

FUND for
WILD
NATURE 

2022
Annual Report



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Page 6: Maya Khosla, Jessica Layton
Page 8: Acmon Blue butterfly, Javier Vazquez
Page 12: Vermilion Flycatcher, Javier Vazquez
Back: Black-footed Ferret, Doug Bevington

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

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FROM THE BOARD

Having been warned by scientists and conservationists for decades, the world is finally starting to wake up to the reality that humanity is overheating the planet with our relentless emission of greenhouse gases. The climate crisis is intertwined with the extinction crisis. For example, one of the best ways to store carbon is to protect native ecosystems, but, when those wild habitats are converted to crops and buildings, carbon sinks turn into carbon sources. Ecologically crucial species, such as beaver in streams, bison on native prairie, sharks in the ocean, and wolves in the forest, help those ecosystems to sequester more carbon. Despite these important ways in which protecting the wild protects our planet, recognition of the need for biodiversity preservation is still lagging. That's where the Fund for Wild Nature's grantees come in, especially in their contribution to grow a much-needed global movement of rewilding.

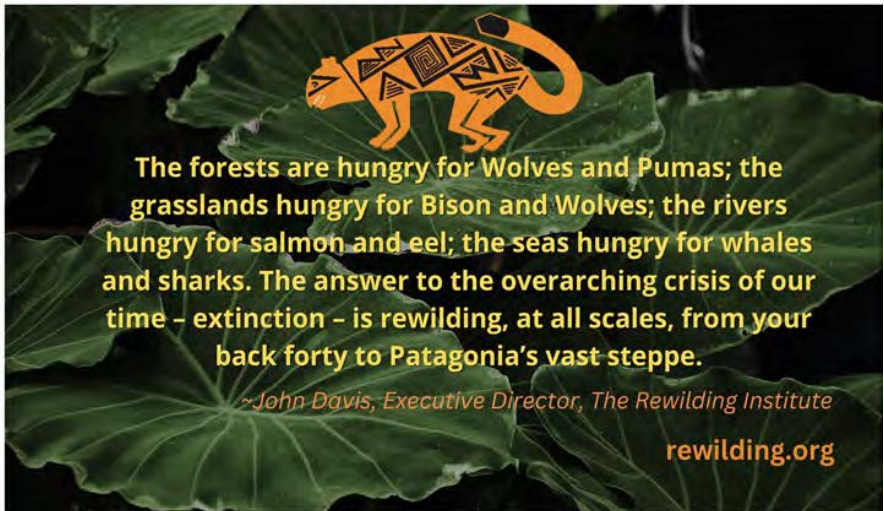
From Alaska to Arizona, and California to Maine, the Fund's grantees continue to work relentlessly to save wildlife and wild places. As you'll see in this annual report for 2022, we provided 40 grants to advance these grassroots efforts, made possible by our donors. We continued funding for groups such as RESTORE: The North Woods, which we have long supported for their effective actions to save New England forests by fighting climate change, preserving biodiversity, and benefiting people by protecting the region's forests from logging and development. We also awarded grants to organizations that are new to us, such as Grasslands

Unlimited, which is working to protect wild bison and prairie elk in Colorado.

We also provided two Badger Boost grants, made possible by a bequest from William E. Hauser, to long-time grantees Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project to grow the capacity of these groups to undertake critical legal actions to protect native ecosystems.

Another of our grantees in 2022 was The Rewilding Institute. We awarded them a grant for their Eastern Carnivore Advocacy project, in which they are aiming to protect wolves and pumas in the northeast from killing and habitat destruction through rewilding and carnivore management reform.

The Rewilding Institute suffered a blow, as did we all, with the passing of their founder, Dave Foreman, on September 19, 2022. As The Rewilding Institute put it,



Dave, as he was known to all, was an esteemed activist, thinker, writer, and speaker on conservation and environmental issues, an uncompromising advocate for sharing the Earth with other living beings. His half-century conservation career focused on protection of wild nature, especially wilderness and wildlife, and he coined the term “rewilding,” which was his special interest over the past several decades. The Rewilding Institute

continues to promote Dave’s vision of vast wildways stretching across North America and beyond, teeming with life, including those ultimate wildeors*, Wolves, Pumas, Jaguars, Grizzly Bears, salmon, sharks, and other wide-ranging species and apex predators.

This vision of rewilding and the legacy of Dave Foreman will continue to inspire us here at the Fund, as will all of our dedicated and passionate grantees who toil for the wild. By contributing to the Fund for Wild Nature, you help these hard-working grassroots organizations to defend native biodiversity and therefore the planet.



