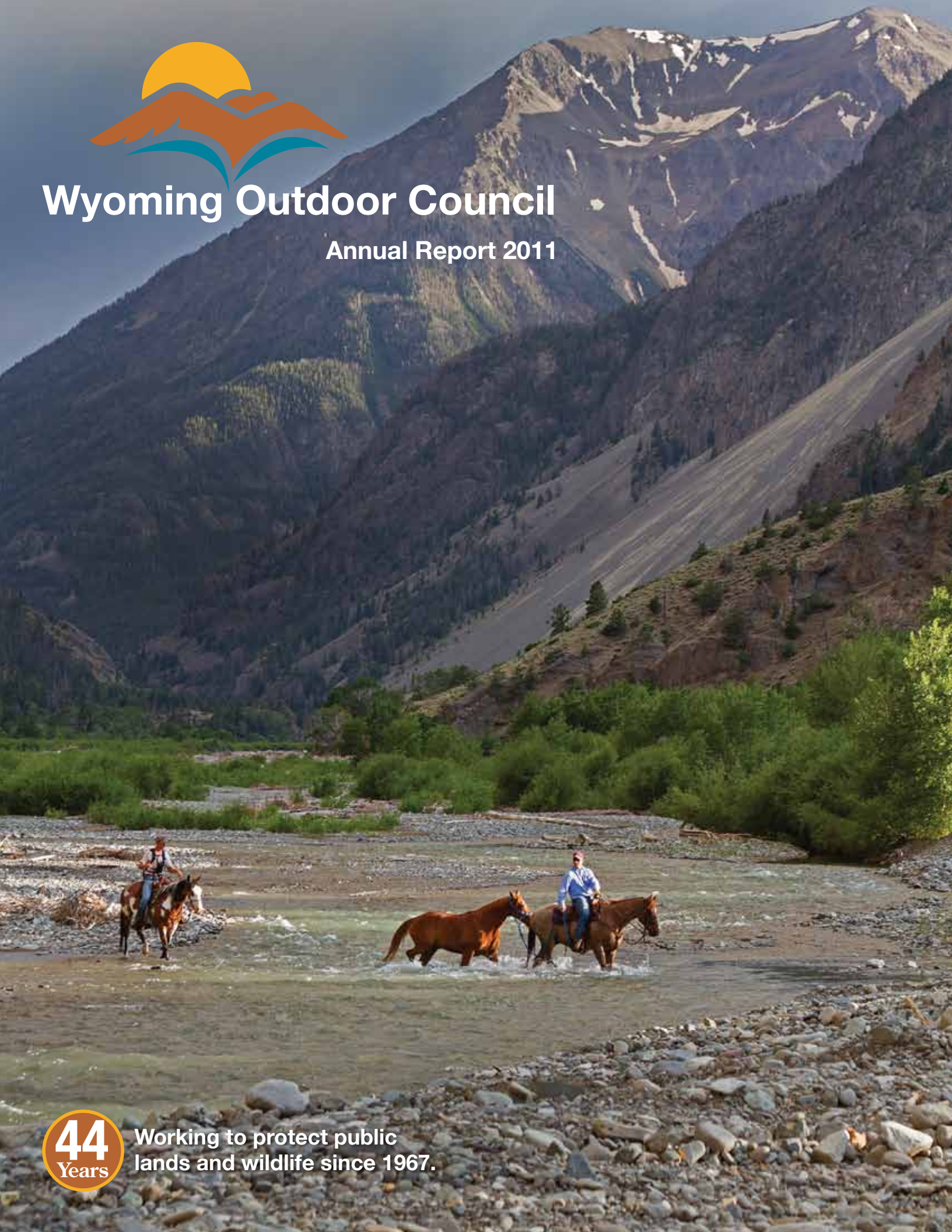




Wyoming Outdoor Council

Annual Report 2011



Working to protect public
lands and wildlife since 1967.

2011 Board

- Kathy Lichtendahl, President**
Clark
- Janice Harris, Vice President**
Laramie
- Tony Hoch, Secretary**
Laramie
- Keith Rittle, Treasurer**
Laramie
- Tom Bell, Emeritus**
Lander
- Harold L. Bergman**
Laramie
- Rich Brame**
Lander
- Kate Fox**
Cheyenne
- Terry R. Jones**
Wheatland
- Beedee Ladd**
Wilson
- John Parr**
Cheyenne
- Barbara Parsons**
Rawlins
- Anthony Stevens**
Wilson

2011 Staff

- Laurie Milford**
Executive Director
- Richard Garrett**
Energy and Legislative Advocate
- Bonnie Hofbauer**
Office Manager
- Steve Jones**
Watershed Protection Program Attorney
- Nathan Maxon**
Energy and Public Lands Fellow
- Lisa McGee**
National Forests & Parks Program Director
- Chris Merrill**
Communications Director
- Sophie Osborn**
Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Program Director
- Bruce Pendery**
Staff Attorney and Program Director
- Linda Sisco**
Administrative Coordinator
- Gary Wilmot**
Associate Director
- Jamie Wolf**
Outreach Coordinator

Kyle Duba, LightHawk Aerial Support



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Our Land**

Scott Copeland Images



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Scott Copeland Images



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Our Water**

Kathy Lichtendahl



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Our Wildlife**



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of Energy**

Dear Members of the Wyoming Outdoor Council,

In last year's annual report, we wrote about the relief Wyoming saw in spring 2011 from the ongoing drought. 2012 couldn't stand in greater contrast. In Wyoming we were done skiing by mid-March, fruit trees bloomed a month early, temperatures rose to record highs before Memorial Day, and scores of wildfires, a few of them national priorities, ignited across the state.

