




IMPACT REPORT

FOR
20 THE
23 WILD



A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape at sunset. The sky is a gradient of light blue to orange, with a bright sun low on the horizon. In the background, there are rugged mountains. The foreground is filled with various desert plants, including saguaros and cholla cacti. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Since 1991, Wildlands Network has reconnected, restored & rewilded North America so that all life can roam and thrive. This year's impact report highlights what we have accomplished together in 2023.

PHOTO BY: ©ADOBE STOCK/EGIADONE

Dear Donors, Partners, and Friends —

As we gather to reflect on our journey, we are thrilled to present our 2023 Impact Report, a testament to our remarkable progress over the past year and a celebration of our vision that continues to resonate across North America.

Together, we secured \$37.5 million in public funding for wildlife crossing structures across the United States, marking a tipping point for public investment and attention to tangible solutions to the biodiversity and climate crisis. We stopped future mining in Mexico's Natural Protected Areas, securing a more vibrant future for these global biodiversity hotspots. And we logged tens of thousands of data points as we studied wildlife populations stretching from the mountains of California to the old forests of Mexico and New England, to the coastal plains of North Carolina, obtaining new insights into wildlife needs that will inform our future restoration projects.

As we take a moment to celebrate, let us pause to recognize the accomplishments and foundation laid by the pioneering advocates that came before us. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Endangered Species Act in the United States and the signing of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, known as CITES. These historic milestones are poignant reminders of how far we have come and what we can accomplish as a community.

Let us also celebrate the phenomenal growth and expansion of this organization over the last five years. With the support of our deeply committed donors and supporters, we doubled in size, allowing us to have a continental impact on the ground this year for wildlife.

As we look ahead, we recommit to our mission to reconnect, restore and rewild North America and we reaffirm our strategy to realize that mission by focusing on the most pressing threats to biodiversity.

Reconnecting Wildways: Nature's pathways are essential for wildlife to find food, water, shelter, and mates. These pathways are often blocked by roads, rails, cities, and other structures, leading to devastating consequences for wildlife. Together, we are reconnecting vital corridors, allowing wild animals to move freely and safeguarding genetic diversity.

Restoring Habitat: We understand the pivotal role of healthy ecosystems in regulating climate change and supporting a thriving range of species. By restoring crucial habitats, together we can enhance Nature's ability to help counteract the impacts of climate change and support a vibrant array of life.

Rewilding Species: Our commitment to rewilding is grounded in the understanding that all pieces of an ecological community are valuable, and their health and wellbeing are interconnected. Together, we are protecting and advocating for key species, creating resilient and thriving communities.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your trust and generosity empower us to make a tangible difference in the world, and we look forward to the future with hope and determination.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we will continue to build a brighter, more sustainable future for North America and all its inhabitants.

With heartfelt appreciation for the wild,



KATIE DAVIS
Executive Director



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CELEBRATING
GREG COSTELLO

PHOTO BY: ©MARI GALLOWAY

Reconnecting Wildways

A photograph of a brown bear walking through a forest, with another bear visible in the background. The bear in the foreground is looking down, and the bear in the background is looking towards the camera. The forest is lush with green foliage and trees.

Connected landscapes are climate resilient landscapes.

Over 30 years ago, Wildlands Network pioneered the concept of *Wildways*, creating a vision for reconnected networks of wildlife habitat spanning the continent. Ever since, we've been working to mitigate and remove obstacles to wildlife movement and protect critical linkages.

In 2023, we made strides in tackling some of the biggest threats facing wildlife today: roads, fences and large-scale renewable energy projects. With a community-centered and data-centric approach, we are leading the movement to reconnect North America.

PHOTO BY: PATHWAYS FOR WILDLIFE



Family of mule deer crossing under California U.S. 395

California

In August, we completed the first-ever comprehensive database and interactive map of wildlife crossings in California. With this map, we will identify the areas where road crossings will make the biggest impact for cougar, mule deer, coyotes, black bears, bobcats and many more. This project was made possible with support from our partners at the Wildlife Conservation Network.

Nevada

We are collaborating with Caltrans, Nevada Department of Transportation and Pathways for Wildlife to gather camera images, wildlife-vehicle collision and GPS telemetry data on Highway 395 in Northern California and Nevada. These data will inform the planning and design of a crossing made possible through a \$5.4 million grant from The Wildlife Conservation Board to ensure safe migration and movement routes for cougar, bear, mule deer, wolves and many others.



Solar installation in Arizona, U.S.

Four Corners

The growing demand for solar energy has created a surge in utility-scale solar energy developments in wildlands across the United States. The four corners area of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona is a key hotspot due to the desert plains and abundant sunshine. With a lack of environmental tools to assess the effects of solar development on wildlife, this rapid increase in development is concerning.

This year, we launched a four-year study funded by the U.S. Department of Energy to understand the impact of large solar panel fields on pronghorn and other wildlife. Collaboratively with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Land Office and Geosystems Analysis, we will collect essential information that will inform future developments and guide best practices for integrating wildlife needs into solar energy installations.