*For a discussion of this term, see “#48 Around the Campfire; Wilderness: Self-Willed Land” by Dave Foreman, at <https://rewilding.org/around-the-campfire-with-uncle-dave-wilderness-self-willed-land/>

Grassroots Activist of the Year

Maya Khosla is the winner of Fund for Wild Nature's Grassroots Activist of the Year Award for 2023. Maya's environmental activism involves a remarkable mixture of her roles as a scientist, filmmaker, and award-winning writer that has led to her being a prominent voice in the protection of post-fire forests.



Maya experienced her environmental awakening in college after the Bhopal disaster in India in 1984 when a chemical leak from a Union Carbide factory killed thousands of people and injured hundreds of thousands more. In response, Maya decided to study aquatic toxicology. After getting her graduate degrees, she moved to California, where she worked as an environmental consultant. In May 2014, she was assigned a new project and, as she summarized, "everything changed."

The new project involved studying black-backed woodpeckers in the forests of the Sierra Nevada. The black-backed

woodpecker is strongly associated with intensely burned forests. As she learned on the first day of the project from lead researcher Dr. Chad Hanson, black-backed woodpeckers and other wildlife benefitted from the intense forest fires that are often misleadingly called catastrophic fires. Upon learning about the ecological importance of intense forest fires, Maya was amazed. She went to Chad Hanson and said, "This needs to be a film. No one is going to believe us that there is all this life in a forest after a high-severity burn unless I film it." So, in addition to participating in the black-backed woodpecker study, she began filming it. She also documented the Forest Service's efforts to clearcut the vibrant post-fire forests.

By the end of 2016, Maya had completed a 30-minute documentary titled *Searching for the Gold Spot: The Wild After Wildfire*. (The title refers to the gold spot on the head of the male black-backed woodpecker.) In 2017, PBS picked up her documentary and it subsequently aired on various PBS stations.

The end of 2017 marked another transformative point for Maya. She was living in Sonoma County, north of San Francisco, when a cluster of large wildfires known collectively as the Wine Country Fires heavily impacted the region. Maya was faced with reconciling the ecological benefits she had seen from large wildfires in forests with the devastating effects of fire on her community.

To aid in this reconciliation, Maya drew on another of her talents—poetry. In 2018, Maya received the honor of being selected to be the Poet Laureate for Sonoma County. She took on this role specifically to use poetry as a tool to help her community heal. She organized poetry events that brought people together within the fire’s footprint where they could better recognize that natural areas they assumed had been destroyed were in fact filled with new life.

Meanwhile, Maya continued to participate in field research and filming showing the abundant life in the post-fire forests of the Sierra Nevada. In a recurring theme in Maya’s work, she focused on making conservation science more accessible and engaging for the public. Maya also worked to make sure that conservation science was applied to guide public policy. She engaged extensively with local environmental groups and policymakers in Sonoma County in the wake of the Wine Country Fires. As a result, Maya was selected to receive Sonoma County’s Environmental Activist of the Year Award in 2020.

In her community, Maya has faced the problem of logging proponents using the fires as a justification for more logging. Ironically, as a result, some of the worst ecological damage comes from actions done after a fire. Recently, Maya has witnessed a concurrent effort to promote biomass power facilities that would be fueled by trees cut in her region. The harms from biomass facilities to forests and communities in the eastern US has been well-documented in the 2017 film *Burned: Are Trees the New Coal?*. Inspired by the impact of this movie, Maya is now working with the producers of *Burned* on a new documentary project focused on the growing threat from the biomass industry in the western US.

For all these reasons, the Fund for Wild Nature has selected Maya Khosla to receive our 2023 Grassroots Activist of the Year Award. We have presented her with a \$1,000 check and a trophy in celebration of her work combining science and poetry in support of grassroots environmental protection.

2022 Grantees

New grantees are underlined

Alaska Wildlife Alliance [AK] \$3,000

Support for protecting the genetically distinct Alexander Archipelago wolves through litigation, working toward better regulations, and community outreach.

Alliance for the Wild Rockies [MT] \$5,000

Funding for litigation to prevent the Forest Service from evading NEPA information requirements and require it to publicly share plans for logging and burning in the Caribou and Salmon Challis national forests.

Applegate Siskiyou Alliance [OR] \$3,000

Grant for Forest Watch activities, including activism, advocacy and litigation, to safeguard forests and wildlife on BLM and Forest Service lands in the Applegate Siskiyou region.

