

# COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2021

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CELEBRATING  
25 YEARS OF OUR  
WILDLIFE FRIENDLIER  
FENCING PROGRAM!



JACKSON HOLE



WILDLIFE  
FOUNDATION

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# CALCULATING OUR SUCCESSES

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"THE JACKSON HOLE  
WILDLIFE FOUNDATION  
ADVANCES WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION DRIVEN BY  
SCIENCE, COLLABORATION,  
AND A COMMUNITY OF  
VOLUNTEERS."

## **I was curious, so I did a little math.**

In 2010, researchers from Utah State University determined that one ungulate is killed for every 2.5 miles of fence each year in the West. Conservatively, the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation has removed or improved 238 miles of fence.

By those numbers, we are now saving about 100 deer, elk, moose, bison and pronghorn each year. The estimates from the study do not account for animals that succumb to fence injuries away from the fence and do not account for the consequences of added stress that result in females having poor reproductive success or males having shorter lives. These researchers also did not analyze the impact of fences on other mammals or birds. In my estimation, we have saved thousands of lives. These are real, tangible results that I am so proud of. And every single one of these lives is important.

Due to our work, fences in Jackson are going away. But there are many more yet to remove. Next year, we embark on a fence inventory in the Forest and Park that will help us gauge how things stand on public lands. We need your hands and your support to continue our fence mitigation into the future.

Help us celebrate 25 years of committed passion to remove fences so wildlife can move freely through open landscapes.

Thank you for your support and your care for wildlife.



## **Renee Seidler**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





## TEN YEARS AGO, MY WIFE AND I WERE CONSIDERING BUYING A PLACE IN THE MOUNTAIN WEST

At the time, we were still living on the east coast and Park City was the clear favorite because of its easier accessibility and let's face it, easier skiing.

In the end, the allure of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) and its iconic and unique wildlife swayed us in the other direction, although ten years later we are still adjusting to Jackson's ski verts.

We're thankful we landed in a place where values of landscape and wildlife stewardship are so intertwined with our community's vision for its future.

Living within the GYE comes with added responsibility.

That is why, as a community, we overwhelmingly approved a SPET tax that provides millions of dollars to build overpasses at critical wildlife crossings on our ever-busier roads. It's why we have a dedicated group of hundreds of Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation (JHWF) volunteers who give up weekends during the summer to remove or modify obsolete fence making it easier for wildlife to migrate.

It's why JHWF and other organizations are now working with County Commissioners to come up with a solution to the increasing number of bear/food conflicts in our neighborhoods.

## Bruce Pasfield

EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESIDENT

There are some easy solutions to these problems, and there are more challenging ones. At JHWF, we are dedicated to listening to our community, exchanging views, and trying to come up with win-win solutions that allow our community and our wildlife to thrive.

Our staff and board have significant years of experience in wildlife biology and related fields and are dedicated to helping our community develop common sense solutions to our wildlife management problems. I feel privileged to have been part of this effort and look forward to another productive year at JHWF.

# FENCE TEAM LEAD VOLUNTEERS

*Leading the way in conservation* 

We are so grateful to these leaders who play an essential role in helping to coordinate volunteer efforts and providing on-the-ground support for our Wildlife Friendlier Fence Program. As part of the program's 25th anniversary, we celebrate the commitment of our Lead Fence Volunteers who are instrumental to the lasting success of this program!



## Steve Morriss

Steve humbly provides wisdom and leadership that guides staff and volunteers along a path of community-led wildlife conservation.

## Gretchen Plender

Gretchen helps with on-the-ground logistics and volunteer coordination. A fierce advocate for wildlife, she is the longest serving member of the Fence Leadership Team.



## Randy Reedy

JHWF's fence program thrives under Randy's steady hand. For over a decade, Randy's dedication has been one of our most invaluable assets.



## Scott Landale

Scott is a strong and seasoned fence leader, helping us accomplish some of our most physically challenging fence removals with passion for 11 years.





# WILDLIFE FRIENDLIER FENCING



Volunteers remove obsolete barbed-wire from a ridge above Goosewing Creek in August.

## FENCE STATS FROM 2021...



**846 - TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS SPENT ON FENCE REMOVAL PROJECTS**



**16.1 MILES OF FENCE REMOVED OR IMPROVED**



**OVER 60 INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATED IN FENCE REMOVAL**



**9 PUBLIC FENCE REMOVAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN THE JACKSON HOLE AREA**

This year, staff and volunteers continued our tradition of working on private, state, and federal lands to remove or improve over sixteen miles of fence.

