

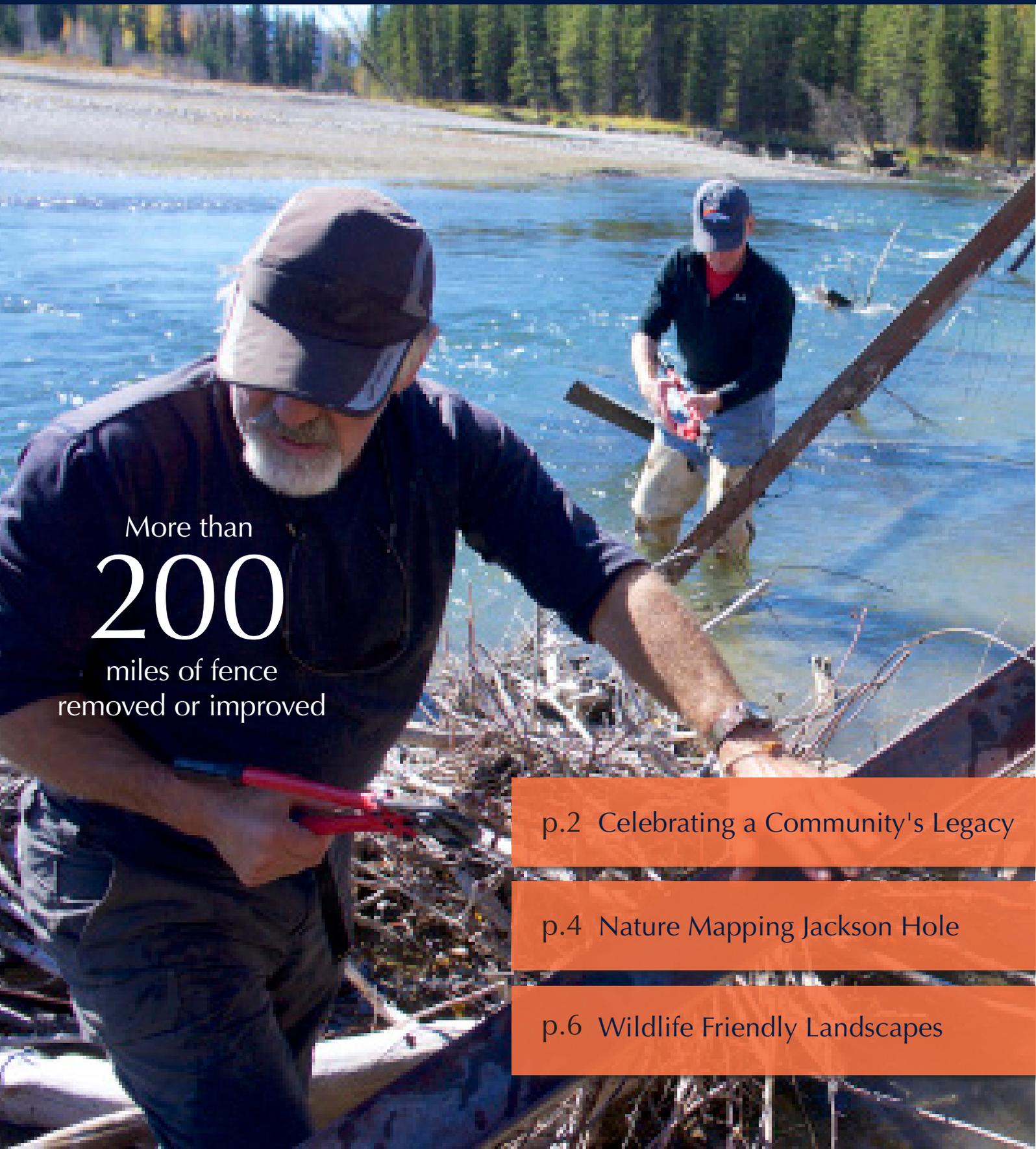
Celebrating 25 Years

Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation

Newsletter
2018



Building Wildlife Friendly Landscapes:
Connecting Communities



More than
200
miles of fence
removed or improved

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About Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation

At the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, we believe robust wildlife populations support a healthy ecosystem and sustain our valley's wild spirit. We work to ensure that our community lives compatibly with our wild neighbors and that free-roaming fauna remain integrated in the identity of the Western landscape.

