



Fund For Wild Nature



Funding Bold Grassroots Action Since 1982

2011 Annual Report

Fund for Wild Nature
P.O. Box 900
Kelso, WA 98626

2011 Annual Report

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Our Mission:

The Fund for Wild Nature invests in cutting-edge grassroots organizations and innovative conservation efforts that meet emerging needs for protecting biodiversity and wilderness.

The Fund for Wild Nature is supported entirely by donations from individuals like you. We have no endowment – our ability to make grants depends upon the continuing generosity of our contributors. We invite you to join our many donors whose contributions are making a tremendous difference for wild nature. All donations to the Fund are tax-deductible and may be made on our website.

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FROM THE BOARD

Our name is the Fund *for* Wild Nature. Indeed, our deep commitment is to saving wild places and their wild denizens, for their own sake and because of their innate right to exist. The donations we receive and the grants we give all serve our vision of restoring the more-than-human world to wholeness, and allowing room for all the living things with which we share this planet to survive and thrive.

Yet, when one considers more pragmatically what we are about, the Fund for Wild Nature is really about people. Because what we actually do is connect and support *people* with passion and vision. Our grants go to amazing activists with big hearts, great courage, perseverance and intelligence, and usually, a fair dose of street smarts.

Likewise, our donations come from dedicated, generous, and engaged people, many of whom are actively fighting their own battles to save a river, protect a species, or otherwise safeguard some precious piece of Earth. It is the work and caring of all these people that inspires us here at the Fund, and enables us to continue doing what we do to keep environmental activism alive, feisty, and effective.

Among our recent grantees is the **Southern Plains Land Trust**, based in Colorado, which is expanding its advocacy for wildlife on public lands. The Trust thinks holistically about the entire plains ecosystem, whether the ownership is private or public, and unlike most land trusts, this group is more than willing to take a tough stand on issues (in addition to buying land and protecting it) because plants, animals and natural processes don't abide by humanly-conceived property boundaries. The upshot is that the Fund supports the great activists at the Southern Plains Land Trust, while the Trust is out on the ground defending prairie dogs and native grasslands.

People benefit deeply and directly when nature—whether it is a whale, a mountain, or an estuary—is preserved or restored. Of this we have no doubt. However, it is not the primary reason the Fund exists. Our philosophical and ethical roots lie in a profound regard for the “self-willed-ness” of land, water, and life itself. But, by focusing on this deep valuing of nature, our work brings us into contact with some of the most beautiful impulses in the human spirit: generosity, caring, determination, a desire to serve something greater than ourselves, and most of all, love.

This year, our 30th anniversary, thank you so much, for being a supporter of nature, the Fund for Wild Nature, and the many incomparable people we have helped in their work to keep this planet more beautiful and wild than it would otherwise be.

Grassroots Activist of the Year: Karen Coulter



The Fund for Wild Nature's "Grassroots Activist of the Year" award for 2012 honors ecologist and artist Karen Coulter, in recognition of her distinguished career defending the forests of eastern Oregon. Her life of activism began in 1980 when she started working to end the nuclear weapons program, toxic pollution, and destructive logging, and her commitment to creating a safer, wilder, more just world has not waned in the ensuing 30 years.

Karen has been a bold and visionary guardian of eastern Oregon's forests for more than two decades. She founded the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project in 1991 to protect and restore the natural ecosystems of the Blue Mountains and eastern Oregon Cascades bioregions. Since then she has worked tirelessly to oppose harmful public lands projects such as timber sales, road building, livestock grazing, and herbicide programs. Karen's monitoring and litigation efforts have resulted in precedent-setting legal victories and protected thousands of acres of crucial wildlife habitat for Northern Goshawks, Pileated Woodpeckers, Northern Spotted Owls, and other iconic forest denizens. Her positive influence stretches far beyond the eastern Cascades – numerous interns who have received her forest activism and political process training in Oregon have then used their new skills and her protocols to fight ecologically damaging projects in other regions. She also addresses audiences across the Pacific Northwest and the nation about the grave threats to biological diversity stemming from corporate and government greed and abuse of natural resources through workshops, public presentations, and the media.

Karen Coulter's Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project is precisely the type of organization that the Fund for Wild Nature believes is vital to any successful movement to preserve and restore the integrity of wild nature. Driven by courage and passion for biological diversity rather than an interest in political access, Karen's organization is small yet highly effective. The Fund recognizes that this work is never easy, particularly in regions with deeply vested interests in corporate logging such as eastern Oregon. Yet she has earned the respect of rural communities and the Forest Service through sound science and regular monitoring, and is consistently behind significant modifications to timber sale plans. Over the years the indefatigable Karen Coulter has never lost sight of what she is fighting for and her determination has brought many successes.

Karen has received \$1000 for her hard work and dedication.

