

WILD AT HEART

THE WORD FROM WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

No. 5, Fall 2009

20 Years of Guarding the Wild

page 8





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

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RESTORING THE VISION

John Horning

It's hard to believe that I've been a GUARDIAN for 15 years and the Executive Director for nearly eight.

When people ask me what keeps me going after all these years, one of the stories I share in response is about the time my brother Andy and I were biking around the country. When we reached San Diego, 4,000 miles into what would become a 10,000 mile journey, a friend who gave us floor space for a few nights asked, in awe, how had we done it. How had we made it across the country carrying 60 pounds over mountain passes, through cold rains and along narrow roads with sometimes hostile drivers barreling inches past?

Our answer was simple and yet grandiose at the same time. We had this big dream of biking around the country that sustained us and yet we took it one day at a time.

The same is true of my belief in how I've been able to continue to be inspired, work hard and have fun for 15 years at WILDEARTH GUARDIANS. The vision of a healthy Rio Grande, a restored Sagebrush Sea, and a protected Gila Bioregion that provides wolves the freedom to roam inspire me to work long hours and confront sometimes overwhelming challenges.

I also remain undaunted and energized after all these years because I am blessed to work with so many talented and caring people.

I used to say that I did this work because of a connection to a particular place or species. That's still true, but now—in addition to landscapes and wildlife—it's people like Nicole, Carol and Bryan and our younger staff like Michelle, Jeremy and Rebecca that inspire and energize me.

I also feel both grateful and deeply connected to many of you WILDEARTH GUARDIANS members for supporting our vision, for believing in our dream and for being so generous with your support. One day at a time, with big dreams to guide us, I hope to see you in another 20 years!

GUARDIAN GIVER

Dave and Karen Kraig

Dave and Karen Kraig have been members of WILDEARTH GUARDIANS since the beginning in 1989. "WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' methodical and tenacious approach is effective in forwarding a progressive and positive agenda for land stewardship," say the Kraigs. Karen grew up in Dixon, NM along the Rio Embudo and Dave's childhood was spent lost in the canyons



surrounding Los Alamos. "We have always valued the natural beauty and the wildness of the West.

Protection of unspoiled places and improvement of degraded areas are very important to us."

"Because of the organization's growth financially and geographically, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is a real player in the environmental movement. The Guardians' multi-pronged approach of legal action, citizen education, lobbying of our representatives, and on-the-ground restoration has proven to be an effective strategy."

The Kraigs included WILDEARTH GUARDIANS in their estate planning through what the GUARDIANS call the Diversity of Life Society. The program ensures that people leave a legacy to continue WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' work for the environment.

OUT AND ABOUT

DOUG GRINBERGS



More than 300 people called for the retirement of Valmont power plant in Boulder, CO.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has been spending summer days – and nights – protecting carnivores and their habitats.

In the Denver metro area, coyote urban conflicts have been increasing due to lack of public awareness and urban sprawl. In response, some communities have instated wildlife-friendly education and hazing techniques while Greenwood Village has gone to the extreme of paying a private contractor to shoot coyotes in neighborhood parks. Promoting coexistence techniques over gun violence, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has come to the rescue of urban coyotes by organizing educational opportunities and hazing teams to protect these animals and ensure their long-term survival. We've engaged more than 100 volunteers this year and have educated citizens across the Denver metro area about non-lethal coyote management policies. We are working with the city of Centennial to institute a proactive education campaign. We've partnered with local REIs in



Wendy Keefover-Ring, Carnivore Protection Director, traveled Montana this summer to rally support for mountain lions.

Westminster, Boulder, Denver, Englewood and Lakewood to promote actions for peaceful coexistence through our “Coyotes Among Us” workshop. By keeping dogs on leashes and cats indoors, capping garbage and taking other small steps, urban coyote conflicts can be managed peacefully. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS will continue to spread awareness and reduce conflict to protect this iconic western species.

While they are rarely sighted in neighborhood parks, mountain lions, also known as pumas, cougars or panthers, play an important part of maintaining native ecosystems. In collaboration with local houndsman and the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks agency, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS gave nine presentations across the state in Helena, Great Falls, Kalispell, Missoula,

JESS ALFORD



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS gathered hundreds of signatures in support of clean water and wild forests in New Mexico.

Bozeman, Livingston, Billings, Lewistown, Malta and Glasgow. The presentations focused on natural history, promoting more sustainable mountain lion management policies and co-existence education. More than 100 hunters and wildlife enthusiasts turned out to learn more about mountain lions and their conservation. Because of these outreach and advocacy efforts, Montana's mountain lion conservation continues to improve.