We achieve our mission by collaborating with agencies, organizations, and private land owners to improve habitat. We also gather and disseminate wildlife data that can inform wildlife-friendly policies and educate the public on how to reduce potential conflicts with animals. Our major programs include:

Nature Mapping Jackson Hole

A long-term dataset of wildlife distribution throughout Jackson Hole collected by volunteer citizen scientists. In the last 9 years, over 500 nature mappers have contributed more than 50,000 verified observations, which are used by private and public entities to inform management decisions.

Give Wildlife a Break

The average number of animals killed each year in collisions with vehicles on Teton County roadways have more than doubled since the early 1990's. This program provides immediate mitigation measures and data that informs future transportation planning, taking a comprehensive approach that values site-specific solutions.

Wildlife-Friendlier Fencing

This program reduces wildlife movement barriers and improves landscape permeability. We have now removed or modified over 200 miles of fence in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, making life easier for everything from mule deer to Greater Sage-Grouse.



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

Celebrating a Community's Legacy

By Executive Director Jon Mobeck

So many people have made a difference while contributing to the work of this organization! While there are far too many individuals to acknowledge here, each endures as a thread in a tapestry that is a quarter-century in the making. I'm thinking about this legacy as the privilege of advancing with this group for my fourth year ensues. Throughout this newsletter, we've tried to highlight some (but certainly not all) of the people who animate the history of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation.

Three board members whose six years of service ends this month form an integral piece of that 25-year legacy. With deep gratitude we thank them.

Sue Consolo-Murphy, Chief of Science and Resource Management for Grand Teton National Park, has provided invaluable scientific advice that has guided our work. She has also pitched in on many Wildlife Friendlier Fencing projects and helped to orchestrate partnerships with the park. Grand Teton National Park gains from her passion and knowledge just as our organization has benefited for the past six years from her thoughtful and intelligent input.

Steve Brandenburg's six years have included considerable fence work as well - by him and the many "recruited" folks who couldn't say no to his enthusiastic appeals. Steve's relentless positive energy not only attracted more volunteers, it also advanced an organizational culture grounded in kindness and good humor (or humor in any case even if



only Steve thinks it's good!). His business knowledge has helped to keep the ship steady as we've grown. What a great honor to have worked alongside such a fine (and fun) man!

Aly Courtemanch, Wildlife Biologist for the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, passes her presidential baton to Bruce Pasfield after two unwaveringly dedicated terms. Her work for Wyoming's wildlife is a 24-7 commitment, and the collaborative tone she helped to set as the leader of our board enabled us to get a lot done with partners who trust her and value her expertise. It will be difficult to replace the skills and aptitudes she possesses, but Bruce continues a tradition of thoughtfulness and dedication that will serve us exceptionally well. He also knows how to work with a smile, so our many partner relationships will continue to thrive in that spirit.

The ethics that support our work for wildlife are demonstrated by these great people. They join many others in our 25-year history whose dedication is the only reason we're here today. We look forward to tomorrow thanks to them!



Sue Consolo-Murphy (left) and Steve Brandenburg (right)

Our Team

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Alyson Courtemanch, President

Bruce Pasfield, Vice President

Dan Zelenko, Treasurer

Geneva Chong, Secretary

Sue Consolo-Murphy

Dawson Smith

Steve Brandenburg

Mark Newcomb

Leslie Steen

Staff

Jon Mobeck, Executive Director

Kate Gersh, Associate Director

Kyle Kissock, Communications
Manager



Photo Mark Gocke



See biographies and
more at jhwildlife.org

Follow our progress on
Facebook and Instagram!



A Message From Board President Aly Courtemanch

Six years ago, I went out for coffee with Joan Anzelmo and Embere Hall, who were board members at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation at the time. Being a new biologist starting my career in Jackson, their invitation to me to join the JHWF board was unexpected and a big honor. I eagerly accepted their offer to join the ranks of this long-respected organization. To me, this was a big responsibility.

Since that cup of coffee six years ago, JHWF has undergone tremendous change and reached many important milestones. Our staff has grown from one full-time person to three, with the addition of an associate director and a communications manager. This has enabled us to expand our work and impact to a much higher level, which you will see reflected in the following pages of this newsletter. This year, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Nature Mapping Jackson Hole citizen science program. With the help of a growing and fiercely dedicated volunteer core, our Wildlife-Friendlier Fencing program surpassed 200 miles of fence removed or modified since the program's inception over 20 years ago. We also took the first steps to expand our fence work outside of Jackson Hole by tackling fences in important migration corridors in

Pinedale. I am tremendously proud of what staff, board, volunteers, and donors have accomplished and I feel that we have succeeded in elevating JHWF's important work to the next level.

