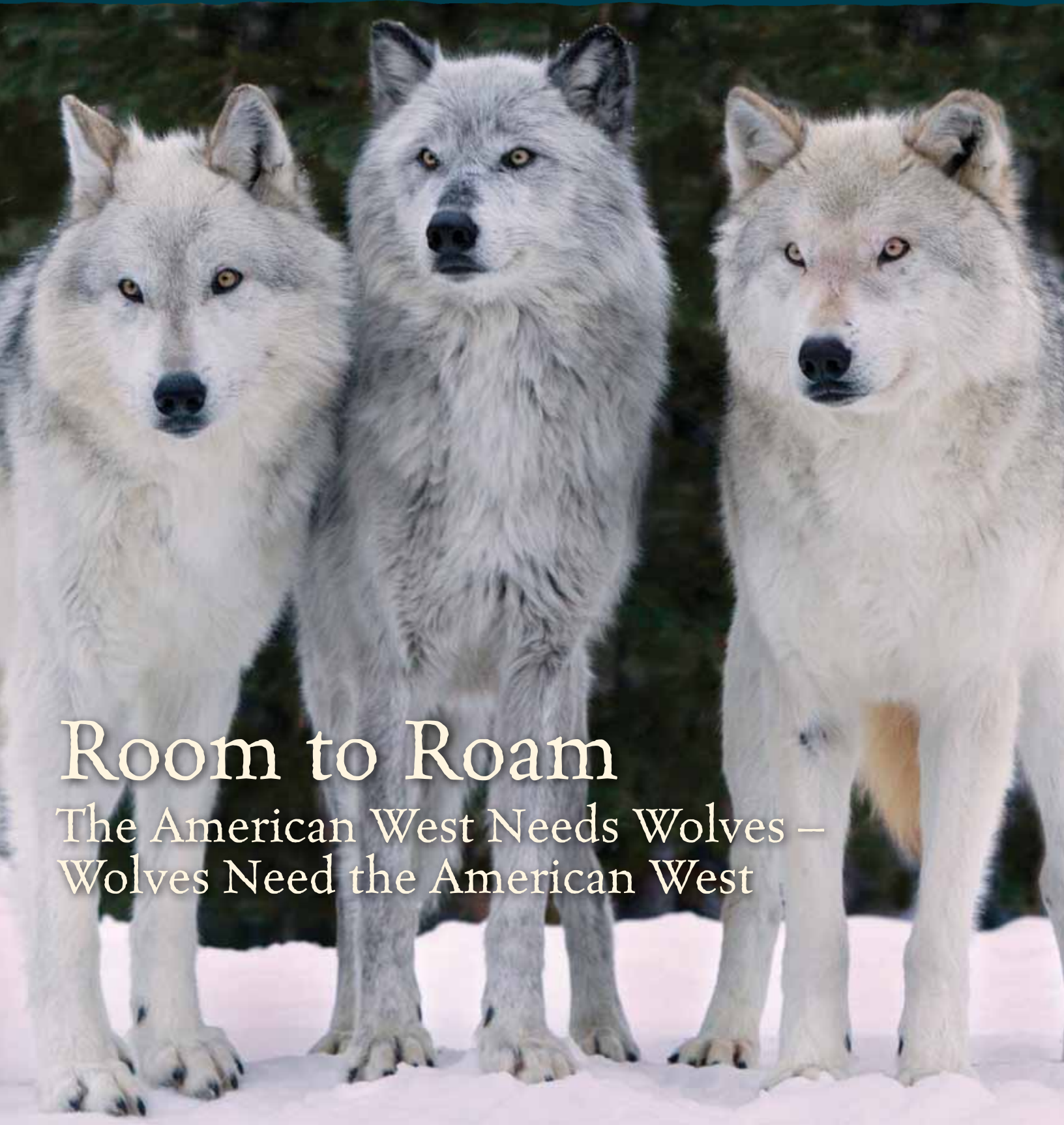


WILD AT HEART

THE WORD FROM WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

No. 14, Winter 2012/2013



Room to Roam

The American West Needs Wolves —
Wolves Need the American West



MISSION STATEMENT

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

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A BOLD VISION

John Horning



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

From Wyoming to New Mexico, the news for wolves has been fairly bleak as of late. One constant amidst the controversy that seems to follow wolves wherever they go is that wolves continue to be scapegoated for things such as shrinking elk populations to higher unemployment rates. Fortunately, the other constant is WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and our steady and compassionate voice for co-existence with wolves.

Our unique relevance in the crowded landscape of wolf advocacy isn't just our compassion. I see us playing two critical roles.

