

2017 JACKSON HOLE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

JACKSON HOLE



WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION

Fence expansion to connect corridors

Concerned citizens spur sign program

Growing the Nature Mapping
Jackson Hole program in the GYE

Photo: Henry Holdsworth



WILDLIFE FRIENDLIER FENCING

Volunteers Lend a Hand

**WE'RE
GROWING!**
LEARN MORE INSIDE



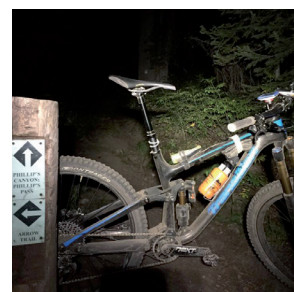
DRIVING IS A PRIVILEGE

Give Wildlife a Brake



BLUEBIRD BANDING

Bands Breed New Data



BEAR WISE BIKING

Don't ride into a bear.

Connecting our Wildlife Friendly Community



Board of Directors and JHWF Team

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Frances Clark, Nature Mapping Volunteer Coordinator and Trainer
Tim Griffith, Snake River Float Trip and Bluebird Nestbox Project Leader

FENCE TEAM

Gretchen Plender
Randy Reedy
Scott Landale
Steve Morriss
Bob Kopp



A Message from our Board President

This past year has included many changes at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, including intense sorrows and inspiring achievements. Last fall, we lost one of our most treasured and passionate volunteers, Greg Griffith, who coordinated our Wildlife Friendlier Fencing program. Losing Greg not only left a hole in the hearts of the JHWF community, but also in our flagship fence program. It was unclear if and how we would be able to fill the hole that Greg had left, and continue the program. However, the power of JHWF is in its extraordinary volunteers, and a "fence team" soon came together, including Randy Reedy, Gretchen Plender, Scott Landale, Bob Kopp, Steve Morriss and JHWF Executive Director Jon Mobeck. This team has succeeded in continuing the significant work required to set up, coordinate, and scout projects as well as lead volunteers on fence pulls.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Fence program and we are proud to announce that we have surpassed 183 miles of fence removed or modified to improve permeability for wildlife! This is thanks in large part to local landowners and land management agencies who have partnered with JHWF to find collaborative solutions to make fences more wildlife-friendly. We are looking forward to continuing this fantastic program that Greg and others built over the past 20 years.

This year, we also welcomed a new Executive Director, Jon Mobeck, and expanded our full-time staff to include an Associate Director, Kate Gersh and a part-time Marketing Coordinator, Christine Mychajliw. Thanks to their wealth of experience in our community and positive energy, the JHWF team is stronger than ever. You may have noticed several new initiatives and re-energized projects recently. We have initiated a new Give Park Wildlife a Brake partnership with Grand Teton National Park to implement measures aimed at reducing wildlife-

vehicle collisions. JHWF has already purchased two fixed radar signs that will be installed in the park soon. Also, volunteer Nature Mappers have been busy monitoring Mountain Bluebird nestboxes on the National Elk Refuge this summer. This "trail" of bluebird boxes is one of the longest in the United States, and our lead volunteer, Tim Griffith, has big plans to expand this project further next summer.

This year has been filled with ups and downs in the JHWF community, and I believe we have come through as a stronger organization due to the commitment of our volunteers, donors, board, staff and partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alyson Courtemanch'.

Alyson Courtemanch



Aly Courtemanch with one of her research subjects



Concerned Citizens Spur Sign Program

JHWF introduced a multi-faceted campaign to address wildlife-vehicle collisions in partnership with Grand Teton National Park this summer. As the first step, JHWF purchased and donated to the park two "RU2 Fast" fixed radar signs with flashing violator alerts. This winter, JHWF will continue to invite its supporters to match its initial \$20,000 contribution as National Park Service staff and JHWF discuss an array of additional solutions appropriate to site-specific issues in the park.

