

WILD AT HEART

THE WORD FROM WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

No. 30, Spring 2018

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Enforcing Transparency Under Trump



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

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A BOLD VISION

Information Is Power

John Horning

WHITNEY WIERNICK



Long before the passage of the Freedom of Information Act on Independence Day in the year of my birth, 1966, our nation had a long abiding commitment to the role of citizens in shedding light on the government's operations.

In fact, transparency efforts trace their roots back to the founding of the Republic, with early legislators frequently articulating the value of empowering citizens to acquire and disperse government information as a means of exposing corruption, nepotism, and just plain poor decision-making.

By the time Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis coined the phrase "Sunlight is the best disinfectant" in 1913, transparency and information disclosure as tools to hold government scoundrels accountable were increasingly important.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), always an important tool for citizen activists, has become critical during the reign of President Trump. At a time when our president seeks to consolidate power and enrich the powerful, we believe free access to government information is vital to protect the public interest—whether in public lands or public health.

We created a new staff attorney position last year because we anticipated that Trump administration denials, delays, and outright defiance in the face of citizens' record requests would demand a swift legal response. Sadly our instincts were right, and all of our attorneys have been busy ensuring that we have consistent and timely access to government records.

This year our government is likely to face more FOIA requests and FOIA lawsuits than ever, including more from WILD EARTH GUARDIANS. So far this year, we're filing an average of one FOIA request every day. That is undoubtedly a sign of GUARDIANS' tenacity. But it is also a sign of a government that is deeply mistrusted. That trend will only grow over the next three years.

With faith in government and civic institutions at an all-time low, the silver lining for nonprofits such as WILD EARTH GUARDIANS is that we can play a vital leadership role in ensuring citizens have their rightful access to public information.

For the Wild,

GUARDIAN GIVERS

Peter and Jean Ossorio

PETER AND JEAN OSSORIO



"We became active in efforts to conserve nature in the Gila ecoregion and the borderlands of New Mexico and eastern Arizona as soon as we moved to Las Cruces in 1995. Our special passion is for large, endangered carnivores, especially Mexican wolves and jaguars. We've spent hundreds of nights tent camping in lobo home ranges and have seen dozens of wolves in the wild. GUARDIANS has long been in the forefront of efforts to promote Mexican wolf recovery based on science, not politics. The organization makes creative use of media, voluntary buyouts of public land grazing permits, and when necessary, litigation, to further lobo conservation. We heartily support their work."

GET ON THE BUS

Wolves Are the Teachers: Pamela Brown



JEFF KOLLERUNNER, JKNATUREGALLERY



Pamela Brown with Maggie, a captive-bred gray wolf who was part of a decades-long grassroots educational effort to rally public support in favor of legal protections for gray wolves in the United States.

helped to turn the tide of public opinion in favor of wolf recovery, but many ranchers and wildlife officials remained hostile to wolf protection and reintroduction.

Brown joined Harris's tours, giving hundreds of programs in schools, community centers, and more. While every program was packed with enthusiastic adults and children wanting to be in the presence of a wolf, Brown and Harris faced harassment from game and fish departments. In 1980, Slick was kidnapped and killed.

"The wolves heighten everyone around them.

You want to be in that space of energy and truth with them."

—Pamela Brown

After Harris's death in 1985, Brown moved to New Mexico to continue the wolf education programs. Along with Kent Weber of Mission: Wolf, a sanctuary in Colorado, she developed a program with Weber's socialized wolf Lucas. Their first presentation was to an overflow crowd at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Santa Fe in 1987. They went on to present to groups in Arizona, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, and California.

"All our wolves came from captivity, and a wolf had to have the right personality (to be an ambassador," Brown said. She worked tirelessly for the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf, which the Fish and Wildlife Service had placed under ESA protections in 1976. Several environmental groups pushed for enforcement of the ESA for the lobo, and finally the groups sued to force the lobo's reintroduction in 1998.

Asked what kept her motivated for so many years in the face of violent opposition, Brown credits the ambassador wolves: "The wolves heighten everyone around them. You want to be in that space of energy and truth with them. Their positive impact on the kids and adults is hugely inspiring!"