First, we're the emergency responders, quickly and resolutely defending wolves in the court of law and in the court of public opinion. One example is how Jay Tutchton, our General Counsel, is representing a coalition of regional environmental organizations that is challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to remove wolves in Wyoming from the Endangered Species Act.

Second, GUARDIANS is pushing the hard edge of change to create a new paradigm that ensures that wolves have the necessary freedom to roam for their vitality and success. We are working to advance grazing permit retirement legislation in Congress and are simultaneously agitating to ban traps and poisons on public lands in wolf country.

I hope you enjoy our feature article in this *Wild at Heart*, "Restoring Wolves in the American West," which outlines our strategy for supporting wolf reintroduction throughout the region. We invite you to join our campaign. Your voice matters and complements our voice and our effectiveness.

For the Wild,

GUARDIAN GIVER

Monica Geick

"For years I was unaware of WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and my donations were directed to other conservation groups. Somehow I started to receive the GUARDIANS' Frontline newsletter and I began to realize the importance of this organization. While

some conservation groups are pandering, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is fighting for the environment and taking issues to court when necessary. I really appreciate that an organization is finally standing up with integrity. The land, the trees and wildlife cannot speak for themselves. Too much of our wild native heritage is disappearing as conflicting 'use' interests destroy the wildlife, beauty and nature of the land. That's why I'm making a large legacy gift to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS.

My gift will help protect some of the places and some of the species I care about. I hope that others will realize the importance of standing up for what is right and join me in making a legacy gift."



MONICA GEICK

GET ON THE BUS

Eating Choices and the Impact on Wolves and Other Wildlife



Terry Flanagan

CHARLES FOX



Charles Fox, dedicated Trap Free NM activist and devoted GUARDIANS' volunteer, with his beloved dog Pearl. trapfreenm.org

Charles Fox, a member of WILDEARTH GUARDIANS for seven years, was standing outside a bustling downtown Santa Fe, NM, eatery on his cell phone when I called for our interview. It was serendipitous to me, because I called him to talk about food – specifically, the impact our food choices have on wildlife.

“Knowing what you’re eating is probably one of the most important ways of relating with the world!” Fox declared, and then added, “Taking communion with the biosphere – it’s a fairly profound act, and it’s sad that it (eating) has been commodified, like with McDonald’s.”

No kidding. Charles Fox is the epitome of a conscientious food

eater. He is a self-described bicycle-riding yogi vegetarian, and he has not eaten a hamburger in some 26 years. He has made his choice because he believes strongly that what he puts in his mouth has consequences.

To be sure, Fox is realistic. “Me not wearing leather is not going to take down the industry, but it’s not going to help it either.”

But he also appreciates “the multiplying effect” that his vegetarianism has had. Friends now accept his vegetarianism, some have even converted, and his family has taken to preparing vegetarian meals when they are together.

Yet, influencing his local circle is not enough for Fox. The relationship between what we put in our mouths and public lands policy, and the impact of public lands policies on wildlife, clearly inspires his food choices. “At 5:00 am tomorrow morning, animals are going to be killed in traps for trapping season, and for coyotes and skunks, they can be legally trapped at any time.”

“Knowing what you’re eating is probably one of the most important ways of relating with the world!”

It’s true, and trapping is not solely done for the acquisition of fur. Everyday, federal agents and private individuals shoot, trap and poison wildlife to protect animal agriculture. In particular, animals such as wolves, coyotes, bears

and mountain lions that are deemed a threat by the livestock industry are subjected to systematic trapping. So, if you choose to eat hamburgers, unlike Charles Fox, it is possible that you are inadvertently supporting wildlife extermination.

What you need to do is find out. For Fox, the answer is clear. “I think not caring is not acceptable.” Before you take your next bite of beef, you might want to inquire about the origins of the meat to determine if the rancher co-exists with, or kills, native carnivores. The answer, or the difficulty in ascertaining the answer, may inspire you to eat tofu.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Take Action / Activist Spotlight

Sustainable Gifts for Any Season

Celebrate the holidays and beyond with a perfect gift that captures your commitment to the environment. Here are some GUARDIANS' gift suggestions:

PLANT A TREE IN THE NAME OF YOUR FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER.

A cottonwood is a beautiful way to honor someone. (wildearthguardians.org: Support Us / Plant a Tree. Click on “Gift Trees” immediately under the pictures.)

PURCHASE THE BEAUTIFUL WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' BOOK: THE RIO GRANDE: AN EAGLE'S VIEW.