In addition to speaking up for coyotes and mountain lions, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has been busy doing grassroots organizing for clean waters in New Mexico (see page 7) and clean air in Colorado (see page 5).

Continue to check out our website and watch your email for upcoming community events and volunteer opportunities from WILDEARTH GUARDIANS.

Visit Events at wildearthguardians.org

SAVE THE DATES

OCTOBER

Screening of the new documentary film *Lords of Nature* in Denver and Boulder

OCTOBER 11, 3PM

Screening of the new documentary film *Lords of Nature* at the Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd.

NOVEMBER 6-8

Wolf tracking trip to the Gila Bioregion

NOVEMBER 12, 6PM

A Howling Affair in Denver

NOVEMBER 16, 7PM

Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson author reading in Albuquerque

NOVEMBER 17, 7PM

Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson author reading in Santa Fe

For details, visit wildearthguardians.org or contact Carol Norton at cnorton@wildearthguardians.org.

ALL ABOARD THE WESTERN ARK

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIAN?



It is a pleasure and a privilege to plant trees with WILDEARTH GUARDIANS every spring. You know your effort is not wasted when you see trees growing where there hadn't been any before. I deeply appreciate the work WILDEARTH GUARDIANS are doing for the environment, whether it involves restoring watersheds or defending endangered species. Happy 20th anniversary! You guys rock!

— NORBERT SPERLICH
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Member since 1992

Become a member of
WILDEARTH GUARDIANS:

Ushering Imperiled Species toward Legal Protection

Nicole Rosmarino

In October 2008, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS launched our Western Ark project, in which we petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to protect 13 plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We call our campaign the Western Ark because, like the tale of Noah's Ark, the ESA is the best, last hope at survival for many rare plants and animals in the western U.S. If these species are listed under the ESA now, chances are that they will be spared extinction and the beautifully broad diversity of life will be around for future generations.

CESAR MENDEZ



Thanks to pressure from WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, the white-sided jackrabbit is being considered for Endangered Species Act listing which could bring protection from livestock grazing and other threats.

The ranges of these imperiled species collectively cover areas in 18 U.S. states and parts of Canada and Mexico. The members of the Western Ark include two southwestern plants – Chihuahua scurfpea and Wright's marsh thistle; a reptile – the Sonoran desert tortoise; an amphibian – the Jemez Mountains salamander; two mammals – the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse and white-sided jackrabbit; a bird – the Sprague's pipit; and six mussels in Texas and parts farther east. Whether sporting leaves, fur, feathers, scales, or shells, all of them are in trouble.

We followed up our petitions with legal action and the Western Ark species are now making steady progress toward protection. The New Mexico meadow jumping mouse is a formal candidate for ESA listing, and we're pressuring the FWS to take the next step and actually list this jumping mouse under the ESA. The FWS gave the green light on our petition for the white-sided jackrabbit on July 22 and is now conducting a full status review to decide whether to list this rare hare. In its decision, the FWS recognized that this jackrabbit has disappeared from parts of its range in the U.S., and its numbers have sharply declined in past decades, with the most recent estimates at 150

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is pressuring the federal government to protect the New Mexico jumping mouse under the Endangered Species Act.



JENNIFER FREY

or fewer white-sided jackrabbits. The causes of decline are livestock grazing, drought, and fire suppression, overhunting in Mexico, a lack of legal protections, and possibly climate change. The federal government first recognized the white-sided jackrabbit as likely deserving protection in 1982 – 27 years ago.

The FWS also gave the go-ahead on our petition for the Jemez Mountains salamander on August 11, and that species is now undergoing a status review. The FWS recognized that this salamander species faces multiple threats, including habitat loss, climate change, disease, and inadequate legal protections.

Like the jackrabbit, the federal government first recognized the salamander as likely deserving legal protection 27 years ago. These creatures have waited more than long enough to board our nation's legal Ark.

On August 28, the FWS issued a positive finding on the petition WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and the

Western Watershed Project for the Sonoran desert tortoise. The FWS

recognized a slew of threats to this iconic desert dweller and will now begin a formal status review.

Under court order, the Service will give us answers on the Sonoran desert tortoise in late August, Wright's marsh thistle by mid-September, and the Chihuahua scurfpea in early December.

We'll keep pressing for federal protection for these imperiled species because ESA listing provides the best insurance policy against extinction.

Visit the Western Ark at wildearthguardians.org



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/
CHRISTOPHER

The Jemez Mountain salamander faces threats that include habitat loss and climate change.

Powering Past Coal

Jeremy Nichols

Solving the climate crisis takes a two-pronged approach. First, we need clean, renewable energy. And second, we need to shift away from fossil fuels.

