

WILD AT HEART

THE WORD FROM WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

No. 28, Summer 2017

We Love Our Public Lands





MISSION STATEMENT

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

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A BOLD VISION

Building a New Social Consensus

John Horning

WHITNEY WEINICK



I grew up at a time and place in our country when certain ideals were thought to be inviolable. Among those were that public schools served the common good, that dignity and civility were virtues our political leaders sought to embody, and that public lands were our patrimony as citizens.

Clearly times change and in the arena of public lands, which I have spent my life exploring, defending, and loving, nothing seems sacred anymore.

We now live at a time when one party's platform advances the idea that we should privatize our public lands. So, while many of us see Trump as an outlier and his penchant for signing executive orders as merely symbolic, the truth of the matter is that symbols matter and his executive orders on public lands—whether affecting national monuments or fossil fuels—reflect a growing belief by some in power that the public is okay with being robbed of its birthright.

I am not okay with it and I imagine you aren't either.

In times such as these I am reminded of one of Herb Chao Gunther's *Ten Principles for Effective Advocacy Campaigns*, which is this: "Social consensus isn't permanent and must continually be asserted and defended."

Clearly we need to forge a new social consensus that public lands are one of our nation's greatest ideals and assets. Because we're all equal on public lands. Because public lands are where America goes to soul search. That makes public lands one of the last refuges for our democracy.

That's why we're mobilizing our members and e-activists to forge a new, stronger social consensus to defend the very notion of our public lands. Already more than 20,000 GUARDIANS members have added their voices to the chorus of over 2 million people defending our national monuments.

While Trump and Interior Secretary Zinke may choose to ignore the will of the people and shrink or eliminate national monuments, they do so at their peril.

For the Wild,

GUARDIAN GIVER

Mary Lamy, Hygiene, Colo.

MARY LAMY



"I became aware of WILDEARTH GUARDIANS at a talk given by them years ago at the Estes Park public library. I began to follow GUARDIANS' work. Their assertive approach to confronting issues regarding wildlife, places, rivers, climate, and energy under siege appeals to me. I am a Western woman and have been dedicated to conservation and land use in Colorado and Wyoming for the last 35 years. Wild places and waters are disappearing at an alarming rate. These are extraordinary times; the West and what GUARDIANS stand for are under assault on a number of fronts. GUARDIANS' approach is tailor-made for today and I am proud to do my part."

ALLY IN THE FIELD

Diné activist fights for Native lands

Rebecca Sobel

LAUREN HOWLAND



Lauren Howland joined the protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota last winter.

Lauren “Two Braids” Howland is Diné (Navajo), Jicarilla Apache, Laguna Pueblo, and San Carlos Apache, and like her grandmother before her, she believes we don’t inherit the earth from our parents; we borrow it from our children.

When the call came from the Standing Rock Sioux to confront the “Black Snake” Dakota Access Pipeline, Lauren left her family in the Nageezi Chapter of the Navajo Nation and became a founding member of the International Indigenous Youth Council in North Dakota. Now back in New Mexico, Lauren is joining the fracking fight in her own backyard, sounding the call to stop the fracking onslaught in Greater Chaco.

Greater Chaco is a checkerboard region of Tribal, state, federal, and Navajo Allotment land. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has approved more than 400 new fracking wells without adequate Tribal consultation or protections for community health or water and climate impacts. Fracking development threatens ancient Chaco cultural and sacred sites and also Navajo people and communities living in the area, who have been dealing with the impacts of resource extraction for decades.

In late June, Lauren and the International Indigenous Youth Council organized the #FrackOffChaco Awareness Run with support from WILDEARTH GUARDIANS.

The International Indigenous Youth Council and Native youths from across the Four Corners region ran nearly 80 miles over three days to help bring attention to fracking in the region and the negative health effects

*Like her grandmother before her,
Lauren “Two Braids” Howland believes
we don’t inherit the earth
from our parents;
we borrow it from our children.*

fracking has on local communities.

Starting near Chaco Canyon, youths ran through the day in more than 100-degree heat and camped at night, offering songs, stories, prayers, and ceremonies. The run was finished at the Bureau of Land Management’s Farmington office, where runners and supporters delivered a letter demanding an immediate end to fracking in Greater Chaco and a call for environmental justice reforms.