Every book purchased supports our wildlife and wildlands advocacy. (theriograndeaneaglesview.com)

GIFT A MONTHLY GUARDIANS' MEMBERSHIP TO A FRIEND. The new member will begin to receive all the benefits of membership as well as receive a note acknowledging you as the gift giver. (wildearthguardian.org: Support Us / Monthly Giving)

DONATE YOUR TIME IN HONOR OF A FRIEND AT ONE OF OUR STREAM TEAM OR OTHER EVENTS.

We'll send you a certificate that you can share, letting your loved one know what you have done on their behalf to brighten the future for distressed streams and imperiled wildlife. Let them know how much you care about them with your gift of time. (cnorton@wildearthguardians.org)

LANDMARK LEGACY

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS' MONTHLY DONOR?



"To me, the wolf is one of the species that deeply embodies the essence of wilderness, without which life on this planet would be spiritually parched.

I am happy to contribute monthly to the efforts of WILDEARTH GUARDIANS to protect this species. I hope that my modest contribution can help WG in the difficult task of ensuring that wolves can continue to live the life that is theirs by nature."

— CATHERINE MACKEN AND
BENJI (THE DOG)
Scientist,
Los Alamos National
Laboratory,
Tesuque, New Mexico

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Landmark Endangered Species Agreement Marks First Anniversary

Mark Salvo

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' historic species settlement agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reached its first anniversary and—with some notable exceptions—is working well to protect imperiled flora and fauna. At the time of this writing, the Service has listed 53 species included in the agreement as "threatened" or "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA or the Act) and designated thousands of acres of critical habitat. These actions mean the Act's vital safety net can begin to protect these plants and animals from extinction. The Service has also taken action on hundreds of other species, advancing them through the listing process. Most of these decisions have been positive for endangered species, proving that WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and our partners were right to advocate for their protection in the first place.

In accordance with the agreement, the Service will continue to address more than 200 candidate species for listing over the next four years. Most of these plants and animals have waited decades for action. Some of them are recognizable, like the Gunnison sage-grouse, New Mexico meadow jumping mouse, Sonoran desert tortoise, lesser prairie-chicken, and Jemez Mountains salamander. Some may be less familiar, like the Coral Pink sand dunes tiger beetle and the Fickeisen plains cactus. All of them deserve protection under the ESA.

As you might expect, the success of the settlement agreement has riled some Congressional opponents of species protection. The House Committee on Natural Resources summoned WILDEARTH GUARDIANS to testify at a hearing last



New Mexico meadow jumping mouse

December, at which our General Counsel, Jay Tutchton, masterfully defended our work to hostile Committee members. Individual legislators have also attempted to prevent the Service from making decisions on certain species under our settlement agreement — thankfully to no avail.

*Our settlement agreement
has improved administration
of the ESA, saved money, and
accelerated species listings.*

Despite the protestations of its detractors, our settlement agreement has improved administration of the ESA, saved money, and accelerated species listings. Most importantly, it is providing important protection for imperiled plants and animals and requiring improved resource management to support their conservation and recovery. We will continue to diligently monitor, promote, and defend the agreement to ensure it is fully and faithfully implemented in the years to come.

*Visit wildearthguardians.org: Top Priorities /
Endangered Species Act Listing*



Fickeisen plains cactus

POSTCARDS FROM THE FIELD

Mark Salvo

Surveying the Sagebrush Sea

Historically, millions of acres of sagebrush habitat were homesteaded and converted to agriculture, especially basins with deep soil and access to water. These areas were also important habitat for a suite of sagebrush obligate species, including sage-grouse and pygmy rabbits. Some homesteads failed, leaving behind degraded, weedy tracts as the only sign they ever existed.



Domestic livestock continue to graze most of the Sagebrush Sea. Hundreds of thousands of non-native livestock trample vegetation, damage soil, spread invasive weeds, pollute water, steal forage from native wildlife, and even contribute to global warming. Grazing management must improve in order to restore sagebrush ecosystems.

Sage-grouse are a classic umbrella species for sagebrush steppe. Their decline over the last century is evidence of our mismanagement of the landscape. Spurred by WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' landmark species settlement agreement (see page 4), federal agencies have initiated an unprecedented planning process to improve sage-grouse conservation in ten western states.



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

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS' MONTHLY DONOR?



"Why do I support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS? Reason number one: John Horning. To my mind, John is the Lorax of the Southwest. He speaks for the trees, he fights for the land and the animals – John is a visionary leader. Because of John and his committed staff, wolves have fierce and tireless champions who advocate not just for their right to exist, but for their right to thrive and bring ecosystems back into balance."