2011 Grantees

- Allegheny Defense Project (PA)** **\$3,000**
Funded the protection of Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest from massive oil and gas drilling and road-building projects through citizen monitoring, legal advocacy, and grassroots organizing.
- Arizona Mining Reform (AZ)** **\$2,000**
Supported the *Oak Flat Ocelot Camera and Policy Project* to stop a large underground copper mine in important desert habitat.
- Audubon of Kansas (KS)** **\$1,000**
Supported efforts to protect the prairie dog in western Kansas from indiscriminate poisoning on private lands, even against the wishes of landowners.
- Battle Creek Alliance (CA)** **\$3,000**
Funded a grassroots campaign to end clearcutting and herbicide spraying in the headwaters of many of the state's watersheds.
- Biofuelwatch (VT)** **\$3,000**
Funded the *McNeil Biomass Power Incinerator Forest Mapping Project*, the first-ever analysis demonstrating the large logging footprint of biomass incineration for electricity.
- Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project (OR)** **\$3,000**
Supported ongoing ecosystem defense in four national forests of eastern Oregon through field-checking, appeals, alliance building, and litigation to stop destructive timber sales and toxic herbicide use.
- Buckeye Forest Council (OH)** **\$2,000**
Funded the *Forest Watch* project to engage volunteers in helping stop destructive activities in Ohio's public forests through field monitoring, appeals, and litigation.
- Burns Bog Conservation Society (BC, Canada)** **\$2,000**
Funded efforts to stop the South Fraser Perimeter Road which would destroy the fragile Burns Bog.
- Cherokee Forest Voices (TN)** **\$2,000**
Funded *Forest Watch*, a program that achieves on-the-ground protection and restoration of ecologically sensitive areas within the Cherokee National Forest of Tennessee.

- Climate Justice Montreal (QB, Canada)** **\$2,000**
Helped the campaign to stop ecologically harmful shale gas fracturing in Quebec.
- Clinch Coalition (VA)** **\$2,000**
Supported the expansion of the *Forest Watch* program to oppose destructive management activities on the Jefferson National Forest.
- Colorado Wild (CO)** **\$1,500**
Supported the campaign to preserve a critical wildlife corridor, rare species, wetlands, and the integrity of nearby wilderness areas in the Southern Rocky Mountains from a massive development at Wolf Creek Pass.
- Conservation Congress (CA)** **\$3,000**
Supported a Forest Monitoring Program in northern California, specifically on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, to stop destructive timber sales, grazing allotments, motorized recreation, and mining through public participation, advocacy, and litigation.
- Cottonwood Environmental Law Center (WY)** **\$2,000**
Funded efforts to compel government agencies to clean up the Formosa Mine Superfund site.



- Cougar Rewilding Foundation (WV)** **\$2,000**
Funded training workshops to teach first-responders in the American Midwest, where cougars are dispersing, about non-lethal alternatives to dealing with cougar incidents.
- Earthroots (ON, Canada)** **\$1,500**
Supported the *Wild Rivers Campaign* to protect pristine watersheds in Ontario's northern boreal forest, part of the largest intact ancient forest in North America.
- Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch (CA)** **\$3,000**
Supported the effort to halt clearcutting and change forest policy in the Sierra Nevada through advocacy, education, and coalition building.
- Friends of Blackwater (WV)** **\$2,000**
Supported the *Save Our Squirrel Campaign*, including litigation to overturn the "delisting" of the federally endangered West Virginia northern flying squirrel, an emblematic species for the highest Eastern U.S. forests.
- Friends of the Swainson's Hawk (CA)** **\$2,000**
Funded protection of nesting, foraging, and riparian habitat for Swainson's hawk in South Sacramento County through volunteer efforts to comment on the final approval processes for the South Sacramento County Habitat Conservation Plan and Elk Grove expansion Environmental Impact Report.
- Hells Canyon Preservation Council (OR)** **\$2,000**
Supported HCPC's involvement in the Forest Plan revision process to safeguard the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur national forests.
- High Sierra Rural Alliance (CA)** **\$2,500**
Funded the *Wildland Advocacy Project* to challenge Sierra County's Timber Production Ordinance in court, to prevent forest habitat fragmentation.
- Klamath Forest Alliance (CA)** **\$2,000**
Helped KFA to stop harmful grazing on the Klamath National Forest through photo and water testing by volunteers and interns and developing restoration plans.
- Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team (OR)** **\$3,000**
Supported volunteer-based field work to halt logging on ancient forests and preserve complex ecosystems on federal public land.
- Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition (FL)** **\$2,500**
Supported a campaign to challenge the Scripps Biotech expansion in Palm Beach County that would destroy precious habitat for endangered and threatened species.

Pelican Island Audubon Society (FL) **\$3,000**
 Funded litigation to stop an ecologically damaging boat ramp in the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area on the Indian River Lagoon.