This targeted effort is an extension of our existing "Give Wildlife a Brake" partnership with GTNP, in which JHWF and the park remain committed to exploring every additional option designed to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions.

Interested supporters can contribute directly to this effort. Any matching funds raised will go directly toward on-the-ground solutions in the park.



Executive Director's Wildlife Notes

Growth is on the Wing at JHWF in 2018

What a fun and rewarding year! It has been an honor to join JHWF and contribute to a dedicated family of wildlife enthusiasts in this valley. The Greater Yellowstone community is home to some of the world's preeminent wildlife biologists and conservation advocates — from the Murie Family to Bert Raynes and many others. As we encourage connections between people and the landscapes they inhabit, we also deepen the roots established by those visionaries.

We help to ensure the survival of the wild spirit of this special place by embracing and promoting action, along with the values and ethics that support those actions. From removing a barbed wire fence to recording the fledging of a Mountain Bluebird, we encourage our neighbors to participate fully in the land community to which they belong.

We feel that effective wildlife and wild lands management policies are formed when people get involved, with their hands, eyes and ears. A communi-

ty that lives compatibly with wildlife is fully engaged with every sense.

At least 118 animals were hit on park roads in 2015, and 259 wildlife-vehicle collisions were recorded in Teton County outside of the park that year.

As we implement solutions with our park partners, we will also integrate county-wide efforts such as the Safe Wildlife Crossings Initiative — a collaborative of local and regional organizations — to ensure that barriers to wildlife movement throughout Jackson Hole are minimized.

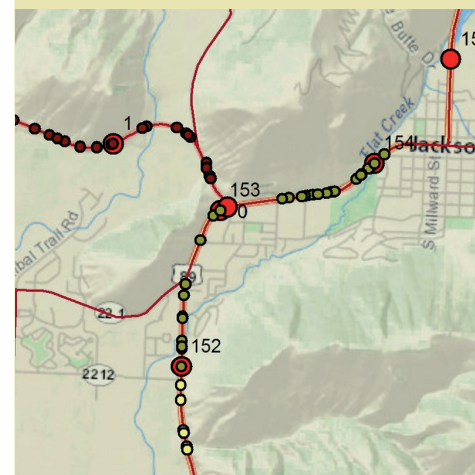


New Fixed Radar Signs for GTNP



Two new RU2 Fast signs, supported by our generous donors, will be placed in key wildlife hotspots in Grand Teton National Park to help reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

Mule Deer Hotspots



COST of Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions (Average)*

* Not including intrinsic and tourism value.



2016 - 2017 total cost = \$3.1M
1990 - 2017 total cost = \$51M

Fence Allstars



Fence Program Expansion to Connect Corridors

Program evolves to include permeable landscapes in other areas of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE).

Hundreds of volunteers, agency partners and landowners have helped remove or modify more than 183 miles of fence over the past two decades. That growing community of active volunteers provides a visible demonstration of our community's land ethic, while improving conditions for wildlife on the ground.

Fences can serve a purpose that meets human needs while also enabling wildlife movement. We create more permeable landscapes by working collaboratively with landowners and agency partners to reduce barriers and hazards to wildlife. Our partnerships with public agencies and private landowners are possible because of our nonpartisan, collaborative wildlife conservation efforts. These actions build a stronger conservation community that is more intimately connected to its local environment.

As development expands, wildlife searching for viable habitat increasingly intersect with human activities, creating the potential for negative human-wildlife encounters. The Greater

Yellowstone community must continue to study wildlife movement patterns — and evolving habitat utilization — in order to protect migration corridors and remove unnecessary impediments to wildlife movement.