Despite having surgery last year on her left leg, which left her with a metal implant, Lauren ran her farthest distance yet in the #FrackOffChaco run. “I know it’s going to be difficult,” she said before the run, “but it’s something I feel like I really need to do because protection needs to happen—protection of sacred sites, of Navajo people, and all of our land. It has to happen whether my body likes it or not.”

Visit our coalition website, www.frackoffchaco.org



Activists display a banner at the #FrackOffChaco Awareness Run in June, Farmington, N.M.



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.

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WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

WHY ARE YOU
A GUARDIANS
MEMBER?



"I hunt but I am not a fan of trapping, and the indiscriminate killing of snares is way over the line. Rather than be a lone voice in the wilderness, I decided to join up with WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and be part of a larger organization that has and will get things done."

—ERIC KRESS
Missoula, Mont.

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WE'RE LAUNCHING A MONUMENTAL DEFENSE

No Shrinking Our National Monuments

Jeremy Nichols



Canyon rim overlook, Bears Ears National Monument, Utah.

President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke have taken aim at America's national monuments, but we're rising up to defend our treasured landscapes and thwart this unprecedented assault on our public lands.

National monuments safeguard some of our most cherished and sacred lands here in the West. Monuments like the Bears Ears in Utah, Canyons of the Ancients in Colorado, Rio Grande del Norte in New Mexico, and many others have been established to protect America's natural and cultural heritage.

Driven by demands from the fossil fuel industry, this administration is now taking the unprecedented step of trying to strip these lands of their protection. In April, Trump ordered a review of all national monuments established since 1996, describing the designations as "abuses." Not coincidentally, 1996 was the year the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was protected in southern Utah.

Then in May, Zinke released what amounted to a hit list of 21 monuments. First on the list was the Bears Ears National Monument. This 1.35-million-acre monument encompasses iconic and culturally significant lands in southeastern Utah, including Cedar Mesa, Valley of the Gods, Indian Creek, and of course the Bears Ears.

Bears Ears has received widespread public support, including extensive endorsements from Tribes. The Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo Tribes of New Mexico, and many others have all spoken out in favor of the monument.

The oil and gas industry, however, has said it has an "appetite" to develop Bears Ears and described national monuments as "obstacles" to fracking. Sadly, in June Zinke announced his intent to eliminate portions of the Bears Ears National Monument. The move seems clearly calculated to appease the hunger of oil and gas companies.

In fact, an analysis by WILDEARTH GUARDIANS found the oil and gas and coal industries are pushing to acquire lands within and near many monuments that are being targeted for elimination. These include Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah, Canyons of the Ancients in Colorado, Basin and Range in Nevada, Grand Canyon-Parashant in Arizona, and Upper Missouri River Breaks in Montana.

Perhaps it's not surprising that in a visit to Grand Staircase-Escalante, Zinke staged a photo op in front of a coal seam.

All is not lost, though. Together with a broad coalition of allies, we're gearing up to head to court in defense of our monuments. That's because the president does not actually have legal authority to undo national monument designations. While Trump may believe politics justifies stripping our public lands of protection, the law simply doesn't allow it.

Defending our national monuments is paramount for WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and with your support, we will keep these lands protected today for future generations.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Take Action / Current Actions

Marlies Wierenga

WHY ARE YOU
A GUARDIANS
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GUARDIANS Connect on the Land and in D.C.

In April, as tourists photographed cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., GUARDIANS were busy at the other end of the Mall, meeting with staff from House and Senate offices. National forest restoration, forest roads, the national budget, and clean water were the focus.



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

L to R: Kasra Ramez, Bakhtawar Khan, Laurele Fulkerson, Caitlin Muret, Kevin Gaither-Banchoff, Marla Fox, Marlies Wierenga.

One month later, GUARDIANS celebrated when Congress committed to clean water by allotting \$40 million to the Legacy Roads and Trails program in 2017. The money enables the Forest Service to restore and reconnect damaged lands and streams by returning to the wild decaying roads on our national forests.

GUARDIANS from Tucson, Seattle, and Portland offices converged in the Olympic National Forest to see results. As we walked a decommissioned road that was sprouting new ferns and alders and peered from a bridge over a reconnected stream, the link between the marble halls in D.C. and the restoration of our public lands came into plain view.



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Programs / Wild Places



SUSAN WALLS

"I am growing increasingly alarmed about how losses of biodiversity are continuing during an era of reduced funding for conservation and increased political turmoil and uncertainty. Recent actions by the GOP and the Trump administration, such as renewed attacks on the Endangered Species Act and passage of legislation to legally allow barbaric slaughter of wolves, bears, and other large carnivores on public lands in Alaska are morally unconscionable."