And when it comes to confronting fossil fuels, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is leading the charge. We've embarked upon an ambitious campaign to pressure Xcel Energy to power past coal in Colorado. Xcel is Colorado's largest electric utility and is responsible for releasing more greenhouse gases than anyone else in the state.

Xcel operates seven coal-fired power plants in Colorado, spewing more than 22 million tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide. And while Xcel has committed to shuttering its two smallest coal-fired power plants this fall, the company plans to fire up a new coal-fired boiler in Pueblo, Colorado. Called Comanche 3, the boiler will release more than five million tons of carbon dioxide.

If we have any hope of tackling global warming, we have to power past coal. We've kicked started this movement by targeting Xcel.

So far this year, we've mounted challenges to all of Xcel's largest coal-fired power plants in Colorado. Using the Clean Air Act, grassroots organizing, and our knack for seizing opportunity, we've launched an unprecedented effort. This past summer, we've been especially busy. Here's a glimpse of what we're accomplishing:



DOUG GRINBERGS

Our goal is simple: clean air, a safe climate and healthy communities now and for future generations.

- We filed suit against Xcel over the company's failure to secure limits on toxic air pollution—including mercury—from the Comanche 3 coal-fired boiler in Pueblo, Colorado.
- We followed up with another lawsuit over 22,000 violations of the Clean Air Act at Xcel's Cherokee coal-fired power plant in north Denver. Xcel is already considering shuttering two of the four coal-fired boilers at Cherokee.
- We filed suit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to overturn the air pollution permit for Xcel's Hayden coal-fired power plant, located in northwestern Colorado.
- We filed hard-hitting comments challenging Colorado's failure to require Xcel to install up-to-date pollution controls at the Pawnee coal-fired power plant, located in Brush, Colorado northeast of Denver.
- And finally, we helped turn out nearly 300 people at a public hearing calling for the retirement of the Valmont coal-fired power plant in Boulder, Colorado. At the same time, we filed detailed comments challenging the failure of Colorado to limit carbon dioxide and mercury.

Our goal is simple: to hold Xcel accountable for clean air, a safe climate, and healthy communities. It's bold, but incredibly realistic. In fact, clean energy solutions are at hand. In response to a recent request for proposals, Xcel received nearly 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy bids. The company's peak generating capacity in Colorado is 7,000 megawatts. This means we have the ability to power past coal toward a fully renewable future right here, right now. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is making that happen.

Visit *Climate & Energy* at wildearthguardians.org

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIAN?



Protecting and restoring wild places means preserving biological diversity, and that's important for the health of every living thing on the planet. That's why I support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS.

— BOBBY CLARK
Denver, Colorado
Member since 1993

Become a member of
WILDEARTH GUARDIANS:
wildearthguardians.org



DOUG GRINBERGS

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is pressuring Xcel Energy, Colorado's largest greenhouse gas contributor, to power past coal.

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIAN?



I've been a GUARDIAN since the very beginning, when it was a one-man, one-room operation run by the indomitable Sam Hitt with the idea of saving the last best places in the southwest.



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS ARCHIVES

Almost twenty years later, John Horning has assembled an incredible staff that keeps this vision alive and that works constructively for the preservation of wild values everywhere in the country. I believe in the vision and I believe in the staff; that's why I'm still a GUARDIAN.

— STEVE SUGARMAN
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Member since 1989

Become a member of
WILDEARTH GUARDIANS:
wildearthguardians.org

CALDERA ACTION

Protecting the Valles Caldera from Cattle

Rebecca Sobel



The Valles Caldera National Preserve is one of New Mexico's most inspiring landscapes.

Most of the 12-mile-wide collapsed volcanic caldera in northern New Mexico's Jemez Mountains was the private "Baca Ranch" until 2000, when Congress created the Valles Caldera National Preserve. The Preserve is an 89,000-acre property situated inside the collapsed crater. Studded with eruptive domes and featuring Redondo Peak at 11,254 feet, the Preserve is truly one of New Mexico's most inspiring landscapes and is the home to rare and imperiled wildlife species.

Unfortunately, livestock grazing is threatening the native plants and riparian areas of this unique ecosystem. In order to protect the Valles Caldera and its wildlife, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS submitted a \$50,000 bid in April for livestock operation to graze 3-5 cows on the National Preserve. We focused our bid on recovery and the restoration of the Preserve's critical riparian habitats in the face of climate change.