Her last ambassador wolf, Maggie, "retired" in 2014, and Brown, now based in New York, gives wolf programs using a DVD. She is seeking a publisher for the book she wrote about her adventures with Slick. To receive her newsletter, write her at PO Box 509, Stone Ridge, N.Y. 12484-0509. Or email: pamelabrown1943@gmail.com.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Programs / Wildlife / Wolves in the American West



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EUAN MORTON



"I'm proud to support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS. They give voice to wild creatures and wild places that so desperately need representation. The GUARDIANS' team of dedicated staff, donors, members, and volunteers provides an invaluable service by regenerating and protecting the sacred and glorious places of the American West and Southwest, and their work has far-reaching, positive consequences for the whole of this amazing country."

—EUAN MORTON
New York, N.Y.

Note: See Euan in his current role as King George in the acclaimed Hamilton: An American Musical, now on Broadway.

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GUARDIANS SAYS NO TO AXING MONUMENTS

Sues to Protect Two Utah Sites

Chris Krupp



BOB WICK-BLUM

GUARDIANS is suing to stop Bears Ears National Monument (shown in photo) and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument from being drastically slashed in size.

Within days of President Trump's proclamations gutting Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, GUARDIANS and partner conservation groups filed two lawsuits seeking to have the orders nullified. The cases were filed in early December in Washington, D.C., district court, but the federal government wants them transferred to federal court in Utah. We opposed the venue change, as the cases concern an issue of national importance that affects all Americans. As of this writing there hasn't been a ruling on whether the cases will be transferred.

Since then, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke confirmed plans to auction off more than 51,000 acres of public lands for fracking right next to the Bears Ears National Monument. In his review of 27 national monuments completed last August, Zinke also recommended shrinking Cascade-Siskiyou (Oregon and California) and Gold Butte (Nevada) National Monuments and revising the way other monuments, including New Mexico's Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monuments, are managed so that extractive uses are favored instead of land protection.

Under Trump's proclamations, Bears Ears would shrink to just over 200,000 acres, an 85 percent reduction from the 1.35 million acres originally designated. Grand Staircase-Escalante would be cut almost in half, from 1.9 million acres to one million acres. The land cut from the monuments would be opened to mineral and fossil fuels development. Restrictions on grazing and vehicle use inside the monuments would be

loosened. All this would be done, despite more than 99 percent opposition from the public during the comment period, as a sop to Utah's rabid anti-public lands congressional delegation and a handout to extractive industries.

The basis of our lawsuits is that it is beyond the president's authority to rescind or alter national monuments created by his predecessors. The Constitution's Property Clause confers on Congress the sole power to manage our federal lands; any executive authority over public lands must be delegated by Congress. In 1906 Congress passed the Antiquities Act, which granted the president authority to create national monuments from federal lands to protect significant natural, cultural, or scientific features. The act, however, contains no language authorizing a president to revoke or modify existing monuments.

Some assert that, while not expressed, the power to revoke or modify monument designations is implied in the Antiquities Act. If this interpretation of the act once had merit (the issue has never been tried in the courts), it disappeared when Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976. This act expressly prohibits Interior from modifying or revoking any national monument proclamations under the Antiquities Act, and legislative history shows Congress intended the prohibition to extend to the president.

We will keep you informed as the cases proceed through the courts.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Newsroom / Press releases / Conservation groups file lawsuit after President Trump illegally axed majestic Bears Ears

Jen Pelz

A River Guardian and Friend

I used to think that being a voice for the Rio Grande was a lonely existence. It always appeared more voices were against us than alongside us, but the tide is beginning to turn. People are rising to speak out on behalf of our Great River.



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

Our vision is to unify and amplify those voices by forming a network of River Guardians. A guardian is defined as “a defender, protector or keeper” and we want to find, join, and help support those individuals who work to defend, protect, and keep the river healthy and safe for this and future generations.