Viable, connected habitat is at a premium. Creeping erosion and fragmentation of prime wildlife habitat is among the greatest threats to the health of our area's ecosystem. Teton County, Wyoming has established that "preserving and protecting the area's ecosystem" is a guiding principle of the highest value. The Wildlife Friendlier Fencing program is one response to this call to action. Its benefits to wildlife are tangible, as one readily sees at the end of a volunteer day when rolls of barbed wire are thrown into the back of a truck. Equally important are its intangible values. As Aldo Leopold once said, "when we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." When 43 volunteers gather on a rainy Saturday morning to remove a fence, it's hard not to feel that a community's land ethic is growing stronger. Together, we envision a future that celebrates and honors wildlife. That starts with what we do today.




Corridor Connection

OUR FENCE PROGRAM IS GROWING

JHWF has a plan to expand our Wildlife Friendlier Fence program to Lander, Pinedale and beyond.



View the details at jhwildlife.org



Year	Projects	Volunteers	Project Hours	Volunteer Hours	In-Kind Labor \$
2017	21	312	84	1320	\$31,680
2016	22	320	112	1623	\$38,952
2015	16	229	104	1093	\$26,304
2014	19	299	143	819	\$19,656
2013	25	400	129	1880	\$45,120
5-Year Total	103	1560	572	6735	\$161,712

Our Wildlife Friendlier Fencing program celebrated its 20th year in 2016

The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation staff and board celebrated the 20th anniversary of our Wildlife Friendlier Fencing program with more than 100 friends and volunteers on August 27 at the National Museum of Wildlife Art.

We premiered a 10-minute film titled “Free to Roam,” which captured the heart, spirit and science of the program and many of its volunteer leaders and partners. Sava and Spark Malachowski of Open Range Films created the film after spending many hours on project sites. Watch it at our website. In addition to the short film premiere, writer and

filmmaker Gregory Nickerson of the Wyoming Migration Initiative (WMI), presented “Wyoming’s Big Game Migrations: New Science Meets On-The-Ground Conservation.” We now know much more about the movement and habitat usage of ungulates. That knowledge provides a platform upon which communities can plan and implement wildlife-friendly policies and otherwise modify the impact of any human development on wildlife movement.

s celebration was a small way of saying thank you, on behalf of JHWF, and our valued wildlife.



FENCE STATS 2017

7.1 miles

Fence miles made friendlier for wildlife in 2017.

301 volunteers

Total volunteers on 22 fence projects in 2017.

8 years

Age of this year’s youngest volunteer Jackson , who was joined by his 10-year-old sister, June.

25,740 dollars

Amount of in-kind labor donated by volunteers in 2017.

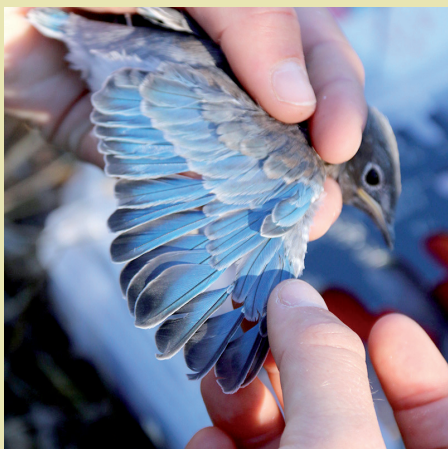
1287 hours

Hours our amazing fabulous fence volunteers spent in our 21st year modifying fences.



Volunteer online, or give us a call at 307-739-0968 to join our herd!

Mountain Bluebird Banding



Taking the MAPS Project Under Our Wing

This past summer, JHWF supported our friends at the Teton Raptor Center (TRC) with operating two songbird banding stations. The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program is a continent-wide collaborative network of songbird banding stations that function throughout the breeding season. The nonprofit Institute for Bird Populations (IBP), organizes this national effort and has established protocols under which all stations operate. Birds are passively captured in mist nets, given a lightweight aluminum band, and released unharmed. Additional data collection includes age, sex, breeding status and body condition. These data are submitted to IBP's database and used to assess the vital rates of birds, and to inform effective conservation efforts.

