."

—BRIAN STOVER
Tucson, Arizona

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In the dark time of Trump

John Horning



As GUARDIANS of the natural world, we believe our primary task over the next four years, given the massive existential and political threats of our time, is safe passage through the dark night that is the Trump administration. For our democracy and for grizzly bears, wolves, and other symbols of wildness, navigating a landscape full of grave threats and finding safe passage will not be easy.

For wolves and grizzlies, whose federal safeguards under the Endangered Species Act could be stripped away by Congress and/or the Trump administration, the threat to safe passage comes in the form of a physical landscape fragmented by logging roads and drill rigs and a political landscape controlled by institutions of patriarchy that feel fear and threat

where you and I experience awe and wonder.

Likewise, Trump's cast of billionaire cabinet members threatens almost every aspect of our democracy—whose purpose is to benefit the common good, whether that be our public schools, our public health care system, or our public lands. Trump is already hard at work trying to weaken the relevance of undisputed facts, the rule of law, and the notion of civility—qualities that have been my guideposts for my entire adult life. These are not times for the fainthearted.

Primo Levi, the great Italian writer of the first half of the 20th century who experienced his own politically turbulent times, once wrote:

“There are two ways to escape suffering [the inferno]. The first is easy for many: accept the inferno and become such a part of it that you can no longer see it. The second is risky and demands constant vigilance and apprehension: seek and learn to recognize who and what, in the midst of the inferno, are not inferno, then make them endure, give them space.”

Confronting Trump's inferno of climate deniers, robber barons, and billionaires who view environmental regulation and public trust responsibilities as hindrances to the profit motive and the further enrichment of the wealthy elites will require two critical characteristics: First, eternal vigilance. Second, recognition of that which must endure to preserve our democratic norms and a living planet.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS recognizes that we cannot do it all, so we will focus nearly all of our effort on four campaigns whose shared aim is protecting the public trust and shared interest in our water, air, land, and wildlife.

First, we will defend the commons—our public lands. States and the fossil fuel and ranching industries have never been more poised to steal our birthright. Second, we will protect the vulnerable from the powerful, in our case imperiled native fish and wildlife of all kinds. The Endangered Species Act, which is our nation's safety net for vulnerable wildlife, is in the crosshairs, and we will fiercely defend the law from attacks by the Republican Congress and the Trump administration.

Third, we will advance climate solutions, focusing primarily on our Keep It in the Ground campaign, and in doing so we will reclaim the commons that is our climate. Fourth, we will increasingly confront growing efforts to privatize our water, which is held in public trust for the common good. In doing so we will advance a



vision of the common good for all Americans.

Increasingly we will evaluate and articulate all of our work in terms of its value in responding to the climate crisis. We will advance climate solutions on the supply side and the demand side, and at the local, state, and federal levels, notwithstanding the ignorance and obstinacy of our president. Our land, water, and wildlife work will address issues of climate resilience and climate adaptation to prepare for the changes we are experiencing and whose effects will only become more severe.

Beyond policies, laws, and even institutions, our eternal vigilance will focus on those things that must endure to ensure a thriving society. What must endure is compassion, civility, and kindness. They are the antidote to the cruelty, domination, and inhumanity of the culture of Trump. In addition, we will ensure that a healthy culture of dissent endures, including by engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience when we must.

Amid all this peril we also see great opportunity. Already the American public is aroused like never before. Moreover, Trump's hubris will result in major overreach that creates opportunities to mobilize key audiences and advance our own vision in ways that a more passive public would not embrace. We intend to take advantage of this heightened concern by working with our allies to embrace bolder visions.

I believe these times are also an opportunity for WILDEARTH GUARDIANS to embrace our roots as an agent of deeper social change by highlighting the fundamental issues



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of economic inequity and systemic racism and sexism that drive the climate and ecological crises of our time.

Thus we are reminding ourselves that social change is a multigenerational process that, to be successful, requires a culture of activism to continually carry the struggle forward. Our job for nearly three decades has been to nurture this culture of activism, and though this work feels more urgent today than ever, we also remind ourselves that our responsibility transcends the Trump timeline.

While we plan on winning lawsuits, grabbing headlines, and staking out visionary proposals to protect and restore wildlands and advance a clean energy economy, I believe our enduring legacy will be building a movement that knows how to resist and create.