—SUSAN WALLS
Fort White, Fla.

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OUR WILD PLACES DEFINE US

Public Lands Are Priceless National Treasures

Greg Dyson

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



Sand to Snow National Monument, Calif.

As I headed to Sand to Snow National Monument in southern California recently, I could not help but feel a little skeptical due to it being right on the outskirts of L.A. I have spent many days tromping around forests in the Pacific Northwest, and I was certain that the forest of the San Geronio Wilderness within Sand to Snow would not measure up to the majestic old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Yet I had to go see the monument for myself and try to understand why President Trump and Interior Secretary Zinke want to revoke its national monument status or shrink its size. I was also hoping it would give me broader insight into why Trump has placed a

total of 21 national monuments on his hit list.

What I found was a truly amazing habitat of huge, old-growth Jeffrey, Coulter, and knobcone pines; incense cedars; and western junipers. I saw recently burned forest adjacent to lush green forest. When I left the hot valley floor, it got downright chilly in the higher elevations. And the cold streams flowing down off San Geronio Mountain were a joy after the hot and dry desert. It is a stunning landscape shaped by fire, faults, and falls.

Sand to Snow National Monument encapsulates just what its name implies, from the Mojave Desert adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park to the steep inclines of snowy San Geronio Mountain at 11,503 feet. It was created by President Obama in 2016. In his proclamation he says of Sand to Snow: “The unbroken expanse is an invaluable treasure for our nation and will continue to serve as an irreplaceable resource for archaeologists, geologists, and biologists for generations to come.”

Equally lofty statements apply to the other 20 monuments on Trump’s hit list. The proclamation for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument notes how wild the area is and that it was the last place to be mapped in the continental United States. The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument’s proclamation describes the area as nearly as remote as it was when Lewis and

BLM-BOB WICK



Right: Basin and Range National Monument, Nevada.

Clark traveled through it in 1805. In Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, the petroglyphs date back nearly 10,000 years. Hanford Reach National Monument contains the largest surviving remnant of the shrub-steppe ecosystem that once blanketed the Columbia River Basin. And the behemoth trees of Giant Sequoia National Monument are known worldwide.

Places like these—and all public lands—are a unique part of the American experience. They are a defining characteristic of our national identity. They are also vital to our efforts to defend wildness and wildlife, protect clean water, combat the climate crisis, and experience profound connection to the natural world.

Undoubtedly, the Trump administration is targeting these national monuments for review in order to reduce their protections. For some national monuments, the threat is energy development, especially oil and gas drilling. In others, the threat is logging, mining, or rampant off-road vehicle use. Whatever the precise threat, the one feature all the national monuments on his “review” list share is that they are threatened by some form of development, development from which a small number would profit at the expense of nature and a heritage that is the right of all the American public.

*When we draw a line around an area,
it becomes a place with a name. It becomes a whole place
rather than just disconnected pieces.*

A national monument is more than lines on a map, yet those lines are important. When we draw a line around an area, it becomes a place with a name. It becomes a whole place rather than just disconnected pieces. What that means on the ground is that entire landscapes are protected, as with Sand to Snow, where the boundary lines encompass the most botanically diverse mountains in the United States. It means the protection of public lands that are our national heritage.

To ensure our heritage is protected, it is important to draw those lines and to name places that have natural and cultural significance to our nation. By giving them a name, we help create a sense of place that is vital to the longevity to these public lands. And when those places are threatened, we must respond by defending our public lands and our national heritage.

I cannot wait to go back to Sand to Snow. When I do, I will search the rugged cliffs for the desert bighorn sheep that inhabit the monument. I will explore more of the deep canyons. I will visit the desert oases. And I will thank President Obama and

MY GREEN MANTRA



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

Up, over exposed roots, then a quick dip down. My steps follow the pace of my breath, creating a mantra as the dirt path, strewn with pine needles, weaves me deeper into the brilliant green of lady ferns and fir trees. Along the Pacific Crest Trail in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in southwest Washington state is where I find my Zen. I study the forest floor, eyes open for forest slugs making their own treks. Instead, a flash of bright orange catches my eye. It's the belly of a rough-skinned newt crossing the path, and I gingerly avoid it.

