

2023

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

JACKSON HOLE

CELEBRATING



30 Years

WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION

1993 - 2023



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"You are so important to helping us protect wildlife."

This has been a big year for Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, which seems appropriate given that we are celebrating our 30th anniversary. 2023 has seen the expansion of the Bear Wise JH program, creation of a three-year strategic plan, and the launch of our invasive weeds removal projects!



When I think about all the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation volunteers, staff, supporters, and partners that have worked to advance wildlife conservation for 30 years, I am in awe and find myself wondering what this wild community would look like without our work. Despite a massive increase in growth—people, houses, businesses, trails, roads, traffic—we have been able to counter detrimental impacts by protecting and restoring open landscape. One of our biggest accomplishments for wildlife that we invest in every year is helping animals continue to move through the landscape.

And how are we able to achieve this? With lots of helping hands. We all play a role in striving towards preservation of wildlife and their habitat. We are a strong team and we are known for our robust partnerships, our deep understanding of the importance of science, and our ability to engage large groups of volunteers in hands-on conservation activities that benefit the wildlife and human community alike.

Please enjoy this Annual Impact Report and learn how you and your community have made a difference. With deep gratitude to you and to our founders and volunteers through the years,

Renee Feidler

OUR MISSION

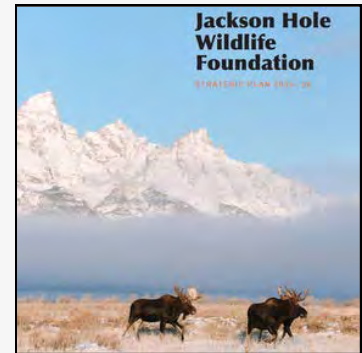
**ADVANCING WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION THROUGH
SCIENCE, COLLABORATION,
AND A COMMUNITY OF
VOLUNTEERS**

The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation was established three decades ago by a dedicated group of individuals seeking to improve coexistence between wildlife and the community.

Our organization's mission is realized primarily through on-site initiatives, which we undertake in partnership with agencies, organizations, and private landowners. We also gather and disseminate wildlife data that can inform wildlife-friendly policies and increase understanding of how to reduce potential conflict with our wild neighbors.

OUR VISION

**THE CONSERVATION
OF WILDLIFE AND
THEIR HABITATS
THROUGH INFORMED
DECISIONS AROUND
LAND USE,
DEVELOPMENT, AND
A CHANGING CLIMATE**



JHWF announces its strategic plan for 2024-2026 and invites interested parties to request a copy.

OUR TIMELINE

1993

JHWF is founded to promote ways for our community to live compatibly with wildlife.

1994

Give Wildlife a Brake begins with an analysis of roadkill data and determination of roadkill "hotspots."

2006

JHWF buys six portable message signs to inform the public on dangerous wildlife-vehicle collision areas.

2010

JHWF & Bear Wise partners purchase a bear trailer to help our community learn to avoid conflicts with bears.

2015

Nature Mappers recorded their 35,000th wildlife observation.

2018

JHWF assumes responsibility for a Jackson Hole bird monitoring program known as MAPS.

2019

JHWF helps advance \$10 million dollars in funding for wildlife crossing solutions in Teton County.

2023

Launches an Invasive Weed Removal Program to combat the spread of noxious weeds.



8.5 MILES OF FENCE

Removed or improved to benefit wildlife movement. Over 70 volunteers were key to this accomplishment.



28 PARTICIPANTS

On Snake River Float Trips, a unique Sunday tradition where nature mappers record wildlife observations from Wilson Bridge to South Park.



2023
ACHIEVEMENTS

520 INDIVIDUALS

Trained on the proper use of bear spray via the "charging bear" demonstration at various community events.



682 BIRDS

Captured, marked, and released at our bird banding stations, enabling us to collect long-term data to help understand population trends.

10 MILES OF FENCE

Lowered seasonally by JHWF staff & volunteers in Sublette County, WY in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management



164 NATURE MAPPERS

Contributed a wildlife observation this year to the Nature Mapping database, which helps scientists and land managers better understand wildlife movements and habitats.



