

JACKSON HOLE



WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION

2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

jhwildlife.org



Milestone Spotlight

Removing or mitigating barriers to wildlife movement remains central to our work. Factoring in this year's accomplishments, JHWF has now removed or improved approximately **242 miles of fence** to enhance permeability of the landscape for wildlife!

About Us

Our Path From Then to Now

The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation was formed when a small group of passionate citizens, distressed by witnessing hundreds of deer and elk being killed by vehicles on Jackson Hole's increasingly busy highways, organized to create a more wildlife-friendly community.

The barriers that our valley's fences presented to migrating wildlife became the second issue around which the organization galvanized support.

Twenty-nine years later, we are continuing to leverage our expertise, partnerships and community of impassioned volunteers to provide on-the-ground solutions to the most pressing conservation challenges.

Our core program areas are Nature Mapping Jackson Hole, Wildlife-Friendlier Fencing, Give Wildlife A Brake and BearWise Jackson Hole.



Mission

The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation advances wildlife conservation driven by science, collaboration, and a community of volunteers.



Participants examine a moose skull during Moose Day in February. Over 95 volunteers braved sub-zero temperatures as part of this year's annual moose survey which helps the Wyoming Game and Fish Department gauge the health of the Jackson Hole moose herd.



Photo: Jackson Hole News and Guide

Pride in our Volunteers

Your efforts are fundamental to who we are as an organization. Thank you for your care for wildlife!



When I give an overview of who we are at JHWF, I talk about our three pillars: science, collaboration and volunteers. I want to take a moment to appreciate and celebrate that third piece. I take huge pride in everything we do, but the volunteer piece often makes my eyes tear up. We could not accomplish this much conservation without our volunteers. And there are hundreds of them. The level of dedication and passion that our volunteers give to wildlife is astounding. Many thanks to you all who make the landscape broader and the management decisions more informed. Here's to you and the wildlife you protect.

-Renee Seidler, Executive Director



Give Wildlife A Brake

JHWF works behind the scenes with our agency partners and colleagues as expert advisors to assist conservation planning

In accordance with the Teton County Wildlife Crossings Master Plan and to utilize the \$10 million SPET funds for crossings, Teton County has hired a project team to create preliminary designs of critical road mitigation for wildlife. We are the sole nonprofit assisting the county, alongside agency stakeholders, as next steps for development of wildlife-vehicle conflict mitigation take shape.

Check in if you want to learn more!

Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation also completed the latest [Teton County Wildlife-Vehicle Collision \(WVC\)](#) report this year, showing WVCs generally in decline in Teton County. However, the data are complicated, as increased traffic may mean wildlife are electing not to attempt road crossings at all.



Did you know?

We're helping align future highways with climate-resilient wildlife movement

We've come a long way from purchasing our first digital message board to warn drivers of wildlife-vehicle collisions here in Jackson Hole.

This year, we're teaming up with a group of road ecologists to create calls-to-action for Congress, state governments, and foundations, to ensure designs and placement of new wildlife overpasses are more climate-informed. This will help ensure future crossing structures remain viable for wildlife, even as climate change continues to impact existing habitat.



Collaborators install JHWF/partner-designed signs on pedestrian gates along S. Hwy 89 in July. Leaving these gates open can allow wildlife access to the highway through gaps in the funnel fencing; please help keep animals off the road by keeping them closed! This project was funded by Teton Conservation District.



Preliminary Findings

There is considerably more quality habitat available than currently being used by beaver in Grand Teton National Park - Jeff Burrell

Beaver Project

Assessing beaver presence on a dynamic landscape

Volunteers are now encouraged to get involved with our Beaver Project, a collaboration with Nature Mapping Jackson Hole and Hydrologist Jeff Burrell. The wetland habitat beaver activity creates is beneficial to our ecosystem; beaver activity increases riparian wildlife habitat, which acts as mitigation against the impacts of climate change and damages caused by drought and wildfire. Wetlands created by beavers can even recharge aquifers!