The fact that the climate is changing may not be proven by Wyoming's ongoing drought, but the tinderbox conditions do remind us to heed the climatologists: This is how global climate change would look in this region of the country. These weather extremes may illustrate the possible longer-term changes we face if we fail to reduce our collective greenhouse gas emissions. Here at the Wyoming Outdoor Council, we recognize more and more that the work we do to conserve landscapes may preserve some adaptability in ecosystems under future stress from higher temperatures and less water. Adaptability in Wyoming's natural world is important for a host of reasons. Our natural heritage depends on it. Our society and quality of life do too. And so does our statewide economy—active, outdoor recreation, for example, brings more than \$3.6 billion annually in retail sales and service across Wyoming, adding up to 17 percent of our gross state product. Add to these numbers the value of the services provided by intact ecosystems in Wyoming: clean air and water, water storage, viable wildlife populations, pollination, healthy soil for food crops, and many others.

One of the ways in which the Outdoor Council conserves landscapes is to resist oil and gas development in highly targeted places—places where the agencies know we're going to engage fiercely. In the Red Desert, for example, because of our opposition to leasing in the Jack Morrow Hills, a lease has not been issued since the 1990s. Should the Council continue its advocacy, as we plan to, only 26,800 acres of leases will remain in the Jack Morrow Hills by 2018, down from a high of nearly 226,000 leased acres in 2006.

In another of the Red Desert's landscapes, Adobe Town, the BLM offered nearly 11,000 acres of oil and gas leases in three lease sales finalized in 2011. The Council challenged the leasing of Adobe Town parcels in each sale, and the BLM decided in the end not to offer any of these parcels. In its decisions, the BLM cited issues the Outdoor Council raised in our comments and protests. We have also challenged successfully oil and gas leases in other sensitive areas of southwestern Wyoming.

Further north, the Wyoming Outdoor Council has been working for decades to limit oil and gas leasing in our state's

national forests. We began our campaign to keep oil and gas development off the Shoshone National Forest in the early 1990s. Due to myriad reasons, including market forces and successful advocacy from our staff, the number of oil and gas leases on the Shoshone has declined. There are no producing wells on the forest today, and our goal is to maintain this condition if possible.

A word about our approach: In asking the Bureau of Land Management not to sell certain parcels of public land for energy development, we are selective and consistent. We ask the agency not to offer acreage that is important for biological or social reasons—it's crucial sage-grouse habitat, for example, or it's a special spot enjoyed by Wyoming people. We're targeting the places that are most important in holding on to the "wild" in "wild West." The BLM has commended us for our focus.

Ultimately, we work toward administrative protection for the landscapes described here and many more. But until we have the forces in place needed to achieve safeguards in perpetuity, the disciplined prevention of leases before they are issued helps us to maintain the health of Wyoming's wild, open spaces, even as the climate changes. This vigilance is keeping some of Wyoming wide open. With your help, we intend to keep it up. ,

Sincerely,

Kathy Lichtendahl
President, Board of Directors

Laurie K. Milford
Executive Director



The 2011 Wyoming Outdoor Council staff, back row from left to right: Linda Sisco, Bonnie Hofbauer, Laurie Milford, Gary Wilmot, Richard Garrett, Nathan Maxon, Steve Jones. Front row from left to right: Chris Merrill, Sophie Osborn, Lisa McGee, Jamie Wolf, and Bruce Pendery.

Protecting Our Land

A historic achievement: The conservation of roadless areas

The backcountry areas of our national forests, also known as “inventoried roadless areas,” have been in administrative and legal limbo for more than a decade. The year 2011 brought an end to the controversy and reinstated the protections that these areas deserve. **The Wyoming Outdoor Council is proud to have played a part in this nationally significant achievement.**

Roadless areas are special and increasingly rare. In Wyoming, national forest roadless areas account for just 5 percent of our state’s acreage. They comprise some of the best wildlife habitat anywhere and are popular and accessible places people go to hike, camp, bike, horsepack, hunt, fish, and generally enjoy our national forests. And, as is often said: They’re not making any more of them.

Recognizing their value, the Forest Service issued the **Roadless Area Conservation Rule** in 2001. The rule was motivated not only by conservation interests, but also by common sense. The existing national forest road network was extensive—too vast, in fact, to allow the agency to manage it, given its budget constraints. Thus, the rule sought to prohibit new road construction as well as commercial-scale timber harvest (an activity that almost always requires road construction) on roughly 58 million acres of national forests deemed “roadless,” which includes more than three million acres in Wyoming.

