

2018 Annual Report



FUND for
WILD
NATURE

A black silhouette of a badger's head and shoulders, facing right. The badger has a white patch on its forehead and a white stripe running down the center of its face. Its ears are dark with white tips. The silhouette is solid black against the white background.

Investing in Cutting Edge Environmental Grassroots Action Since 1982

Board of Directors (active during 2018)

Marnie Gaede, President, Los Angeles, CA
David Parks, PhD, Treasurer, San Francisco, CA
Annica Kreuter, Secretary, Joshua Tree, CA
Doug Bevington, PhD, Berkeley, CA
Monica Bond, MS, Concord, NH
Tracy Davids, Esq, Asheville, NC
Nicole J. Rosmarino, PhD, Centennial, CO
Jeffrey St. Clair, Oregon City, OR
Kristina Haddad, Portland, OR

Photo Credits

Cover: Swift Fox, Jay Tutchton
Page 3: Grizzly Bear, Sandy Nervig
Page 4: Louisa Willcox
Page 7: Buffalo and calf, Dave Parks
Page 9: Bobcat, Stephen Richie
Page 12: Elk, Jono More
Page 14: Swainson's Hawk, Sandy Nervig
Page 15: Harbor Seal, Jono More
Page 16: Grey Wolf, Jeffrey St. Clair
Page 17: Prairie Dogs, Sandy Nervig
Back: Badger, Sandy Nervig

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. The Fund is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization #87-0386717. Donations may be made by mail or on our website and are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Fund for Wild Nature

P.O. Box 2507, Sebastopol, CA 95473

Phone: (858) FOR-WILD

fwn@fundwildnature.org • www.fundwildnature.org

FROM THE BOARD

The phrase “true grit” has been around for decades or longer, immortalized by the 1969 movie of the same name that came back to life in a 2010 remake. Grit, it turns out, is a character trait that can make the difference between success and failure. But what clinches the deal is passion.

The Fund for Wild Nature is thrilled to support efforts by grassroots activists who embody true grit and live and breathe their passion for wild creatures and the habitats on which all life depends. Among those wild animals most in need of tenacious human advocates are native carnivores. Enter Activist of the Year Louisa Willcox, who has promoted grizzly bear protection for 30 years: she’s a monument to tenacity. The Fund supports Louisa’s group, Grizzly Times, which develops the scientific basis for litigation to protect Yellowstone grizzlies.

Grantees Alliance for the Wild Rockies and the Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force likewise strive for grizzly bear safeguards in the Northern Rockies. The Environmental Protection Information Center is on the frontlines for a more diminutive predator with its Save the Humboldt Marten Campaign, aiming to protect from industrial logging this member of the weasel family that was once thought to be extinct. The Fund also supports Pacific Fishers Film, which advocates for rare Pacific Fishers, through film and outreach, by documenting how this carnivore (also a type of weasel) benefits from post-fire forests and is harmed by routine logging.

Among the most persecuted carnivores in North America is the mountain lion. Grantee Wild Futures has undertaken an ambitious effort to educate and build momentum for cougar conservation and coexistence through outreach efforts in both English and Spanish. Sharon Negri runs the organization and has worked for more than 30 years to protect this fantastic feline.

Alongside our support of efforts to protect bears, weasels, and wildcats, the Fund has backed initiatives and activists to protect wolves and coyotes. All of these creatures need our support in the face of intolerance and the press of humanity into wild places. They need organizations and activists that are focused, tenacious, and unwilling to let current-day

adversity sway them from the path. That wild, winding path presses ever onward to a future when humans recognize native carnivores for their inherent worth and they are regarded with respect and fascination rather than fear.

The Fund for Wild Nature relishes opportunity to give these worthy organization grants to conduct their gritty pursuits. Contribute to the Fund, and we'll find and support the best grassroots groups doing the incredibly important work of protecting wild creatures and ecosystems across the United States and Canada.



Grassroots Activist of the Year: Louisa Willcox



Louisa Willcox stumbled across her first grizzly in the Absaroka Mountains east of Yellowstone when she was a teenager. The encounter surprised them both, always a fraught situation. But she eased away, and no harm was done. But that chance moment changed Louisa's life. "The earth just stopped, when I saw my first grizzly," she said. Willcox now knew what she wanted to do and where she wanted to do it. It also changed the future of grizzlies.

In the 1970s, grizzlies were a rare and declining presence in what became known as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Wolves had been extirpated from the park entirely. Forty years later, the bear population had rebounded, and wolves had not only returned to the park, but had spread across the Northern Rockies to Washington, Oregon, and California. Louisa Willcox is one of the primary human agents behind this dramatic transformation.