My mantra continues until I'm abruptly stopped by a road that marks transition from public to private lands—a stark contrast between thick forest and open clear-cut. This land of the Lorax is a risk we face in the West as Trump promises to bring the timber industry back, just like coal in the East. Trump's administration wants not only to streamline logging by stripping the environmental backstops that ensure our wild places stay wild, but also to privatize public lands and defund the Forest Service.

More logging means fewer wild places for forest slugs, newts, and trail runners like me, and more roads splitting apart the forest Zen. Once the spectacular wild is erased and sold for quick profit, it will take hundreds of years for Mother Nature to restore. We must protect our wild.

— MARLA FOX



BLM-BOB WICK

Cedar Mesa Grand Gulch, Bears Ears National Monument.

every president—Democrat and Republican—who has designated a national monument. These are special places that help make America what it is: a nation where our entire spirit has been shaped by the astounding public lands safeguarded by our national parks, national forests, and national monuments.

When I go back, I know the grandeur of Sand to Snow will inspire me even more to defend our national monuments and all the public lands that make our country unique and strong. At WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, we will continue to challenge those who would take our public lands away to use those lands for their own profit. It is even more imperative that we do so now, when the people running our country have no qualms about taking public lands and giving them to their cronies. I ask you to join us in that fight.

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IN LOVE WITH THE WILD



The wolves first brought me to the Gila National Forest, but its wildness made me fall in love. At 3.3 million acres, the Gila is the fifth-largest national forest in the Lower 48, with more acres (789,385) of designated wilderness than any other forest in the Southwest.

Once, as I rode horseback across the Deep Creek grazing allotment, the one GUARDIANS retired in 2014, I glimpsed the tail end of a big tom mountain lion as he disappeared over the far side of the Deep Creek divide. Not more than 10 minutes later, a lone javelina popped up under my horse's nose and hightailed it up the ridge.

Every time I set foot in the forest, I get a glimpse of what remains of the wild American continent that existed 400 years ago. The Gila is one of the last big wild places, and it is both challenging and enchanting to work to protect it.

But the work just got harder. In early June, President Trump released a proposed budget for FY18; it recommended the Gila's budget be cut by almost 96 percent. This indicates that the administration is intent on destroying wild places and wildlife that depend on them. If the forest loses most of its budget, it could lose the thing I love most, its wildness.

— MADELEINE CAREY

HANFORD REACHES FOR MY HEART

The only place to see a free-flowing Columbia River in this country is within Hanford Reach National Monument in south-central Washington. The Columbia, so strong that it once breached the Cascade Mountains, has sadly been reduced to a series of reservoirs for most of its U.S. length. Hanford is exceptional because its uplands offer some of the last remaining shrub-steppe habitat on the Columbia Plateau, and this section of the river offers the only remaining significant spawning habitat for fall chinook salmon on the Columbia.

The Reach is special to me because it offers a glimpse of what this beautiful region will again be someday. When the dams come down—and they will—the native fish that spawn here will reestablish healthy populations, reproducing on the length of the Columbia.

Hanford Reach is being reviewed under a Trump administration order that is intended to identify ways to revoke national monuments or shrink their size. Fortunately, Interior Secretary Zinke recently said that Hanford will be kept intact, but the fact that a rescission or reduction was even being considered shows the current administration's antipathy for the very idea of public lands.

— CHRIS KRUPP



IN THE HALLS OF JUSTICE

Kelly Nokes, Bethany Cotton, Jeremy Nichols

★ WILDLIFE
★ CLIMATE & ENERGY



MAJOR WIN FOR LOBO RECOVERY IN THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

USFWS



GUARDIANS and our allies celebrated a major victory this spring when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit overturned a lower court ruling that prevented the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service from releasing critically imperiled Mexican wolves into New Mexico. The decision allows Endangered Species Act recovery efforts to proceed, unimpeded by the State of New Mexico's obstructionist attempt to halt vital releases of captive wolves within state borders. With fewer than 113 Mexican wolves in the wild, the government needs to release endangered lobos to foster the species' recovery. Illegal killing, politically based habitat restrictions, and an ongoing genetic crisis continue to threaten the species, but GUARDIANS is keeping up the pressure to ensure lobos are rightfully welcomed home. Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Major Victory for Lobo Recovery in the Land of Enchantment*

IN COURT TO PROTECT BEARS AND MOUNTAIN LIONS IN COLORADO

GUARDIANS sued the USDA Wildlife Services in April over its cruel wildlife-killing activities in Colorado. The suit includes challenges to the program's participation in the state of Colorado's controversial plans to kill up to 120 mountain lions and black bears in a misguided experiment aimed at increasing the state's mule deer population. The outrageous killing is largely funded by our tax dollars. Our federal suit is the second in a series of legal challenges to Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) killing plans. In February, we sued CPW in state court, alleging violation of Colorado's constitutional amendment that prohibits trapping, among other claims. The cases highlight state and federal failures to base wildlife management decisions in sound science and modern ethics.