— CRAIG HEACOCK
Psychiatrist and contributing member for years (perhaps the IRS knows how many years exactly),
Ft. Collins, Colorado

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

IN THE HALLS OF JUSTICE

Jeremy Nichols, Jay Tutchton, Bryan Bird



WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS' MONTHLY DONOR?

DANI SHI



"I was a student from China and fell in love with this country. Here in the States, there are still enough wilderness and wild creatures to make me feel magic is still possible. I support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS because I want generations after me to be able to encounter magic."

— DANI SHI

(SHOWN WITH HER
HUSBAND GREG GALLO)

Credit Card Risk
Manager,
Vineland, New Jersey

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ECOFLIGHT



SETBACK FOR THE CLIMATE: COAL MINING GIVEN GREEN LIGHT; GUARDIANS TO APPEAL

The Powder River Basin of northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana is the nation's largest coal producing region. More than 43% of the nation's coal is strip-mined from this region and burned in more than 200 power plants, spewing more than 13% of all carbon pollution in the United States. Despite the huge environmental impacts of coal mining, a federal judge recently tossed out a GUARDIANS' lawsuit challenging the Interior Department's approval of more than 450 million tons of new coal mining in the region. This is a sad setback, but we are not

deterred. We're gearing up to appeal this decision and to keep holding the line against the Interior Department. With signs of global warming all around us, we have to do everything possible to keep Powder River Basin coal in the ground where it belongs.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Programs / Climate and Energy

PROTECTING OUR FURRY FRIENDS IN THE NORTHERN ROCKIES FROM LAND MINES

Traps are land mines for wildlife – indiscriminate purveyors of death or injury to any animal unlucky enough to step in the wrong place.

The impacts of trapping are magnified when rare species are victimized. Accordingly, GUARDIANS has begun two significant efforts to reduce the harms of trapping in Montana. Together with a coalition of partners from the Northern Rockies, GUARDIANS petitioned the State of Montana to stop the intentional trapping of wolverines, a candidate for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing. Second, GUARDIANS provided formal notice to Montana that unless the State acts to reduce the unintended trapping of threatened lynx, GUARDIANS will sue the State for violating the ESA. We are optimistic that these efforts will make our public lands a little friendlier to furry feet.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Top Priorities / Carnivore Protection



ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

SANTA FE FOREST IS TURNED OVER TO MOTORIZED USERS

BRYAN BIRD



The Santa Fe National Forest has handed over our lands to a small minority of motorcyclists, jeeps and off-roaders. The new travel management plan, released in June, establishes where visitors can and cannot travel on motorized vehicles when visiting the national forest, but it leaves most of the non-wilderness forest open to motorized vehicles. The plan also allows vehicles in extremely fragile areas, like in Jemez Mountain salamander habitat (soon to be listed as an endangered species), and even in some other pristine, roadless areas. Because the U. S. Forest Service hasn't adequately limited where motorized vehicles are allowed—which

would minimize their impacts—wildlife and water will suffer in the long run. GUARDIANS has united with other conservation groups and local residents in an appeal of the decision.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Programs / Wild Places

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Taylor Jones, Jeremy Nichols, Bryan Bird



HOME, SAFE HOME

RAMONA GAYLORD



When the City of Santa Fe decides to relocate Gunnison's prairie dogs out of harm's way, they should have a safe place to put them. This is why WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and partners have petitioned the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to ban recreational shooting of prairie dogs at a relocation site in El Malpais National Conservation Area. The BLM currently has no rule prohibiting shooting in the conservation area, and, without such protection, shooters—known to kill hundreds of prairie dogs at other colonies—may turn their guns on relocated prairie dogs at El Malpais. Relocating prairie dogs is a significant investment of time, money, and dedication that is undermined if prairie dogs are shot once they reach their new home. Prairie dogs are keystone species and remaining colonies must be protected on public land.

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

PUTTING THE FREEZE ON COAL IN THE FOUR CORNERS

ECOFLIGHT



The Four Corners region is coal-fired power plant central. Together, the Four Corners and San Juan plants in northwestern New Mexico, as well as the Navajo plant in Arizona, release 50 million tons of carbon every year, which is as much as a small state spews from each and every source of carbon in that state. But the carbon tide is turning. In August, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

approved a plan to permanently retire a portion of the Four Corners plant. And, it's looking as if a portion of the San Juan plant may also be retired. For our part, we're making sure this coal-free progress continues. We're already leading the charge in court to strengthen a clean air plan for the San Juan plant in the hope that we can convince the Public Service Company of New Mexico, or PNM, to retire it by 2022. We are also gearing up to challenge the EPA for not protecting endangered fish from the Four Corners and Navajo plants. Most importantly, we're working with our allies, including Native American allies, to ensure a just transition from coal to clean energy. If we can make it happen here, we can make it happen anywhere.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Power Past Coal*