Willcox grew up in rural Pennsylvania, west of Philadelphia, in what was once “horse country” but has now been largely transformed by relentless sprawl into suburban mush. At 14, she spent a summer in Wyoming and immediately got hooked on the landscape of the Rockies. “It was big and remote and wild,” she said. “It called to me, and I’ve never been the same.”

She earned her undergraduate degree in English at Williams College, where she learned to write with precision and flair, and a Master’s from the Yale School of Forestry, where she learned how ecosystems function. But she continued to spend her summers in Wyoming, mostly in Lander at the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). If Yale taught her how wilderness areas work, NOLS taught her how to explore them on the ground. She learned technical climbing, cross-country skiing, and how to backpack across some of the most demanding terrain on the continent. She also learned how to teach these wilderness skills to others.

Willcox later began teaching at the Teton Science Schools in Moose, Wyoming. Here the emphasis was on science: geology, ecology, limnology, botany. The 1970s were an opportune time to arrive in the Tetons. A slate of new environmental laws, from the Endangered Species Act to the National Forest Management Act, had recently been passed by Congress. Science was becoming more political and the environmental movement was turning more and more to science as a means of protecting wildlife and wildlands. For decades, the conservation movement had tended to focus on the protection of rocks and ice: high elevation landscapes that had little potential for political conflict. But here in Yellowstone and Grand Teton it was becoming apparent that this strategy wasn’t bold enough. Yellowstone was the biggest park in the country, but it just wasn’t big enough, if the goal was to save wide-ranging species such as the grizzly bear. Or to bring back not just a wolf or two, but entire packs.

Pioneering naturalists Frank and John Craighead, who had spent decades tracking and studying Yellowstone’s grizzlies, began to speak of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, 18 million acres across Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming with Yellowstone Park at its core. Louisa was taken under the wings by the Craigheads and two other luminaries of the new ecology movement: Luna Leopold and geologist Dave Love, who taught Willcox how the landscape worked and its points of vulnerability.

The scientists urged Willcox to explore the land she was driven to protect. She took their advice, transversing all 23 mountain ranges by car or foot, and acquiring an intimate knowledge of the region's forests, grasslands, mountains, and rivers.

In the late 70s and early 1980s, Louisa got her foot into activism with the Wyoming Wilderness Association. She was recruited to the group by Bart Koehler, who would later become one of the founders of Earth First! She and Koehler went into logger and cowboy towns across Wyoming talking up the virtues of wilderness. One of her inquisitors was Dick Cheney, then Wyoming's sole congressional representative.

In 1983, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition was formed, and two years later Louisa Willcox was hired as one of its two professional staff members. "At that time there were only two paid environmentalists in Bozeman," Willcox said. "Now there's an office on every street corner."

In those early days, GYC was a small but feisty group fending off the likes of James Watt, who had put a target on the Yellowstone ecosystem. Willcox became a key activist and strategist in some of the most fraught environmental battles of our time: fighting off Noranda's huge gold mine, confronting the threat to Yellowstone's geothermal areas, and challenging the Forest Service's plans to butcher roadless areas adjacent to the park.

Willcox spent a decade at GYC, then moved on to NRDC and the Sierra Club, working to defend grizzlies and help bring wolves back to Yellowstone. She helped start the Yellowstone-to-Yukon movement, because she had come to believe that the scale of our ecological vision needs to be much bigger, and Y2Y was a way to help people see the need to protect huge landscapes. But she was never really comfortable inside the big NGOs. "I got tired of being stereotyped, and the bureaucratic conformity was stifling," Willcox said. "The bigger and more bureaucratized groups become the less likely they are to explore new approaches. And at this point we need to have a war room mentality. We need to be edgier and more confrontational."

So seven years ago, Louisa left her gig as a professional environmentalist and started Grizzly Times with her husband, the ecologist David Mattson. "It was a declaration of our independence," Louisa says. "We told ourselves we weren't going to be edited anymore." They've used their skills as writers and their years of experience on the ground to begin

articulating a more comprehensive vision for environmental activism. According to Willcox, the real hope, in these gloomy times, comes from a closer study of the animals themselves. “Bears and wolves are showing us the way with the tracks of their paws,” she said. “And we need to accommodate their range before human population growth and climate change seals the fate of the Yellowstone ecosystem.”

The Fund is honored to offer the Fund for Wild Nature Activist of the Year award to Louisa Willcox for her many years of hardcore activism on behalf of grizzlies, wolves, bison, and greater Yellowstone.



2018 Grantees

New grantees are underlined

Alliance for Wild Rockies (MT), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of grizzly bears in the Yellowstone Ecosystem through legal advocacy aimed at keeping the species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Applegate Neighborhood Network (OR), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of old-growth forests, intact oak woodlands, and other biologically important landscapes in the Applegate River Watershed from heavy industrial logging through grassroots environmental advocacy campaigns.