By law, the Valles Caldera National Preserve was established to protect and preserve the area's scientific, scenic, geologic, watershed, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, and recreational values. The Valles Caldera Trust was created to carry out the Preserve's mission and to turn a profit – and our bid could have



GEORGE WUERTHNER

To spare the Valles Caldera from the effects of livestock grazing, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS submitted a bid to graze only 3 - 5 cows on the National Preserve

done just that: make money while protecting the Preserve. Dollar for dollar, our offer was the best taxpayers could ask for. Water and wildlife are the highest values the Preserve can offer, and we were willing to pay to protect these priceless resources.

But in a bow to the ranching industry, the Valles Caldera National Preserve and its Board of Trustees rejected our \$50,000 bid to seriously limit grazing on the entire 89,000-acre Preserve. But we didn't lose hope. Though we were disappointed to know cows would continue to graze the Caldera's meadows, the silver lining is that WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is now working with the Preserve to re-wild and restore wildlife habitats in the Valles Caldera National Preserve by removing 14 miles of fence that is currently



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' volunteers are working to remove 14 miles of fence in an effort to rewild the Valles Caldera.

harming wildlife. Fences are one of the many destructive things about livestock production on our public lands. They impede wildlife migration patterns and cause death for young mammals which can get caught in barbed wire. With two restoration weekends in August and September and possibly more to come, we are engaging volunteers and developing a stronger appreciation for this special place as we move closer towards our vision of making the Valles Caldera friendlier for all wildlife.

Though our bid was rejected, the Preserve announced that 80 percent of the forage in the Valles Caldera Preserve would now be reserved for wildlife and ecosystem protection.

While we will continue to work toward full protection of our wild places, we're grateful for opportunities to protect wildlife in the meantime.

Visit Healing Public Lands at
wildearthguardians.org

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

JAMES BALOG



EYE ON WILDLIFE SERVICES

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' campaign to end taxpayer-funded wildlife slaughter continues. In June, we shined a light on the fact that Wildlife Services, the deceptively-named arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, exterminated nearly five million wild animals and pets in 2008—a record number and a 125% increase from the 2.2 million animals killed in 2007. One reason why the kill numbers dramatically increased from 2007 to 2008 is a result of Wildlife Services' claims that it is using modeling to better calculate bird mortalities from the avian pesticide, DRC-1339, which is mainly used in feedlots. The agency also killed 40 percent more animals by aerial gunning. There was an overall increase in mammalian carnivores such as arctic foxes, wolves, and lions killed—124,414 in 2008. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS released a report called *War on Wildlife* to Congress in February that calls on Congress to abolish this macabre agency.

Visit *Abolishing Federal Killing* at wildearthguardians.org

CLEAN WATER, WILD FORESTS

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is still fighting to protect New Mexico's cleanest waters through our Clean Water, Wild Forests campaign. We've been working with the state to protect over 5,000 river miles as "Outstanding" under the Clean Water Act, guaranteeing water quality for future generations. In the past months, we've generated support from major municipalities along the Rio Grande. Now, New Mexico's

Environment Department is moving forward, first working to protect the waters in wilderness areas and then moving to protect those in roadless areas. After nine public meetings held this summer across the state, we're ready to present our case in a formal hearing process and win real protection for one of our most precious resources. Stay tuned this fall to see how you can help.

Visit *Clean Water* at wildearthguardians.org



JESS ALPHORD

RAY LAIBLE



A DIFFERENT STIMULUS PLAN

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS recently released a report to key decision-makers detailing the need to return wolves to the Southern Rockies. The report, *A Vision for Wolves in the Southern Rocky Mountains*, also explores the public support for wolf recovery and the economic payback for doing so.

Notably, the report explains that regional wolf recovery could easily be initiated in Rocky Mountain National Park and adjoining national forest lands. The Park, adjacent forestlands and Wilderness Areas total over 2.1 million acres — ample to give wolves the room to roam they need to survive.

Visit *Publications* at wildearthguardians.org

LIONS OF THE WEST

Over the spring and summer, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS met Montana policy makers, testified at hearings and provided technical comments to protect mountain lions. We received a commitment from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to write a robust lion management plan. The agency announced that its hunter education program, which emphasizes the protection of breeding females and their dependent kittens, will come online in October. We will continue to press for mountain lion protections across the West.



WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIAN?



For 72 years, we have owned a small, outdoor recreation resort adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness on the headwaters of the Rio Grande, offering an early Colorado experience living simply with nature. We have had the privilege of participating in the enduring, creative and joyous dialogue between humans and our wild lands. Congratulations to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS for two decades of protecting that eternal dialogue.