WILDLIFE FRIENDLIER FENCING

REDUCING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE MOVEMENT

Removing or making wildlife-friendly adjustments to fences has been a core part of our work for 30 years! We still rely on volunteer support to accomplish the vast majority of fence removal projects, especially in Teton County. This year, volunteers pitched in on 8 “fence projects” which included removing obsolete fence in moose and priority wetland habitat along the Teton River in Idaho, through an elk movement route above Game Creek and in the Gros Ventre where pronghorn give birth. Thank you to all who made this year such a success!

2023 WILDLIFE-FRIENDLIER FENCING STATS

8.5 MILES OF
FENCE
REMOVED OR
IMPROVED



1,425
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



76 INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEERS



HOW DOES FENCE NEGATIVELY IMPACT WILDLIFE?

Research indicates that one ungulate is killed for every 2.5 miles of fence each year in the American West.



A MAJOR MILESTONE

A multi-mile barbed wire fence was successfully removed in the Gros Ventre Wilderness in 2023, marking the end of a three-year project.

A RECORD SETTING YEAR LOWERING FENCES

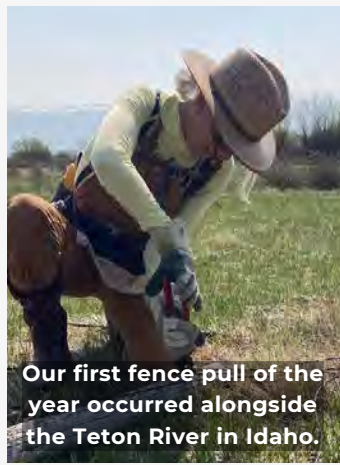
We lowered 10-miles of “drop fence” near Sage Grouse breeding sites to reduce fence strike mortalities and improve seasonal ranges for pronghorn and mule deer.



Left: Associate Director Kate Gersh lowers wires on a drop fence. Right: “Teamwork makes the dream work” when rolling barbed wire in the Gros Ventre!



Extracting massive rolls of barbed wire from the Spread Creek area was a major success.



Our first fence pull of the year occurred alongside the Teton River in Idaho.



Martin and Nate make a fence wildlife-friendlier by adjusting wire height and adding a smooth bottom wire.



It's not every day we have a Humvee at our disposal to haul an obsolete fence out of an elk movement route, but we'll take it!



0.5 miles of barbed wire was removed from Elliot Creek in early October.


Habitat restoration project partners and funders include:



Teton Conservation District
Est. 1946

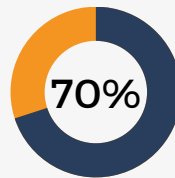


OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH WYOMING GAME AND FISH, BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK STRIVES TO KEEP BEARS WILD AND PEOPLE SAFE.

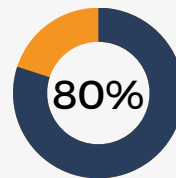


Bear Wise Jackson Hole distributed more than 120 cans of bear spray to hikers and hunters at select events.

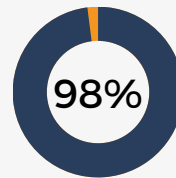
Compliance in areas
w/new regulations
(Town of Jackson)



Compliance in areas
w/new regulations
(Teton County)



Compliance in areas
w/previously existing
regs. (Teton County)



Percentages represent estimates as of September, 2023.

WE REACHED OVER
10,000 RESIDENTS
AND VISITORS
THROUGH BULK
MAILERS, FLYERS,
AND
PRESENTATIONS!

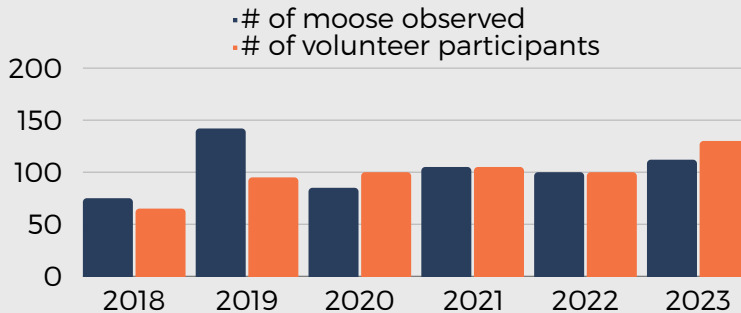


Bear Wise Jackson Hole's education and outreach efforts led to improved trash-storage compliance rates in the Town of Jackson and Teton County.