Arizona

Within days of outgoing Arizona Governor Ducey beginning construction of an illegal border wall through black bear, ocelot and jaguar habitat in the San Rafael Valley, we systematically documented the progress of his makeshift, shipping container wall.

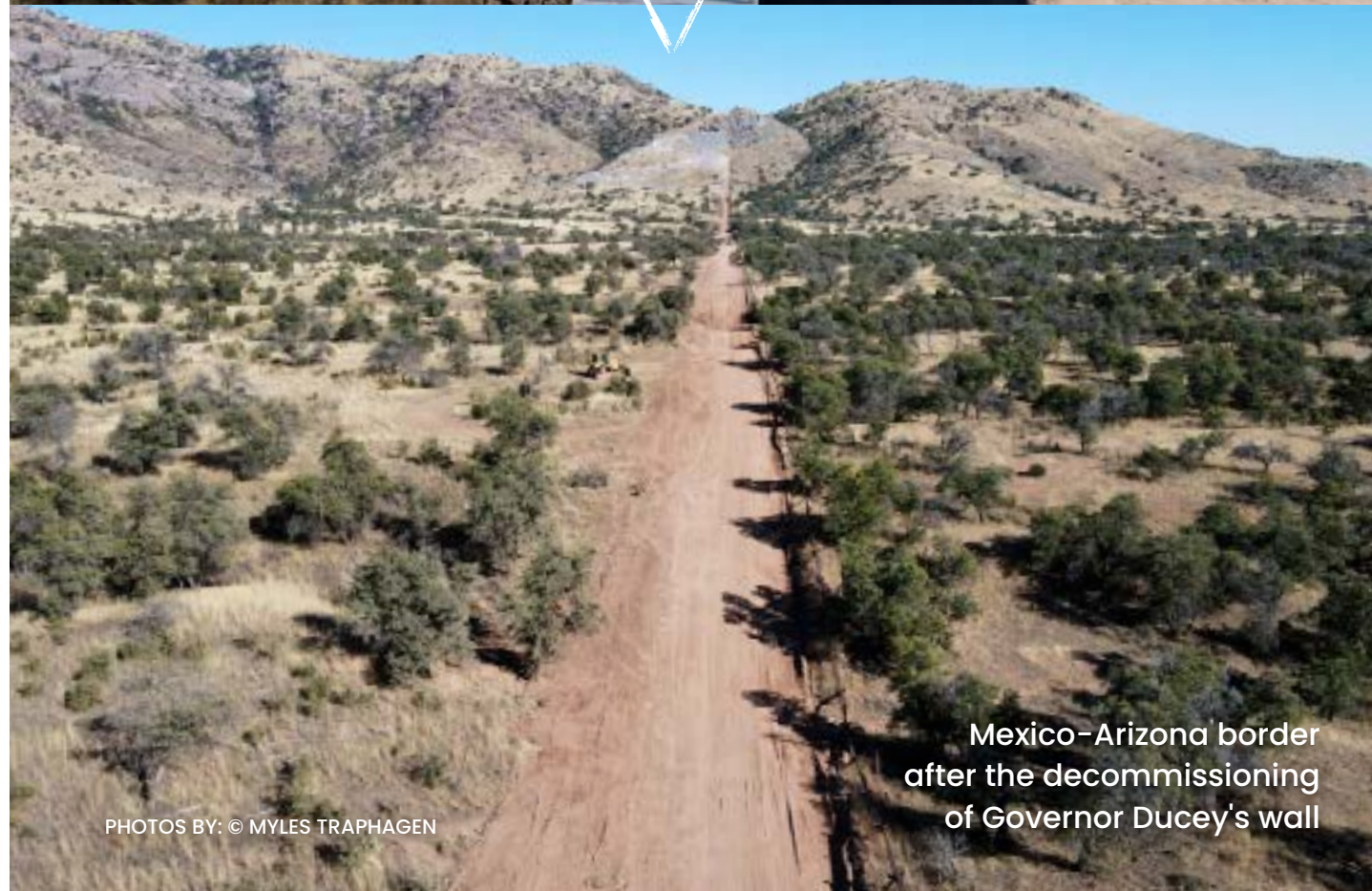
From October to December, we created and regularly updated a map of its construction, documented its progress using drone imagery, and highlighted this atrocity for national and regional media audiences. We continued to document this section of rogue border wall through its final deconstruction and decommissioning in February of this year.