Elite, powerful interests, hostile to the common welfare, are now entrenched in power more than at any time in our great nation's history, and yet most Americans still want a biocentric relationship with nature, and they

RYAN ZINKE AND THE THREAT TO OUR PUBLIC LANDS

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



In appointing Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the Interior, President Trump has clearly signaled his support for putting our public lands into the hands of state and private interests. As Montana's only U.S. congressman, Zinke reaped millions of dollars in donations from the oil, gas, and coal industries over the years. Not surprisingly, Rep. Zinke positioned himself as a leading opponent of the Obama administration's efforts to eliminate unfair subsidies for the coal mining industry, regulate fracking, and protect fragile Western landscapes. While Zinke claims he supports the concept of protecting our public lands, he's voiced approval of transferring management authority of national parks, wildlife refuges, and other treasured landscapes to states and private interests. Although he may not support liquidation of public lands, Zinke stands behind Trump's plan to put our public lands into the hands of the fossil fuel industry and the politicians they support.

— JEREMY NICHOLS



want our leaders to advance solutions to the climate crisis.

Our most fundamental task is to help articulate anew these ancient values and to ensure that leaders are held accountable to what citizens everywhere desire most deeply—a future for their children and the planet.

Key to our planetary and personal safe passage in the time of Trump—and key to the safe passage of bears, wolves, and wildness—is connection. Fragmented landscapes, like fragmented communities, will offer little resistance to Trump. Thus, we intend to strengthen and grow the WILDEARTH GUARDIANS community and to engage at the intersection of our work with other progressive groups and movements. Working together and building community connection and restoring and sustaining landscape connectivity are how WILDEARTH GUARDIANS will ensure safe passage during the perilous months and years ahead.

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COMPLETE OPPOSITION TO OUR ENVIRONMENT



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Under the Trump administration, the majority in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives intend to launch an all-out war against our environmental laws. Laws including the Endangered Species Act, our National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and others have all been targeted for rollbacks or worse, for complete gutting. Sadly, President Trump seems poised to oblige. What's worse is that Trump will be appointing a new Supreme Court justice who will join in dismantling our fundamental safeguards. Our current environmental laws were signed by both Democratic and Republican presidents, including Nixon and Reagan. They recognized that a healthy environment is key to a healthy democracy. With our Congress and Supreme Court under the control of Trump, we face a future of complete opposition to protecting our health and environment, a move completely at odds with American democracy itself. For anyone who values clean air, healthy food and water, and safe communities, Trump's Congress and Supreme Court are a major threat. It will be up to us to mobilize the most intense resistance.

— JEREMY NICHOLS

A FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY HENCHMAN IN CHARGE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT



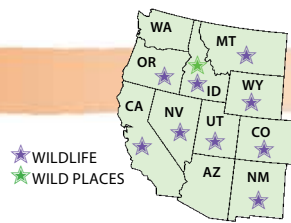
GAGE SKIDMORE

Scott Pruitt's appointment by President Trump as head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is as shocking as it is detestable. As Oklahoma's attorney general, Pruitt used his political position to defend the interests of the state's oil, gas, and coal industries. Using taxpayer dollars, he sued the EPA to protect polluters at the expense of the people of Oklahoma. Worse, he enforced climate-change denial with an authoritarian zeal, even going so far as to sue geologists who confirmed that fracking caused earthquakes that have destroyed peoples' homes. He has vowed to destroy the EPA, which should alarm anyone who values breathing clean air and drinking uncontaminated water. As EPA head, Pruitt seems poised not only to stall climate progress but to deliberately undermine efforts to curtail carbon emissions and protect our future so that oil, gas, and coal executives can get rich.

— JEREMY NICHOLS

IN THE HALLS OF JUSTICE

Bethany Cotton, Stuart Wilcox, Greg Dyson



PROTECTING LYNX, CONDORS, WOLVES, AND OTHER IMPERILED ANIMALS FROM POISONS



SHAWN KINKAID

GUARDIANS and our allies are suing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over its failure to ensure that the use of certain pesticides and poisons, including those widely used by the federal wildlife killing program, Wildlife Services, do not further imperil threatened and endangered wildlife. The suit seeks common-sense mitigation measures to prevent exposure of nontarget predatory and scavenging animals, including grizzly bears, Canada lynx, wolves, and California condors to the poisons. The pesticides—sodium cyanide M-44s and Compound 1080—are used by the federal government and certain authorized states

to kill coyotes and other animals. According to Wildlife Services' own reports, M-44 devices killed 13,860 native animals in 2015, mostly coyotes and foxes, and nearly 400 nontarget animals, including a wolf and domestic dogs.