MOOSE DAY 2023

THIS SINGLE-DAY SURVEY HELPS BIOLOGISTS ESTIMATE THE MOOSE POPULATION IN JACKSON HOLE

Our annual moose count drew a record number of participants, who surveyed 59 areas. These areas ranged as far north as Arizona Creek in Grand Teton National Park, east along the Gros Ventre River, west to the Idaho border, and south to the Teton County border. Participants observed 112 moose, which is roughly on trend with previous years. We celebrated with a delicious post-Moose Day hot lunch at Snake River Brewing!



INVASIVE WEEDS REMOVAL

MANAGING INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES IS CRUCIAL FOR SAFEGUARDING WILDLIFE HABITAT.

This year, JHWF volunteers took responsibility for Coburn Meadow on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. As part of our commitment, we have pledged to annually manage invasive weed treatment at this dispersed camping site and popular recreation destination. Given the high volume of visitors, both in-state and out-of-state, the Forest Service has begun to rely on volunteers to manage invasive species. Without these volunteers these services would not happen due to lack of capacity.

➤➤➤ HOW DO INVASIVE WEEDS AFFECT WILDLIFE?

Invasive weeds negatively impact wildlife habitats, causing a reduction in desirable forages, habitat degradation, and displacement of native vegetation, resulting in lower habitat value for wildlife.

HOW TO REMOVE HOUNDSTONGUE AND MUSK THISTLE

Use a shovel to cleave the roots 1-2 inches below soil. In addition, if the flower is showing or the plant has already gone to seed, cut the head off, bag, and remove it from site.



HOUNDSTONGUE

MUSK THISTLE

NEW PROJECT
IN 2023!

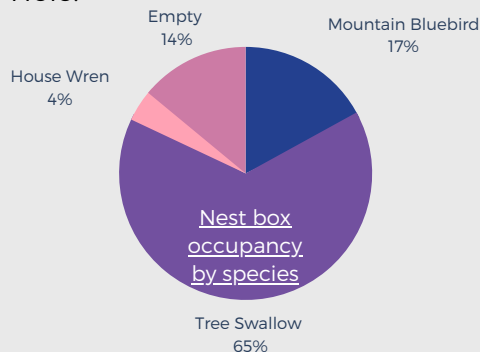


Volunteers removed invasive weeds like houndstongue, musk thistle, and bull thistle during the first of two weed removal projects this summer at Coburn Meadow.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD NEST BOX MONITORING

OUR BLUEBIRD TRAIL HAS 111 NEST BOXES THAT HELP COMPENSATE FOR LOST NESTING HABITAT.

Since 2003, JHWF and our volunteers have monitored and maintained a “bluebird trail” on the western edge of the National Elk Refuge. In 2017, we began marking the Mountain Bluebirds that use our nest boxes with color bands to better understand breeding site fidelity, survivorship, and dispersal. These banding data provide invaluable insight into the lives of the bluebirds in Jackson Hole.



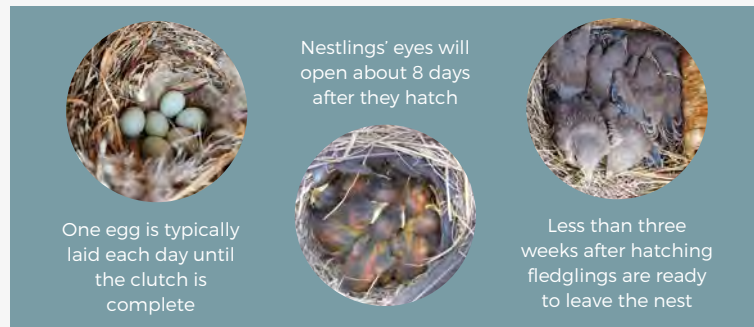
READ THE 2023 BLUEBIRD REPORT



jhwildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Mountain-Bluebird-Monitoring-Report-2023.pdf

>>> HOW DID NESTING BLUEBIRDS FARE THIS YEAR?

Volunteer-collected data revealed mixed results, with early-season success followed by nest failures likely caused by anomalously variable spring weather.