Arizona Mining Reform Coalition [AZ] \$3,000

Funds to defend Oak Flat from the proposed Rio Tinto Resolution copper mine and to keep the land in public ownership and permanently protected.

Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative [IN] \$3,000

Support for the Save the Mudpuppies campaign to safeguard mudpuppy salamanders from mortality due to ice fishing.

Battle Creek Alliance [CA] \$5,000

Funds to shield the Battle Creek watershed from cumulative impacts of forest, habitat, and water degradation by data collection and legal action.

Beaver Institute [MA] \$3,000

Grant to protect beavers from trapping and other types of killing, and to support non-lethal beaver management and watershed restoration through a national advocacy, education, and training campaign.

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project [OR] \$5,000

Funding for Forest Watch to defend national forests in Eastern Oregon from ecologically destructive logging, livestock grazing, and poisoning through field surveys, public comments, and litigation.

Buffalo River Watershed Alliance [AR] \$3,000

Support for permanently protecting the Buffalo National River watershed from waste and pollution due to concentrated animal feeding operations.

Community Action Project [CA] \$3,000

Funding to protect 34 special status species from urban development over approximately 500,000 acres of private land in the central Sierra Nevada through litigation on the Calaveras County General Plan.

Conservation Congress [CA] \$5,000

Funds for forest monitoring, objections, and litigation to halt timber sales in habitat for Northern Spotted Owls and other late-successional forest dependent species on national forests in northern California.



Cottonwood Environmental Law Center [MT] \$3,000

Support to protect grizzly bears and bighorn sheep by analyzing effects of domestic sheep grazing.

EF!, a new musical about Earth First! \$2,500

Grant for a new musical about Earth First! that will directly support direct action environmental campaigns via an immersive performance held outdoors at specific natural sites directly threatened by industry and development.

Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force [MT] \$3,000

Grant to safeguard wildlife and plants in the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests by gaining public support for the “Lolo-Bitterroot Partnership” plan for science-based forest management along with legal action.

Footloose Montana [MT] \$5,000

Funding to protect animals from recreational trapping and snaring on public lands in Montana and across the U.S.

Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves [IL] \$3,000

Support for protection and conservation of Bell Bowl Prairie and rare and endangered species through outreach, legal action, and advocacy.

Friends of the Bitterroot [MT] \$5,000

Funds for Forest Watch activities to protect forests and habitat linkages for grizzly bears from damaging logging through ground-truth public comments, and litigation of logging projects.

Friends of the Pelicans [FL] \$5,000

Support for protecting Florida’s declining seabird populations from fishing line entanglement through advocacy, intervention, and education.

Friends of the Wild Swan [MT] \$4,000

Funds to safeguard grizzly bears, bull trout, Canada lynx and other wildlife from ecologically harmful logging and road building by influencing agency decisions and through outreach, education and litigation.

Gallatin Wildlife [MT] \$4,000

Grant to advocate for wildlife corridors and connectivity enhancement by protecting connectivity routes and advocating for wildlife-crossing structures in the Gallatin region.

Grasslands Unlimited [NE] \$3,000

Funding to promote larger and more resilient elk populations in southeast Colorado through advocacy and influencing administrative rulemaking to prevent overhunting and mismanagement.

Humane Action Pittsburgh [PA] \$1,500

Support for the 'Love your Wild Neighbor' project to safeguard wild animals perceived as nuisances from euthanasia by animal control.

Kentucky Heartwood [KY] \$4,000

Support for Forest Watch activities to protect federally-listed species and forests in Kentucky from logging through field-based documentation, outreach, and litigation.

Klamath Forest Alliance [OR] \$4,000

Grant to defend the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains from damaging logging, grazing, off-road vehicles and other threats using monitoring, advocacy, litigation, and public campaigns.

Native Ecosystems Council [MT] \$4,000

Funding for Forest Watch activities including comments, objections and litigation on 6 national forests in the Northern Rockies.

NE Forest Watch [NJ] \$3,500

Support for a billboard campaign to promote protection of intact contiguous forests in New Jersey.

Pacific NW Forest Climate Alliance [OR] \$3,000

Grant to establish a Forest Climate Resource Library to share useful documents among the over 70 advocacy groups in the alliance.

Palm Springs Wildlife Advocates [CA] \$4,000

Funds for the Poison-Free Coachella Valley campaign to safeguard desert species from rodenticides through education and policy change advocacy.

Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition [ID] \$3,000

Support to defend Palouse Prairie habitat from an environmentally destructive relocation plan for Hwy95 with a lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers' Clean Water Act permit approval.