— CHARLOTTE TREGO
owner-manager of
Thirty Mile Resort,
Creede, Colorado
Member since 1993

Become a member of
WILDEARTH GUARDIANS:
wildearthguardians.org

20 YEARS AND COUNTING

Top 20 Accomplishments in 20 Years

1. Won lawsuit that halted logging on 21 million acres in 1996.
2. Significant reforms to protect cougars in Colorado and New Mexico.
3. Helped secure the Rio Grande's rights to its own waters.
4. Won the first bid in the West to lease state school trust lands for conservation instead of extraction, which was amplified by an Arizona Supreme Court decision.
5. Planted 250,000 trees during community events on seven degraded waterways.
6. Halted livestock grazing on 300 miles of heavily degraded southwestern rivers.
7. Ensured that official Colorado policy supports full protection of wolves that travel to Colorado from Yellowstone.
8. Petitioned for the listing of almost 700 imperiled species under the Endangered Species Act.

The Director's Cut

Michelle Miano

A lot can happen in twenty years. Climate change became a major political and environmental issue, wolves returned to the wild and the term "green" was coined. This year WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' executive director, John Horning, looks back on the organization's twenty-year history, and reflects on the journey that's brought both trials and victories. From emulating beavers to bicycling across the county, the group's director has learned a lot – including Italian.

Michelle: *Were you excited about the environment from an early age?*

John: Yes. When I was young, we would frequently go to an old farm that my parents owned in Virginia. Early Saturday mornings, I would venture out to this small creek in the forest and build six-foot high dams. I'd watch the water pool then I'd break the dam and watch



JESS ALFORD
John Horning, Executive Director, looks back at the organization's 20-year history.

the flood. Ever since that time, I've been fascinated with streams and creeks. I think one of my ecological epiphanies was when I realized I've always had this part of me that's like a beaver. I just like being in the water, on the water and playing around the water along small creeks and streams.

M: *What first drove you to conservation?*

J: My initial attraction to conservation was intellectual. Public lands are part of what it means to be an American. It's really a unique part of our heritage. I've got tons of books on my shelves about conservation history. I was an American history major in college and so it was this interest in wilderness, parks, and forests that I saw as a unique part of the American story.

M: *Were you always involved in some kind of conservation work along the way?*

J: Activism and social concern are a part of my identity. It was manifested more in an urban environment when I was younger. For example, my family and I would go to shelters and provide homeless people with food. Although in high

school and in college, I took a detour and was totally consumed by sports.

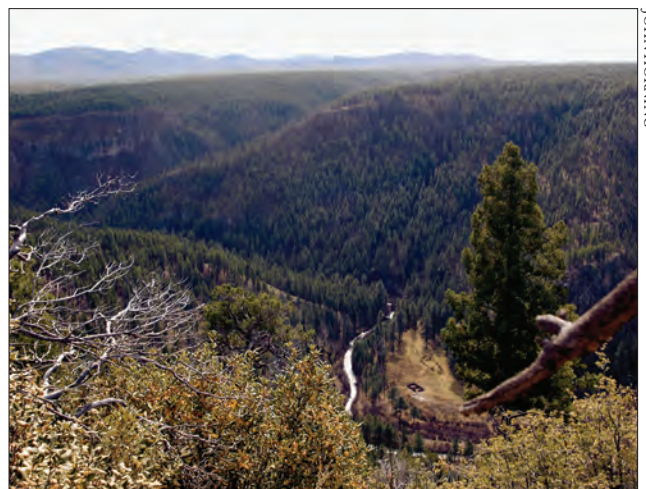
M: *What happened after you graduated?*

J: Right after college, my brother and I biked around the country. I remember biking up Emory Pass in southern New Mexico – with all our gear. When we biked down the other side, it started to rain. It was early March. Later that afternoon, as we entered the Gila-Cliff Valley, the Mogollon Rim appeared to our right. The top 3,000 feet was shrouded in snow and clouds and I remember being stunned and in awe by the beauty.

During that trip, I was actually applying for jobs. I applied for a job with the National Wildlife Federation as an intern in their public lands program and got it. That led me to move to D.C. for a six-month internship. I ended up staying for two and a half years.

M: *You must have been excited about this opportunity.*

J: I've always been interested in public lands, but more of the lesser-known public lands. I've been all over canyon country, but I've never been to the Grand Canyon. It's about the road less traveled for me. National parks are eye



JOHN HORNING
Breathtaking views of the Gila Bioregion solidified John's commitment to keeping the West wild.

candy, but they aren't always the wildest or most biologically rich and diverse places.

IN THE BEGINNING

M: *Did you feel a yearning to go back West?*

J: Although D.C. was where I grew up – and obviously for any federal laws and federal lands, there's plenty of action going on there – I've always had this belief that change happens in the heartland. That's when I called the GUARDIANS.

