



FUND for WILD NATURE



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

2014 Annual Report



Investing in Feisty Grassroots Action Since 1982

2014 Annual Report

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Cover: Brown Bear, David Parks

Page 5: Seal pups, David Parks

Page 7: Little girl watching Bighorn Sheep, Doug Bevington

Page 10: Juvenile Masai giraffe, Tanzania, Derek Lee, Wild Nature Institute

Our Mission:

The Fund for Wild Nature invests in bold 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.

Fund for Wild Nature

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FROM THE BOARD

“Do no harm.” This famous oath for doctors can also be useful guidance when you are contributing money to environmental groups. **Over the years, the Fund for Wild Nature has shown many examples of how your contributions can do more good per dollar when used to support bold grassroots environmental groups rather than the biggest name-brand organizations.** But there is another important dimension of the difference between the grassroots and big organizations that is rarely discussed—**some of the largest organizations have gotten involved in supporting activities that can actually be harmful to environmental protection.**

Take the example of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). While once known for its straightforward role in land acquisition, TNC’s recent wheeling and dealing with oil companies, timber companies, and other despoilers of nature has attracted significant controversy. For example, TNC is involved in logging lands in Montana that it had sold to the US Forest Service and are now part of our national forest system. Moreover, TNC has been trying to log these public lands without properly following environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act, even though these forests are home to endangered species such as lynx, bull trout, and grizzly bears.

This bizarre situation—an environmental group that is violating environment laws—came to light due to the intrepid work of some of the Fund for Wild Nature’s grantees in Montana—including Arlene Montgomery of Friends of the Wild Swan, who is receiving our Grassroots Activist of the Year Award for 2015. Together these grassroots groups took the issue to court, and as a result a federal judge recently halted TNC’s logging plans for national forests in Montana.

When you contribute to the Fund for Wild Nature, you can rest assured that your dollars will not wind up going to a big environmental organization involved in logging in endangered species habitat. Instead, **the Fund for Wild Nature puts your money into the hands of grassroots activists like Arlene and her allies who you can trust to be reliable and vigorous defenders of wildlife and wild places.** Your donations to the Fund for Wild Nature will do no harm; instead, they will do a lot of good.

In the pages of our 2014 annual report, you will see many examples of the remarkable grassroots environmental groups across North America that benefit from your support for the Fund for Wild Nature. **Thank you so much for helping us to help these groups continue their essential work in protecting forests, deserts, grasslands, rivers, spotted owls, grizzly bears, bluebirds, coyotes, bull trout, lynx, prairie dogs, and so much more.**

For the Wild,

The 2014 Board of Directors of the Fund for Wild Nature

2015 Grassroots Activist of the Year: Arlene Montgomery



This year the Fund for Wild Nature honors the remarkable achievements of Arlene Montgomery. For the last 22 years, Montgomery has led the grassroots group Friends of the Wild Swan, based in Bigfork, Montana, as they have fearlessly battled timber companies, resort developers, livestock ranchers and mining operations to protect the wildlife, rivers, forests and roadless lands of the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest.

The Friends of the Wild Swan epitomizes grassroots environmental activism. With only 250 members and annual budget of less than \$50,000, Montgomery's feisty organization has chalked up an unparalleled string of legal victories. Montgomery's signature cause has been the protection of the bull trout, whose need for pristine, clear and cold waters has been imperiled by sediment from logging, road construction, grazing and mining. Over 22 years, Montgomery has filed dozens of lawsuits to get the trout listed as a threatened species and to protect its dwindling habitat from being despoiled. **These lawsuits had one common result: Montgomery's team won them all.** The final victory came in 2010 when the US Department of the Interior was forced to designate vast areas of the Northwest as critical habitat for the trout, including streams and rivers across five states, marine shoreline in Puget Sound and 488,000 acres of ponds and lakes. Equally important, this total includes many miles and acres of currently unoccupied bull trout habitat to be protected as migratory corridors and ecological connectors between distinct populations.

But the bull trout has not been Montgomery's only cause. **She and her group forced the Flathead National Forest to end all logging of old-growth forests.** The Friends of the Wild Swan also helped block road-building and logging on hundreds of thousands of acres of grizzly bear habitat, sued to force a recovery plan for lynx, filed legal challenges against the feds' failure to list both the Fisher and Wolverine as threatened species, won a major Clean Water Act case forcing the clean-up of "impaired waters" across Montana, forced Montana to implement its first forest management plans for state forests and to adopt rules for management of old-growth forests and advocated tirelessly for the **passage of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act**, a visionary piece of legislation that would protect most remaining wildlands in the region as designated wilderness and connect big blocks of wilderness and national parks through ecological corridors.

To celebrate her tireless and exemplary work to protect the natural ecosystems of the American West, the Fund for Wild Nature was proud to honor Arlene with a \$1000 check and a golden badger statue in recognition of her being named our Grassroots Activist of the Year.

2014 Grantees

First-time grantees are underlined

Arizona Mining Reform (AZ) \$3,000

Supported the launch of the Oak flat NEPA Readiness Project, a grassroots campaign to challenge and stop a huge mine and associated land swap in the Tonto National Forest.

Battle Creek Alliance (CA) \$3,000

Supported data collection and a public awareness campaign addressing the impacts that clearcutting, salvage logging and herbicide use have on the Battle Creek Watershed's water, air soil climate and wildlife as well as the associated greenhouse gas emissions and loss of carbon storage.

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.

Burrowing Owl Preservation Society (CA) \$1,000

Funded citizen science surveys in urban areas for community awareness raising presentations.