LET'S KEEP COLORADO'S FAMED ROCKY MOUNTAIN WATERS CLEAN



JON PAUL / JONPAULGALLERY.COM

We've kicked off our campaign to permanently protect over 6,000 miles of Colorado's streams and rivers and the 4.4 million acres of roadless national forests from which they flow. We will be working in two river basins to propose Outstanding Waters: the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins. Colorado is blessed with over 10,000 miles of Rocky Mountain streams and rivers within its national forest roadless and wilderness areas. With unequalled foresight, Colorado invoked the Clean Water Act and designated close to 4,000 miles of these waters—those within wilderness and national parks—as Outstanding Waters, thereby providing permanent protection. Colorado can now finish the job and secure our water future by naming the remaining 6,000 miles of the state's waters in its roadless forests as Outstanding, effectively protecting its Rocky Mountain headwaters legacy.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Clean Waters, Wild Forests*

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS' MONTHLY DONOR?



TOM HAWLEY

"As a chaplain, I work daily teaching traumatized children and teens about the solace of this beautiful creation. Wolves are as important as deer, elk, and other wildlife and are imperative to the balance of nature. From nature, our souls find restoration. As a monthly donor, I am a part of something big that truly contributes to restoring our nature. All of it."

— TOM HAWLEY
Chaplain at Crittenton Children's Center, Kansas City, Missouri

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

RESTORING WOLVES IN THE AMERICAN WEST

Mark Salvo and Wendy Keefover

Remember “Journey”? He is the pioneering gray wolf that attracted national and international attention last January by becoming the first confirmed wild wolf in California since 1924 (see map, p. 9). Formerly known as “OR7,” Journey made an epic trek from northeast Oregon to northern California last autumn. Apparently he likes California because, despite not having a girlfriend or pack mates, he’s still there. California has lots of habitat and sufficient prey and, aside from a few frustrated ranchers, Californians have welcomed Journey.

tragic consequences: 545 wolves were shot and trapped during the 2011-2012 hunting season. Federal trappers captured and incarcerated a Mexican wolf accused of preying on domestic livestock in New Mexico. And the worst news of all: in September, the Department of Interior removed wolves in Wyoming from the endangered species list, and it relinquished management to the State which has promised to open a shooting gallery on wolves in all but a few protected areas.

Clearly, we’ve got more work to do to restore wolves in the West.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS’ vision is to support the restoration of vibrant, ecologically functional wolf populations throughout the Rocky Mountains and the American Southwest, from Canada to Mexico. And this doesn’t mean only restoring wolves to a few national parks and wilderness areas. Wolves belong on millions of acres of public lands in the West, and those landscapes need wolves to rebalance their ecosystems. GUARDIANS has adopted an ecoregional strategy to advance wolf conservation in three areas: the Northern Rockies, the Southern Rockies and the Greater Gila Bioregion.

NORTHERN ROCKIES: THE ONCE AND FUTURE STRONGHOLD FOR WOLVES

The return of wolves to the Northern Rockies has had an unmistakable effect on the landscape. Elk that had long loitered along streams and in aspen groves were suddenly on the lookout and on the run from wolves. Over-browsed willows and cottonwoods returned, which allowed beaver to once again find material to build their dams and lodges, which in turn has created lush habitats for songbirds, herons, water-wading moose and a host of other dependent species.

The livestock community and some hunting organizations have opposed wolf restoration in



Restoration of wolves to Yellowstone National Park has benefited species ranging from bears to birds to beetles.

Journey inspires us with his moxie. He is proof that Mother Nature will persevere, if given the chance. And his expedition reminds us of the importance of habitat conservation to species restoration: Journey travelled mostly public lands and protected areas from Oregon to California.

Unfortunately, Journey’s story has been rare good news for wolves this year. Idaho and Montana conducted wolf hunts last winter with

FOLLOW *Lobo@Large* ON TWITTER!



This summer, GUARDIANS’ members nominated and then voted on names for the alpha pair of the Middle Fork Mexican wolf Pack. They are now “Bacho” and “Esperanza,” and now you can follow their exploits by subscribing to Bacho’s twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/LoboAtLarge>). Bacho and Esperanza are unique because each only has three legs. But they have survived despite their disability and have become key contributors to Mexican wolf recovery in New Mexico. Join Bacho’s twitter feed as he reports the Middle Fork Pack’s triumphs and tragedies from the Gila wildlands.