In January, I will be stepping down from the board and I would like to welcome Vice-President Bruce Pasfield to the President position. Bruce is a champion for JHWF's mission to promote ways for our community to live compatibly with wildlife, and believes in our approach of working collaboratively with landowners and agencies to accomplish this goal. I would like to thank all of the incredible volunteers, donors, fellow board members, and Jon, Kate, and Kyle for your inspiring dedication to on-the-ground work and cooperative approach to community-based conservation. I truly believe that JHWF's philosophy of collaboration achieves the best outcome for wildlife over the long-term. I invite you to enjoy our newsletter and if you would like to support our work, please consider donating funding and/or volunteer time. I hope to see you out there!

Happy holidays and best wishes,



Current Board President Aly Courtemanch (left) and incoming Board President Bruce Pasfield (right)

Nature Mapping Jackson Hole

2018 MAPS Banding Report

In 2018, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation officially took over the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program in Jackson Hole, building upon a legacy begun by Teton Science Schools and Teton Raptor Center. All data were collected according to the Institute for Bird Population's MAPS protocols. These data enable us to study songbird population trends and phenological shifts over time.

As in recent years, banding took place at the Boyles Hill site in Jackson (JACK) and Teton Science Schools – Kelly Campus (TSS-) MAPS stations. Over a nine-week period (June 6 – August 3), the MAPS nets were open a total of 1063.83 hours during 18 days of banding.

Between the two MAPS stations, we captured a total of 656 birds of 44 species. Perhaps the most exciting captures were the two Belted Kingfishers caught one week apart at the JACK site. Based on observations made throughout the season, the birds were suspected to be a breeding pair who successfully fledged at least three young during the 2018 breeding season.



Bander Max Frankenberry displays an American Goldfinch (AMGO) captured at a MAPS banding station.

The Usual Suspects

Listed below are the most commonly captured species for the 2018 MAPS bird banding season:



147

Yellow Warbler



74

American Robin



48

Song Sparrow



47

MacGillivray's Warbler



37

House Wren



Read the banders' blog at jhwildlife.org

2018 MAPS Station Summary

	JACKSON	TSS	Total
Total net hours	527	536	1063
Total captures	287	367	656
Newly banded birds	201	231	432
Recaptures	74	106	180
Unbanded birds	12	28	40
Bands lost/destroyed	1	3	4
Total Species	29	37	44

Launching Neighbors to Nature: Cache Creek Study

We have a new monitoring project under the umbrella of Nature Mapping Jackson Hole! The Neighbors to Nature: Cache Creek Study is a citizen science initiative launched in the summer of 2018, to better inform land management decisions in the heavily used Cache Creek drainage on the U.S. Forest Service's Bridger-Teton National Forest. The core concept of the project is to support sustainability of this public land resource for memorable wildlife, wild land, water, and diverse recreational experiences – for now and for the long-term.

The project established a 4-way partnership between the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Friends of Pathways, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation and The Nature Conservancy's Wildflower Watch.

Through this partnership citizen scientists will collect, analyze and interpret plant, wildlife, and trail use data. The information will help local managers by providing an accurate, scientific view of the plant and wildlife populations in the area, as well as improved information about recreation use. Stay tuned for information and opportunities to be a part of this fun and important work!



JHWF's Associate Director and a loyal field assistant install a game camera in Wilson Canyon as part of the Neighbors to Nature project.

Bluebirds with Bling!

Since creating the Mountain Bluebird Nestbox Monitoring Trail in 2003, members of the Jackson community have endeavored to create nesting habitat for Mountain Bluebirds and other native cavity nesters along the southwestern edge of the National Elk Refuge.

To help expand upon the existing monitoring data and investigate new questions, in 2017, we began placing USGS aluminum bands and a unique series of color bands on Mountain Bluebird nestlings and one adult female. These color bands, or “bling,” allow us to identify each individual bird as it disperses from its nest and, hopefully, returns to a similar area the following year to raise some little bluebirds of its own!

Still in the early stages of the banding project, we don't have many definitive answers yet, but we are learning a lot and devising new questions. Of the 98 bluebird nestlings that were banded in 2017, only a handful have been resighted this year. This isn't as surprising as it may sound. The first year of a bird's life is the hardest as they learn to fend for themselves and navigate migration. We estimate that 50% or fewer birds make it back to their breeding grounds in their second year. Once back in Jackson Hole, they disperse from their original nest site to independently begin a family of their own. Where do they go? That's one of the things we're hoping to discover!