M: *How did you become involved?*

J: I was a member. I first met Sam Hitt, the founder, at a National Forest reform rally. This was the 1980s, when local and regional groups started awakening to the tragedy of industrial logging of our national forests.

M: *What happened next?*

J: I boldly contacted Sam after I saw a staffer left. I figured there must be a job opening. I said, "I'd like to work for you." Up until that point I had everything well mapped out. I started applying to graduate schools and I got into a couple of them. Graduate school was one option. The other option was this job with Sam. It was great because in life when you have a couple of choices, it really forces you to think about what you want and where you want to be. Sam tried to dissuade me. It's the one thing I remember from the interview. He said, "Now are you sure you want the job? I'm not sure that I can give you what you want."

M: *But you jumped on board anyway?*

J: With both feet!

M: *And what were your first 100 days like?*

J: I worked on public lands grazing 24/7. Sam loaned me his blue Toyota pickup and I took a tour of the Southwest. I used it as an opportunity to get to know the landscape better and get to know the very limited number of grazing activists that were out there. To be a grazing activist then and even now, you learn that although there are huge problems, it doesn't mean that people are paying attention to them.

EXPANDING THE SCOPE

M: *How did the organization begin to address river issues?*

J: In 1996, our decade long drought began. Over 10,000 Rio Grande silvery minnows – which had just been listed under the Endangered Species Act – died because the Rio Grande, the great river, went completely dry for 60 miles. That emergency was the catalyst to get involved in river issues. It began the ongoing effort to secure the river's rights to its own water.



When the mighty Rio Grande ran dry for more than 60 miles in 1996, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS began the Wild Rivers program.

M: *Was the organization focused on endangered species from the start?*

J: That ethic of concern for endangered wildlife has always been there. The Mexican spotted owl was center stage of almost every logging battle. In 1996, we won an injunction on logging (with some very small exceptions) on 21 million acres of national forest. It's indicative of how out of control the Forest Service was just a decade ago. Unfortunately, the timber industry had already gotten most of the beautiful ancient forests so we're talking about the last five percent at that point. But, it was a victory and a watershed moment in our history. We're still involved in forest issues, but with the Forest Service's diminished appetite to log trees, it's not nearly the fight that it once was.

M: *Wolves. Why is WILDEARTH GUARDIANS working so hard to restore them?*

J: Wolves are critical to the health of ecosystems. When you restore wolves, you restore an ecological force to the landscape in a way that people didn't fully realize 20 years ago. It took the experiment of Yellowstone for us to understand that wolves are like fire – an ecological force on the landscape. When we advocate for wolves, we advocate for balance, we advocate for resilience, we advocate for health.

M: *I noticed a mayfly and the mist forestfly as potential endangered species candidates. Why are these small animals and plants important?*

J: The classic Aldo Leopold line is: "The first rule of intelligent tinkering is to save all the parts." Science would tell you this and basic auto mechanics would too. For example, say a million bolts hold a plane together. Ask people: would you get on a plane that's missing one bolt? Would you get on a plane that's missing ten bolts? Are you willing to get on if 100 are missing? At what point do you say these small parts are actually holding something much bigger together? People are cavalier at a one quarter-inch bolt, but there is a tipping point. Do you want to figure out which bolt is the tipping point after the fact or would you rather

9. Watchdogged Wildlife Services, bringing national attention to the agency's annual indiscriminate killing of millions of wildlife.

10. Helped end "high-body count" contest hunts of prairie dogs, coyotes and other wildlife in Colorado.

11. Inspired New Mexico Gov. Richardson to identify our Santa Fe River project as the model for river restoration initiatives.

12. Launched a Climate and Energy Program to force major cuts in oil and gas drilling and coal-fired power plants.

13. Inspired Gov. Richardson to adopt our "Clean Water, Wild Forests" campaign, the goal of which is to protect waterways in roadless national forests.

14. Worked to protect the greater sage-grouse and Gunnisons sage grouse, iconic birds of the Sagebrush Sea.

15. Saved more than 150,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat and important wildlands from oil and gas drilling.
16. Advocated for black bear co-existence and protection in Colorado for more than a decade.
17. Worked with the City of Santa Fe to institute a low-interest solar loan program.
18. Transformed Groundhog Day into Prairie Dog Day, a day of public support for burrowing rodents in the American West.
19. Halted dozens of separate logging and road-building projects on National Forests with administrative appeals and lawsuits to protect wildlife, rivers and wild and scenic lands.
20. Expanded conservation programs seven-fold while keeping administrative expenses less than 20 percent of overall budget.