The goal of the project is to supplement Jeff's field work with citizen-science observations which will help track where beavers are (or aren't) in order to identify areas where these amazing aquatic rodents might thrive in the future. Jeff completed drainage surveys in Grand Teton National Park this year and plans to finish surveys on the Bridger-Teton National Forest next summer, with the help of our citizen-scientist volunteers.

Jeff Burrell poses near one of his discoveries - a massive beaver dam, eight feet high and fifty feet long.



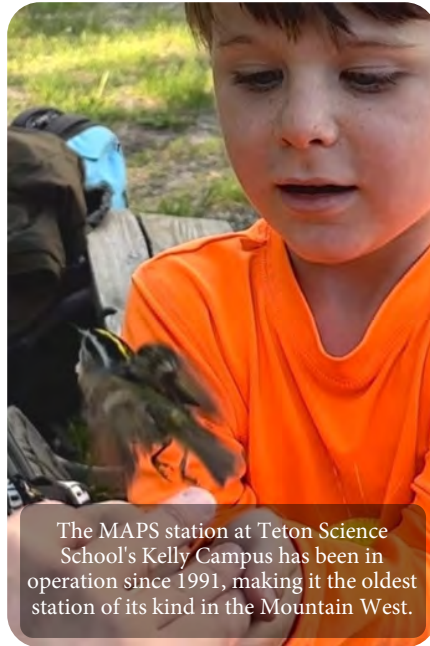
Bird Banding

This was our fifth year operating the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) banding program at the Teton Science School's Kelly Campus and at Boyle's Hill in Jackson.

The goal of this program is to contribute information on avian productivity, recruitment, and survival to a continent-wide database.

These data can then be used to guide actions to directly address threats to migratory songbirds.

We're also excited to report that a long-term regional analysis of data from our stations is underway. We hope this report will shed light on population trends of several key species of songbirds by next spring!



The MAPS station at Teton Science School's Kelly Campus has been in operation since 1991, making it the oldest station of its kind in the Mountain West.

Passerines by the Numbers in 2022

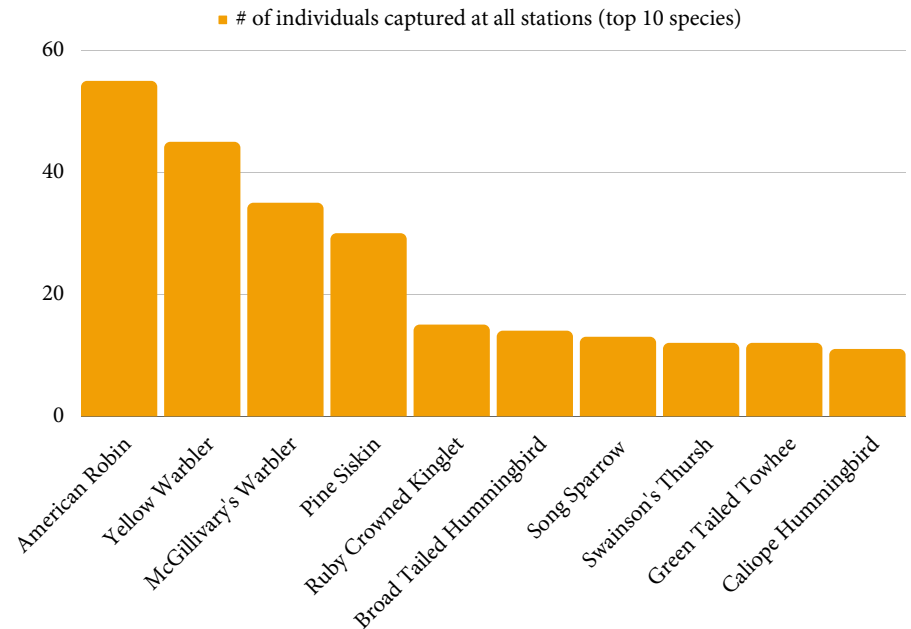
- 657 birds captured
- 425 newly banded birds
- 43 species captured
- First site record Cassin's Vireo captured and banded at Boyle's Hill
- 1044 net hours

Education Stations

We engaged 10 volunteers and interns and 33 visitors at MAPS stations this year!



Can you identify this species of warbler?