New Mexico & Arizona

Thanks to the Sierra Club's landmark victory in their lawsuit against illegal border wall construction, Customs and Border Protection will cease building border wall with illegally transferred funds and maintain gaps in the wall that allow for wildlife passage. **We have been partnering with Sky Islands Alliance in San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge on a remote camera study focusing on wildlife passage through existing openings, and we are excited to plan for an expansion in the scope of our research to understand wildlife movement throughout the borderlands of Arizona and New Mexico in light of this new development.**

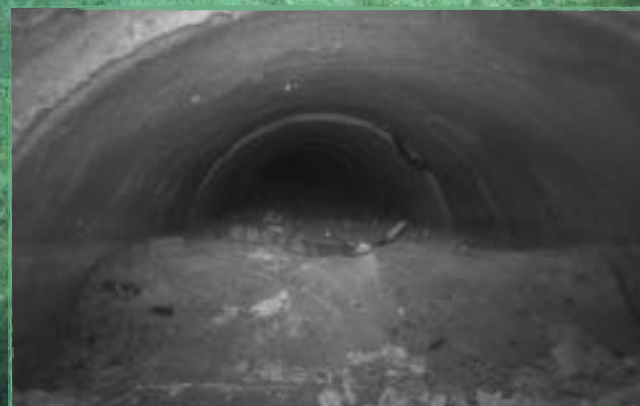


Mexico-Arizona border showing Governor Ducey's shipping container wall



Mexico-Arizona border after the decommissioning of Governor Ducey's wall

PHOTOS BY: © MYLES TRAPHAGEN



PHOTOS BY: ©WILDLANDS NETWORK

North Carolina

In Gorges State Park in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, we have completed two field seasons of monitoring four small culverts that were installed to facilitate road crossings for timber rattlesnakes and eastern box turtles. To date, close to a million camera trap images have revealed that over two dozen species use these safe passages, including timber rattlesnakes, salamanders, armadillos, long-tailed weasels, wood rats, gray foxes, and bobcats. We will use the data to promote the installation of additional culverts for small animals on park roads across North Carolina and other states.

Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument in Utah

We are surveying over 150 miles of barbed wire fences within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which serves as an important pathway and winter range for the Paunsaugunt mule deer herd. Because these fences pose increasing challenges to wildlife across the American West, we are assessing fence modifications necessary to increase movement for mule deer and other big game species. Following these surveys, we will modify at least 10 miles of fence to improve wildlife friendliness and monitor these sections pre- and post-modification to ensure these improvements increase wildlife movement. This project is supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Bureau of Land Management.



PHOTO BY: ©SYDNEY WILLIAMS

Restoring Habitats

Our Nature-centric approach to land conservation requires hands-on stewardship.

We envision a world where humans embrace wildness through deep connections to land, water and other species, grounded in respect and understanding. To cultivate these relationships, we are working hand-in-hand with community stewards to restore habitat across North America.

In 2023, we focused on building the partnerships and collaboration necessary to sustain community-led conservation action that will remain resilient in the face of social change.

PHOTO BY: ©ADOBE STOCK/CRAIG ZERBE

Ridgway, Colorado, U.S.

Mexico

In Mexico, we focus on the sustainability and adequate management of Natural Protected Areas, which face funding challenges due to federal environmental budget cuts. **We lead the NOSSA coalition, and together, we identified obstacles to generating revenue from fees for using natural resources within these protected areas.** Working together with

our partners at CONANP, the government agency responsible for managing protected areas, we aim to ensure fees raised from use of protected areas are directed back to sustainable management. This multifaceted approach aims to secure more public resources for management and preservation of Natural Protected Areas.

Northern Appalachian-Acadian-Wabanaki

Future Forests Reimagined, our transboundary initiative to reconnect Old Forests in the Northern Appalachian-Acadian-Wabanaki ecoregion, brings our indigenous-guided forest planning process to the UNESCO Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere and eight UNESCO Biosphere Regions in eastern Canada. **Through workshops and international collaborations, we support collaborators in development of their plans to identify and protect old forests and expand the use of ecological forestry aligning with traditional conservation knowledge systems.** Home to the largest intact broad-leaved temperate forest in the world at nearly 82 million acres (nearly half the area of Texas,) this ecoregion includes unceded Wabanaki Confederacy lands, five U.S. states, and four Canadian provinces. Climate resilience, biodiversity, clean waters and human livelihood all depend on restoring ecological complexity in this region's forests.

Northern Mexico Cocóspera watershed

We are promoting healthy habitat management in Northern Mexico's Cocóspera watershed to enhance wildlife connectivity along the Sierra Azul – El Pinito ecological corridor. Our focus is on building meaningful relationships and establishing collaboration agreements with private landowners to support sustainable hunting, implement best livestock management practices and empower informed decisions by providing natural resource maps. Additionally, we will assess how water source management actions affect habitat through baseline surveys and ongoing monitoring. Our participatory approach prioritizes understanding the needs of landowners and the local dynamics of conservation-oriented water source management for protected keystone species, including bats, large carnivores, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians and birds.