The state of Wyoming was an early

opponent of the roadless rule and was a party to a lawsuit challenging it. In response, the Wyoming Outdoor Council, represented by Earthjustice, intervened on behalf of the Forest Service to defend the merits of the rule and the process by which it was put into effect.

More than a decade of uncertainty followed. Wyoming’s legal challenge found favor with a Wyoming federal district court that enjoined the rule nationwide. But in legal challenges elsewhere in the country the rule was upheld. The decision that resulted from Wyoming’s original challenge to the rule was appealed. The Wyoming Outdoor Council retained its position as intervenors in defense of the Forest Service. **In 2011, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the Wyoming court’s decision, instructing it to lift the nationwide injunction it had placed on the rule.** A later decision also denied the state of Wyoming’s request for reconsideration, making clear that the rule is now valid and in full force. This is a historic conservation victory.

Dispelling the myths about roadless areas

State and local elected officials in Wyoming continue to criticize the roadless rule. Most of these criticisms, however, are unfounded. For example, the rule does not prevent the Forest Service from pursuing projects related to forest health. There is a specific exemption in the rule that allows for the thinning of small diameter trees in roadless areas, if necessary. That said, it is widely acknowledged that the most effective treatments to defend against

the threat of wildfire, for example, occur in the front-country portions of our forests, in areas called the “wildland-urban interface.” That is where forest health projects are most appropriately targeted—where the money is better spent—not backcountry roadless areas. Further, the notion that roadless areas create de facto wilderness is far from the truth. **Snowmobile travel continues unabated in roadless areas. And, in roadless areas where there are existing roads or two tracks, summer motorized travel may still occur.**

The roadless rule provides balance and wise management of our forest backcountry. For all of us whose lives are enriched by the presence of and access to the backcountry lands on our national forests, the reinstatement of the rule is something to celebrate.

Public plans for public lands

We helped convince the Bureau of Land Management to establish a resource advisory council as a way to make management of public lands more transparent and accessible to the public. The Outdoor Council participated in the nominating process for the resource advisory council. We have attended every meeting of the new group to advance relationships with members. The group’s first project will be to cooperate on the Rock Springs area land-use plan revision, which should be out in draft form by 2013.

Wind River Basin

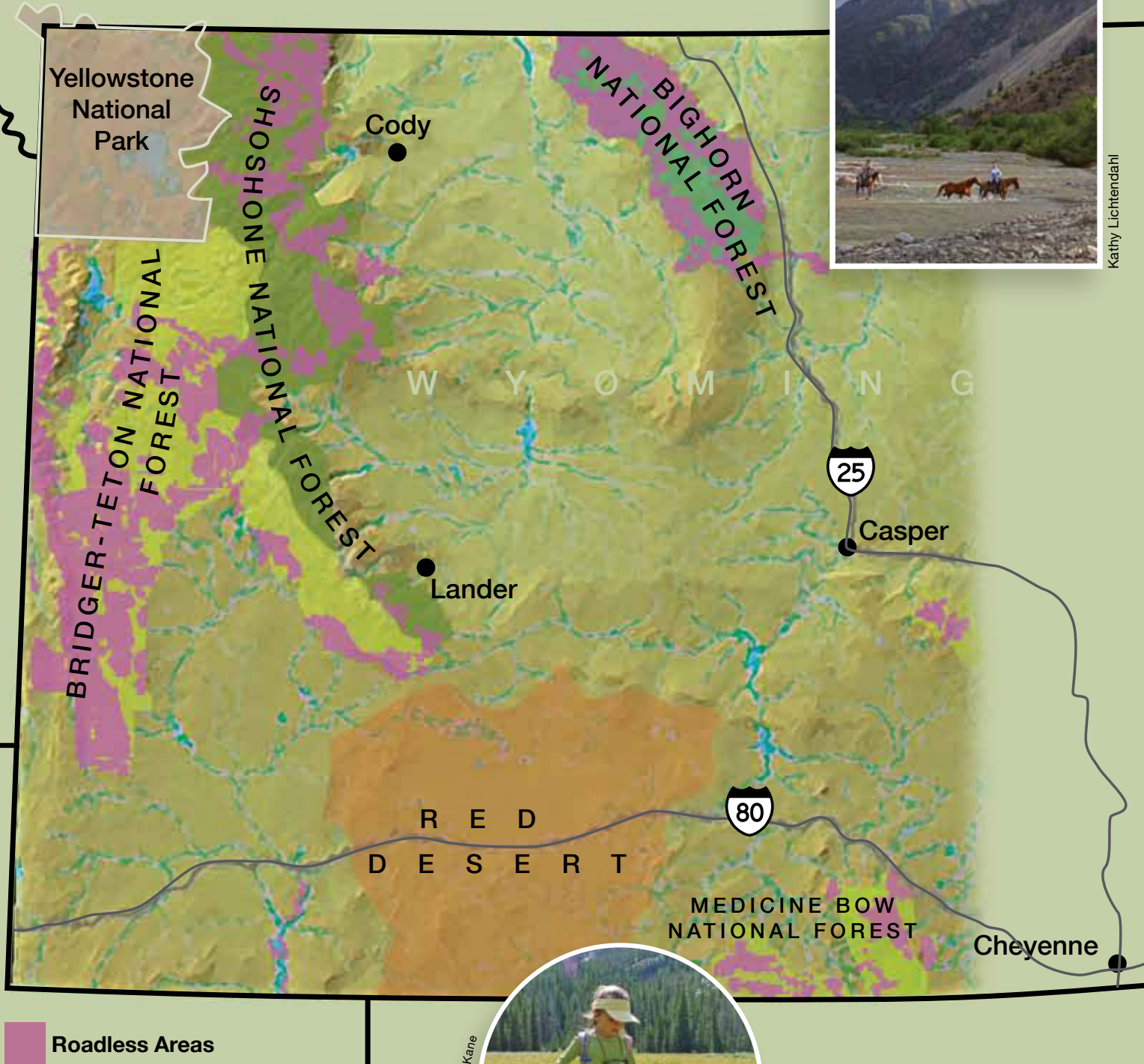
The Lander BLM released its draft 20-year land-use plan in September of 2011, and the agency’s preferred alternative proposes to withdraw 100,000 acres in