My friend and our first River Guardian—Tomás Radcliffe—is a quiet force. His commitment to the Rio Grande and its bosque is steeped in his family history and his children’s futures. His soul is tied to the birds, and this wild place in the city is his refuge. He embodies what I believe it is to be a River Guardian.

Contact me to join this effort to protect our iconic river.



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

Visit riograndewaterkeeper.org

Why Are YOU a Guardians Member?



RICH READING

“I support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS because they are a lean, effective organization dedicated to defending the natural world. The challenges and threats to conservation have never been greater. As a conservation biologist, I see these threats firsthand and know only too well how much we need an organization willing to advocate, defend, and fight for our planet.”

—RICH READING
Denver, Colo.

Interested in becoming a GUARDIANS Event Partner? We have events in most Western states—sponsor an event near you! Email Carol Norton at cnorton@wildearthguardians.org

SHINING A LIGHT FOR TRANSPARENCY

Jeremy Nichols

NPS/PATRICK MYERS



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' transparency efforts are defending iconic landscapes throughout the American West, including Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park.

While transparency has always been an inherent goal of WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' day-to-day advocacy, under the Trump administration, our efforts to shine the brightest light possible on our federal government have taken on a greater urgency.

When President Trump was elected, he promised to “drain the swamp” and rid Washington of politicians who were beholden to special interests. In reality, Trump has simply brought his own kind of corruption and collusion to the White House—and he’s been more secretive about it than previous presidents.

In the first year of his administration, fossil fuel industry executives have been appointed to oversee our public lands, climate deniers have been tapped to run environmental programs, and anti-government activists have been selected to head entire agencies. Trump hasn’t drained a swamp. If anything, he’s simply turned our federal government into more of a cesspool of misconduct than ever before.

Which is why we feel the need to enforce transparency is greater than ever.

Here at GUARDIANS, we firmly believe that sunlight is the best disinfectant. And under Trump, the best way to expose corruption and enforce accountability to the American public is to ensure as much sunlight as possible is shining on the administration.

That’s why in the first year of Trump, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has made many significant shifts to more deliberately and forcefully enforce transparency.

The main way we force the government to disclose its intentions and actions is to deploy the Freedom of Information Act. The Freedom of Information Act is our nation’s foremost law guaranteeing Americans the

right to access federal government records. The law allows citizens to request information from federal agencies and to even obtain this information at no cost.

Over the years, we’ve used the Freedom of Information Act to secure records related to coal mining, wildlife killing, livestock grazing, endangered species protection, and many other matters. However, forcing the government to disclose information has never been as critical as it is now.

In the past, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS may have filed at most 25 Freedom of Information

Act requests in a single year. In 2017 alone, however, we submitted more than 200 requests for records from the Trump administration. These requests sought information related to a variety of issues, including oil and gas leasing, wildlife, and travel management on national forests. Large or small, every single request we filed is a step in defending transparency.

Our next big move was to hire Kelly Nokes as our first-ever Transparency Attorney. Previously our lead Carnivore Advocate in our Wildlife Program, in September Kelly stepped

In the first year of Trump, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has made many significant shifts to more deliberately and forcefully enforce transparency.



GUARDIANS' push for openness is aimed at protecting cherished landscapes like those in the Greater Yellowstone region from backroom deals and secret meetings with extractive industry representatives.

into her new role to ensure our Freedom of Information Act requests do not fall on deaf ears. We need Kelly's services more than ever.

That's because the Trump administration and its federal agencies are increasingly flouting our democracy by not even responding to our Freedom of Information Act requests. While the law requires agencies to respond to requests within 20 work days, they almost never meet that deadline.

It's Kelly's job to force the agencies to obey the law and provide the information we've requested. And with her support, as well as the support from all of our staff attorneys, we're better positioned than ever to ensure the Trump administration responds to our Freedom of Information Act requests and not simply ignores them.

In fact, with Kelly on board as our Transparency Attorney, we've been able to step up in critical ways. In 2017 alone, we filed 15 lawsuits against the Trump administration over their failure to respond to our Freedom of Information Act requests. This is the most lawsuits we've filed in a single year in the history of the organization.