PHOTO BY: ©CHRISTINE LAPORTE

Tahoe, California

As tourism drives Lake Tahoe's development, it fragments this diverse and beautiful ecosystem. Increased traffic reduces wildlife's ability to travel to access the resources they need to survive and increases the frequency of wildlife-vehicle collisions. Development and recreation have drastically increased in the Tahoe Basin without consideration of how they might impact important movement needs for wildlife. Although much of the Tahoe Basin remains undeveloped and is surrounded by large, intact forests, existing open space is often subject to forest thinning practices to manage fire. This impacts habitat for species that prefer dense canopy cover, like Sierra marten and fisher. Identifying wildlife movement, especially across deadly roads and through human development, will inform wildlife-connectivity enhancements that are essential to maintain thriving wildlife populations, especially in the face of climate change, drought and wildfire threats. **We are partnering with the California Tahoe Conservancy and Pathways for Wildlife to study solutions that will balance wildfire prevention with habitat conservation to best serve local communities and wildlife.**



PHOTO BY: PATHWAYS FOR WILDLIFE. ©ADOBE STOCK

Across the United States

In 2021 President Biden signed a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package that includes a groundbreaking "Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program" with \$350 million in grants over five years to facilitate safe wildlife movement over and under roads. This addresses pressing economic, public safety, and wildlife conservation concerns, as each year, such collisions cost billions and cause numerous fatalities. The new law is a significant step toward reconnecting habitats, preserving biodiversity, and offering community-centered solutions that benefit both transportation and nature. **The U.S. released a call for proposals in April of this year, and our expert staff jumped into action, helping to facilitate 25% of the grant applications submitted to the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Project.**



Rewilding Species

For life in all its diversity to thrive, we must ensure the future and welfare of every species that calls North America home.

Rewilding is both an ethic and a call to action. At Wildlands Network, we focus on cultivating community respect and supporting government action for those species that once flourished across the continent but now live at the margins.

In 2023, we leveraged our relationships and recent technological advances to implement targeted projects that will directly enhance recovery for iconic animals.





Thick-billed Parrot

The thick-billed parrot, once the only parrot species endemic to the United States, has long been extirpated by human activities, including logging and the pet trade. Now these gorgeous birds are primarily found in the mountain ecosystems of central and western Mexico, but even this habitat is not a secure refuge. **In partnership with Pronatura Noroeste, we are creating a habitat management plan to reduce the risk to parrot nests from increasing wildfires and encourage community stewardship.** This year, we provided Ejidos, communally farmed land in Mexico, with the education and tools necessary to construct firebreaks and remove organic fuel.



Pacific Marten

The southern San Juan Mountains of northern New Mexico represents the southern extent of the range for Pacific marten in the Rocky Mountains. **Because there are no formal surveys of the species in this region, we are leading a camera monitoring project to collect critical baseline data regarding the status of martens in this remote region.** As we enter the second year of our study, our focus is to determine if populations of martens persist across the region in suitable habitat. Based on these results, we plan to work with land and wildlife managers to assess connectivity between New Mexico and Colorado and across locations in those states. We will work to maintain and enhance mature alpine forests that martens currently occupy or where they may occur in the future.

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Colorado, U.S.

Red Wolf and the Eastern Wildway

The red wolf, once widespread from New York to Texas, is now critically endangered with only around 20 surviving individuals in the wild. Decades of persecution and habitat degradation led to their extinction in the wild in 1980, but a successful reintroduction program by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in North Carolina's Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge brought their population back to over 120 individuals by 2012. However, human-related deaths from vehicle strikes and gunshots once again threaten their existence. We are working to improve community acceptance for red wolves

using our field research. Since 2015, our motion-sensitive cameras have been used to study local concerns about wolves' impact on game species. We are also laying the groundwork for a campaign in 2024 to reduce road mortality for red wolves and countless other wildlife along US 64. **Because red wolves continue to suffer from a lack of national awareness, we coordinated with the Associated Press on a major update about the wolf program, a story that was picked up by over 900 news outlets across the country.**

PHOTO BY: ©RON SUTHERLAND



Gunnison Sage-grouse

The Gunnison sage-grouse is a distinct species from the Greater sage-grouse and was declared threatened in 2014. They live in specific areas in Colorado and Utah, occupying only a small portion of their historic range. The main threats to their population are habitat loss due to human activities, low genetic diversity, drought and predators like eagles, hawks, ravens and various mammals. A study in Wyoming showed that human structures like gas wells can negatively impact their nesting and brood success by attracting more predators. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a plan to better understand the role of predators in Gunnison sage-grouse habitats and reduce their presence to help populations recover. **We are partnering with Texas A&M AgriLife Research to study how human disturbances influence predator populations and their impact on Gunnison sage-grouse conservation.**



Prairie Dogs

Prairie dog populations in New Mexico are poorly understood due to their vast distribution across diverse landscapes. Tracking these populations is challenging and expensive, often relying on manual assessments of aerial or satellite imagery to identify colonies, which can lead to biases in estimating their extent. These methods may also overrepresent the area occupied by active colonies and may not accurately reflect prairie dog abundance. As a result, agencies leave large gaps, sometimes up to 10 years or more, between prairie dog surveys.

To address these issues, we have developed deep-learning models to identify and easily map prairie dog colonies in New Mexico and Utah. We have partnered with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, where the Utah Prairie Dog is listed as an endangered species, and colonies are well mapped. Using known locations of prairie dog mounds in Utah, we are testing our model to assess and improve its accuracy. This approach will provide a more reliable and cost-effective means of monitoring and managing prairie dog populations throughout the region.

Policy action in the United States and Mexico

Our vision requires systemic change to center Nature and wildlife in our legal frameworks and government actions.