continued on page 6

Wyoming's Roadless Areas



Kathy Lichtendahl



Scott Kane



This map shows the general locations of roadless areas in Wyoming. For more specific information, visit roadlessland.org


the Upper Wind River Valley from future oil and gas leasing. This valley is one of our nation's most visually spectacular landscapes and finest wintertime wildlife areas. The draft plan precludes industrial development on the surface of nearly 1 million acres stretching from the Lander Front east to the Sweetwater Watershed and through the historic trails corridor. While there is still room to improve other aspects of this plan before it's finalized, we will work tirelessly to retain, and build upon, these excellent provisions. This draft plan strongly mirrors our vision for the Wind River Basin, which we presented—with good effect—to Interior Department officials, Wyoming's governor, and to a variety of local stakeholders.

Bighorn Basin

The BLM also released its draft 20-year plan for the Bighorn Basin in the spring of 2011. The agency's preferred alternative increases lands unavailable for oil and gas leasing by 140,000 acres

“This draft plan strongly mirrors our vision for the Wind River Basin, which we presented—with good effect—to Interior Department officials, Wyoming’s governor, and to a variety of local stakeholders.”

to 291,000 acres and it adds three areas of critical environmental concern. It withdraws, however, only 9 percent of the field office from oil and gas leasing, and, because of this, we see a lot of opportunity to improve the final plan. We delivered in-depth technical comments in the summer of 2011 with the primary

goal of enhancing protections for the Absaroka-Beartooth and Bighorn fronts as well as the Fifteen Mile Basin. In order to influence this new plan we worked closely with our partners to develop a defensible conservation proposal. We have also endeavored to negotiate with two of the basin's oil and gas companies and have garnered some support for protecting the Absaroka-Beartooth Front. In addition, we have engaged Governor Matt Mead regarding his interest in prioritizing “enhanced oil recovery” in the basin. This process could help focus development on existing oil and gas fields and away from important undeveloped landscapes. During the comment period we hosted outreach events and informational meetings to engage the public. We sent letters urging landowners and hunters to participate in the plan and we engaged in BLM public meetings and cooperator meetings. We will continue to urge the BLM to craft a final plan that protects important resources. 

Quick Hits

- **Good news for the Shoshone National Forest:** Windsor Energy Group withdrew its application to drill on the Beartooth Front in 2011, and the Forest Service canceled the project, preventing the first well on the Shoshone in more than 20 years.
- **For the McCullough Peaks:** In 2011 we filed a request for BLM state director review of a re-proposed drilling project that would harm nearly 63,000 acres of wilderness-quality lands in the Cody area. As a result, the company withdrew its applications to drill and asked to negotiate with us and the

groups we represent. Negotiations may continue in 2012. We will continue working to ensure that the leaseholder proposes a plan with fewer wells and less harm to wilderness-quality lands.

- **Victory in the courtroom:** Western Energy Alliance, an organization of oil and gas companies, challenged the BLM's practice of delaying issuance of oil and gas leases sold at auction while it considers the merits of lease protests. We intervened in the matter on behalf of the BLM and appeared as local counsel. The U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming held that

the BLM has discretion to make informed decisions about whether to issue an oil and gas lease after leases are sold at auction, but is also required to make such a decision within 60 days of a sale. The decision did not affect previously protested and deferred parcels, which was one of our top priorities. WEA has appealed this decision, and we will remain engaged as long as the legal process continues. The outcome of the case could have sweeping consequences for contested leases in the Wyoming Range and elsewhere.

Protecting Our Air

A bad call on ozone

In 2011 President Barack Obama directed the Environmental Protection Agency to abandon its plan to strengthen important ozone pollution rules—as had been unanimously recommended by the EPA's expert advisory group of air quality scientists and medical professionals.

The EPA had planned to issue the new regulations in the summer of 2011 in an effort to reduce industrial emissions of the chemicals that cause smog and dangerous ground-level ozone pollution, which can be especially harmful to children, the elderly, and those with respiratory difficulties, such as asthma.