We've also boosted our work with the Western Environmental Law Center, a key ally in our transparency campaign. In the last year, the Law Center has filed several lawsuits on our behalf to compel federal agencies to respond to Freedom of Information Act requests.



We won't relent in our campaign to protect the Greater Chaco region from giveaways to the oil and gas industry.

TRANSPARENCY ADVOCACY BY THE NUMBERS

238

Freedom of Information Act requests filed by WILDEARTH GUARDIANS with the Trump administration in 2017.

13

federal agencies targeted by GUARDIANS, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior's Secretary's Office, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service.

15

lawsuits filed by GUARDIANS under the Freedom of Information Act to compel production of records from the Trump administration just in 2017, more than any in a single year in the history of our organization.

1

new WILDEARTH GUARDIANS staff attorney, Kelly Nokes, our former Carnivore Advocate, hired solely to handle our Freedom of Information Act litigation.

19

Freedom of Information Act lawsuits filed by WILDEARTH GUARDIANS against Trump's Department of the Interior and its agencies, including the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and others, since Jan. 20, 2017—more than any other organization has filed.

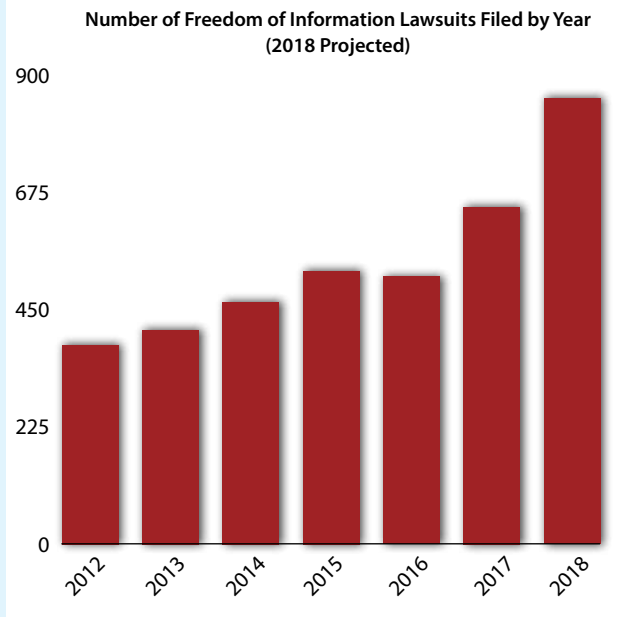
34

news stories based on or referencing records obtained by WILDEARTH GUARDIANS under the Freedom of Information Act.

So far in 2018, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has filed an average of one Freedom of Information Act request every single day.

— JEREMY NICHOLS

RECORD NUMBER OF FOIA LAWSUITS EXPECTED



Under the Freedom of Information Act, citizens can file suit when the federal government fails to respond to requests for records. In 2017, the most lawsuits were filed under the Freedom of Information Act since at least 1993. However, in 2018, it appears that more than 850 lawsuits will be filed, the most ever in the history of the Freedom of Information Act, which was passed in the late 1960s.

Our focus on transparency has paid off in major ways. We've uncovered information that has called into question the legitimacy and legality of Trump administration decisions and also helped to get this information into the public's hands.

In the last year alone, we've had more than 30 news stories feature or reference information we obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. Because of our work, we exposed the Trump administration's attempts to undermine federal coal mining laws, to sacrifice national forests to fracking, to cover up oil spills on public lands, to hide wildlife killing, and to undermine the protection of endangered species.

Importantly, we've stepped up to be a key enforcer of transparency under the Trump administration. In fact, in 2017, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS filed more Freedom of Information Act lawsuits against the U.S. Department of the Interior than any other organization.

In 2018, we're doubling down on our dedication to transparency. So far, we've filed an average of one Freedom of Information Act request a day this year. As of the date of this newsletter, we've filed at least eight lawsuits this year challenging the Trump administration's failure to respond as legally required.

Protecting our democracy and our environment means ensuring our government is as transparent as possible when it comes to its operations and activities. And under Trump, it's more critical than ever to shine the brightest spotlight possible on the administration.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is stepping up its transparency advocacy in big ways. In doing so, we're setting the stage for greater success even in these very trying political times.