At Wildlands Network, we take a national approach to this issue, leveraging significant in-house expertise to craft policies and campaigns that support change at the local, state or federal government level that meet the needs of wildlife.

In 2023, with generous support from the Doris Duke Foundation and other partners, we spearheaded a significant, multi-state push for more funding and policy to support wildlife crossings and leverage federal grant funding secured in 2021. We elevated recommendations for additional federal action to support community-led projects.



Senate hearing on wildlife corridors, Washington D.C.

United States Policy



Utah

We helped secure \$20 million for wildlife crossing projects across Utah. Introduced by State Representative Doug Owens (D), this funding will allow Utah to competitively apply for over \$100 million in federal grants. Our executive director, Katie Davis, highlighted the devastating toll wildlife-vehicle collisions have on Utah's wildlife and motorists in an op-ed in the *Deseret News* and provided in-person testimony in support of the legislation.

New Mexico

With Senator Mimi Stewart's support, Wildlands Network helped pass S.B. 72, establishing the Wildlife Corridors Fund, including a substantial \$5 million appropriation to launch the fund. This summer, we organized and led a field trip showcasing NMDOT's priority crossing project attended by key legislators, administration officials and representatives from the Forest Service, Jicarilla Apache and Navajo Nation, emphasizing the importance of continued funding for wildlife crossings.

Nevada

AB 122 was signed into law by Governor Joe Lombardo providing \$5 million for a Wildlife Crossings Account in the State General Fund. Since 2021, we have been pivotal in developing and shepherding this bill through both chambers with unanimous bipartisan support.

Oregon

U.S. Public Policy Director, Erin Sito, participated on an expert panel and provided testimony during a hearing on Representative Ken Helm's HB 2999, which provides \$5 million to help advance habitat connectivity-focused projects. We organized our coalition's legislative outreach to ensure lawmakers were educated on the need to fund the forthcoming Wildlife Corridor Action Plan.

PHOTOS BY: ©MAKENSIE BROWN , ©GARRETT VENE
KLASEN, ©TEOFILO, ©DILLAN SMITH



Washington, D.C.

Wildlands Network co-hosted the George Washington University Law School's Environmental and Energy Law Program annual Shapiro Symposium. The symposium focused on analyzing our environmental laws and considering new policies to help conserve 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by 2030. The event featured key leaders and experts from academia, federal and state government, including Martha Williams, Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Stephenne Harding, a Senior Director at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and Dr. Jennifer Norris, a Deputy Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency.

In March, President Biden announced the first-ever administration-wide guidance for all federal agencies to incorporate ecological connectivity and wildlife corridor considerations into their policies and planning. This guidance embraces the recommendations of the federal Connectivity Policy Coalition, which we host and has been working to provide the Biden administration with expert advice since 2020.

North Carolina

Members of the Safe Passage Fund Coalition, which we sponsor, championed a \$2 million funding appropriation that will help pay for infrastructure to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions. This funding can help end the horror of wildlife-vehicle collisions on I-40 in Pigeon River Gorge, which numbered over 18,000 in 2020.

Big win for gray wolves

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that they are officially reinstating federal protections for Gray Wolves under the Endangered Species Act in 45 U.S. states.

We successfully challenged the U.S. government's previous decision to delist these wolves, resulting in their action. As an organization working to ensure wildlife policy is based on sound science, we see a continued need for the U.S. government to provide leadership and investment to ensure wolf recovery is possible across North America.



PHOTO BY: ©ADOBE STOCK/GEOFFKUCHERA

Mexico Policy

In 2023, we saw years of focused advocacy pay off as the Mexican Congress passed critical legislation to protect the lands, water and wildlife of Mexico, based on expert recommendations and public support provided by us and our coalition partners. We also focused national attention on other challenges and opportunities that will inform our future actions.

Mexico took a significant step toward biodiversity conservation by enacting new legislation that mandates the integration of wildlife crossings in the design and conservation plans of all new road, highway and freeway construction projects and the modernization of existing infrastructure. The crossings, including bridges or tunnels, aim to ensure safe passage for animals, reduce wildlife casualties on roads, and mitigate habitat fragmentation. Our road ecology work has influenced similar changes in the state of Sonora. This law reflects the culmination of our collaborative outreach alongside local experts, legislators and advocates, showcasing the success of our partnerships in Mexico's road ecology community. We continue to work with relevant authorities to ensure the practical implementation of the new law.



In 1992, Mexico introduced a law, which prioritized mining activities over other land uses. Fast forward to 2014, mining spills led to severe soil and water pollution in the Bacanuchi and Sonora rivers. Responding to the environmental impacts caused by mining activities all over the country, in 2020, we established a website to disseminate accurate official data and analysis of public policies. Our advocacy strategy consisted of sharing analysis and specific information with public officials to make them aware of the terrible consequences of mining industries operating within Natural Protected Areas. By 2023, we joined forces with a leading advocacy organization in Mexico who collected 55,000 signatures to support the ban on mining and protect human rights threatened by the industry. And this year, Mexico's Congress voted to enact a ban on new mining operations in the country's natural protected areas.