PETER STACEY



Protecting the Mexican spotted owl was a key component of the logging battles early in the GUARDIANS' history.

GUARDIANS is the Climate and Energy program. What led to its addition?

J: The American West is ground zero for our nation's dysfunctional dependence on fossil fuels, so if you care about wild places and wildlife, it doesn't take too long before you realize that fossil fuel extraction is harming them. On top of that, if you look at species, whether it's the mist forestfly, the jumping mouse, or the wolf, climate change is a real threat. The climate crisis is the biggest issue of our time, and we need to do something about it.

M: *What would you say to a climate change denier?*

J: I'd ask them about the weather. People need to feel it and see it. They see that their tomato plants are growing into late October. They likely see things like more severe hurricanes and warmer summers. I think the public consciousness is growing about the climate crisis. To those who are in denial, I don't mean to be dismissive, but we're already past that stage. Now we're in a place of working towards solutions. It's hard. Change is hard. On one level, we all have a yearning for change. On another level, if change is not on our own terms, we become very resistant to it.

M: *What is the current status of the conservation movement?*

J: Like I said before, public consciousness of conservation has definitely increased. Fifteen years ago, nobody was active in trying to restore rivers. Today, it's happening all over the place. There are so many different groups trying to create a more just world. My concern is how we get that to manifest in a way that is the most effective. Sometimes our movement is very conservative. I think we need more civil unrest and civil disobedience to catalyze our desire for deeper change. The question is what are the ingredients that catalyze it.

M: *What differentiates WILDEARTH GUARDIANS from other groups?*

we keep all the bolts? So, for protecting species like insects, it's not only our ethical obligation to protect them, it's a matter of keeping all of the parts of our planet intact. It's a story of prudence and precaution.

M: *The newest program at WILDEARTH*

J: We are willing to engage in work that other groups see as too risky. We're willing to hold politicians accountable and we're willing to push our friends. We don't let political boundaries limit the scope of our work.

THE NEXT 20 YEARS

M: *What have you learned after 20 years of conservation work?*

J: In my earlier days, I thought I could do so many things by myself – by sheer force of will and working hard, long days. I now realize how important my relationships (both within and outside of the organization) are in terms of my ability to be effective.

I've learned that change is more difficult than I'd ever thought. It takes longer than I'd like it to. I've learned I like lawyers. Lawyers have a bad rap in our society, but I like them. Lawyers are people who ensure that we obey the law and that we do what we said we were going to do on public lands. I've also learned that there are lots of different ways that people can relate to change. For some people, change is planting a cottonwood, for some people it's writing a letter, for some it's attending a hearing. The more you can give people an opportunity to connect in the way they are most comfortable, the more likely they are able to understand the other parts of what we do.

M: *The next question you have to answer in Italian. Is the West still wild?*

J: Il paesaggio dell'ovest e' molto selvatico! Per esempio, in un paese come l'Italia ci sono quasi cinquecento lupi! On the subject of Italy, it has retained a wildness within its core national identity that allows for wolves to co-exist, despite the fact that it's quite populated. When I hear people in Colorado question how they will ever exist with wolves, I tell them there are only five million people in Colorado. Italy's not that much



Addressing the biodiversity crisis, the climate crisis and the water crisis are top priorities for WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' next 20 years.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS ARCHIVES

bigger in size, is much more populated and has 500 wolves. We've got far more wild land in Colorado and the Southern Rockies. The wild continues to be impinged upon by so much development, but we are lucky to live in a place that still has so much wildness.

M: *What's the vision for WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' next 20 years?*

J: There's no shortage of challenges, for sure. Expect to find us at the vortex of solutions to address the biodiversity crisis, the climate crisis and the growing water crisis here in the American West. And making sure that public

lands are protected for their wildlife, recreational and water values. We're going to put extractive uses in the back seat instead of the driver's seat. We'll also continue to push the political boundaries on every one of the issues. From wolves to prairie dogs, we want to ensure their health and recovery across the western landscape. At the foundation of it all, we will continue to be great people who dedicate their lives to making sure that the iconic values of the American West – big wildlife, wild lands and clear, blue skies – endure.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE GUARDIANS



FLICKR.COM/JOELDELUKE

TOXIC HERBICIDE SPRAYING STOPPED

In response to an appeal by WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and the Center for Biological Diversity, the Bureau of Land Management withdrew a plan on July 16 to allow herbicide spraying across 1.5 million acres in southeastern New Mexico. The conservation groups applauded the decision and urged land managers to end their addiction to toxic herbicides. The proposal was the broadest yet seen in the state and failed to look at alternatives to herbicide use or impacts to water, human health, or endangered species.

