



IMPACT REPORT 2022
thewyldlifefund.org

PROJECT DRIVEN

PEOPLE FOCUSED

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A YEAR IN REVIEW

"Thank you for supporting The WYldlife Fund (The Fund). Our success would not be possible without you. The year 2022 has been one of great strides forward for The Fund. We were excited to double down on our efforts to get more youth plugged into the great outdoors of Wyoming through our first annual Inspire a Kid Camp and the Maury Brown Kids Fishing Day. These programs impacted the lives of 270 youth. Inspiring the next generation of wildlife enthusiasts is perhaps the most important initiative we can engage in. We are honored to continue to help hold the torch for Director Brian Nesvik and Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Inspire a Kid program.

Additionally, we had another banner year in driving dollars to the ground and advancing Wyoming's wildlife. The Fund invested in an array of important projects which benefited species such as cutthroat trout, mule deer, elk, moose, beavers and more. In total, The Fund granted out over \$520,000 in 2022 to support wildlife habitat, research, and education related initiatives and projects throughout Wyoming.

We were especially proud to send over \$360,000 to the I-25 (Buffalo to Kaycee) Wildlife Crossing Project. This important wildlife crossing project will be under construction in spring of 2023. Fifteen miles of exclusionary fencing will be built to direct wildlife, mainly mule deer, to existing underpasses.

Thank you to our supporters, partners, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Commission. Our work would not be possible without you."

MARK WILSON
Chairman of the Board



"The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission created The WYldlife Fund (*The Fund*) in 2018 to act as a strategic partner in advancing the mission and vision of the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. The Fund plays an important role as a nonprofit partner, a unifier, and a funder of large-scale projects for the Department. The I-25 Wildlife Crossing Project (Buffalo to Kaycee) is an excellent example of this type of project. Additionally, The Fund has become adept at connecting donors with their areas of interest and opportunities to intersect with the Department. I was especially pleased with The Fund's ability to support and enhance our Inspire a Kid Program in 2022 through the Inspire a Kid Camp in Bondurant and Maury Brown Kids Fishing Day in Cheyenne. These two incredible events undoubtedly inspired future generations of Wyoming wildlife enthusiasts.

The Fund constantly evaluates how it can better serve the Department and Commission, and 2022 was a giant leap forward for The Fund as they proved their effectiveness in bringing people together to support key goals of the Department. I am honored to serve on the board for The Fund and look forward to the future working together for Wyoming and wildlife."

BRIAN NESVIK
Director of Wyoming Game
& Fish Department



MAURY BROWN KIDS FISHING DAY

THANK YOU MAURY!



On June 4th, The Fund partnered with Maury Brown and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to host the first Maury Brown Kids Fishing Day at the Iron Mountain Ranch outside of Cheyenne. Over 250 kids were recruited to sign up and come out for a day of fishing, education and fun. In total, over 600 individuals participated which included parents, family members and volunteers.

Thanks to our partnership with Maury Brown and Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's, every single kid who attended went home with a fishing pole and fully stocked tackle box. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department hosted educational booths for families to interact with and fish cleaning stations were also available for participants.

We thank the following individuals and groups who made this day possible: **Maury Brown, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Kathryn Boswell, Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's, Brian Tyrell & Family, Cowboy Sanitation, Pat Crank & Family and Sporting Lead-Free.**



**SCAN ME!
WATCH THE VIDEO**

Inspire a Kid Camp



*Thank you Hamlin Family,
Little Jennie Ranch, and
Bondurant Basin Outfitters*

The first annual WYldlife Fund-Inspire a Kid Camp at the Little Jennie Ranch was a great success. Led by Board Member Faith Hamlin, the Inspire a Kid Camp provided opportunities for 20 youth from Wyoming and across the nation (West Virginia, California, and Florida in 2022) to experience the Wyoming wilderness while focusing on: leadership skills, personal growth, patriotic duty, and Wyoming's legacy of wildlife conservation through dynamic lessons with Game and Fish Biologists. We will expand this camp in 2023 with a boys and girls offering, totaling 40 students.