Once feared and despised, many Americans now revere wolves and their place in the ecosystem.

the Northern Rockies. Their overblown complaints of wolf predation on livestock and elk finally gained traction with Congressional decision-makers who responded by delisting wolves in Idaho, Montana, and parts of Washington, Oregon and Utah in May 2011. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS sued to overturn the law and enjoin hunting in Idaho and Montana. We lost in court, but we haven't stopped educating the public, elected officials and the news media, and we continue to advocate for improved wolf management in these states.

The recent delisting of wolves in Wyoming marks a new low for wolf conservation in the Northern Rockies. The State's management plan will allow wolf hunting in over 80 percent of the state. Many of Wyoming's approximately 330 wolves will die this winter unless we strike down this plan. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and partners have already initiated a legal challenge to the delisting rule.

It is vital that we maintain strong wolf populations in the Northern Rockies. The region is a source of migrating wolves which helps to restore the species elsewhere in the West. For example, Journey was born to the Imnaha Pack in Oregon, a pack that was established by wolves that swam across the Snake River from Idaho. Hunting and trapping in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming will hinder future wolf migration without our swift and resolute opposition.

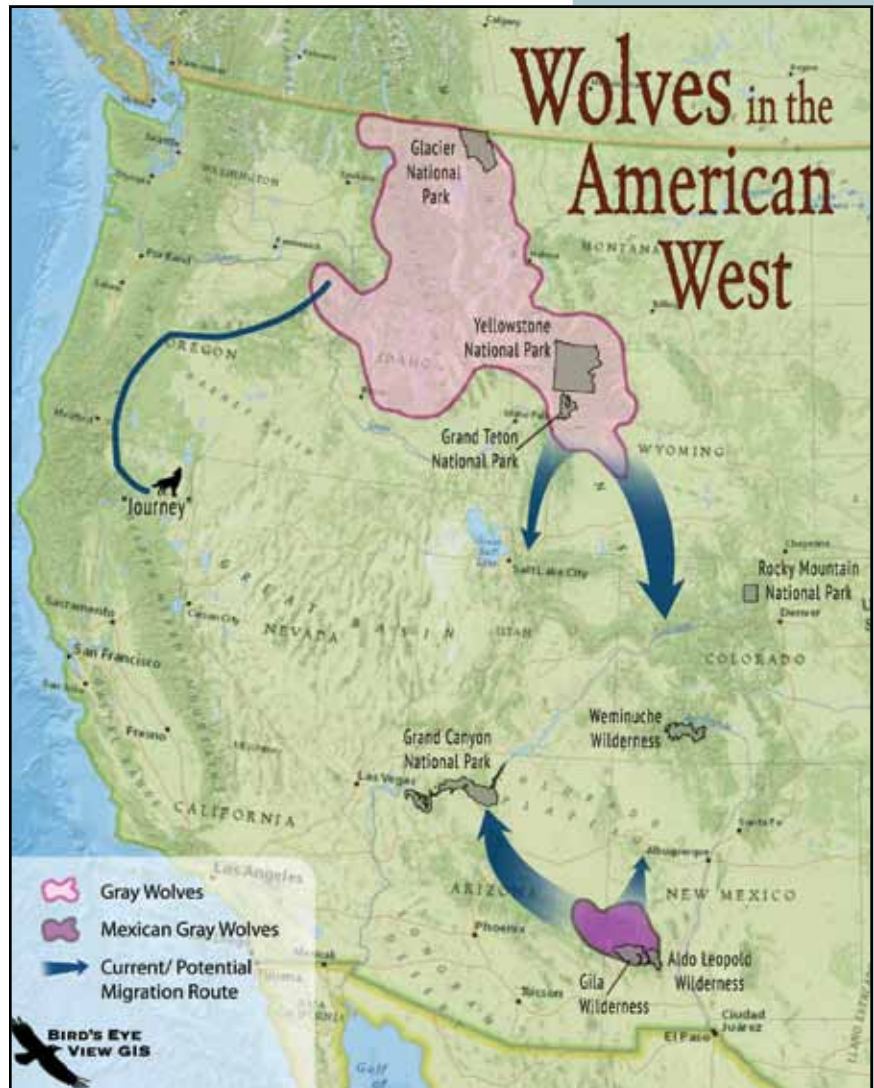
SOUTHERN ROCKIES: THE MISSING LINK

If the Wyoming wolf plan is allowed to stand, wolves will be unable to safely migrate south from Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks to Colorado, where they are still protected by federal law. We must continue to press for wolf reintroduction in the Southern Rockies or the region may continue to be without wolves for decades to come.