Visit Protecting Public Lands at wildearthguardians.org

29 SPECIES ON THE ROAD TO PROTECTION

In response to actions by WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued decisions on whether to protect 38 Western species on August 18. For 29 of those 38 species, the Service gave the green light to proceed with status reviews which will determine whether the species will be protected under the Endangered Species Act. Of the 29 species, 20 are plants, one is a fish, two are insects, and six are snails. Collectively, they occur in 21 U.S. states. Nearly all are threatened by the loss of habitat. Climate change is also a threat for several of these species.

Visit Endangered Species at wildearthguardians.org



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NM MAYORS SUPPORT ROADLESS FORESTS

In June, Mayor Martin Chavez of Albuquerque held a press conference along the Rio Grande and drew the connection between municipal prosperity and preservation of New Mexico's headwaters. Noting the increased reliance on our surface waters for municipal uses and representing the interests of over 750,000 New Mexicans, Mayor Chavez referenced additional statements of support from other mayors of cities along the Rio Grande including Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Espanola, Belen, Bernalillo, Rio Rancho, Los Lunas and Corrales. Mayor Chavez's statement was in support of New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson's initiative to protect the Rio Grande's headwaters in perpetuity. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has advocated for protection of roadless national forests for more than a decade and thanked these municipal leaders for their support.

Visit Living Rivers at wildearthguardians.org



ADRIEL HEISEY



DONATE WITH CONFIDENCE!

This good news is made possible by your generous donations. As evidenced by our consistent 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS efficiently and effectively leverages your donations to get the job done.

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or donate at wildearthguardians.org.



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STUMP AN ENVIRO!

Duncan North


Stump
an Enviro!



Dear Duncan,
My daughter asked me what would happen if we didn't protect endangered animals, and now I am asking you. So, what would happen?

If we didn't protect endangered animals, they would perish and begin a chain reaction whose outcome we can't fully anticipate. I do know this much, the world would be less beautiful and less interesting. Many fascinating species would disappear – like *Honest Politicians* and *Actresses with Natural Breasts*. Other species would quickly follow. For example, the endangered *True Believer in Democracy* depends on honest politicians for her existence. Likewise, *Makers of the Water Bra* rely heavily on *Actresses with Natural Breasts*. We cannot remove one part of nature's engine without risking that the whole engine will break down.

But seriously, 1,893 animals have been protected (by listing them as *endangered* or *threatened* under the Endangered Species Act) and 99 percent are still alive. By contrast, dozens of animals have perished while waiting to be listed, and we don't know the full impact of their loss. The simple fact that we don't know all the consequences of extinction is reason enough to err on the side of caution. Don't let your daughter be fooled by Jurassic Park – once an animal is gone, it's gone for good – we can't bring it back through cloning, time travel or wishful thinking. And further, we cannot rely on the rare *Honest Politician* to fight for those species. We must do it ourselves.

Sincerely, 

DIVERSITY OF LIFE SOCIETY

TIM SPRINGER



Members of the Diversity of Life Society make a special commitment to sustain WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' work for the long-term by leaving a bequest or creating a charitable trust. Ensure that WILDEARTH GUARDIANS can continue working to protect and restore wildlife and wild places in the American West for future generations.

For information on the Diversity of Life Society contact Carol Norton at 505.988.9126 x1150 or cnorton@wildearthguardians.org.

Saving Trees

Our paper-free community is growing and members who have joined say it's a "no-brainer." Paperless members like knowing more of their donation is going to advocacy work because they opt to get their WILDEARTH GUARDIANS updates via email. They're also donating securely online, saving the resources of mailing a check.

Marilyn Stechert shares, "Every time I visit our local recycling place I regret the amount of paper that I contribute." Marilyn lives among pine trees in Colorado and wants to do her part to save them. She adds, "With e-mail, it is very easy to share stories and news from WILDEARTH GUARDIANS with family and friends. Also, by cutting mailing costs, more funds can go towards projects that really matter."

Join the paperless movement by contacting Lori Colt at lcolt@wildearthguardians.org

Please Note

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' commitment to the wildlife, wild places and wild rivers is unchanged and unwavering, even in these challenging financial times. However, to ensure the sustainability of our programs we must reduce operating expenses through the end of the year. Our offices will be closed on alternate Fridays, with the first closure on September 4, 2009. All voice and email messages received during these days will be returned promptly on the following business day. Contact Carol Norton at cnorton@wildearthguardians.org or 505.988.9126 x1150 for more information.