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

FIGHTING COLORADO'S PLANS TO TRAP AND KILL COUGARS AND BEARS

GUARDIANS sued Colorado, challenging the state's plans to, in part, use the federal wildlife killing program Wildlife Services to trap and kill cougars and bears in a purported attempt to see if mule deer populations benefit. Ignoring evidence that the plans are redundant and poorly designed, a 1996 voter-passed constitutional ban on trapping, opposition from over 6,000 Coloradans, and a \$4.5 million price tag, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission unanimously approved the plans. These plans are a boondoggle, distracting the public from the root cause of the deer's struggles: habitat loss from rampant oil, gas, and other development. The plans are bad policy and bad science, and seek to scapegoat cougars and bears to appease hunters while avoiding addressing degraded habitat.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Colorado Parks and Wildlife Sued Over Planned Cougar and Bear Killing*



RAY RAHFTI

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST TO RETHINK BULL TROUT PROTECTION



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

In response to a lawsuit filed by WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, the U.S. Forest Service is reconsidering how it manages roads and motorized trails to better protect the streams necessary for bull trout survival and recovery on the Payette National Forest in western Idaho. Listed as threatened with extinction in 1999, bull trout currently occupy less than half their historic range. The picky predator species requires cold, clean, complex, and connected waterways to survive. Forest road stream crossings block fish passage, and sediment in storm water runoff from forest roads chokes native trout streams. By reconsidering its past motorized use decisions, the Forest Service can begin to heal the forest landscape from decades of road building.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Lawsuit Spurs Forest Service to Ensure Safe Passage for Bull Trout*

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MEMBER?



KURT NORDACK

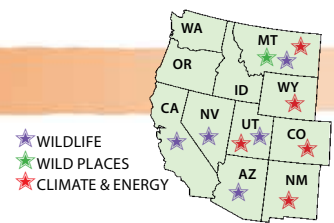
"I support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS because they're insightful, fearless, and effective. I first supported the group for two stands: opposing a foolish highway in the Denver area, and advocating reintroduction of wolves to Rocky Mountain National Park as a smarter alternative to culling elk. With a new administration in Washington, D.C., it's more important than ever to have strong, sensible advocates for the natural world like WILDEARTH GUARDIANS."

—KURT NORDACK

Interested in becoming a business partner at one of our events? Email Stavo Craft at craft@wildearthguardians.org

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Jeremy Nichols, Taylor Jones, Greg Dyson



WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



"We are members because we care about wildlife and wilderness.

George chose to donate a portion of his Christmas money to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS because he wants to protect animals."

—ALAN, VIRGINIA, GEORGE, AND OSCAR GOOD
Denver, Colorado

Interested in becoming a GUARDIANS Monthly Donor? Visit our website for more details: wildearthguardians.org; Support Us / Monthly Giving.

WE'RE NOT GONNA LET TRUMP GIVE OUR PUBLIC LANDS TO THE COAL INDUSTRY

PEABODY ENERGY



President Trump has vowed to go to bat for the beleaguered coal industry, promising to get rid of Obama's moratorium on new federal coal leasing, restore subsidies for strip mining, and hand over more public lands to coal companies. Only problem for Trump is, we're not going to let him live up to his promise. Already, we've intervened in federal court to defend the moratorium on coal leasing, we've filed new legal challenges to leases surreptitiously approved under President Trump, and we're gearing up to overturn more than a dozen leases that the Bureau of Land Management illegally approved over the last decade. The change in politics doesn't change the fact that to protect our climate, we need to keep our coal in the ground. Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Groups move to defend pause in coal leasing*

JOSHUA TREE NAMED TO "TOP TEN" PRIORITY SPECIES FOR TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

WATTEWYL



The Joshua tree, nominated by GUARDIANS, is one of ten species included in a new report from our allies at the Endangered Species Coalition that highlights species that should be conservation priorities for the Trump administration. We petitioned the iconic tree for Endangered Species Act listing in 2015, and it is now

moving toward receiving key protections. The president has shown himself hostile to conservation, stacking his cabinet and government positions with climate change deniers and trophy-hunting enthusiasts. GUARDIANS will stand strongly in opposition to the Trump administration's destructive plans for our country's natural heritage. We will continue our work to ensure our most imperiled species, including the Joshua tree, receive essential safeguards.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Publications / Reports / Top 10 Species Priorities for a New Administration*

COMMENTS SHOW HUGE SUPPORT FOR WILDERNESS, WILDLIFE IN FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST PLAN

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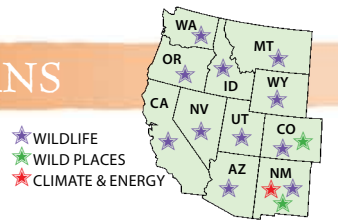