Between the two local stations based in Jackson and Kelly, we had 577 captures of 43 species this year. The five most commonly captured species were:

- Yellow Warbler (118)
- American Robin (64)
- Song Sparrow (53)
- MacGillivray's Warbler (50)
- Cedar Waxwing (32)

TRC staff have taught JHWF how to run this program effectively and we look forward to taking over the reins in terms of financial and logistical management in 2018, while still working closely as partners. Next year our local MAPS stations will be entering their 27th year of operation.

Bluebird Banding Breeds Better Data

Over the course of many years the loss of standing aspens, cottonwoods, and other riparian vegetation due to thousands of browsing elk has meant the loss of nesting habitat for cavity-dwelling birds, such as the beautiful Mountain Bluebird. Historically, bluebirds depend on nest sites in decaying trees and on nesting cavities excavated by woodpeckers and other bird species. JHWF's Mountain Bluebird Nestbox Monitoring Project, in partnership with the National Elk Refuge, is designed to mitigate for this habitat loss by providing artificial nest cavities to support breeding.

A new addition to the monitoring project this past summer, our volunteers had the opportunity to monitor a total of a 110 nestboxes, and see what happens to the birds after they leave the nestbox by banding nestlings and collecting data on their activity post-fledge. JHWF secured a Chapter 33 permit from the Wyoming Game & Fish Department for scientific research and hired bird bander Allison Swan (in collaboration with the Teton Raptor Center) to execute our banding program.

Banding birds provides critical data for demographic studies and the management and conservation of those populations. We know with certainty that habitat loss has played a role in declining populations of Mountain Bluebirds, but we aim to learn if

and how other factors have affected this species. Hence, it is important for us to collect data via banding to evaluate survival rates of young, dispersal patterns, re-nesting rates, productivity by age and other measures of population dynamics. This type of information will allow us to see how the birds have been faring in Jackson Hole and to ascertain land management options with this species in mind.

In brief, between June and August 2017, we banded 98 Mountain Bluebird nestlings and one adult female. We had a total of 101 chicks fledge their nests – 46 females, 52 males and three unknown (note, three chicks were not banded due to flood waters and inaccessibility to their nestbox)

Out of our trail of 110 nestboxes, 20 were active during the breeding season, which equals a 18% productivity rate. Nestbox 57A was the most active producing 12 chicks (two broods of six), and the average clutch size was three chicks per nest.

This monitoring data is building a baseline of knowledge. Plans are to continue banding Mountain Bluebirds for another two breeding seasons before taking a break from this effort and focusing on re-sighting our banded birds for continued data collection and analysis.

Bluebird Brilliance Shared with Dubois

As we continue to monitor the success of the Mountain Bluebird Nestbox Trail along the National Elk Refuge, we're also exploring ways to share what we've experienced with others in neighboring communities. In early April, we had the pleasure of working with a committed group of bluebird enthusiasts in Dubois to install 35 boxes to create the Dubois Community Bluebird Trail. To get this effort started, JHWF staff provided a trail monitoring orientation to the group at the Dubois Museum, and spoke about the success of the nestbox trail in Jackson and why JHWF is interested in partnering with Dubois in a similar effort.

While our growing knowledge of the bluebird is important, perhaps the real power of the program lies in its effect on the people who participate. For anyone who has peered into a box to find a fresh egg or a newly hatched featherless bird, there is no

mistaking the thrill of the experience.

As Aldo Leopold famously said, *"a land ethic ... evolves in the minds of a thinking community."* Leopold recognized that such an ethic might emerge in the individual first through observation, and the recording of what one has observed. Through this process, one becomes more aware of what is going on around her/him. Combining individual observations in a community monitoring program brings people together around a shared appreciation for wildlife. Our hope is that bringing communities together to share their observations and interactions will build stronger connections between stewards of Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem lands. Who better than the bluebird to act as that joyful ambassador?