The *New York Times* reported that this decision by President Obama came “after an intense lobbying campaign by industry, which said the new rule would cost billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs.”

Alongside citizens in the Pinedale area, the Wyoming Outdoor Council has worked for years to raise awareness about the dangerous ozone pollution there, and about the need to strengthen protections for the people who live and work in the area.

We took issue with this decision and responded forcefully in the media and with decision-makers.

In a September media release, Wyoming Outdoor Council Program Director Bruce Penderly called the decision “distressing” and addressed the industry claims head-on:

“You’ll hear people try to make the argument that these regulations will hurt the economy and cost jobs, etc.,” Penderly said. “Industry lobbyists have made these same arguments about every commonsense pollution control since the Nixon administration—and the sky has never fallen like they claimed it would. And we’ve all benefited from cleaner air and water.”

“But more importantly—and our members remind us of this all the time—it’s not enough just to have jobs,” Penderly said. “We also have to make sure those workers, their families, and their communities are safe and they’re not being harmed by the industrial development.”

Ozone is an invisible air pollutant that, at the concentrations that have been recorded in the Pinedale area, can cause permanent and irreversible damage to human lungs.

Scientists have now established, repeatedly and unequivocally, that the current federal limits for ozone pollution are not strict enough to protect the public health.

On the flip side, some progress

We have continued to work with our partners in the Pinedale area to help state regulators make progress in improving air quality in western Wyoming.

First, the EPA has recently designated Sublette County (and portions of Lincoln and Sweetwater Counties) in nonattainment with the current ozone standard. Although the current standard is inadequate as a national standard, the nonattainment designation still provides a new legal status for this region of Wyoming that will serve as a strong inducement toward adopting improved emissions controls in this area.

Second, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has established the Upper Green River Basin Air Quality Citizens Advisory Task Force. This advisory group of about 25 citizens, county and city government officials, and BLM, DEQ, and Forest Service officials is charged with making recommendations to the DEQ for ways to reduce emissions of the pollutants that lead to ozone formation. The Wyoming



Scott Copeland Images

Outdoor Council accepted an invitation to be on this task force.

We are cautiously optimistic that the group will be able to recommend solutions.

And finally, after dropping the ball in 2011, the EPA is scheduled to revisit the current ozone standard in 2013. We are hopeful the agency will strengthen the standard at that time.

Responding to the “Son of Jonah”

Encana’s proposed “Normally Pressured Lance” natural gas field south of Pinedale—which the BLM took public comment on in 2011—would, effectively, more than quadruple the size of the existing Jonah field.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council is arguing that the Bureau of Land Management must ensure that dangerous air pollution is addressed before it can approve this proposed 3,500-well field.

In official comments submitted in 2011, we pointed out that the BLM cannot continue to permit these large-scale industrial activities in Sublette County—which are the overwhelming cause of the existing air pollution problems—until Pinedale-area residents can breathe healthy air again throughout the year.

A final decision on this proposed development is being expedited by the BLM, but it is uncertain when we will see the draft environmental analysis, which will provide another opportunity for the public to comment on and influence the project. 🙏

Protecting Our Water

Fracking likely contaminated Wyoming drinking water

The Environmental Protection Agency in 2011 released a draft report of its investigation into groundwater contamination east of Pavillion, Wyoming. **In that report the agency found that the drilling practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, likely contaminated a groundwater aquifer that residents had used for stock water, drinking water, and domestic use.**



Residents outside of Pavillion have said for years that their domestic water wells were good and clean until an oil and gas company started drilling and hydraulically fracturing near their homes to produce natural gas.

The EPA's 2011 report included details of the chemical contamination found in water wells that were drilled by the EPA for the purposes of the agency's investigation, as well as information about contaminants found in domestic water wells.

The water wells were contaminated by dangerous levels of cancer-causing benzene, methane, diesel- and gasoline-range compounds and chemicals often associated with fracking, according to the EPA.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council engaged heavily in this report and hired an independent hydrologist to review the draft investigation and provide expert scientific comments to the EPA.

Throughout 2011 we continued our multi-year effort to secure full disclosure of the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing and we continued to push for a statewide requirement for baseline water testing prior to drilling. These campaigns are ongoing.

UW forum on hydraulic fracturing

The University of Wyoming hosted a forum in September 2011 with the purpose of exploring the technical and environmental issues related to hydraulic fracturing and its associated activities.

The two-day conference in Laramie was successful in that 400 people attended and exchanged ideas about how to manage this high-tech and potentially high-risk drilling tool.

Wyoming Outdoor Council Water Protection Program Attorney Steve Jones and Executive Director Laurie Milford were on the steering committee that planned the forum. Working with our colleague from the Natural Resources Defense Council, Amy Mall, we helped to secure these speakers:

- Robert Field, associate research scientist with the UW Department of Atmospheric Science, who presented on ozone pollution in Pinedale;
- Pat O'Toole, a rancher from Savory, Wyoming, who has oil and gas

development on his property and BLM grazing allotments;

- Deb Thomas, organizer for the Powder River Basin Resource Council, who presented on the ways drilling has affected people in Clark and Pavillion, Wyoming;
- David Burnett, with the Department of Petroleum Engineering at Texas A&M University, who presented on best practices;
- Ann Maest of Stratus Consulting, who presented on "flowback" and produced water; and
- Brianna Mordick, science fellow and geologist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, with six years of experience working for Anadarko Petroleum Corp.