So far, our one banded adult Mountain Bluebird did, in fact, return to the exact same nestbox where she was banded in 2017.

This year on the trail, nearly all of the 112 available nestboxes were occupied by native cavity nesters such as Mountain Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, and House Wrens. While Tree Swallows occupied the majority of the boxes, about 17% of the boxes were occupied by Mountain Bluebirds (a similar proportion to 2017).

Overall, about 75% of the Mountain Bluebird nests successfully fledged young. In total, 72 nestlings were banded in 13 nestboxes; some even had two broods throughout the season!

Help us spot bluebirds with bling! Download the "resight" datasheet at jhwildlife.org/mountain-bluebird-resighting/ 



A Mountain Bluebird returns to a nestbox full of six nestlings on the Dubois Community Bluebird Trail. JHWF helped install 37 boxes in Dubois in the summer of 2017. Photo: Deb Robinett.



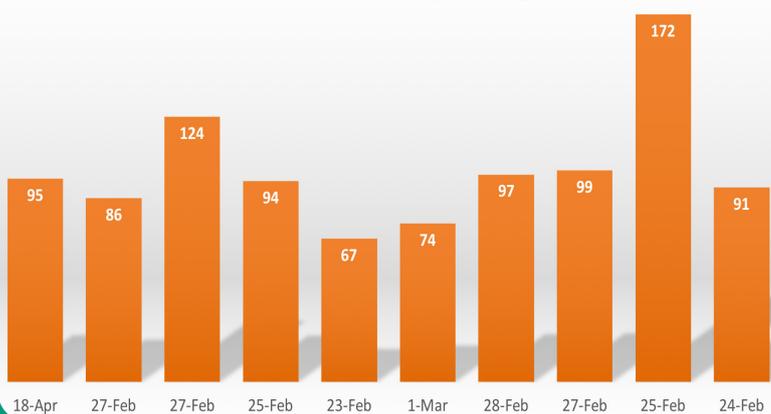
This male Mountain Bluebird from Nestbox #80 was banded in 2017 and resighted on August 19, 2018 on the Elk Refuge Road. Photo: Britton Parker.

We Thank You!

It's exciting to see the enthusiasm of new and returning citizen scientists to continue the collection of biological data through Nature Mapping Jackson Hole. Because our local citizens are donating their time and skills to help collect high-quality data, and thanks to the generous gifts of many individuals and organizations, we all have access to an ever-growing base of knowledge about our native fauna. JHWF thanks everyone for their hours and diverse talents, helping us better understand and care for the land and the wildlife that thrive within it.

Special thanks to Tim Griffith, Frances Clark and our Scientific Advisory Committee for leading and teaching many of our efforts, and thank you to the Meg & Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund for founding and remaining a cornerstone of the program for the past 10 years!

Total Moose Observed 2009 - 2018

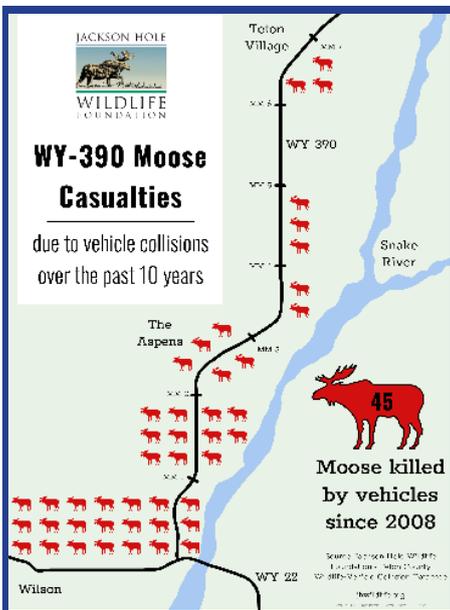


Moose Day 2018

For this annual survey, in partnership with Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest, we had 80 Moose Day volunteers on 33 teams covering 53 different count areas. The total number of moose observed on February 24, 2018, is 91. This number is roughly average – 87 is the average count, excluding two high years (2011 – 124 moose; 2017 – 172 moose; both years with significant snowpack). These data collected on the ground complement agency aerial surveys to provide a more complete picture of moose