PHOTOS BY: ©ADOBE STOCK/RAMON & ©MIRNA MANTECA



NOSSA

Our NOSSA coalition conducted an analysis of the public budget allocated to Mexico's environmental sector, with a specific focus on the budgetary challenges faced by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas. The findings revealed that this crucial agency, responsible for preserving critical landscapes, received a mere 1.2% of the environmental sector's budget, and it is facing a budget cut of 7.3% compared to the previous year. This budgetary shortfall translates to a meager allocation of only ten pesos per hectare for the protection and conservation of natural heritage. To raise awareness and inform stakeholders, including nonpartisan technical secretaries of Congress and numerous media outlets, NOSSA published a budget analysis. They also launched a social media campaign featuring two videos to engage a broader audience, shedding light on the implications of these funding gaps.



Sonora

In the state of Sonora, Mexico, we created an updated report highlighting a concerning shortfall in the protection of wildlands. The report reveals that only 10.6% of the state's land is currently under legal protection, encompassing Natural Protected Areas, voluntary conservation zones, and priority wetlands. This falls significantly short of the ambitious 30 by 30 goal adopted by Mexico and other signatories of the Convention on Biological Diversity, aiming to protect 30 percent of the planet's surface by 2030. We are urging Sonora to lead in ecosystem protection, given its biodiversity. The report includes an interactive map to raise awareness, emphasizing the need for increased resources and alignment with international goals to ensure a healthier environment for all Sonorans.

Our Team



PHOTO BY: ©MARI GALLOWAY

OUR TEAM

Alex Vanko – GIS Specialist
Aspen Stevanovski – Social Media Content Creator
Aaron Facka, Ph.D. – Senior Wildlife Biologist, Western Region
Caitlin Lutsch – Finance Manager
Carlos Castillo – Northwest Mexico Program Co-Director
Cecilia Aguilar – Sonora Project Manager
Christine Laporte, M.E.S. – Eastern Program Director
Colin Reynolds, J.D. – Oregon Project Manager
Damon Yeh – California Project Manager
Danielle Fisher – Communications Manager
Ed Marx – Northeast Project Manager
Erin Sito, J.D. – U.S. Public Policy Director
Gina Chacón – Mexico Public Policy Coordinator
Greg Costello, J.D. – Senior Advisor
Hunter Warren – Community Engagement Coordinator
José Miguel Gabutti – Northwest Mexico Program Associate
Juan Carlos Bravo – Conservation Programs Director
Katie Davis, J.D. – Executive Director



Kevin Smith – Four Corners Program Manager
Kim Howes – Development Director
Lily Huntsman – Writer/Editor
Lindsay Martindale – Colorado Plateau Project Manager
Lindsay Schou – Donor Database Coordinator
Liz Hillard, Ph.D. – Senior Wildlife Biologist, Appalachian Region
Lucy Britton – Foundations and Grants Manager
Makensie Brown – Digital Media Specialist
Mari Galloway, J.D. – California Program Director
Michael Dax – Western Program Director
Mirna Manteca – Northwest Mexico Program Co-Director
Myles Traphagen – Borderlands Program Coordinator
Nikki Robinson – North Carolina Project Manager
Paulina Badillo – NOSSA Technical Secretary
Princess Gutierrez – Assistant to Executive Director
Ron Sutherland, Ph.D. – Chief Scientist
Tim Noviello – Communications Director
Tracey Butcher – Senior Philanthropic Advisor

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Team Highlights



Strengthening Land Management

Northwest Mexico Program Co-Director, Carlos Castillo

With over 30 years of experience in biology and public land management at the regional and federal government level, Carlos has expertise and a network to land conservation mechanisms that bring together people, landscapes and wildlife. He leads projects that strengthen the management of new and existing Natural Protected Areas, analyze and improve state environmental law in Sonora, Mexico and protect at-risk species like the thick-billed parrot. "It's important to strengthen laws and policy around Natural Protected Areas in Mexico. One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of this year is supporting the Sonoran government in initiating a formal process for the certification of Voluntary Conservation Areas and offering technical support on the process. This will greatly contribute to Sonora's 30 by 30 goals."



Forging Effective Partnerships

California Program Director, Mari Galloway, J.D.

Having spent most of her life in California, Mari has seen firsthand the impacts of continued development and suburban sprawl on the state's unique and varied ecosystems. With a law degree and a passion for collaboration, she has launched successful conservation projects in California and beyond, focusing on overcoming boundaries to protect wildlife. Her work often requires collaboration with partners from government agencies, Indigenous tribes and local communities. Working across arbitrary boundaries allows Mari to build broader, stronger coalitions to bolster continued success. "I am passionate about rewilding North America because I want to change the course of our centuries-long history of wreaking havoc on our planet. I want to live in a wild world – where people are awed by and connected to the complexity of our ecosystems."