Visit our climate and energy news website: Climatewest.org

Thank you to The FOIA Project, foiaproject.org, for statistics.

DIGGING UP AGENCY DIRT TO HELP IMPERILED PRAIRIE DOGS



It was just a one-line email. But it revealed corruption in the Department of the Interior that went all the way to the top. In 2006, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) rejected a petition asking the agency to provide Endangered Species Act protections to the Gunnison's prairie dog. Supposedly, the 114-page document, endorsed by 73 authors including 14 scientists and 23 nonprofit organizations, did not present enough information for the Service to further consider safeguarding the species. GUARDIANS smelled a rat and used the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to ask the Service for all correspondence related to that decision. The response was revealing. Not only did the Service originally decide to consider the species for listing, the reversal of that decision stemmed from a single email to the Region 6 office stating, "Per Julie [MacDonald, Department of Interior Assistant Secretary] please make the [prairie dog] finding negative."

Buried in the hundreds of documents sent in response to our FOIA request, this blatant example of political meddling would have gone unnoticed without GUARDIANS staffers who were dedicated to the truth. MacDonald ultimately resigned after an internal investigation that found she "injected herself personally and profoundly in a number of Endangered Species Act decisions," and many of the decisions she interfered in were reversed.

For good reason, the Endangered Species Act mandates that decisions be based on science, not politics or economics. Documents received through FOIA requests have been instrumental in holding the Service to that standard. We will continue to use this essential transparency tool to make sure that neither a single sentence in an email nor a single politically motivated federal employee can seal the fate of an entire species.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: / Top Priorities / Protecting the prairie dog empire

— TAYLOR JONES

IN THE HALLS OF JUSTICE

Chris Smith, Shannon Hughes, Jen Pelz

★ WILDLIFE
★ WILD RIVERS
★ CLIMATE & ENERGY



GUARDIANS SUES OVER MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY PLAN



DOLLARPHOTOCLUB

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and several of our allies have sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the agency's profoundly flawed Mexican wolf "recovery" plan, which was released in November. The plan is a drastic departure from both the best available science and a previous draft plan that would have actually been a positive for these imperiled and iconic carnivores. The 2017 plan calls for only 320 wolves and severely limits their range using arbitrary boundaries. The Service's annual count of Mexican gray wolves living in western New Mexico and eastern Arizona, published in February, found only 114

wolves, essentially no change from last year's count. Polling shows people want wolves to recover throughout their historic range, but the Service's plan is an extinction plan, not a recovery plan. It's a shame that once again we must go to court for the sake of the endangered Mexican wolf.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press releases / Wolf advocates sue*

DEFENDING COLORADO'S BACKCOUNTRY FROM DIRTY COAL MINE

For years, Arch Coal has tried to expand its West Elk coal mine into western Colorado's national forest backcountry. Thankfully, GUARDIANS thwarted the company's attempts at every step of the way. At the end of 2017, we launched our latest defense of Colorado's roadless lands, filing suit against the Trump administration's rubber-stamping of Arch's plans, which include 17 million tons of new coal mining, expanding roads, and drilling methane venting wells into wildlands next to the West Elk Wilderness Area. The West Elk coal mine is one of the dirtiest in America and the largest single source of harmful methane emissions in Colorado. (Photo above shows methane venting wells being drilled above the West Elk mine.) Represented by Earthjustice, we're hoping to continue to keep Arch at bay.



USFS

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press releases / Lawsuit challenges Trump administration's OK of Colorado coal mine expansion*

RIO RANCHO WATER TRANSFERS THREATEN FLOWS IN RIO GRANDE



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

GUARDIANS filed two protests with the New Mexico State Engineer earlier this year opposing the transfer of agricultural water upstream for use by the City of Rio Rancho. The change in how and where this water will be diverted and used will reduce flows in up to 100 miles of the Rio Grande from Albuquerque to Socorro. Other stakeholders—the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, and several Middle Rio Grande Pueblos—also protested the applications with concerns for the

river and its communities. We will continue to work to ensure these new transfers, added to the four existing applications we protested last year, do not further imperil flows in the Rio Grande.