Collaboration



In order to locate potential sites for the ramps, we examined ungulate GPS collar data, habitat data, and observations from the JHWF Nature Mapping Database.

- Morgan Graham, Teton Conservation District

Wildlife Levee Ramps

New access points are helping wildlife navigate levees on the Snake River

Sometimes simple actions can make a big difference.

In August, we collaborated with Teton Conservation District, Teton County, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Feuz Excavation to install a series of “wildlife ramps” along the Snake River levee.

Riprap forming the levee system along the Snake River can be challenging and dangerous for wildlife to navigate. These ramps are now making it easier and safer for wildlife to access the river by giving them a path through the riprap along the 24 miles of levee.

Four ramps comprised of smaller, more compact substrate to fill voids were installed south of the Wilson Bridge area. The new ramps supplement three existing ramps constructed north of this area in 2014 and additional ramps are slated to be installed next year.

A mule deer takes advantage of a levee ramp north of Wilson Bridge



Collaboration

BearWise Jackson Hole

BearWise Jackson Hole is a decades long partnership between Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation. We are a subsidiary of the BearWise Wyoming program. The goal of the program is to provide resources, outreach and coordination intended to keep bears wild and people safe.

To better address the persistence of human-bear conflict in Teton County, BearWise Jackson Hole was excited to announce the hiring of a full-time Program Manager in November!

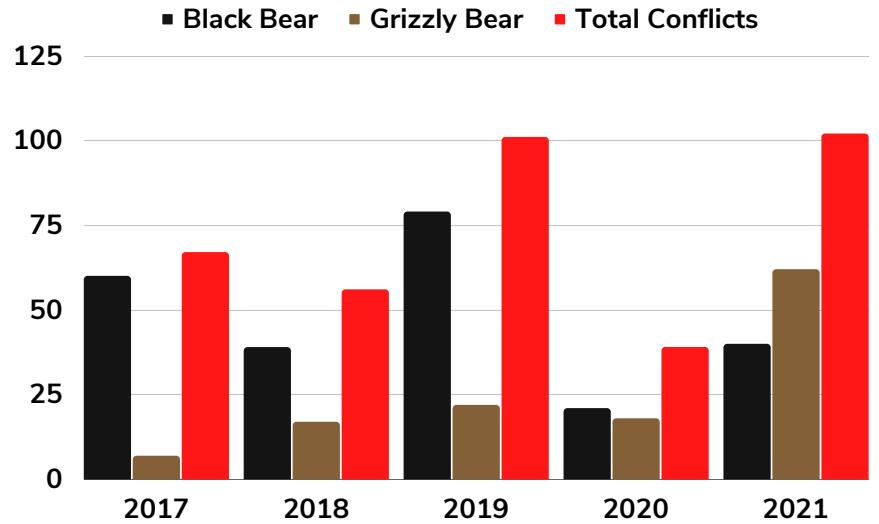
The Program Manager's primary responsibilities will be to coordinate partners—both agency and NGO—who work together to reduce human-bear conflict and to help implement Teton County's Wildlife Feeding Land Development Regulation—as well as Town of Jackson's Ordinance—through outreach, connection with individual homeowners and businesses, and hands-on work to secure attractants.



Pick up a free BearWise JH magnet at our office!



We recently partnered with the Teton Conservation District to place hundreds of "bear country" informational pamphlets into the new Mountain Neighbor Handbook!



Regional human-bear conflict data (courtesy of Wyoming Game and Fish Department) shows a gradual increase in conflicts, especially involving grizzlies.



Collaboration



Lowering Fences in Sublette County

In 2022, we joined our agency partners in lowering seven miles of "drop fence" to benefit wildlife in Sublette County. Additionally, we converted four more miles of fence in the area to drop-style fencing, which can now be lowered when cattle are not being grazed.

Fence Inventory

Mapping fences in Greater Sage-Grouse core habitat

Collisions with fences are causing high rates of Sage-Grouse mortality throughout the West. Mortalities are exacerbated along fences located near areas where Grouse congregate during winter or to breed.

To address this issue, we are creating a digital inventory of fences in Sage-Grouse core habitat in Grand Teton National Park and on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, within the upper Gros Ventre River drainage.