The Inspire a Kid Camp would not have been possible without the efforts of WYldlife Fund Board Member Faith Hamlin, the Hamlin Family, Bondurant Basin Outfitters and the entire team at the Little Jennie Ranch. Additionally, we would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for making camp possible: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Commissioner Pete Dube, Joey's Fly Fishing Foundation, Sporting Lead-Free, First Hunt Foundation-Wyoming, REI-Jackson, Wyoming 4H, Rocky Mountain Discount Sports-Riverton, First Tee-Monterey County, and Chestnut Mountain Ranch.



- Patriotism
- Leadership Development
- Western Conservation



*Scan Me!
Watch the video*

2022

Project Funding

The Fund takes great pride in sending dollars to on-the-ground projects that help Wyoming's wildlife. Every project The Fund invests in is vetted through our partners at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. In total, The Fund granted over \$520,000 to support Wyoming wildlife habitat, research, and education in 2022. Below is a sampling of these projects we would like to highlight. We take every opportunity to find matching dollars for grants and have been successful in working with our friends at the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust to maximize the impact of investments. We thank all of our generous donors and supporters who have made the following project support possible. For further information about projects funded be sure to visit our website!

A large bulk of our fundraising efforts were directed at the I-25 project. This stretch of highway is the second deadliest for wildlife in Wyoming. We were proud to send over \$360,000 to this important project. Bids have been accepted by the Wyoming Department of Transportation and construction will begin this spring.

Approximately fifteen miles of exclusionary fence will be constructed on both sides of Interstate 25 between mileposts 255 and 270 which will direct wildlife to six existing structures under the interstate. The allure of this project and the reason for its relatively low overall cost is due to the use of these existing agriculture underpasses being utilized to provide safe passage for wildlife across I-25. Deer escape ramps, cattle guards and gates will also be included in construction plans to facilitate appropriate movements of big game animals into the future.

Thank you to the Knobloch Family Foundation, Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund and Williams Energy for making this project support possible. The Muley Fanatic Foundation has also been steadfast supporters and funders of this important project!

I-25 (Buffalo to Kaycee) Wildlife Crossing



The following projects were funded through The Fund's signature program, Wildlife Tourism For Tomorrow (WTFT). WTFT is an innovative program led by Board Member Taylor Phillips. WTFT seeks to engage tourism related businesses and provides a direct mechanism for these important partners to give back to wildlife projects. To date, this initiative has raised \$203,000 with over 70 business supporters.

Spread Creek Fish Passage



Our local native Snake River cutthroat trout (a favorite of anglers!) need "room to roam" to access high-quality habitat so they can grow, survive, thrive, reproduce, and be resilient to environmental changes. The Fund granted \$25,000 to Trout Unlimited, the project lead, to help do just this. The Spread Creek Fish Passage project in Teton County will prevent future losses of migratory cutthroat trout and other native fish by installing a fish screen on the Spread Creek irrigation system. The screen will prevent fish from entering the irrigation system and divert them back into Spread Creek. It will also make much-needed improvements to stabilize the diversion structure and channel within the project area.

Photo Courtesy of Jackson Hole Trout Unlimited

2022

Project Funding

South Park Wetland Enhancement



South Park WHMA is nestled along the Snake River south of Jackson. It provides wetland, riparian, and meadow habitat for a diverse suite of species, from songbirds and amphibians in the cottonwood galleries to shorebirds and waterfowl in the marshes. Wetland ponds on the WHMA are also home to breeding trumpeter swans. These marshes also serve as one of the area's most important migration stopovers for waterbirds. The project reconnects old channel scars in the cottonwood gallery to the Snake River, helping raise the water table and increase the complexity of the forested habitat.

The wetland ponds, which filter water from the Jackson Wastewater Treatment Plant, will have new infrastructure installed. Additional shallow water wetlands will be built to provide more filtering, as well as more habitat for migrating waterbirds. The Fund was delighted to send \$25,000 to Ducks Unlimited, project lead, to help move this work forward.