Wildlife-Friendly Landscapes

We tie together all of our programs under one thematic umbrella: Wildlife Friendly Landscapes. One of our signature programs, Nature Mapping Jackson Hole, engages individuals to design communities that are wildlife-friendly by encouraging immersive participation in the environment. Recorded and shared wildlife observations connect people to each other while advancing local land ethics and scientific knowledge. Give Wildlife a Brake, which improves our highway network for easier wildlife passage, and Wildlife Friendlier Fencing, which reduces or removes obstacles to wildlife movement on public and private lands, opens up the landscape for less-restricted wildlife movement. In addition to these signature programs, we have also worked with partners to improve levee permeability along the Snake River corridor, build additional elk ramps on the National Elk Refuge, and erect off-road travel barriers in order to secure valuable habitat on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. These efforts ensure that wildlife movement corridors are maintained and improved to sustain wildlife into the future.



ACTIONS TAKEN

DIGITAL MESSAGE SIGNS

Purchased 11 digital message signs to alert drivers seasonally to documented wildlife movement patterns within Teton County and Grand Teton National Park. ✓

RADAR SPEED FEEDBACK SIGNS

Purchased six radar speed feedback signs for installation in wildlife crossing areas throughout the county and park. ✓

SPEED REDUCTION EFFORTS

Worked with WYDOT and the Town of Jackson to lower the speed limit, install radar speed feedback signs and dusk-to-dawn flashing alerts in a "wildlife hotspot" collision zone on Broadway. ✓

ENGAGING COMMUNITY

Working this fall/winter with community members from Wilson, the county and WYDOT to install speed radar feedback signs to protect moose and improve driver safety from Fish Creek to the base of Teton Pass. ✓



Give Wildlife a Break

Our organization was founded in 1993 when a group of committed citizens recognized the need to address the escalating problem of wildlife-vehicle collisions. Rapidly increasing traffic on Teton County roads continues to threaten wildlife movement through the valley today.

We remain engaged in site-specific discussions to address several known problem areas in the short- and long-term. We served on the advisory committee for Teton County's Wildlife Crossings Master Plan process and recommended priority actions. The top three priority locations are listed in the infographic at right. At those sites, we're exploring structural solutions that would separate animals from the roadway by underpass or overpass. Those structures will require fencing to ensure that animals are funneled to the safe crossing site. The rigorous exploratory process is intended to provide the County with clear implementation suggestions for each site.



TOP PRIORITIES IN TETON COUNTY

- 1

WY22/WY390 JCT & SNAKE RIVER BRIDGE AREA

This area remains a problem for moose crossing (and elk). Underpasses are likely feasible and effective here. Other actions can be taken in the interim.
- 2

WY22 FROM SPRING GULCH TO BAR Y & SKYLINE

Increasing traffic in this stretch has made crossing difficult for elk, moose, and deer. Habitat connectivity is threatened by an emerging barrier effect. Let's keep it connected!
- 3

W189/191 FROM CAMP CREEK TO HOBACK CANYON

Especially in Spring, the road to Hoback Canyon is a major crossing point for elk. Bighorn sheep hang out here too. Speeds are high. We need solutions throughout this stretch.

Complex Problems Require Diverse Solutions

Wildlife crossing structures are the most effective solution when existing speeds are comparatively high (likely over 50 mph) and adequate funnel-fencing is feasible. Wildlife-vehicle collisions have been reduced by 80%-90% in other states and provinces where suitable conditions existed to build crossing structures.

Modifying driver behavior with seasonally-moved digital signage and other speed controls and driver alerts has been documented to be effective on roadways where speeds are typically less than 45 mph, which makes WY390 and Broadway good candidates for "at-grade" measures as well as many county roads. It is important to remember that deer, elk and moose are not the only animals affected by vehicular traffic. Small mammals, eagles, hawks, owls and other birds are often killed or injured in collisions with cars. For those wonderful creatures, driver alertness and slower speeds may be the only potential solution, especially at night.

Throughout Teton County, a wide variety of roadway and land ownership conditions exist that will require a diverse set of intelligent actions. We're grateful to be deeply involved in the process of creating a safer future for both drivers and wildlife.



A history of commitment to wildlife. (L to R): Randy Reedy, Scott Landale, Gretchen Plender, Bob Kopp, Steve Morris, Chuck and Carol Schneebeck, Greg Griffith.