This product will allow land managers to prioritize fences for removal and modification, protecting not only Sage-Grouse, but many other species including migratory mammals.

This work is supported by the Upper Snake Sage-Grouse Working Group and Wildlife Tourism for Tomorrow.

Hilary Turner surveys an old fence line near Kelly, Wyoming. It turns out the wire in this fence was removed years ago, and we were able to update our fence inventory accordingly.



Collaboration



Master Trackers at Work

A first for JHWF, we hosted a record 150 participants at Continuing Education Seminars during 2022, which included two, half-day tracking lessons in Grand Teton National Park, taught by Master Tracker [Casey McFarland](#). We look forward to seeing many of you again next year!

Education and Outreach

Engaging visitors and locals to build a wildlife-friendly community

Now in its third year, our [Being Wild Jackson Hole](#) visitor education program flourished in 2022.

One of our highlights was collaborating with the Grand Teton National Park Foundation to produce thousands of rear-view mirror and door hangers with the message "Don't Feed, Don't Speed," along with details about best-practices for nighttime driving, speed limits, and food storage in bear country.

The hangers include quick tips to help ensure the safety of wildlife and people across Grand Teton and Jackson Hole, and we're thrilled that several rental car agencies are displaying these in their vehicles and many hotels in the park and in town have already agreed to hang them on room doors and distribute them at their front desks.

Wildlife is abundant in Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park. Keep wildlife, yourself, and others safe by doing the following:

- Obey nighttime speed limits (45mph at night)
- Use high beams when visibility is low
- Expect multiple animals when wildlife is on the road
- Know the road. Review wildlife roadway maps
- Never feed wildlife—it is illegal and unsafe
- Secure all food and other attractants

Thank you for driving safely. Enjoy your visit!





Fence Pulls

Volunteers succeed in removing or improving another 6.16 miles of fence on public and private projects this year

One of our longest-standing programs, Wildlife-Friendlier Fencing, has reduced barriers to wildlife movement and migration through the removal or retrofitting of fences for over twenty-five years.

We were joined by 241 volunteers in the field this year (including those who volunteered on multiple projects). These volunteers logged a total of 870 hours spent improving the landscape for wildlife. Totals include our public project volunteers and eight, small educational groups. Amazingly, even after all these years, there is still fence to come down!



A youth group from Massachusetts poses with their haul after a wire pull led by Randy Reedy this summer.

2022 Public Project List

- 1) Mountainside (Teton Valley) - 0.75 miles
- 2) Upper Hoback & R-Park North - 0.5 miles
- 3) Jackson Fork Ranch - 0.6 miles
- 4) Soda Lake Gros Ventre - 0.35 miles
- 5) TRLT (Teton Valley) - 1 mile
- 6) Mosquito Creek - 0.5 miles
- 7) Red Rock Ranch - 0.6 miles
- 8) Mormon Row - 0.25 miles

THANK YOU!



Volunteers pose in front of a barbed-wire filled truck after removing an obsolete fence along a USFS/private land boundary near Mosquito Creek. [Learn how to build your own wildlife-friendly fence here!](#)



A Community of Volunteers

Nature Mapping JH

2,425 Casual Observations were submitted to our database in 2022. The top species reported were moose, mule deer, elk, bald eagle and osprey

Nature Mapping Jackson Hole is a long-term, citizen science project with the goals of scientifically informing management decisions while increasing citizens' knowledge of and appreciation for wildlife.

Since its inception in 2009, 1,000 Nature Mapping accounts have been created and 90,000 observations have been made. If you're not already a Nature Mapper, please get in touch about attending one of our free certification classes!