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



JOSEPH THOMAS

DIGGING IN TO KEEP OUR COAL IN THE GROUND

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



In June, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS filed suit to overturn the federal government's illegal approval of a massive coal mine expansion in Montana. Together with the Montana Environmental Information Center and Western Environmental Law Center, our suit targeted the Interior Department's decision allowing Cloud Peak Energy to strip 100 million tons of publicly owned coal from 1,000 acres of public lands. Coal from Spring Creek is burned in power plants in the American

West and Midwest, and even exported to Asia. With President Trump putting the brakes on our nation's climate progress, our campaign to keep our coal in the ground has taken on new urgency and import. This Spring Creek mine lawsuit is one of several we intend to launch to defend our climate and clean energy future from fossil fuels.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Coalition Files Suit to Defend Climate, Clean Air and Water from Coal*

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MEMBER?



SUZANNE BURGER

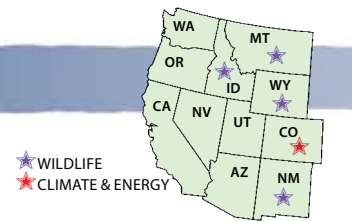
"My son, Matt Willson, who had a master's in environmental law, passed his interest in WILDEARTH GUARDIANS on to me when he passed away. Our family lived in Louisville, Kentucky, for many years, so we throw an annual Kentucky Derby party. We 'play the horses' and at least 25 percent is donated to a charity. For the last several years we have donated to GUARDIANS as a tribute to my son."

—SUZANNE BURGER
Phoenix, Ariz.

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CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Kelly Nokes, Michelle Lute, Jeremy Nichols



WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



ELLIE STANLEY

"I decided to join the Wild Bunch by pledging a monthly gift of support to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS because I've watched their relentless and compassionate pursuit of good. I believe that they will do whatever it takes to protect the wildlife and wild places I care about in the West."

—ELLIE STANLEY
Tucson, Ariz.

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HEADING INTO BATTLE FOR GREATER YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY BEARS



SAM PARKS

In June, GUARDIANS notified the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that we will sue the agency over its flawed decision to strip grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of crucial Endangered Species Act protections. Although Yellowstone's grizzlies are making a remarkable comeback from near extinction, the species remains threatened by dwindling food sources, habitat loss, poaching, isolation, and the worsening impacts of climate change. The Service's decision to prematurely remove vital federal safeguards from one of our nation's most cherished species subjects them to planned trophy hunting seasons as early as this fall. GUARDIANS is ready to deploy the full power of science and the law to overturn the agency's death sentence. Stay tuned.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Fight Begins to Maintain Protections for Yellowstone Grizzly Bears*

CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO END THE WAR ON WILDLIFE



SAM PARKS

GUARDIANS formally launched local efforts this summer in our Ending the War on Wildlife campaign, targeting the USDA's so-called

Wildlife Services program. We're on the ground in southern New Mexico, working to cancel contracts between county governments and Wildlife Services. Each year, this little-known federal program spends your tax dollars to kill over 1.5 million native animals with inhumane and indiscriminate traps, poisons, snares, and aerial gunning. We're going to stop that, county by county and state by state, until we put them out of the business of killing wildlife for agricultural interests and ensure adoption of a coexistence mandate. Together, we will ensure native wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, will be safe on our beloved public lands.

Visit www.EndTheWarOnWildlife.org / *The Threat*

FRACKING TURNED BACK FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE-CRYSTAL BRINDLE

In the wake of widespread public outrage, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management scrapped plans to sell off public lands for fracking next to Rocky Mountain National Park. On the auction block were 43 square miles of lands in western Colorado's Grand County. The sale would have imperiled the Colorado River, intruded on local ranches, and opened the door for oil and gas development within five miles of the national park. We joined local governments, landowners, and other conservation groups in appealing the Bureau of Land Management's plans. Thankfully, the resistance paid off and for now, Grand County is safe from fracking. Although we still have work to do to fully defend our public lands and climate from fracking, this is a big win.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Take Action / Current Actions / Victory! Spared from Fracking*