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Why Are YOU a Guardians Monthly Donor?



JASON FOX

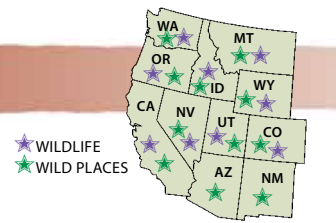
"I support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS because they advocate and fight for causes I strongly believe in and support. Wild places and quiet recreation are what drew me to the Pacific Northwest ten years ago. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS shares my hope and vision for our public lands' future, and their staff helps ensure my voice is heard at the local, regional, and national level."

—JASON FOX
Carson, Wash.
Wild Bunch member

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CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Becca Fischer, Marla Fox, Marlies Wierenga



Why Are YOU a Guardians Member?



HILDEGARD REISER

“As a retired federal employee with 30+ years’ experience in natural resources management and wildlife sciences, I see the work of WILDEARTH GUARDIANS as critical to maintaining protections of our wildlife and wild places. Together, our voices can stem the actions of the current anti-environmental administration. GUARDIANS has been fighting for our values for nearly 30 years. I am proud to be a supporting member, and I encourage everyone to become a member.”

—DR. HILDEGARD REISER
Loveland, Colo.

Interested in becoming a business partner?
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NO TO WEAKENED PROTECTIONS FOR SAGE GROUSE



NOHPADOL PAOTHONG

2018 is shaping up to be a contentious year in GUARDIANS’ fight to protect the Greater Sage Grouse. Last October, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued a notice of intent to rescind the 2015 sage grouse conservation planning initiative. Although GUARDIANS had reservations about the 2015 plan, it did provide vital safeguards for the grouse and its habitat. Now, if Zinke and special interests have their way, even these limited protections will be removed. This change comes at a time when the grouse is struggling to survive in the face of overgrazing and unchecked oil and gas development. But the fight is not over. GUARDIANS has joined with other conservation groups to strongly oppose Zinke’s rollback of the 2015 protections and will keep fighting to ensure that the Greater Sage Grouse has the chance to thrive across the American West.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Newsroom / Press releases / Groups call for stronger measures to conserve sage grouse

PUBLIC: PROTECT WILDLIFE ON FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



RAY RAFFITI

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, our allies, and more than 4,000 members of the public pushed back on the Forest Service’s plans for the Flathead National Forest and grizzly bear habitat of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE). The Flathead’s new forest plan will become the blueprint for managing the forest over the next 10 to 15 years. The Flathead covers

2.4 million acres of public lands adjacent to Glacier National Park, Montana. Its mountains, thick forests, and clean streams are home to imperiled grizzly bears, Canada lynx, wolverines, and bull trout. The new grizzly bear habitat direction will apply to 5.1 million acres of public lands in the NCDE. Under its old forest plan, the Forest Service promised to preserve grizzly habitat by rewilding 500 miles of crumbling forest roads. But the agency is renegeing on this promise. The revised plan ignores best available science showing very real, harmful impacts from motorized use to imperiled wildlife. And it lacks future vision—there’s no direction for maintaining an affordable and environmentally sustainable road system.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Newsroom / Press Releases / Public support for protecting Flathead’s wildlife loud and clear

NATIONAL FOREST ROADS MISSING FROM TRUMP INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN



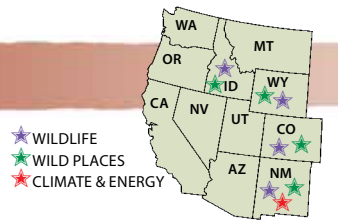
WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

A nearly \$4 billion maintenance backlog; \$29 million in damages in one year in California from climate-change-induced storms; increasing costs for filtering drinking water for communities; and more: President Trump’s “Rebuilding Infrastructure in America” plan left out the largest road system in the United States—the 370,000 miles of roads slicing across streams, wildlife corridors, and wildlands on our national forests. Instead of letting this oversight slip by, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and The Wilderness Society produced a report highlighting this huge problem. We conclude that over the past 10 years, the Legacy Roads and Trails program has proven successful at reconnecting wild lands and waterways for fish and wildlife while saving money. With our partners, GUARDIANS’ advocacy is critical to keep the program funded by Congress.