Arizona Mining Reform Coalition (AZ), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of the Greater Oak Flat watershed near Superior AZ, an area of great spiritual importance to Native American tribes, from destruction by Rio Tinto's proposed copper mine through its ongoing grassroots Protect Oak Flat Project.

Arroyo Seco Foundation (CA), \$3,000

Funds support the recovery of steelhead trout and other native species in the Arroyo Seco, a key tributary of the Los Angeles River, through the Steelhead Ride, a participatory cycling event to build public support for removal of Brown Canyon Dam by traveling in the presence and along the route of the steelhead trout.

Balloons Blow (FL), \$6,000

Funds support the protection of biodiversity on land and water from the destructive effects of mass balloon releases which pollute and kill wildlife that eat the balloons, through educational billboards strategically installed near releasers, like Disney World, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Battle Creek Alliance (CA), \$4,000

Funds support the protection of the Battle Creek watershed from industrial logging and hold state agencies accountable for their mandate to protect the public trust through data collection, grassroots organizing, and legal action.

Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project (OR), \$5,000

Funds support the ongoing protection of biodiversity on public lands in eastern Oregon from destructive timber sales and livestock grazing allotments through ground-truthing, public outreach, community organizing, and litigation.

**Buffalo River Watershed Alliance (AR), \$3,000**

Funds support protection of biodiversity in the entire 879,575-acre watershed of Arkansas' Buffalo National River from pollution by large swine industrial concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) through legal advocacy aimed at closing an existing offending CAFO and a moratorium on all CAFOs.

Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons (FL), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of at-risk species, ecosystems, and human communities in the Appalachian Mountains of eastern Kentucky from toxic materials related to the construction of a federal prison through ongoing grassroots organizing and litigation.

Cherokee Forest Voices (TN), \$1,500

Funds support the ongoing protection and restoration of ecologically sensitive areas on the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee from harmful resource extraction and roadbuilding, through ground-truthing, data collection, advocacy, and litigation.

Conservation Congress (CA), \$3,000

Funds support the ongoing protection of four National Forests in northern California from destructive timber sales, through public comments, objections, and litigation aimed at enforcing federal environmental laws, especially Endangered Species Act enforcement for the Northern Spotted Owl.

Cottonwood Environmental Law Center (MT), \$2,000

Funds support the protection of bighorn sheep and grizzly bear habitat in southwest Montana, through two lawsuits to remove domestic sheep grazing allotments from key connectivity areas, and continued advocacy and public education on the importance of this habitat for wildlife viability.

EarthFirst! Climbers Network (VT), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of biodiversity and empower frontline communities through free, volunteer-run, direct action training camps that have been training activists for two decades.

Environmental Protection Information Center (CA), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of the marten from reckless industrial logging through the Save the Humboldt Marten Campaign that includes timber plan monitoring and litigation.

Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (OR), \$2,000

Funds support protection of backcountry wildlands and wilderness areas in the Pacific Northwest from damage by aggressive Forest Service wildfire suppression activities, through publication and dissemination of “FireWatch: A Citizen’s Guide to Monitoring Wildfire Suppression.”

Flathead-Lolo-Bitterhead Citizens Task Force (MT), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of all roadless areas, threatened and endangered species, and water quality on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests, through development of a Citizen Forest Plan and a widespread campaign to generate public support for its adoption.

Friends of the Clearwater (ID), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of the Clearwater Basin from logging by legally challenging timber sales not supported by the best available science.

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

Funds support the ongoing protection of grizzly bears, lynx, wolverines, fishers, bull trout, and other imperiled species on the Flathead and Lolo National Forests from timber sales, road building, and federal land takeovers, through the Wildlife Habitat Protection Program.

From the Heart Productions (CA), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of Pacific fishers in the Lassen and Sequoia National Forests from habitat destruction due to post-fire logging, through film documenting rare fishers in these forests and outreach that highlights the historical and current importance of protecting post-fire forests to fishers.

Grizzly Times (MT), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of grizzly bears from a Yellowstone grizzly bear hunt and from delisting the Yellowstone population as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act, through science that supports necessary litigation and legal advocacy to relist this population as Threatened.

Kentucky Heartwood (KY), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of the Kentucky arrow darter, Indiana bat, and other at-risk species from public lands logging through advocacy and public engagement.

Klamath Forest Alliance (CA), \$3,000

Funds support the ongoing protection of wilderness in the Klamath Mountains of California from livestock grazing by documenting negative impacts of grazing on water quality and other ecosystem functions, and pushing for reform or elimination of grazing in these areas altogether.