They were all excellent.

Our role in the forum

As the steering committee planned the event, it fell to the environmental groups on the committee to ensure that discussions of water- and air-quality concerns, best management practices, the EPA investigation into water contamination in Pavillion, and landowner issues were included on the agenda.

"This steering committee process was a clear example of the essential role nongovernmental organizations play in representing the interests of the public," Executive Director Laurie Milford said of the experience.

Many thanks to both the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources and the Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources for hosting the forum and for including the Wyoming Outdoor Council on the steering committee. 

Protecting Our Wildlife



Sophie Osborn
Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife
Program Director

Nearly everyone I meet in Wyoming appreciates our wildlife. However, the Wyoming Outdoor Council's work to help it persist in the face of energy development and other pressures often faces fierce resistance from a small number of influential people or groups. As a result, protecting wildlife can sometimes feel like a Herculean task. Along with our successes over the years, we've also faced difficult disappointments, including some in 2011. Nevertheless, we made encouraging progress in some areas, and we continued to be an increasingly powerful voice for Wyoming's wildlife, both inside and outside of the state.

Despite years of engagement, including ongoing efforts in 2011, the Council was unable to convince the state to adopt statewide management for wolves in Wyoming. Once wolves are delisted in Wyoming, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department should be responsible for managing the species statewide. Unfortunately, Wyoming opted to adopt a dual-status management system that will classify wolves as predators that can be killed by anyone at anytime in 84 percent of the state and give jurisdiction of wolves in the "predator" area to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. Likewise, despite our work to guarantee wolves a protected year-round movement corridor between Wyoming and Idaho, the state opted instead to adopt only a seasonally protected corridor for dispersing wolves.

We received an adverse ruling on our litigation challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to phase out the winter feeding of elk at the National Elk Refuge to help prevent the always-fatal chronic wasting disease from spreading to the herds of the Greater Yellowstone area. **Although the court declined to require an end date to supplemental feeding at the refuge as we had asked, it nonetheless issued strong language condemning the Fish and Wildlife Service for its continued feeding program and underscoring the agency's legal obligation to end the practice.** Our separate litigation challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decisions that the elusive wolverine did not warrant Endangered Species Act protections led to a reversal by the agency and a decision that listing is warranted but, for the time being, precluded by limited resources and higher

listing priorities. The agency will make a final decision on the wolverine's status by 2013.

Much of our work on behalf of wildlife in 2011 dealt with proposed and ongoing energy development. I assisted National Forests and Parks Program Director Lisa McGee by analyzing the potential impact of an oil and gas development project on birds that are dependent on sagebrush habitats in the Hoback area. And I helped Watershed Protection Program Attorney Steve Jones by serving as an expert witness on sage-grouse as we battled the issuance of a permit to the Lost Creek uranium mine by the Environmental Quality Council because of concerns over the project's serious predicted affects on the area's sage-grouse population. I provided extensive comments on the proposed Sweeney Ranch, Quaking Aspen, and Chokecherry/Sierra Madre wind projects, urging greater protections for wildlife, including golden eagles and sage-grouse. The latter project would be the largest wind farm in North America. I also submitted substantive

comments on federal wind energy guidelines and the national eagle conservation plan proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I encouraged the federal government to adopt more protective policies to safeguard wildlife in the context of industrial-scale wind energy development. **Our comments and the Outdoor Council's blog publication on the high number of golden eagles killed at Wyoming's wind farms helped focus national attention on this growing problem.**

I continued working on a variety of fronts to help bolster protections for Wyoming's declining greater sage-grouse populations. I represented the conservation community in a West-wide collaborative that is overseeing and securing funding for three large research projects to examine the impacts of wind turbines on grouse. I worked with a host of other conservation groups to develop recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management for achieving successful regional grouse conservation. I highlighted limitations to the state's protocols for determining if development projects were compatible with grouse. And I advocated strong protections for grouse in substantive comments for a number of proposed energy development projects as well as for Bureau of Land Management planning documents.

Throughout 2011, the Outdoor Council increasingly shared our knowledge and expertise with agencies, other conservation organizations, and public information groups, so that these voices could join ours in achieving further successes for wildlife in 2012. 🦅



Kathy Lichtendahl

The Politics of Energy

Birth of an energy policy?

Wyoming Governor Matt Mead announced plans in 2011 to work with state agencies, industry, legislators, and environmental organizations to develop a state energy policy. The Wyoming Outdoor Council was one of the groups invited to participate in this process.

The governor has pointed out, quite rightly, that absent a national energy policy, Wyoming must chart a path forward that is balanced and proactive, one that anticipates how the state's abundant energy portfolio will be administered while protecting other critical natural resources including air, water, and wildlife.

Climate change represents a profound challenge to the Council's mission. By adopting conservation and efficiency as well as deploying new technologies using traditional and renewable sources of energy, society can begin to reverse the effects of anthropogenic greenhouse gases.