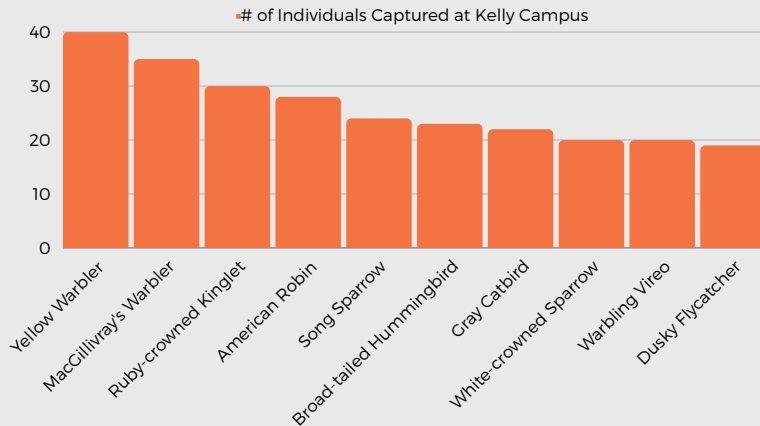




MAPS BIRD BANDING

LONG-TERM MONITORING AIDS IN ASSESSING THE HEALTH OF BREEDING BIRD POPULATIONS IN THE MOUNTAIN WEST.

This year was JHWF's sixth year running the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) bird banding project. We banded birds from June-August at two banding stations in Kelly and Jackson and captured 682 birds of 47 species. We were thrilled with record-breaking station visitation by the local public!



Hilary bands a Yellow Warbler, the most common species captured this year.



Songbirds populations can indicate the overall health of an ecosystem.



18 volunteers and interns assisted banding efforts while our stations engaged over 100 total visitors.

READ THE 2023 MAPS BANDING REPORT



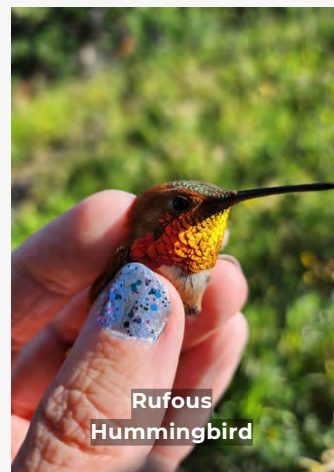
<https://jhwildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023-MAPS-Banding-Report.pdf>



Hermit Thrush



Bird banders Vicki Morgan and Kevin Perozeni at the Kelly, WY banding station.