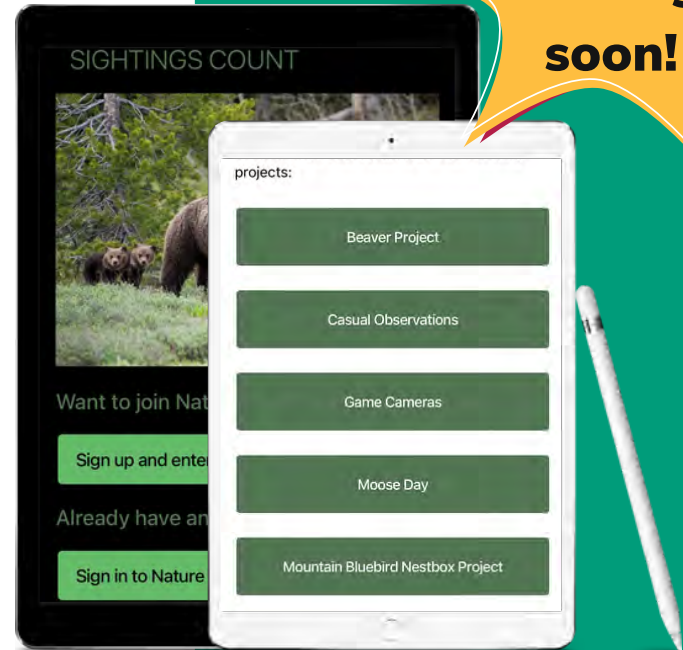
Foggy mornings on the river - Snake River Float Trips are a perk for trained Nature Mappers!



Additional Highlights

- 41 participants on [Snake River Float Trips](#)
- Nest box maintenance with JH Community School
- Nest box monitoring with Munger Mtn. Elementary
- Bird banding with Alturas Academy
- 60 new Nature Mappers certified

App
coming
soon!

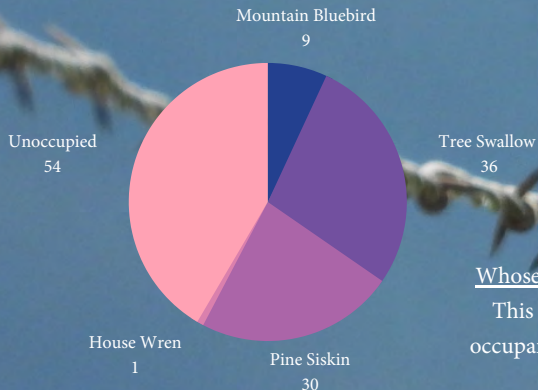


We're excited to launch a new app for Nature Mapping this winter, which will make data entry more convenient for users. The app will be available for both iPhone and Android devices.



Making Space for Bluebirds (and Elk)

With Mountain Bluebirds on the decline in the West, the nest box trail on the National Elk Refuge helps mitigate for habitat loss. Volunteers are assigned a subset of nest boxes which they monitor at least once per week between May 1 and August 30 to determine occupancy and nest fate.



Whose next box is it anyway?
This chart shows nest box occupancy by species for 2022.



A Community of Volunteers

On September 29, National Elk Refuge (NER) Wildlife Biologist Amy Girard spotted a pre-migratory flock of Mountain Bluebirds near Miller Butte. A participant in our nest box project, Amy knew to carefully inspect the legs of each bird in the flock.

As she did, she spotted a lone, color-banded individual. The band combination linked this bird to nest box 18, indicating it was one of the 57 birds which successfully fledged from trail boxes this summer.

Since 2003, JHWF and our volunteers have monitored and maintained a "bluebird trail" consisting of 111 nest boxes along the western boundary of the NER. "Resighting" nesting birds, as Amy did, helps us gauge if individuals were able to successfully migrate back to Jackson each spring to have nests of their own. We'd like to extend a special thank you to the 15 volunteers who were critical to our success this year!

Learn more in our [2022 Bluebird Monitoring Report!](#)



Mountain Bluebird Project

This female Mountain Bluebird was "resighted" on the NER this summer. Ten resights (identifications made using colored leg-bands) occurred this year, the most in one year on this project - boding well for our understanding of survivorship and nest site fidelity.

We Hope You'll Stay in Touch

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HELP US GROW OUR IMPACT WITH A GIFT!

Donations can be made to the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation:

- Online at jhwildlife.org
- By mailing a check to PO Box 8042, Jackson, WY 83002
- By gifts of appreciated stock, bonds or mutual funds

Give us a call at (307) 739-0968 for more information on how to give.



Friends of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation
march in this year's Old Bill's Community Fun Run