Quiet Use Coalition (CO) **\$2,000**
 Funded the protection of roadless areas in central Colorado from damaging unauthorized off road vehicle (ORV) use through grassroots organizing on local ORV travel plans, physical work projects to close off areas to ORVs, and promoting a vision of ecosystem integrity.

RESTORE: The North Woods (ME) **\$2,000**
 Provides ongoing support for the *Maine Woods National Park Campaign* to preserve and restore the Maine Woods by opposing harmful industrial activities and permanently protecting a 3.2 million acre Maine Woods National Park and Preserve.

Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative (CO) **\$2,000**
 Offered ongoing support for using the agency motorized route designation process to close ORV trails and preserve Colorado's remote backcountry.

San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (CO) **\$2,000**
 Supported an ongoing campaign to urge the U.S. Forest Service to reject a land exchange for a massive development at Wolf Creek that would harm critical migration corridors, fen wetlands, and water quality at the headwaters of the Rio Grande.



Save The Cedar League (BC, Canada) **\$2,500**
 Supported the development of a conservation strategy to protect a biologically rich 2.5 million-acre Rainforest Conservation Corridor, the world's only inland temperate rainforest.

Save The Scenic Santa Ritas (AZ) **\$3,000**
 Helped a grassroots campaign to stop the Rosemont copper mine on public lands in the biologically rich and environmentally sensitive Patagonia and Santa Rita Mountains of Southern Arizona.

Southwest Lobo Coalition (AZ) **\$3,000**
 Funded efforts to engage local residents in tracking and monitoring critically endangered Mexican gray wolves and discouraging wolf killings by maintaining an on-the-ground presence.

Southern Plains Land Trust (CO) **\$2,500**
 Assisted SPLT's efforts to organize and advocate for native prairie plants, animals, and ecosystems on southern plains national grasslands managed by the Forest Service.

Swan View Coalition (MT) **\$2,500**
 Supported a project to protect the fish, wildlife, and quiet enjoyment of the Flathead National Forest through citizen monitoring/enforcement, legal advocacy, and public outreach.

Wild Equity Institute (CA) **\$3,000**
 Funded litigation to protect and restore North America's most beautiful and most imperiled serpent, the San Francisco garter snake in the San Francisco Bay Area from habitat destruction caused by a money-losing golf course adjacent to a key recovery area.

Wild Utah Project (UT) **\$2,500**
 Supported a national effort to challenge the Bureau of Land Management's grazing program through legal remedy.

WildWest Institute (MT) **\$3,000**
 Provides ongoing support to protect and restore public lands in the Northern Rockies Bioregion through ecosystem defense and watershed and fire restoration.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Total Assets	\$77,185	\$129,404
Total Liabilities	\$6,284	\$8,976
Total Net Assets	\$70,901	\$120,428

Total Net Assets

And Liabilities **\$77,185** **\$129,404**

Statement of Activities

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
<u>Support and Revenue:</u>		
Contributions	\$136,793*	\$79,209
Investment income	\$111	-\$1,018

Total Income *\$136,904* *\$78,157*

Expenses:

Grants awarded and Program costs	\$147,139**	\$128,110
Administration and Fundraising	\$17,822	\$14,549
Total Expenses	\$164,961	\$142,659

Change in Net Assets **-\$49,527** **-\$64,468**

* 2011 contributions include \$50,645 donated to the Wild Nature Institute (WNI), a fiscally-sponsored project of the Fund for Wild Nature. WNI solicits all of its contributions independently. More information on WNI may be found on page 10 of this report.

** 2011 expenses include just over \$59,000 in project expenses for WNI, with the difference in contributions made up by 2010 WNI contributions.

Wild Nature Institute

The Wild Nature Institute, a new project of the Fund for Wild Nature, was founded in the fall of 2010. The Fund acts as fiscal sponsor for the Wild Nature Institute. The mission of the Wild Nature Institute is to conduct scientific research on at-risk wildlife species and their habitats, to advocate for their protection, and to educate the public about the need to preserve wild nature.

The Institute's work focuses on collecting scientific data necessary to better understand habitat requirements of at-risk wildlife species around the world. We disseminate our research findings to decision-makers and the public, and advocate for the preservation of critical habitats to ensure that these at-risk wildlife species can recover and thrive.

The Wild Nature Institute currently has two major projects. The Snag Forest Habitat Protection campaign ensures that research on fire, insect outbreaks, and wildlife in the western North American forests is translated into improved forest-protection policies and effective forest-management activities that conserve snag forests – critical, scarce, and misunderstood wildlife habitats.

The Institute's scientists also are learning how natural and human factors affect survival, births, and movements of giraffe in the Tarangire Ecosystem of northern Tanzania, which supports one of the largest concentrations of wildlife in Africa. This research is urgently needed to provide effective conservation measures and ensure the future of wild giraffes and all creatures of the savanna.