Rufous Hummingbird



MacGillivray's warbler



American Goldfinch



Cassin's Vireo



Photo: Mark Gocke

GIVE WILDLIFE A BRAKE

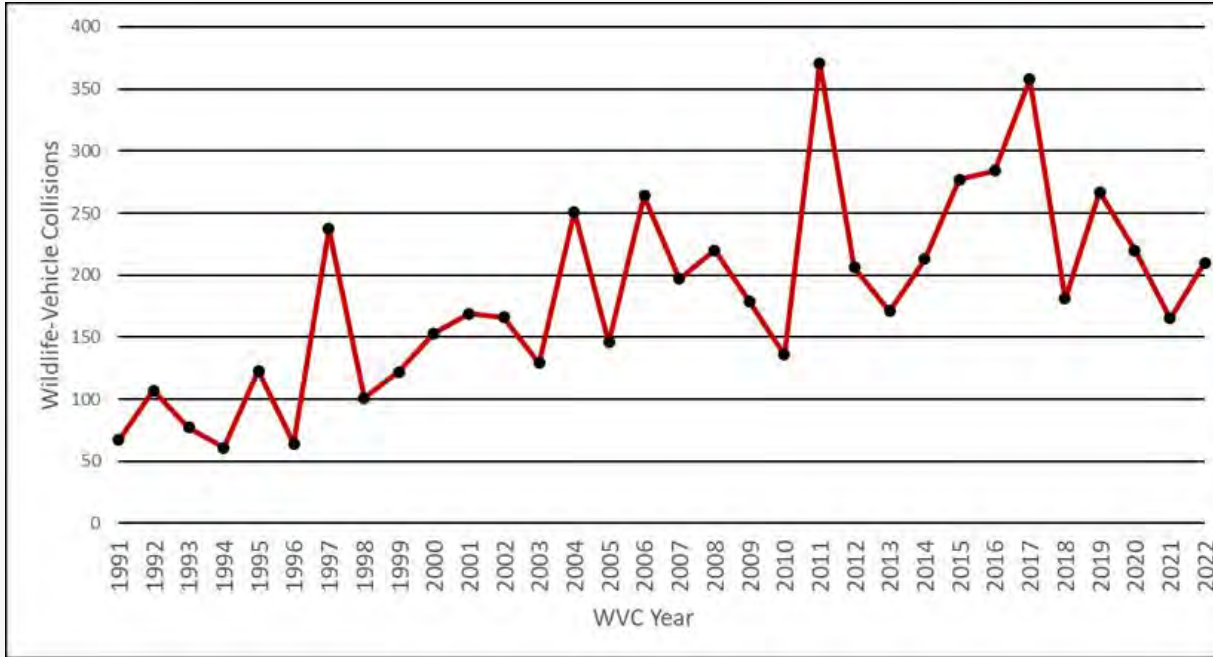
With additional wildlife crossings planned in the coming years, we are partnering with WYDOT and Teton County to help animals safely cross roads and connect to important habitat without having to dodge traffic. Some of these crossings are currently being built at the WY 22-390 highway intersection. Others are being planned north of town along the Elk Refuge, on Teton Pass, and east of Hoback Junction. Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation has helped influence not only the location of these

crossings, but also the design. These projects are being funded in part by the 2019 SPET tax that we worked hard to enact.

“WE BEGAN WITH SCIENCE: COLLECTING HEARTBREAKING DATA ON WHAT, WHERE AND WHEN ANIMALS WERE BEING KILLED ON OUR ROADS. WE STILL DO THIS WORK, AND IT HAS INFORMED WHERE WE PLACE DIGITAL MESSAGING SIGNS TO WARN DRIVERS, IT HAS PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR PRIORITIZING WILDLIFE MITIGATION LOCATIONS FOR THE COUNTY AND WYDOT, AND IT HELPED PASS A TAX MEASURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO BUILD WILDLIFE CROSSINGS.”

- RENEE SEIDLER

Total Annual WVCs in Teton County, WY



DATA OVERVIEW

The number of reported wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) in Teton County has increased since roadkill data collection began, but the WVC rate has recently decreased with unknown reasons. This could be due to various factors like mitigation efforts, driver awareness, weather, management decisions, or increased traffic density.



READ THE LATEST TETON COUNTY WILDLIFE-VEHICLE COLLISION REPORT

jhwildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2021to2022_WVC_SummaryReport-1.pdf

DID YOU KNOW?
HIGH TRAFFIC DENSITY
ON A ROAD CAN
OBSTRUCT WILDLIFE
MOVEMENT AS EASILY
AS A HIGH FENCE



Nature Mappers learn from Senior Tracker Casey McFarland.



Did you know? Bird banding visits are encouraged with advance notice.



JHWF was a hit at the 4th grade Wildlife Expo!

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

CREATING A COMMUNITY BASED ON LOCAL ETHICS AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

We engaged 200+ individuals in various continuing education opportunities this year. Our list of free, expert-led presentations and mini-class included:

- Track and Sign Evaluation with Casey McFarland
- Bats and Insects by Harlan Gough
- Small Mammals of the GYE by Dan Bachen
- Birding for Beginners with Hilary Turner
- Raptor ID Talk with Teton Raptor Center
- Reptile ID and Ecology by Dr. Chuck Peterson
- Moose Seminar with Aly Courtemanch

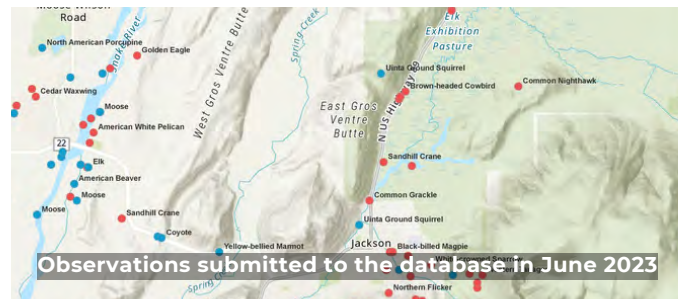
These presentations are available on our Youtube channel. We were especially proud to engage with 845 students ages 2-18 at banding stations, school field trips, afterschool clubs, the 4th grade Wildlife Expo, and the Living Lab project on High School Butte.