Castle Mountain Coalition (AK) \$1,500

Supported MineWatch, a citizen based program to protect salmon, moose and people in the Matanuska watershed and Matanuska Valley Moose Range by holding mining companies accountable and prosecuting violations.

Center for Environmental Equity (OR) \$1,200

Funded an economic analysis of purported mine jobs created by the Grassy Mountain Gold Mine project to insure that promises of new jobs are not used to compromise public-involvement and environmental protection laws.

Cherokee Forest Voices (TN) \$2,500

Funded Forest Watch, a program that achieves on-the-ground protection and restoration of ecologically sensitive areas within the Cherokee National Forest of Tennessee.

Civil Liberties Defense Fund (OR) \$3,000

Funded the expansion of legal support for grassroots climate justice groups in order to empower and educate activists.

Climate Ground Zero (WV) \$1,000

Funded direct action on Coal River Mountain in an effort to stop the practice of mountaintop removal coal mining.

Coast Range Forest Watch (OR) \$1,000

Supported the expansion of the Marbled Murrelet Survey Project to protect native uncut forests along Oregon's Coast Range.

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.

Eco Advocates NW (OR) \$3,000

Funded a media campaign to defeat two pro-logging bills introduced by Sen. Wyden.

Environmental Frontlines Media (FL) \$1,500

Supported the expansion of biocentric speaking tours, trainings and workshops to create a spike in biodiversity activism nationwide.

**Friends of Knowland Park (CA) \$2,000**

Funded wildlife and legal professionals to review and oppose mitigation measures proposed by the Oakland Zoo for expansion that would destroy a critical wildlife corridor.

Friends of the Wild Swan (MT) \$3,000

Supported the protection and restoration of habitat for grizzly bears, lynx, wolverine, fisher, bull trout and imperiled native fish and wildlife in the Swan Valley of northwest Montana through reduction of road densities in projects and in the revised Forest Plan standards.

Kentucky Heartwood (KY) \$3,000

Funded the Forest Watch program to protect critically important wild areas and habitat in the Daniel Boone National Forest from commercial logging and oil & gas drilling through education, advocacy, and front-line forest defense.

Klamath Forest Alliance (CA) \$2,000

Supported a project to reform public lands grazing in Northern California.

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) \$3,000

Supported legal challenges, grassroots organizing, and direct action to stop the construction of Scripps Biotech that would destroy precious habitat for threatened and endangered species in the Briger Forest.

Project Coyote (CA) \$3,000

Funded the production of a film about wildlife killing contests that will educate, provide resources and empower communities, organizations, and citizen leaders to end these senseless contests.

Quiet Use Coalition (CO) \$2,000

Supported legal advocacy, outreach, and road closures to protect central Colorado from high impact motorized recreation.

Raptors Are the Solution (CA) \$3,000

Funded the Owl Wise Leader program that recognizes businesses with an award for eliminating the use of toxic rat poison from their practices that eventually kills raptors down the food chain.

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.

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (AZ) \$1,000

Supported grassroots organizing and outreach to stop development of the open-pit Rosemont Copper Mine in the biologically rich and environmentally sensitive Patagonia and Santa Rita mountains of southern Arizona.

**Siskiyou Land Conservancy (CA) \$2,500**

Funded a project to reduce the heavy use of highly toxic pesticides on lily farms that surround the Smith River Estuary, one of the wildest, most pristine rivers in the West that is well suited as habitat for recovery of several endangered species, particularly salmonids.

Southern California Bluebird Club (CA) \$1,000

Supported the creation and distribution of quick educational kits for teachers and students to youth educate about the importance of creating a network of dead and dying trees (snags) throughout California as habitat for cavity dwelling species.

Southern Plains Land Trust (CO) \$3,000

Funded advocacy and grassroots organizing to protect prairie dogs and shortgrass prairie habitat on state and federal public lands.

Swan View Coalition (MT) \$3,000

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.

Western Lands Project (WA) \$3,000

Supported the appeal of a legal challenge against the Interior Department's plan for industrial scale commercial solar development on public lands.

WildWest Institute (MT) \$2,500

Provides ongoing support to protect and restore public lands in the Northern Rockies Bioregion through ecosystem defense and watershed and fire restoration, and Roadless Rockies Program.

Yellowstone to Uintas Connection (ID) \$2,500

Supported the long-term effort to protect habitat in the Bear River Range from mining, logging, off-road vehicles, and livestock grazing.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Assets	\$53,924	\$84,158
Liabilities	\$24,189	\$21,550
Net Assets	\$29,735	\$62,608

Statement of Activities

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>Support and Revenue:</u>		
Contributions		
Unrestricted	\$119,773	\$81,826
Restricted (Wild Nature Institute)	\$22,799	\$40,073
Investment income	\$204	\$74
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$142,776	\$121,973
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Grants awarded and Program costs	\$94,999	\$136,073
Administration and Fundraising	\$24,126	\$22,211
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$119,125	\$158,284
Change in Net Assets	\$23,651	-\$36,311

Copies of filed IRS 990 forms available upon request

Wild Nature Institute

The Wild Nature Institute ("the Institute"), a fiscally sponsored project of the Fund for Wild Nature since the fall of 2010, became an independent 501(c)(3) organization in late 2014. The Fund is proud to have assisted the Institute get its feet off the ground. Fiscal sponsorship is a way for 501(c)(3) groups like the Fund to support a project which is consistent with its mission when that project does not have its own non-profit status. 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 has always been responsible for securing 100% of its donations and grants, and money earmarked for the Institute is restricted to Institute project funding only.** Please see the financial statement on page 9 of this report for more information.

The Institute's work focuses on collecting scientific data necessary to better understand habitat requirements of at-risk wildlife species around the world. The Institute's scientists disseminate their 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 are also 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.