These actions help make Wyoming's landscape safer and more permeable for wildlife. Even twenty-five years from its origin, our Wildlife Friendlier Fencing Program continues to foster a wonderful ethic of conservation in our community.

After all, what's more fun than spending a Saturday 'getting one's hands dirty' to reduce barriers to movement and migration for the wildlife we love?



Kate creates a "drop-fence" to benefit wildlife in Sublette County.



JHWF lowered over seven miles of barbed-wire fence in Sublette County in 2021, increasing landscape permeability for Sage-Grouse and other wildlife.



Cameras captured pronghorn passing easily through the fences after the wires on this drop-fence had been lowered!



# NATURE MAPPING JH



We expanded our education and outreach efforts this year. Pictured is Hilary working with students from the Teton Literacy Center

51



Number of new Nature Mappers trained during five virtual seminars. Welcome to the NMJH community!

108



Number of volunteer participants in Moose Day - a record number!

600



Individual birds captured at our MAPS banding stations, which are the longest running of their kind in the region!

Since 2009, Nature Mapping Jackson Hole has been an integral aspect of the conservation community in Jackson Hole.

As we continue to build this citizen-science program, we incorporate new projects and expand our Nature Mapping reach to new areas. For the first time, we are training nature mappers outside of Teton County to report their wildlife observations, and by next year we hope to have a fully developed smartphone application so our community scientists can nature map on the go.

We appreciate our outstanding team of volunteers who have committed to these projects over the years. Without you, none of this would be possible!



Don't forget to check out the latest report on bluebird monitoring program at [www.jhwildlife.org](http://www.jhwildlife.org)!





"Building our brand" after collaborating with partners to bring flashing radar to Wilson!

# OTHER PROJECTS



## 2021 kept us busy with much more than just fences and Nature Mapping.

Although there remains much to be done, we made significant progress building a more bear-friendly Jackson Hole with our partners, raising awareness about the ecological importance of the Snake River Corridor, and working to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions in our valley.



We also celebrated the launch of our Being Wild Jackson Hole campaign, funded by the Jackson Hole Travel and Tourism Board. This campaign is designed to strengthen visitor bonds to wildlife conservation through storytelling, education, and opportunities to get involved in science and conservation.

Be sure to watch Being Wild's "Wild Women of Wildlife" video series, which celebrates the amazing women who study, advocate for and manage wildlife.



### Give Wildlife a Brake

- Funded 5 flashing radar signs to slow drivers on Highway 390
- Removed wildlife hazards from South Highway 89 underpass
- Launched digital advertising campaign targeted at motorists



### Bearwise Jackson Hole

- Helped rewrite county code to reduce human-bear conflicts
- Organized strategy meetings between stakeholder groups
- Served as the go-to source for education in our community on living with wild bears



### Snake River Corridor Project

- Launched official webpage
- Secured funding for future levee wildlife ramps
- Worked to design future educational curriculum for local students





# Project Spotlight: Neighbors to Nature

This project engages volunteers to help document wildlife activity and trail use in the Greater Snow King Area using trail cameras, with a goal of scientifically understanding recreational patterns and ecological trends on the public land bordering Jackson.

**28** *Cameras maintained by staff and volunteers!*

## Why do you volunteer to maintain trail cameras?

### *Forest Dramis*

"It allows me to spend time outdoors recreating while at the same time helping to inform others of the importance of wildlife habitat near town."

### *Tom Hargis*

"I thought helping out with the cameras was a great form of community service. Also I was curious to see how often mountain lions use the trail up Wilson Canyon"

### *Leo Harland*

"Without data and evidence it's more difficult to convince the powers-that-be that wilderness and wildlife habitat is important"



*We thank you for your generous support!*

## HELP US GROW OUR IMPACT WITH AN END-OF-YEAR GIFT!

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE JACKSON HOLE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ONLINE AT [JHWILDLIFE.ORG](http://JHWILDLIFE.ORG), BY MAILING A CHECK TO: PO BOX 8042, JACKSON WY, 83002, OR BY GIFTS OF APPRECIATED STOCK, BONDS OR MUTUAL FUNDS. GIVE US A CALL AT (307) 739-0968 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO GIVE!

PHOTOS IN THIS REPORT GENEROUSLY DONATED BY CHRIS PAIGE (@WANDEROFFTRAIL) AND JOSH METTEN (@JOSHMETTENPHOTO).