Find an image gallery depicting the building of the Dubois trail at the JHWF website.



Chris L. records observations on a Snake River Float Trip

Snake River Floats 2017

JHWF's Snake River Float Project is designed to provide a more complete picture of the species that use the river corridor between Wilson Bridge and South Park. In this section, the river flows mostly through private land where wildlife professionals do not conduct a systematic census. While floating the river on Sundays between May and the beginning of October, Nature Mappers are recording the locations of nests of Osprey, Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron, along with ducks and shorebird nesting areas. In recent years, this project has recorded thousands of individual birds and mammals observations ranging from the least chipmunk to our iconic moose.

We are especially grateful to AJ DeRosa and his professional rafting guides at Jackson Hole Vintage Adventures who generously offers this opportunity in support of our citizen science work.

- 21 float trips
- 64 individual participants
- 26 hours spent on the river Nature Mapping
- 3629 individual birds sighted
- 67 bird species identified
- 9 mammal species and 1 snake observed

Find all the data from individual float trips and an image gallery at the JHWF website.



Kate Gersh happy to be holding a Cooper's Hawk during her MAPS shift at the TSS Kelly Campus.

Thanks to the Nature Mapping Jackson Hole Scientific Advisory Committee for lending their time and expertise to this wonderful citizen science program!



NATURE MAPPING FIELD NOTES

Within the past nine years, 464 people have been trained as certified Nature Mappers and have entered 47,829 observations into the program's central database. All this effort is filling wildlife observation and distribution needs not already covered by state and federal agencies or local research organizations. Furthermore, together we are fostering a community that looks deeper into the meanings of science and citizenship – therefore, realizing that to participate in the building of

knowledge about how our world works, can have profound implications for the way we, Jackson Hole, relate to our natural environment and shape its future.

Thank you for getting involved in the experiences of seeing, feeling, and understanding nature in all its amazingness through Nature Mapping Jackson Hole. Keep up the great work, it's making a difference!