The 2011 legislature

Fighting for water in Cheyenne

The Wyoming Outdoor Council worked hard with many others during the 2011 legislative session to strengthen a bill, Senate File 121, which established new statewide standards for landfills.

Before the landfills bill was sent to the full Senate for a vote, it was substantially rewritten based on the efforts of a broad range of stakeholders who came together to reach a consensus.

This group's participants included State Sen. Eli Bebout (who introduced the original bill), the Wyoming Outdoor Council and other conservation groups, the City of Casper, the Fremont County Solid Waste District, and the Wyoming

Department of Environmental Quality in an advisory capacity.

As a result of our efforts, the bill ultimately, correctly, and explicitly referenced well-established federal standards for landfill designs.

What this means is that the state's groundwater resources—the water aquifers under and near Wyoming's existing and future landfills—have been afforded crucial protections.

Several bills die that would have been environmental rollbacks

Included in this list are House Bill 260, House Bill 55, and House Bill 51. Each in its own way would have removed or significantly altered many of the environmental protections that we've fought for over the years. House Bill 55 had the added implication of restricting access to the Industrial Siting and Environmental Quality Council's hearings, which often include rulemaking and decision-making processes. On each of these bills the Wyoming Outdoor Council was the lone, early objector. As we raised awareness about the bills' implications, other voices (sometimes unlikely) were added. We strongly believe that without our early opposition, more than one (and perhaps all) of these rollback bills would have passed.

Additional victories

We worked hard to support and see passed House Bill 179 (Energy Improvement Program) and Senate File 62 (Large Project Funding). The former will enable homeowners to finance energy efficiency improvements through their monthly electricity bill while our support of Senate File 62 was recognized by its advocates as an important element in continuing to encourage the legislature's support of the Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Fund.

Losing 'rare or uncommon'

Our biggest disappointment during the session was the passage of House Bill 152, which removed the power of the Environmental Quality Council to designate places in Wyoming as "very rare or uncommon," a designation that affords modest recognition and protections.

Since this law's enactment in the early 1970s (and its amendment in 1976) a tiny fraction of the state—fewer than 220,000 acres—has been designated very rare or uncommon and most of that acreage is in Adobe Town (185,000 acres). To help put this into perspective: There are 63 million acres of land in Wyoming. About 48 percent of that is federally owned and about 3 percent is state owned. Thus, less than half a percent of Wyoming's land has been designated as very rare or uncommon.

Many important historical places such as Fort McKinney and the Medicine Wheel have been designated. Culturally important places, such as Devils Tower, have received the designation. Adobe Town has been designated largely because it has geological features that are found nowhere else in Wyoming.

Despite having lost the battle, we're encouraged to have heard that the governor would like to begin to find a way to implement many of the best elements of a very rare or uncommon designation within an existing (or even new) framework or mechanism. 🙏

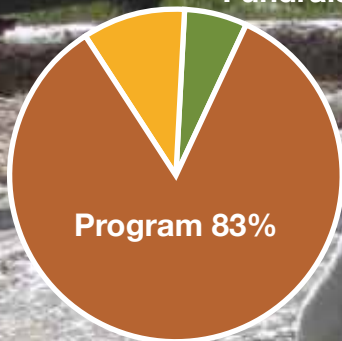


Richard Garrett
Energy and Legislative Advocate

Expenses by Activity

General and Administrative
11%

Fundraising 6%



Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2011

Assets	2011
Cash and Savings	\$496,331
Donations Receivable	326,881
Property and Equipment, net	86,579
Investments / Endowments	1,861,917
Long-Term Pledges Receivable	509,480
Total Assets	\$3,281,188

Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accounts Payable	\$45,555
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	528,961
Unrestricted, Board Designated	1,143,559
Temporarily Restricted	844,755
Permanently Restricted	718,358
Total Net Assets	\$3,235,633
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,281,188

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2011

Support and Revenues	
Individual Contributions	\$206,526
Foundation Contributions	414,342
Memberships	16,074
Other Support	300
Interest and Dividend Income	62,510
Total Revenue and Support	\$699,752*

Expenses by Activity	
Program Services	\$759,514
General and Administrative	100,659
Fundraising	54,904
Total Expenses	\$915,077

* This number underrepresents the true operating income for 2011. Pledge payments received during the fiscal year were shown as income in prior years to comply with accounting standards. The 2011 audit report is available on request.

“The Wyoming Outdoor Council’s mission is timeless. Its work is essential. And its thousands of members over the years are my heroes. Every one of them. Thank you for giving us the resources we need to get the job done.”

—Laurie Milford, executive director

The members of the Wyoming Outdoor Council come together to protect our environment and quality of life for future generations.