Public Lands Media [OR] \$5,000

Support to protect forests from logging projects and “fuel reduction” programs through public education about wildfire and forest policies across the West through newspaper commentaries and other media outreach.

Raptors Are the Solution [CA] \$4,000

Funding toward banning second generation anticoagulants and other dangerous anticoagulant rat poisons that also kill raptors and other wildlife.

RESTORE: The North Woods [MA] \$5,000

Grant to protect New England forests from logging and development by designating state lands as parks and reserves in Massachusetts and expanding the National Park System in the Maine Woods.

Snake River Waterkeeper [ID] \$3,000

Support efforts to enforce the Clean Water Act to protect the Snake River from pollution.

Sound Action [WA] \$5,000

Funding to protect Puget Sound nearshore habitat from development impacts through watchdog work and legal action based on review of every WA state nearshore development permit issued -- over 500 each year.

Standing Trees [VT] \$5,000

Support for legal defense to protect the White and Green Mountain National Forests in Vermont and New Hampshire from damaging logging.

Swan View Coalition [MT] \$4,000

Grant to protect grizzly bears, bull trout, and other wildlife on the Flathead National Forest from logging, roads, and commercial recreation through public comments and litigation.

Tennessee Heartwood [TN] \$5,000

Funding to protect state and federal lands in Tennessee through advocacy, media work, ground truthing proposed timber sales, and litigation.

The Rewilding Institute [NM] \$5,000

Support for restoring apex predator populations in the northeastern U.S. by preventing killing of carnivores and habitat destruction through rewilding and promoting carnivore management reform.

Wildlife for All [NM] \$3,000

Funds to create a toolkit to empower wildlife advocates to reform state wildlife management to prioritize preservation rather than consumptive uses like hunting, angling, trapping and egregious killing contests.

Yellowstone to Uintas Connection [ID] \$5,000

Grant to protect wildlife and habitat connectivity from harmful logging on federal lands in the region using public comments and litigation.



Badger Boost Grants

The Fund for Wild Nature received a generous bequest in 2021. In recognition of the extinction crisis, our board of directors decided to disburse these funds for special situations where feisty biodiversity groups--those we've supported for many years--need a larger grant than what we typically provide. We used the bequest to create the Badger Boost program. The invitation-only Badger Boost grants enable small but bold and highly effective regional grassroots groups to boost their capacity to protect wild nature.

- **Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project**

We provided a Badger Boost grant to **Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project** to hire their first Staff Attorney. Since 1991, BMBP field surveys every major timber sale on the Ochoco, Malheur, Umatilla, and Deschutes National Forests in Eastern Oregon, and engages in the public comment process and strategic litigation. The new Staff Attorney position increases BMBP's capacity to mount legal challenges to safeguard these national forests from ecologically harmful logging, poisoning, and other threats. Their work ensures a future for many native species such as American marten, northern goshawk, pileated woodpeckers, northern spotted owls, bull trout, and Mid-Columbia River steelhead.

- **Alliance for Wild Rockies**

This Badger Boost grant assisted the Alliance for Wild Rockies with attorney costs for its lawsuit against the "Middleman" logging project on Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest in Montana. This large project seeks to cut more than 6,000 acres and is targeting some of the best wildlife habitat in this landscape. It would harm an important wildlife travel corridor for lynx, grizzly bears, and wolverines.

Financial Statement

(Regular funds above with Hauser-Badger Boost Fund included below)

Financial Position on January 1	Year 2021	Year 2022
Assets	\$210,745	\$239,159
Liabilities (unpaid grants)	\$9,000	\$40,500
Net Assets	\$201,745	\$198,659

Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue

Contributions, unrestricted	\$158,889	\$192,507
Investment Income	\$140	(\$170)
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$159,029	\$192,337

Expenses

Grants awarded	\$153,000	\$155,500
Administration and Fundraising	\$9,115	\$11,076
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$162,115	\$166,576

Change in Net Assets	(\$3,086)	\$25,761
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Financial Position on December 31	Year 2021	Year 2022
Assets	\$239,159	\$247,420
Liabilities (Dec 31 unpaid grants)	\$40,500	\$23,000
Net Assets	\$198,659	\$224,420

Hauser-Badger Boost Fund included below

Badger Boost grants awarded	\$0	\$60,000
Hauser-Badger Boost Fund on Dec 31	\$445,916	\$385,916
Net Assets on Dec 31 including Hauser-Badger Boost	\$644,575	\$610,336



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