Wildlife Friendlier Fencing

The Wildlife Friendlier Fence program is as grassroots as it gets! Since 1995, many hundreds of volunteers have helped to remove or modify 204 miles of fence. Some - but certainly not all - of the program's instrumental leaders over the years are featured in photos throughout this newsletter. JHWF Founder Meredith Campbell and Lorna Miller launched the Give Wildlife a Brake program and joined people such as Shirley Cheramy and Carol and Chuck Schneebeck to initiate some of the first volunteer fence removal crews. Many staff members over the years, including the late Sue Colligan, dedicated summer Saturdays to fence projects. Greg Griffith, pictured above, not only organized and directed Saturday fence projects, but he was well known for taking down fences single-handedly when nobody else was available. Losing Greg to a car accident in late 2015 created a hole in the heart of the organization, but it also inspired another cadre of dedicated leaders to carry the legacy forward. The Fence Team members pictured here have ensured that the work continues, and to them we are grateful.

We celebrate these individuals because each has helped to shape our community's land ethic. This past summer, we had anywhere from 20-35 volunteers for all of our public projects thanks in large part to the example provided by many of these leaders. The fact that we can consistently recruit those volunteers every other Saturday during the summer is a testament to the tradition, and to the fun that we have while doing something tangible to benefit wildlife!

While the program still relies on its grassroots approach, we continue to look at landscapes strategically, prioritizing fences that restrict movement in key wildlife corridors radiating out from Jackson Hole. We're also working to address fences with multiple species in mind. Since a pronghorn, bull elk, calf moose, and sage-grouse are affected by a fence in different ways, we use wildlife movement data and on-the-ground observations to maximize our solutions. Local knowledge provided by private landowners also helps us to modify fences efficiently. The program is both simple and scientific. Its impact is essential.

WILDLIFE FRIENDLIER FENCING



2018 STATS



325 volunteer days



1,716 hours in the field



13.8 miles improved



Fences Afield: Pinedale

This fall, we worked with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Pinedale Field Office to modify four fences to make them friendlier to wildlife.

On two fences, we applied a variety of visual "enhancements" to improve visibility and reduce fence strikes for Greater Sage-Grouse near leks and geophagy sites. Along with BLM biologists, we'll monitor those fences this winter to determine which application is most effective. We're grateful to the research team at Teton Raptor Center for helping to design the study. We also converted two other fences to enable seasonal drop-downs (to 16 inches or lower) in prime deer and pronghorn wintering habitat (also a grouse-friendly modification!), and assisted in the installation of "slip-gates" and "wiggle posts" to make life easier for deer and pronghorn.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" - Helen Keller

We feature a few of our key partners below. We're also honored to team with the National Elk Refuge on our Mountain Bluebird Nestbox Monitoring Project and Grand Teton National Park on many Wildlife Friendlier Fencing projects.

Morgan Graham - Teton Conservation District



"Teton Conservation District (TCD) truly appreciates Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation's (JHWF) 25 year commitment to improving and maintaining wildlife connectivity in Jackson Hole. No organization is better situated to mobilize teams of dedicated volunteers in advancement of meaningful on-the-ground conservation projects that transcend jurisdictional boundaries."

Doug McWhirter - Wyoming Game and Fish Department



"The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation has been an important partner of the Game & Fish Department for many years now. Our missions overlap quite well in that we are always looking for ways to better co-exist with wildlife on the landscape. And there are times when a community-based organization such as the JHWF can play a critical role in making things better for wildlife, whether it be through volunteerism on the ground, key testimony in local policy-making or public outreach and education."

Jason Wilmot - Bridger-Teton National Forest



"The Bridger-Teton National Forest is thrilled to continue partnering with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation. JHWF has provided an incredible amount of high-quality work over the years, including the removal of obsolete fences, the collection of wildlife observations, and more. Wildlife on the B-T has clearly benefitted by a substantial reduction in barriers to movement and through the information sharing that assists habitat conservation and management."

Bert Raynes - Founder, Nature Mapping Jackson Hole



From Jon Mobeck, Executive Director, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation:

"We are so grateful to Bert Raynes for his vision to create a community-based citizen science program. The joy of interacting with wildlife that he has shared with so many continues to form the foundation of Nature Mapping Jackson Hole. Thanks in large part to the ongoing support of the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund, we have

the privilege of building upon that vision, strengthening our local wildlife knowledge and celebrating life in this wild valley."

25 YEARS WORKING FOR WILDLIFE IN JACKSON HOLE

CELEBRATING WITH AN END OF YEAR GIFT MATCH



To help us raise \$25,000 in support of our growing grassroots work, our Board of Directors has generously pledged to match donations received in December - up to half of our goal (\$12,500)! Please make a gift today and help us create a more wildlife friendly community!

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

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

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