Over 34,000 people asked the Flathead National Forest to protect all the roadless areas on the forest and reduce the forest's road network to protect grizzly bears, bull trout, and clean water. The comments came during the Flathead's recent comment period on their draft Forest Plan revision and included close to 10,000 comments from GUARDIANS' supporters. The Flathead National Forest covers 2.4 million acres of public lands west and south of Glacier National Park in Montana and contains some of the most vital habitat for the Northern Continental Divide grizzly population. The previous Flathead National Forest Plan was written in 1986; the Forest Service expects to release the new Forest Plan in June 2017.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Public Comments Reveal Tremendous Support for Wilderness and Wildlife in New Flathead National Forest Plan*

GOOD NEWS FROM THE GUARDIANS

Jeremy Nichols, Taylor Jones, Jen Pelz



PIÑON OIL PIPELINE SCRAPPED

It was a big win at the end of 2016 as we learned the proposed Piñon oil pipeline was withdrawn, boosting efforts to protect the Greater Chaco region and turn the tide of fracking in the area. This 130-mile oil pipeline would have left a giant scar across northwestern New Mexico, opening the door for more than 500 new fracking wells and untold destruction. The pipeline would have been a disaster, particularly for our allies on the Navajo Nation. We helped mobilize extensive opposition, leading efforts to expose the pipeline's legal vulnerabilities and to empower activists. We still have work to do to safeguard the Greater Chaco region from fracking under the Trump administration, but with your help and support, this misguided oil pipeline is dead.

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WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



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or donate at wildearthguardians.org.

PROGRESS FOR PROTECTION: OUR HISTORIC ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SETTLEMENT CONCLUDES

NOHPADOL PACHONG



GUARDIANS' historic settlement agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service largely came to a close last September. When we entered the settlement in 2011, 252 species were on the "candidate" list, meaning the Service agreed they likely needed protections but had not yet granted them legal safeguards. Because of the settlement, all those species received decisions about whether to list them under the Endangered Species Act. Our work led to protections for 160 species and proposed protections for 14 more, as well as progress toward protection for hundreds of other

imperiled animals and plants. The settlement also resulted in the protection of 2.7 million acres (4,239.3 square miles)—an area larger than Yellowstone National Park—and 6,132.4 stream and river miles as habitat critical to the survival and recovery of at-risk species. The settlement paved the way to more efficient and timely Endangered Species Act decisions and resulted in significant conservation benefits on the ground.

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GUARDIANS CONSERVES WATER, PROTECTS SPECIES IN THE RIO GRANDE

GUARDIANS is forcing state and federal agencies to stand down to protect the Rio Grande. In Colorado, our engagement halted a dam project that threatened to destroy a newly discovered population of Rio Grande chub. The state finally committed to investigate the reach of this native fish—not found in the river for 50 years—and determine how to protect it. Our efforts in New Mexico also led the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to rethink a proposal to store additional water in Elephant Butte Reservoir. This practice—storing water in low-elevation reservoirs that evaporate twice as much as reservoirs upstream—is irresponsible, and the agency acknowledged that a more comprehensive review is necessary before allowing such storage. Our strategies are working to ensure a living Rio Grande.

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ADRIEL HEISEY

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Make your legacy a force for nature by including WILDEARTH GUARDIANS in your estate planning. Contact Kevin Gaither-Banchoff at kevin@wildearthguardians.org or 520.869.4673 for more information.



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SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Stavo Craft



STAVO CRAFT, our executive assistant and events manager in Santa Fe, joined GUARDIANS in September to help the front office with member questions, year-end fundraising, and events. He says he is “amazed and inspired to see how much regular people give, and how from their passion and generosity they literally create a platform for GUARDIANS to do incredible and critical work for our environment, our wildlife, and our still-wild places throughout the country.” Stavo says he’s “wild” too, as both a writer and musician, so he understands a thing or two about the wild, and he likes seeing it preserved!

Jennifer Olaranna Viereck



JENNIFER OLARANNA VIERECK joined our team in January as our bookkeeper. She grew her passion for the natural world while running wild in Alaska and Vermont as a child, at home with trees, streams, birds, and wildlife long before she was housebroken. She recently relocated to Santa Fe, bringing her extensive knowledge and experience with environmental protection/environmental justice nonprofits in California, Nevada, and other parts of the Southwest. She spent much of her early career on the front line working in collaboration with various Western Shoshone entities and other Native nations, coordinating campaigns between allied organizations, Tribal groups, and board members. She specialized in the impacts of radiation and other hazmat on health, habitat, and treaty rights. Recently Jennifer stepped into the world of providing comprehensive administrative and financial support, letting others take on the more public roles.