Foundations

1002 Foundation
 Alki Fund of Tides Foundation
 Blue Ridge Fund
 The Brooks Foundation
 Burdick Faulkner Charitable Fund
 Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation
 Cinnabar Foundation
 Community Foundation of Jackson Hole
 Confluence Fund
 Educational Foundation of America (joint grant with EARTHWORKS Oil & Gas Accountability Project)
 Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
 Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
 Furrer Foundation
 Furthur Foundation
 Guthrie Family Foundation
 Harder Foundation
 Lander Community Foundation
 LOR Foundation, Inc.
 Maki Foundation
 Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation
 McCoy Charitable Foundation
 The New-Land Foundation, Inc.
 New Venture Fund
 The Schaub Foundation
 Stanley Family Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
 George B. Storer Foundation
 STS Foundation
 Trillium Family Foundation
 The Walter & Mary Tuohy Foundation
 Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation
 The Wyss Foundation

Organizations

Abrams Capital Management, LLC
 Cony Corporation
 Crane Creek Graphics
 Glacier View Mechanical, Inc.
 Grand Steps Therapy PC
 Greater Yellowstone Coalition
 Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign
 Izaak Walton League of America, Travelle Chapter
 Jackson Hole Mountain Guides
 Lescorpius Enterprises, Inc., High Security Lock and Alarm
 Mcroft Family Partnership
 Patagonia
 Sun Dog Automotive

Sustainable Wealth Management
 Whimpy Wolf Builders
 Wild Iris Mountain Sports
 The Wilderness Society
 Williams Companies, INC
 Yukon to Yellowstone Conservation Initiative

Individuals (\$1,000+)

Anonymous (6)
 Lynne and Jim Bama
 T. Anthony and Linda Brooks
 James and Laura Cafferty
 Martha Christensen
 Rich and Mary Guenzel
 Scott Kane and Michelle Escudero
 Robert and Michele Keith, Jr.
 Beedee and Ted Ladd
 Susan Lasher and Chris Pfister
 Kathy and Ken Lichtendahl
 Heather MacLeod
 George McClelland, Jr.
 Gilman and Marge Ordway
 Keith and Kathleen Rittle
 Annie, David, & Timothy Schaub
 Mike Shonsey
 Georgie Stanley
 Anthony and Erika Stevens
 Carol Tolan
 Liz Tuohy and Gary Cukjati
 Stephen and Amy Unfried
 Jack Van Baalen
 Judy Walker and George Hallenbeck
 Philip and Patty Washburn
 H. Gilbert Welch and Linda Doss

Individuals (\$1-999)

Anonymous (18)
 K.D. and Rhett Abernathy
 Barbara Abrahamer
 Molly Absolon and Allen O'Bannon
 Richard Adams and Andrea Berry
 Jacinda Alberty
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“I’ve worked for the Outdoor Council for 20 years, and we’re the biggest and best we’ve ever been. This organization is doing great work and I’m glad to do my part. Here’s hats off to all of our members, you make it happen!”

—Bonnie Hofbauer, office manager

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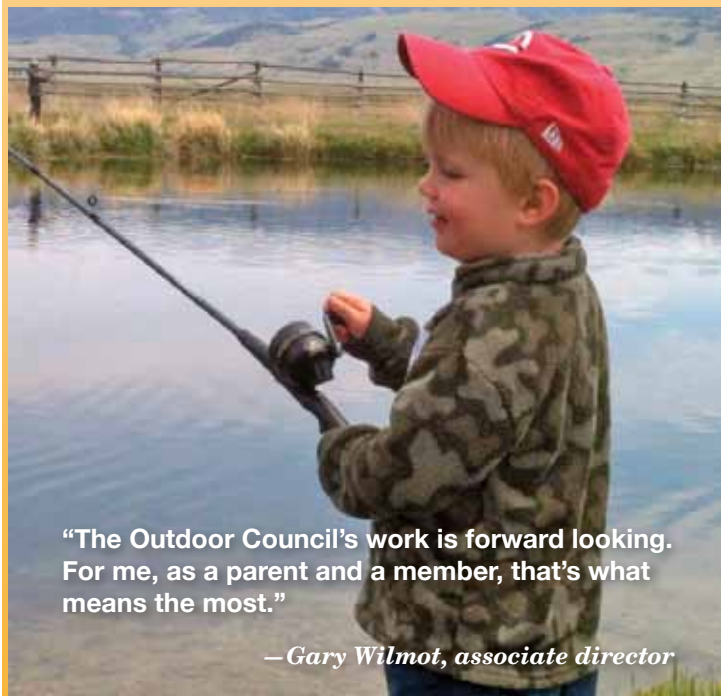
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 For me, as a parent and a member, that’s what
 means the most.”**

— Gary Wilmot, associate director

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In Honor of

Tracy Bacon and Justin Stoltzfus
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Wyoming Outdoor Council

wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org

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Lisa Hueneke

June 23, 2012, Lander

During the Wyoming Outdoor Council's 45th anniversary celebration, the young artists pictured above showed us their vision for Wyoming. Our task today is to secure that vision into the future.

Our sincere thanks to the Lander Art Center for helping us see, once again, a great vision of the future.

Stop by the Lander office to see the children's work of art!

The Outdoor Council's mission
to protect Wyoming's environment and quality of life
is essential and timeless.

Please join, renew, or give a gift today to help us fulfill this mission and bring about a vibrant, healthy, and sustainable future in Wyoming.

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Cover: Kathy Litchendahl