NATURE MAPPING JH

PUTTING WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS TO WORK

Did you know we are rapidly approaching the magical mark of 100,000 total verified observations in Nature Mapping Jackson Hole (NMJH) history? As of late 2023, just over 99,000 Causal Observations and Project Backyard observations have been submitted! This year, 164 citizen scientists made a total of 6,295 entries to our NMJH database. Of these, 22% were of 45 species of “Greatest Conservation Need” in Wyoming. This list includes species like tiger salamanders, bighorn sheep, river otters and more!



➤➤➤ CASE STUDY: HOW ARE NATURE MAPPING DATA USED?

Project Backyard and Casual Observations are added to the *Wyoming Observation System (WOS)* of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to aid in the development of species distribution models, which often lead to habitat preservation and other conservation actions. Recently, NMJH observations were requested to aid in the FHWA Teton Pass Corridor Study, as well as a Wyoming Department of Transportation evaluation of roadkill on Wyoming Highway 22 between Jackson and Wilson.



PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: ASHELY EGAN

**USFS BIOLOGIST AT
THE BRIDGER-TETON
NATIONAL FOREST**



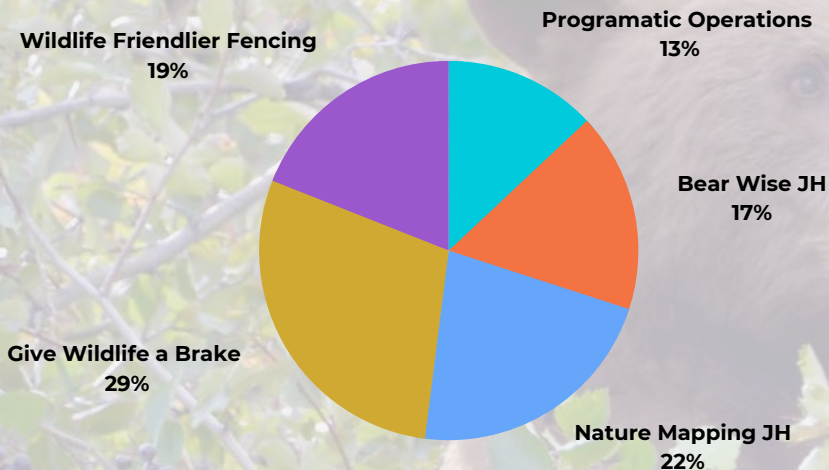
"THE BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST IS INCREDIBLY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE JACKSON HOLE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION AS A PARTNER IN WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION."

"Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation continues to be a significant asset to the Forest. The Foundation assists with our efforts to improve wildlife habitat through wildlife friendly fence conversions and obsolete fence removals, education and outreach for wildlife species (including Grizzly bear conflict mitigation) wildlife data collection, and new this year, invasive species infestation treatment efforts. Our collaboration has proven to benefit a wide-range of wildlife from birds to big-game, and facilitate wildlife permeability on our landscape. The commitment and compassion JHWF staff and volunteers demonstrates is apparent."

**-Ashely Egan, Wildlife Biologist at the
Bridger Teton National Forest**

JHWF FINANCIALS

>>> 2022 PROGRAMATIC EXPENSES



Program Category	Costs*
Give Wildlife a Brake	\$155,234
Wildlife Friendlier Fencing	\$101,735
Nature Mapping JH	\$117,078
Bear Wise JH	\$90,567
Operations	\$71,409
Total	\$536.023

*Costs include all elements needed to run the program

JOIN US IN EXPANDING OUR IMPACT BY MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

There are multiple ways to donate to the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, including:

- Online at www.jhwildlife.org
- Send a check via mail to:
PO Box 8042, Jackson, WY 83002
- Gift appreciated stock, bonds or mutual funds

For questions about making a donation, call us at (307) 739-0968.