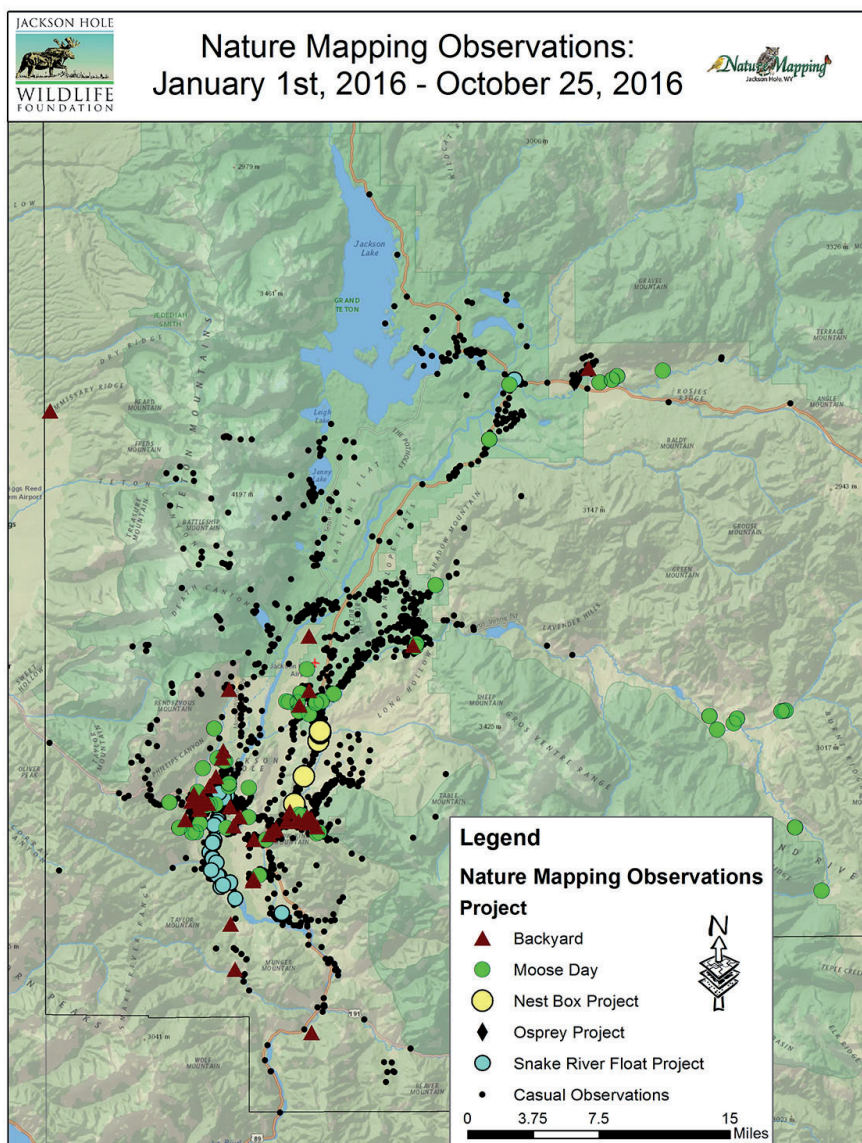
2016 OBSERVATIONS BY PROJECT

Project Backyard	2033
Casual Observations	3314
Moose Day	86
Wolverine Project	1
Snake River Floats	8658

2016 OBSERVATIONS BY SPECIES

Amphibians	50
Birds	3707
Mammals	1767
Snakes	11
TOTAL	5535

Data from January 1, 2016 to October 25, 2016



"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Aldo Leopold

Parting thought...

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Save the Date: March 3, 2018



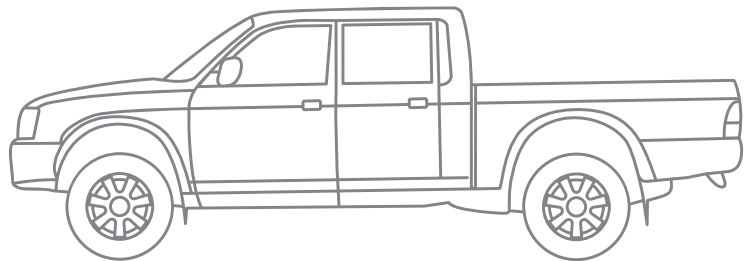
Amazing Sounds of Birds with Nathan Pieplow

"Chick-a dee, dee, dee!" A little bird told us to save March 3, 2018 for the Nature Mapping Jackson Hole Community Celebration aka "Potluck." Featured speaker Nathan Pieplow will share some of his most remarkable audio from over a decade of recording birds in the field. You will see the sounds as well as hear them, and learn the stories of the birds that made them, and what some of those birds are actually saying. Pieplow is the author of *The Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern North America*, Earbirding.com, and teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado. Mark your calendars and watch for more information coming soon about this amazing speaker and presentation!

KEEP THE FENCE PROGRAM ROLLING! HELP US GET A TRUCK.

Help keep our Wildlife Friendlier Fencing program rolling by helping us acquire a truck. We've been using the trucks of our gracious volunteers and we'd like to have one dedicated to hauling barbed wire, fence posts, the cargo trailer and the equipment we use throughout the fence season.

Our ideal truck is new or gently used and is a 4WD with a V8 engine, a crew cab, sturdy tires and a tow package. Our fundraising goal is \$25,000. Won't you help us? Please donate via PayPal at jhwildlife.org. Thank you!



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Wildlife Friendlier Fencing • Nature Mapping Jackson Hole • Give Wildlife a Brake • Bear Wise Jackson Hole

The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation works to promote ways for our community to live compatibly with wildlife.

PO Box 8042, Jackson, WY 83002 • jhwildlife.org • info@jhwildlife.org • 307-739-0968