We had a prime opportunity to restore wolves in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado a few years ago, but the National Park Service declined to seize it. Rocky Mountain National Park recognized it had an elk problem, and the solution was obvious: reintroduce

wolves. But to the shock of many, the Park Service—the federal agency most dedicated to managing natural landscapes—decided against using wolves to control the Park's elk herds and chose to use sharpshooters instead!

The Park Service's plan violates both ecological principles and federal law. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS sued the agency for its failure to consider a viable plan to restore wolves in Rocky Mountain and for its unlawful decision to use hunters to shoot elk inside a national park. Colorado needs wolves, and wolves need Colorado. The federal government must support wolf restoration in the state wherever possible.



GREATER GILA BIOREGION: BUILDING ON LEOPOLD'S LEGACY

The wolf that Aldo Leopold shot and memorialized in *A Sand County Almanac* was a Mexican wolf, a smaller, fleet-footed subspecies adapted to the hot, rugged terrain in the Southwest. With great expectations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) reintroduced Mexican wolves

There are more places in the West where wolves could and should go, if only federal and state policies supported wolf migration.



above: WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is working to change the paradigm in the West to one of coexistence and compassion for native carnivores.

right: Supporters rally in favor of wolf restoration to Rocky Mountain National Park at the University of Colorado-Boulder School of Law in September.

to the Greater Gila Bioregion in 1998. Unfortunately, fewer than 60 wolves roam in the wild today and the recovery effort has stalled and even regressed in recent years. Dozens of wolves have been killed, captured, or simply disappeared. The Service has declined to update its plan to release more captive wolves in New Mexico, it has failed to vigorously protect wolves from poachers, and it has failed to expand the recovery area to provide existing wolf packs more room to roam. Moreover, federal land managers have refused to assist conservation organizations and ranchers to retire federal grazing allotments in Mexican wolf range.

Retiring grazing allotments would reduce grazing conflicts with Mexican wolves and ensure their long-term recovery in the Greater Gila.

In perhaps the most egregious example of government mismanagement of Mexican wolves, New Mexico currently allows trapping in the designated recovery area. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has sued the State over its policy. More than a dozen Mexican wolves have been caught in traps. Some were injured, and two even died. Allowing trapping is an absurd policy that

threatens wolf recovery in an area where the federal government has spent millions of taxpayer dollars to restore the animals to the landscape.



The West needs wolves, now more than ever. New research indicates that wolves could mitigate the effects of climate change on western landscapes by regulating ungulate populations and making carrion available year-round for scavengers, such as grizzly bears, whose other food sources may be diminished by global warming. Reintroducing wolves has already taught us so much about our environment that we didn't know. Imagine what more we could learn from these provocative animals once they are fully restored to the West.



WENDY KEEFER

LOBA INCARCERATED FOR LIFE

After evading government trappers for two months, the mother wolf of the Fox Mountain Mexican wolf pack has finally been captured and incarcerated for life—for the crime of feeding her family. This wolf, which fans have affectionately named Loba (meaning “female wolf” in Spanish) belonged to a pack that included four new pups, one yearling pup, and her life-long mate, who is also her first cousin.

On August 8, 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a kill order for Loba for allegedly killing livestock. (GUARDIANS has requested necropsy reports from federal investigators to confirm the livestock losses, but investigators have failed to produce them.) Hundreds, if not thousands, of people immediately called the Service, the White House, and the New Mexico Congressional delegation to protest Loba's kill order. Two days later, in a remarkable turnaround, the Service rescinded the order but then directed that Loba be

captured live and moved to the Southwest Wolf Conservation Center, which volunteered to house her.

Capturing Loba was no better than killing her. Loba is only one of six breeding females in a population of less than 60 Mexican wolves. It is essential to preserve breeding females in the wild to support recovery of the species. And removing her from the wild and from her pack was ethically bankrupt and cruel.

Here's what GUARDIANS advocates: the Service should restore Loba to the wild and to her family, release additional wolves to ensure genetic diversity in the wild population, and land management agencies should retire public lands grazing allotments in Mexican wolf range. Removing livestock from public lands is the most important action federal managers can take to reduce grazing conflicts and recover Mexican wolves.

Government trappers have crushed Loba's spirit. We must all redouble our efforts to ensure this tragedy isn't repeated.