Building Community

Community Engagement Coordinator, Hunter Warren

Hunter maintains the wellbeing of the wild spaces he loves by building community and partnerships throughout our project areas. A jack-of-all-trades, Hunter works across corporate partners, individual donors, grants programs, volunteers and more to build connections, form partnerships and support project work across North America.

“Wildlands Network’s role in conservation is crucial. Our work to reconnect segmented portions of land is key to both maintaining and strengthening healthy populations. At the community level, I’ve been broadening our volunteer base and creating more robust systems to track their hours, projects and documents. At this point, the groundwork is there for us to scale these volunteer programs in both fieldwork and legislation, so I’m excited to continue expanding these communities.”



Championing Diversity

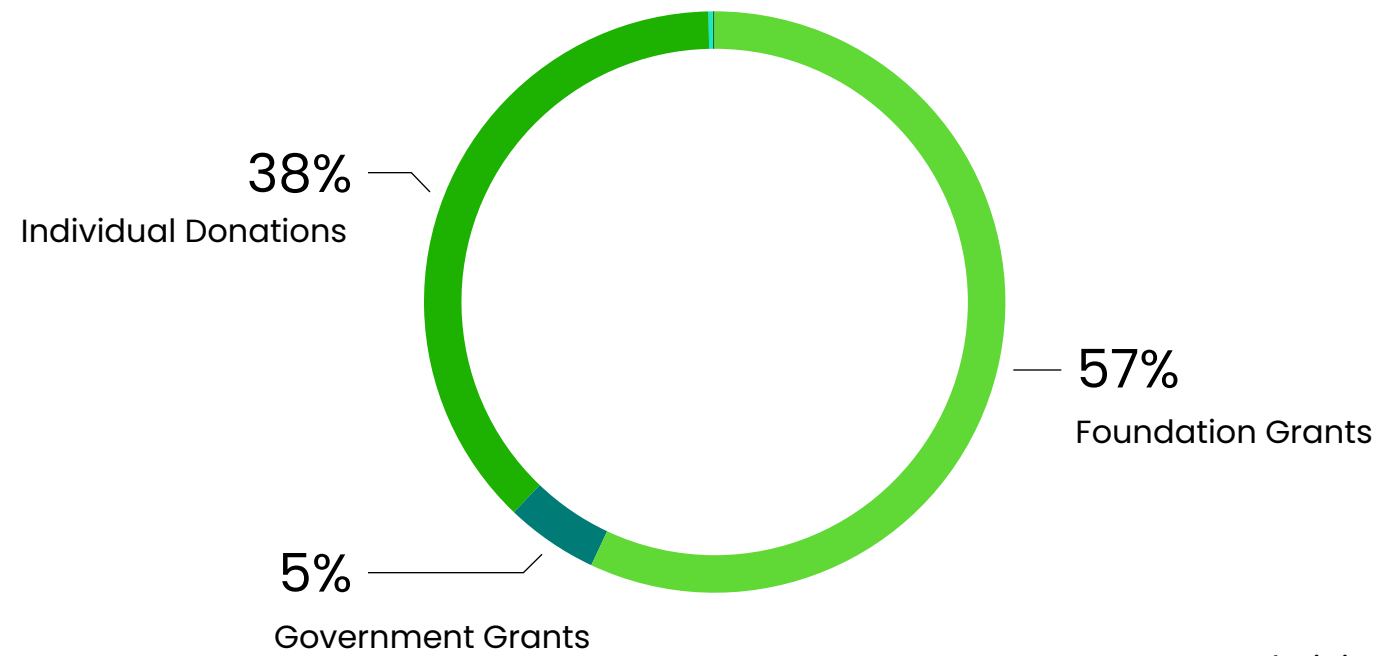
Senior Wildlife Biologist for the Appalachian Region, Liz Hillard Ph.D.

Known for her passion, humility and humor, Liz’s unique, calming energy exudes contagious positivity. She combines master’s and doctorate degrees in wildlife biology, with wildlife spatial analysis skills and a quantitative approach to address habitat connectivity challenges. Her studies, including elk-road-conflict areas, have laid the groundwork for potential wildlife crossings in the Southern Appalachians where Interstate 40 passes through the Pigeon River Gorge. Liz advocates for LGBTQ+ representation in wildlife biology, creating supportive spaces and opportunities for diverse communities in wildlife research and leading the Wildlife Society’s Out in The Field Initiative. “There’s a lot of work to be done to have diverse perspectives in conservation work. At Out in the Field, we work with our allies to foster a more inclusive, welcoming culture where diversity of all kinds is clearly embraced.”