**Lynn Canal Conservation (AK), \$3,000**

Funds support the protection of old-growth forests, imperiled Chilkat River chinook, and other wildlife from two large timber sale projects on public land through public comments, grassroots organizing, and development of more progressive forestry practices in the region.

Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team Support Network (OR), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of ancient and native forests ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest from industrial logging through red tree vole nest

surveys, legal advocacy, public outreach, and tree-climbing/volunteer trainings.

Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition (ID), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of the endangered Palouse prairie ecosystem from massive highway construction on Paradise Ridge in Idaho, through litigation and Clean Water Act permit challenges.

Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (AZ), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of the biologically rich Patagonia Mountains from Arizona Mining, Inc.'s planned mining operations, by analyzing their feasibility study, conducting community workshops to distribute a counter-analysis, and empowering residents to raise concerns with government agencies.

Public Lands Media (OR), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of forests and native ecosystems from destructive logging through a media and outreach campaign that promotes the narrative that logging/thinning is a flawed strategy to prevent forest fires and that a better strategy is to focus on fire prevention close to homes and communities.

Quiet Use Coalition (CO), \$2,000

Funds support the protection of imperiled species, habitat, and biodiversity in central Colorado from high-impact recreation, through advocacy to eliminate harmful motorized routes in travel and land management plans, and ensuring that decisions to close harmful routes are implemented.

**Raptors Are The Solution (CA), \$3,000**

Funds support the protection of raptors and other wildlife from death due to secondary poisoning from anticoagulant and other rat poisons, through expansion of the Rat Poison Is Wildlife Poison public awareness campaign and litigation against the CA Department of Pesticide Regulation.

RESTORE: The North Woods (ME), \$2,000

Funds support the ongoing promotion and creation of a new national park in Maine through individual initiatives, building coalitions, and rallying public support.

Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative (CO), \$2,000

Funds support the protection of Colorado wildlands from damaging mountain bike trails on public lands, through grassroots organizing, strengthening enforcement and wildland protections in federal trail decisions, and changing trail policies that encourage trail proliferation in undeveloped backcountry.

San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (CO), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of Wolf Creek Pass in southern Colorado from unbridled commercial development through litigation, public outreach, and political pressure.

Santa Fe Forest Coalition (NM), \$5,000

Funds support the protection the Hyde Park Roadless Area by litigating the Santa Fe National Forest's decision to log more than 90% of the trees.

Sequoia ForestKeeper (CA), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of the South Fork Wildlife Area, Sequoia National Forest, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo from construction to raise the level of the Isabella Lake Dam through litigation, grassroots organizing, and data-collecting field excursions.

Sound Action (WA), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of Puget Sound nearshore habitat from development impacts through watchdog work and legal action to enforce environmental laws.



**Swan View Coalition (MT), \$3,000**

Funds support the protection of fish and wildlife, especially bull trout and wolverine, in the Swan Range of Montana from damaging motorized roads and trails, through enforcement of the Flathead National Forest's motorized road and trail closures and reclamation standards, challenges to other projects violating these standards, and grassroots organizing.

Tennessee Heartwood (TN), \$2,500

Funds support the protection of public lands in Tennessee from logging and other destructive land management decisions.

Wild Farm Alliance (CA), \$2,500

Funds support the protection of native ecosystems from conversion to organic production by advancing a new rule change in the National Organic Program.

WildWest Institute (MT), \$3,000

Funds support the ongoing protection and restoration of public lands in the Northern Rockies bioregion through the Public Lands Project that mobilizes the public and political support necessary to protect this area, including the Ecosystem Defense, Watershed and Wildland Fire Restoration, and Roadless Rockies programs.

Yellowstone to Uintas Connection (UT), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of the Bear River Range from destruction from dams, livestock grazing, noise and air pollution from OHVs and other threats through legal advocacy, public commenting, and ground-truthing and supporting positive activities like road closures and visitor education.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 2018 Financial Position

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Assets | \$157,301 |
| Liabilities | \$1,000 |
| Net Assets | \$156,301 |

2018 Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Contributions, unrestricted | \$157,357 |
| Contributions, restricted | \$0 |
| Investment Income | (\$1,335) |
| | |
| TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE | \$156,022 |

Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Grants awarded | \$121,500 |
| Administration and Fundraising | \$7,274 |
| | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$128,774 |
| | |

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Change in Net Assets | \$27,249 |
|----------------------|----------|

December 31, 2018 Financial Position

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Assets | \$199,049 |
| Liabilities (Dec 31, 2018 unpaid grants) | \$15,500 |
| Net Assets | \$183,549 |



Fund for Wild Nature
P.O. Box 2507, Sebastopol, CA 95473
Phone: (858) FOR-WILD
fwn@fundwildnature.org • www.fundwildnature.org