



Wyoming Outdoor Council
Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



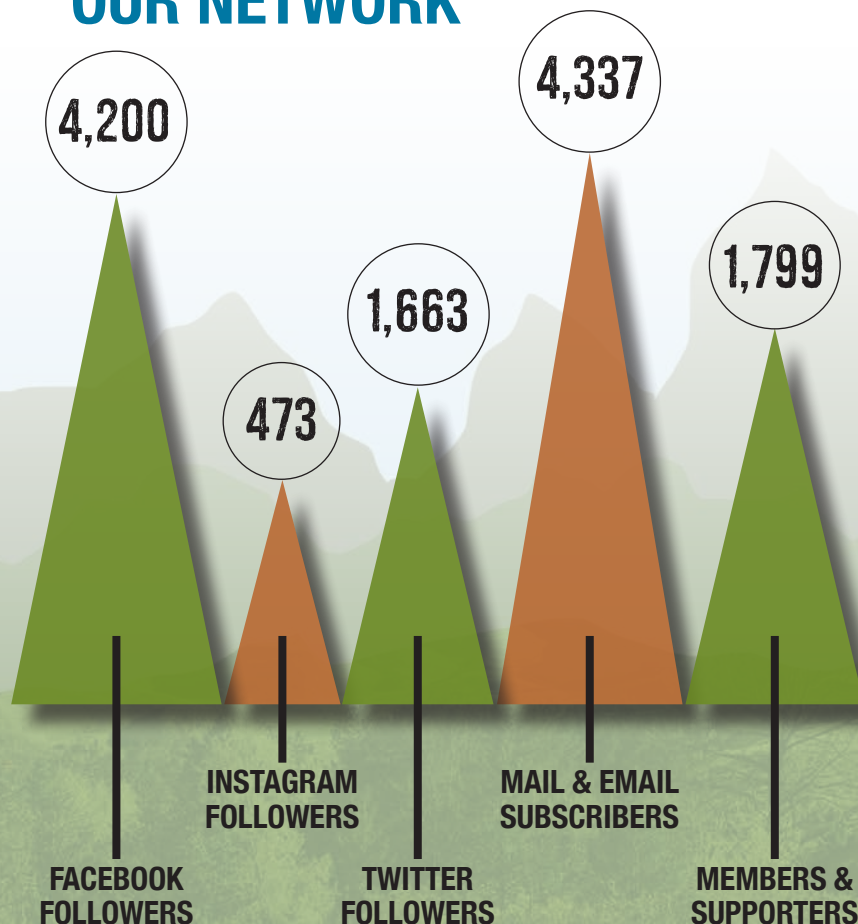
GARY WILMOT
Executive Director

THANKS to your support and powerful civic engagement, we had another successful year in **2016**, and enclosed is just a glimpse of what we came together to achieve for Wyoming's people, wildlife, and quality of life.

But first I wish to remember Tom Bell, our visionary founder, who died in late summer at the age of 92. He was a war hero, father, teacher, writer, conservation luminary, and dear friend.

Fifty years ago, Tom set the tone for how conservation should be done in Wyoming: collaboratively whenever possible, unyieldingly when necessary, and always with grit and dogged determination. Tom knew change would occur if people throughout the state banded together and showed up every day to speak out, offer solutions, and provide a vision for a better future. **For Tom, we promise to do right by his memory and the good work he started back in 1967.**

OUR NETWORK



PROTECTING WYOMING'S AIR AND WATER

Thanks to your support, in 2016 we . . .

- **SECURED** better air pollution controls for all Wyoming citizens—regardless of zip code. Following successful work with the DEQ to reduce harmful emissions from oil and gas wells in the Upper Green River Valley, we advocated that these commonsense air pollution controls be required statewide. **We'll keep working in 2017 to see that these stronger pollution rules are enforced statewide to better protect the health of all Wyomingites.**
- **PRESSED** the state to consider public input before reclassifying water quality standards (which would have allowed for more E. coli pollution in 75 percent of Wyoming's surface water) and to keep stricter standards in place for wilderness waters and Wild and Scenic rivers.
- **PUSHED** the state to enforce environmental regulations to address ongoing pollution in a popular fishing and camping spot in the Shoshone National Forest. We're working closely with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Wind River Ranger District to help bring the Brooks Lake Lodge into compliance with the Clean Water Act. **We're optimistic that improved wastewater treatment facilities will be in place by the end of 2017.**
- **HELPED** citizens in Saratoga find an alternative to the town's plan to discharge municipal waste into a section of the North Platte River—a blue ribbon fishery—and develop up-to-date wastewater management that better protects this important local and regional resource.

WYOMING PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE

Tracking and engaging with

10 WYOMING COUNTIES

and working with

15 CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMEN GROUPS

to consider, potentially,

403,220

**ACRES OF WILDERNESS STUDY
AREAS, PLUS OTHER SPECIAL
PUBLIC LANDS FOR INCLUSION IN A
FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS BILL**



KEEPING PUBLIC LANDS IN PUBLIC HANDS

mobilized

710 CITIZENS TO ATTEND
RALLIES AND HEARINGS

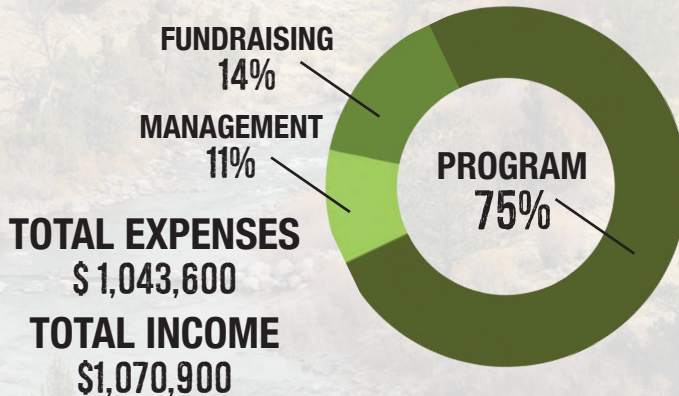
and helped create a coalition of over

41 NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS

and sent

THOUSANDS OF EMAILS TO LEGISLATORS!

BY THE NUMBERS



RALLYING CITIZENS TO PROTECT A BELOVED RECREATION SPOT

JOHNNY BEHIND THE ROCKS—5,000 acres of public land just outside Lander—is a mountain biking, horseback riding, running, and hiking paradise that locals love and visitors are thrilled to discover and explore. **It's the kind of gem that helps a small Wyoming town like Lander thrive.** In 2016, the Bureau of Land Management announced its intentions to protect this outdoor hotspot with a proposed prohibition on hard rock mining. Some Fremont County commissioners voiced opposition—arguing that mining should be allowed there. Thankfully, our members and supporters came to the rescue. **You testified, wrote letters, and met personally with commissioners to explain why mining would threaten everything users value most about this special place.** The commissioners heard your voices and ultimately voted not to oppose the mineral withdrawal. Places like these enhance quality of life and boost local economies throughout the West. The only way to protect them is through citizen engagement.