To read our astonishing report, visit: www.legacyroadsandtrails.org

GOOD NEWS FROM THE GUARDIANS

Rebecca Sobel, Stuart Wilcox, Marla Fox



CHACO FRACKING LEASE SALE CANCELED

Victory! Thanks to our efforts, the March oil and gas lease sale of more than 4,400 acres in Greater Chaco was canceled. The federal Bureau of Land Management's cancellation offers hope that our efforts are working and that the Indigenous communities tied to Greater Chaco—who called for a moratorium on fracking there last year—are finally being heard. But our work isn't over. To celebrate the victory and work toward lasting protections, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and our allies rallied in front of the BLM's N.M. office and the offices of U.S. Senators Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and U.S. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-N.M.) to urge them to take the next step in protecting Greater Chaco's sacred landscape and its citizens.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / #ItsNotOver - Greater Chaco advocates descend on BLM*



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JUSTIN SHOEMAKER USFWS



HALTING THE KILLING OF COLORADO'S CARNIVORES

Persecuting our native carnivores is wrong. When Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) hired Wildlife Services, the federal wildlife-killing program, to kill black bears and cougars in a misguided attempt to artificially boost mule deer populations, GUARDIANS filed three lawsuits to stop their deeply flawed plans. So far, our pending state lawsuit delayed implementation of CPW's killing plans across 4,894 square miles of Colorado, and our second lawsuit

has temporarily prevented Wildlife Services from either participating in the killing plans, placing sodium cyanide bombs on our public lands, or trapping or poisoning carnivores in violation of state law. Now it's time to stop the killing plans for good! GUARDIANS' and our allies' third lawsuit aims to undo the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to fund 75 percent of the killing plans.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Newsroom / Press Releases / Feds stop using M-44 cyanide bombs, other cruel tools to kill Colorado wildlife*

NATIONAL FORESTS RETHINK WINTER TRAVEL MAPS

GUARDIANS celebrated when just before the holidays, three Intermountain national forests withdrew winter motorized travel maps to rethink the implications for imperiled wildlife. The maps show where snowmobiles and other "over-snow" motorized vehicles are allowed. The U.S. Forest Service had claimed that maps published in 2016 and 2017, based on data and decisions more than fifteen years old, met legal requirements to protect natural resources, imperiled wildlife, and a growing constituency of quiet winter recreationists. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and our allies spurred the withdrawal of the maps with a lawsuit challenging decisions by the Boise and Payette National Forests in Idaho and a portion of the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming that highlighted snowmobile impacts to Canada lynx, wolverines, and quiet winter uses.

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RIO GRANDE WATERKEEPER UNITES TWO FORCES FOR NATURE



We are excited to announce WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and Waterkeeper Alliance have joined forces to protect and restore the Rio Grande from its headwaters in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado to the Chihuahuan Desert of southern New Mexico. Rio Grande Waterkeeper is leveraging our collective expertise to build community, safeguard clean water, and reconnect flows in the lifeblood of the desert Southwest.

To learn more, visit riograndewaterkeeper.org or check out Rio Grande Waterkeeper on Facebook.

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



KRISTIN DECKER LEVY, bookkeeper and assistant to the senior accountant, Santa Fe, N.M. Kristin joined WILDEARTH GUARDIANS as bookkeeper and assistant to the senior accountant last fall. Kristin brings 20 years of office management and bookkeeping experience to GUARDIANS and has spent the past seven years working for a not-for-profit for youth, music, and the arts. Highlights of her prior experience include work in the Los Angeles music and film industry, working with David Geffen and DGC Records. Kristin has worked in public relations, marketing/sales, and customer relations for small web design companies, one of which she and her husband co-owned and operated.