USFWS

GOOD NEWS FROM THE GUARDIANS

Carol Norton, Jeremy Nichols, John Horning



HOWLING FOR WOLVES IN DENVER

Great music (and some howls as well!) was shared at our Wolf Benefit Concert in Denver this past August. Over one hundred people came out to hear Neil Haverstick and his many musical friends play in different combinations, all of which added to our efforts to support wolves in the wild. Tom Blomster, Robert W. Eldridge Jr., Jack Hadley, Bill Hill, Nadya Hill, Mike Keefe, Chuck Lettes, Neela, Mary Stribling, and Harry Tuft contributed their mighty talent and it was clear that something special was happening.

In between sets, Wendy Keefover, GUARDIANS' Carnivore Protection Director, updated the audience on our case to reintroduce wolves into Rocky Mountain National Park, and she shared facts about the critical role wolves play in our western ecosystems. If you missed this wonderful evening, not to worry - we will do it again next year!

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Support Us / Events



NEIL HAVERSTICK

Neil Haverstick



Staffers Angelisa Espinoza and Kevin Gaither-Banchoff welcome people to the Wolf Benefit Concert.

IT'S OFFICIAL: NEW FRACKING RULES TO CURB AIR POLLUTION NATIONWIDE

Our legal efforts have again spurred national success in the fight against air pollution and global warming. In 2009, we filed suit, together with the San Juan Citizens Alliance, against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over their failure to update national clean air rules for oil and gas drilling.

Three years and a settlement agreement later, the EPA finally adopted their own updates: a suite of rules that will reduce smog forming pollution by 15%, toxic contaminants by 25%, and methane, a potent greenhouse

gas, by 1.7 million tons, which will be like eliminating eight coal-fired power plants. The rules finally became official in August when they were published in the Federal Register. We still have our work cut out as fracking continues to take a toll on our health and environment. Nevertheless, these safeguards are a major milestone in curbing global warming pollution and keeping us safe from fossil fuels.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Top Priorities / Wild Skies of the West

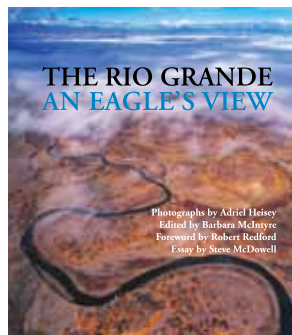
RIO GRANDE COMPANION WEBSITE UNVEILED

If you purchased or saw our large format aerial photography book of the Rio Grande from its headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico, you'll be excited to visit our recently unveiled website that is an interactive complement to the book. Like *The Rio Grande: An Eagle's View*, the website is visually stunning; but, the website also includes video, a slide show, and provides reviews of the book. In addition to creating another, varied and intimate understanding of the river, our goal in creating the website is to sell books, because all sales of the book go to supporting our work!

The new site, theriograndeaneaglesview.com, describes in detail how Adriel Heisey, the photographer, shot the book's images and piloted the two different light planes that he flew during the 10-year period in which he photographed the river.

The Rio Grande is a river in desperate need of inspired leadership and it's our hope that the book, and now the interactive website, help to spread the inspiration and awe that can, in turn, help protect a living Rio Grande.

Visit theriograndeaneaglesview.com



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SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Jodie Wheeler



Please help us to welcome Jodie Wheeler, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' new Finance Director. Jodie is a Santa Fe native and a natural with numbers. She started her accounting career while still in high school. She earned her Diploma in Accounting from Albuquerque TVI and brings 27 years of accounting skills with her to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS. Jodie is happy to be working at an organization aligned with her values and she is already making her mark on the GUARDIANS with improved systems and strong controls. In her spare time, you will find Jodie camping with her family on the Conejos River, baking, reading, cross stitching, and volunteering regularly with the Santa Fe Public Schools. Thank you, Jodie, for contributing your skills to the GUARDIANS!

SPOTLIGHT ON A SPECIES

Jemez Mountains Salamander

Taylor Jones

This secretive amphibian lives in mixed-conifer forests in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. It spends most of its time underground in moist soils – it has no lungs and its skin must stay moist in order to absorb oxygen. The species is strictly terrestrial, hatching fully-formed offspring rather than hatching tadpoles as most salamanders do. It hunts at night for ants, mites, and beetles inside rotted logs, and it retreats underground to hibernate during winter.



CHRIS NEWSON

Ninety percent of the population lives within the Santa Fe National Forest, where it is threatened by fire suppression, logging, off-road vehicle use and climate change. In 2011, the Las Conchas Fire burned 150,590 acres in the Jemez Mountains, approximately 17,780 acres of which was potential or known salamander habitat. The salamander was proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act in September 2012.