GOOD NEWS FROM THE GUARDIANS

Bethany Cotton, Jen Pelz

★ WILDLIFE
★ WILD RIVERS



WILDLIFE SERVICES AGREES TO HALT USE OF SODIUM CYANIDE BOMBS IN IDAHO

In response to a petition by GUARDIANS and our allies, the rogue federal wildlife-killing program, Wildlife Services, agreed to cease using M-44 sodium cyanide bombs across both public and private lands in Idaho. The petition followed the latest tragedy involving M-44 use, where a boy was injured and his beloved family dog killed on our public lands near Pocatello. M-44s are extremely dangerous, indiscriminate killing tools that are responsible for the unintentional deaths of imperiled species, including wolves and grizzly bears, as well as the deaths of thousands of coyotes and foxes each year. We are calling on Wildlife Services to make the moratorium permanent and effective nationwide to keep native wildlife, people, and our companion animals safe.

Visit www.EndTheWarOnWildlife.org



SAM PARRS

CLEAN WATER PROTECTED IN HEART OF DENVER

PHOTOS: WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



Given the unprecedented threats by the Trump administration to our hallmark environmental laws, GUARDIANS demonstrated this spring the importance of litigation as a tool to protect clean and healthy waterways in the West. We reached a settlement agreement resolving years of Clean Water Act litigation associated with pollutants on and under a former chemical manufacturing and mining site adjacent to the South Platte River in Denver. To protect public health and the environment, the accord triggers a comprehensive monitoring program of surface and ground water on the site and directs a half-million dollars to enhance water quality in the river through the redesign of a park that will also serve as a resource for underserved communities in the city.

Visit wildearthguardians.org / Newsroom / Press Releases / Agreement secures protection of South Platte River in central Denver

STAFF UPDATES



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

(Left to right above): **Becca Fischer**, from Billings, Mont., received her JD from Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland, Ore. She joined the Climate and Energy Program in June. **Shannon Hughes, JD/LLM**, joined the Climate and Energy Program in March after graduating from Sturm College of Law, University of Denver. She's from Chicago. **Caitlin Muret** became Membership Manager in April. A Kansas native, she moved to Portland to follow her dream of working to protect wildlife and wild places. **Sara Samovalov** is our new Content Writer and Specialist. From the Chicago area, she earned a master's in journalism from Northwestern University. **Sarah McMillan, JD**, GUARDIANS' long-time Legal Director, becomes our first Conservation Director in September. **Samantha Ruscavage-Barz, PhD, JD**, has been named Senior Staff Attorney. **Kelly Nokes, JD**, Carnivore Advocate, transitions to the role of Transparency Attorney in September.



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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 GUARDIANS' SUMMER INTERNS

Welcome to our summer interns!

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' interns do research, write briefs, and get real-world experience in protecting the wild American West. See our website for how to apply.



LYDIA BLEIFUSS, a graduate of Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore., has a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Surface Water Conflict Management, with a focus on river development and water privatization. She is interning with the Wild Rivers program under the guidance of Jen Pelz.



ANNIE BRETHOUR, law student at the University of New Mexico, received her undergraduate degree in Marine Biology from Florida Tech and worked in marine mammal rehabilitation (with seals, sea lions, and sea otters) in California. She's focusing on climate and energy work with GUARDIANS.



LOWELL CHANDLER is a student at the University of Montana School of Law, focusing on environmental law. He is interning in GUARDIANS' Wildlife program. As a desert-born, Montana-grown individual, he's an ardent defender of the wild West.



BAKHTAWAR KHAN, a student at Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland, Ore., is interning with Greg Dyson on the Rewilding Campaign. During her childhood in Karachi, Pakistan, she experienced an energy crisis firsthand, which inspired her to pursue environmental law.



ROBERT LUNDBERG is legal intern for the Wild Rivers program, where he is working to protect and restore instream flows on the Rio Grande. He is pursuing a JD and MS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Law and Environmental Studies.



EMILY OBERMILLER, a University of Washington law student, is interning in the Wildlife and Wild Places programs, supporting litigation to protect native species and wild lands. Being in the Missoula office allows her to help protect the wildlife she enjoyed growing up in Montana.



KASRA RAMEZ, a student at Lewis & Clark Law School, has a strong passion for animal rights. He's working with Marla Fox on legal rewilding projects. He enjoys exploring scenic areas at parks and beaches while catching glimpses of the wildlife.