2022 Finances & Fiscal Sponsorships

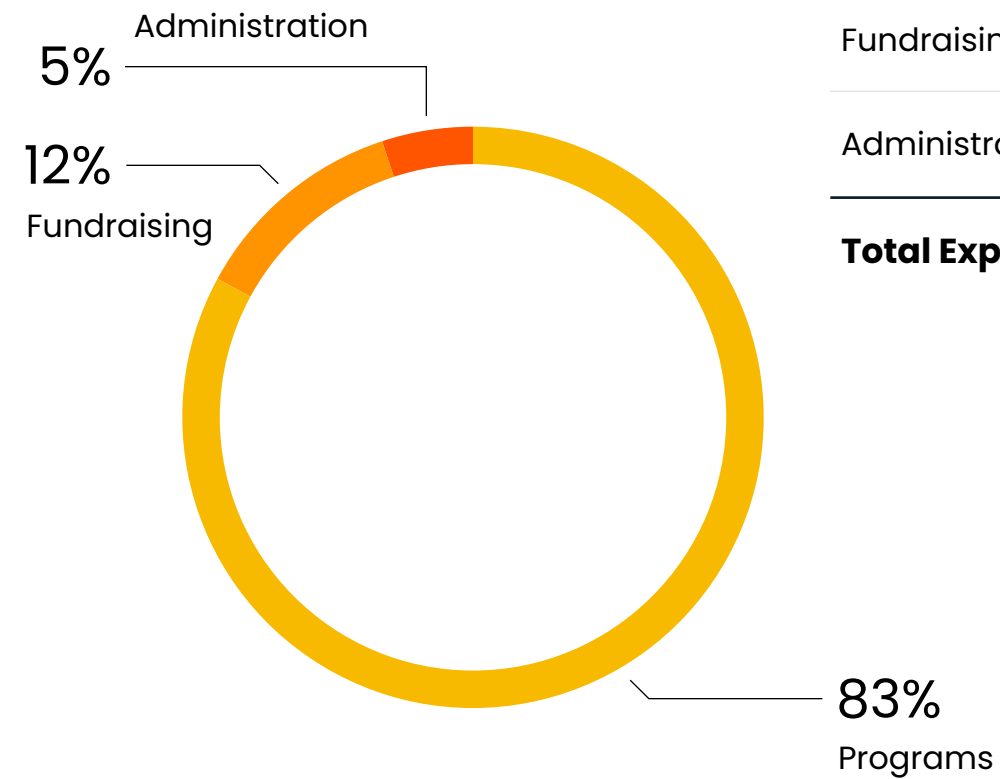
Revenue

Foundation Grants	\$1,771,715
Government Grants	\$160,431
Individual Donations	\$1,166,601
Program Services	\$7,459
Other Income	\$2,876
Investment Income	\$455
Total Revenue	\$3,109,537



Expenses

Programs	\$2,234,872
Fundraising	\$324,417
Administration	\$136,462
Total Expenses	\$2,695,751



Our Current Fiscal Sponsorships

Safe Passage Fund Coalition is a collaboration of six organizations that raise private funding for wildlife-vehicle collision mitigation in the Pigeon River Gorge in the southern Appalachians.

The Lobos of the Southwest Coalition is a diverse group of passionate Mexican wolf advocates who champion the recovery of the species across the Southwest United States.

Celebrating the Legacy of Greg Costello: A True Champion for Conservation

In the world of environmental advocacy, certain individuals stand out for their enduring dedication to the cause. **Greg Costello is one of those remarkable figures, and we want to honor his incredible contributions as he announces his retirement at the end of this year.** Greg's journey shows the power of passion, dedication and a vision for a brighter, more sustainable future.

For over a decade, Greg Costello has been an integral part of Wildlands Network. Greg's role has been nothing short of transformative; he has advised program staff on conservation strategies, project implementation, and conservation policy throughout our North American programs. His expertise as an environmental attorney has been crucial in shaping the programs and initiatives that have defined Wildlands Network.

"Greg brought a focused but broad vision to Wildlands Network when he became executive director. He was able to attract additional funds and funders with his ideas, which allowed them to attract additional talented individuals to work for the organization. He is an effective leader, and his low-key demeanor and egoless style has been refreshing to witness over the years as they have grown into an effective champion for continental scale conservation."

- **Richard Pritzlaff**, Biophilia Foundation and Past Board Member for Wildlands Network



PHOTO BY: TRACEY BUTCHER

"Thank you, Greg, for sharing your journey and interconnectedness with all of us. If it wasn't for your courageous leap into the Wildlands Network fray and steadfast leadership, I dare wonder where we would be now. We are so grateful."

- **Keith Bowers**, Biohabitats and Past Board Member for Wildlands Network

"All good wishes, Greg, for your next life chapter, from the Rio Aros and the Northern Jaguar Reserve, where it all began with John Davis' ride north. How far you've taken that vision! You can be very proud."

- **Caroline Gabel**, Shared Earth Foundation

The legacy Greg leaves behind is one of inspiration and hope for a brighter future for North America and its wild inhabitants. As we celebrate Greg's achievements and the incredible team and impact he helped create, we invite you to join us in wishing him the best in his well-deserved retirement. Greg's leadership has been instrumental in shaping the conservation landscape, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations of conservationists to come.

Thank you, Greg, for your remarkable contributions to the world of environmental advocacy and for your commitment to preserving our planet's natural treasures.



FOR THE WILD

OUR MISSION

We work to reconnect, restore and rewild North America so that life—in all its diversity—can thrive. Our work is founded in science, driven by fieldwork and furthered through strategic policy and partnerships.

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