New Fork River Restoration

The New Fork River is one of the most popular river fisheries in western Wyoming, emerging from the Wind River Mountains and flowing generally south for approximately 70 miles before reaching its confluence with the Green River. The New Fork River supports an increasing number of anglers from Sublette County and the surrounding area, and its waters support several sport fisheries. Moose, waterfowl, sage grouse and other wildlife utilize the river's floodplain corridor in an otherwise arid landscape. Work will be conducted on public and private lands of the New Fork River corridor to conduct stream and floodplain restoration. In particular, work is currently focusing on the New Fork Gas Wells (2 miles of BLM-managed river corridor) and the New Fork Area 351 (nearly 3 miles of river corridor on several private and one public parcels) for restoration. At these sites, restoration strategies will restore channel dimensions to reference conditions (narrow and deepen channel cross sections), alleviate highly erosive stream banks, and provide additional cover for fish within the channel. The Fund sent \$25,000 directly to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for this impactful project.

2022 WYldlife Fund Microgrant Awards

- Joey's Fly Fishing Foundation-Streamkeepers Program
- Afton Elk Heard Research
- Park County Boot Brush Cleaning Stations
- Greater Yellowstone Coalition-Bear Conflict Mitigation
- First Hunt Foundation-Wyoming
- Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department-Youth Summer Camp
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department-Women's Outdoor Series



Western Conservation Leadership Development Program

A signature program of The WYldlife Fund

Empowering the future leaders of Western Conservation

The Fund is dedicated to our future leaders. This is why we were so excited to launch the annual Maury Brown Kids Fishing Day and Inspire a Kid Camp. However, we aren't stopping there! We are also dedicated to the hardworking conservation professionals across the west.

The purpose of the Western Conservation Leadership Development Program is to equip a diverse set of public and private partners in the western region with the leadership and relationship capacities that are needed to inspire and create a legacy of conservation for future generations.

Partnerships, collaboration, and inclusivity are often a part of addressing these conservation challenges. To be successful, the conservation community needs a workforce where individuals at all levels, regardless of title or position, possess the leadership skills, behaviors, and mindset that contribute to durable, well-supported solutions and decisions. We have launched the Western Conservation Leadership Development Program to meet this critical need.

The first class of the Western Conservation Leadership Development Program graduated early this year. The second class kicked off in person at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp in Dubois this fall and will graduate next May. This dynamic and innovative program is a true collaborative effort and would not be possible without the following organizations and agencies:

- **Wyoming Game and Fish Department**
- **Idaho Fish and Game**
- **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**
- **Intermountain West Joint Venture**
- **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**
- **Kansas Leadership Center**
- **Eco-Alliances For Change, WCLDP Program Director Ali Duvall**

31 Active Students

31 Graduates



◀ *Learn More Here!*

2022

Legacy Funds Creates

The WYldlife Fund welcomes donors to make restricted gifts to support areas of conservation they are most passionate about.

The Judith A. Hosafros Memorial Fund and Moose Fund were both created in 2022.

Judith A. Hosafros Memorial Fund

A life well lived

Judy worked at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for 40 years. She was a publications specialist and then associate editor of Wyoming Wildlife Magazine through much of her career with the agency. She was a dedicated employee, an inspiration to others within the Game and Fish Department, and was always willing to help facilitate when her friendship and talents were needed. Judy also loved volunteering for the Game and Fish Department's Youth Conservation Camp. She knew how to make a difference when it counted.

To honor her legacy, her longtime partner Reg Rothwell has created the Judith A. Hosafros Memorial Fund. This endowment being held by The WYldlife Fund will support what Judy was most passionate about and help empower Game and Fish Department employees to grow professionally. Funds will be directed to the Game and Fish Department to support Wyoming Wildlife Magazine Staff attendance at the Association for Conservation Information annual conference and the Department's Camp Wild at Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp. We thank Reg for his generosity and are honored to help shine a light on Judy's enduring legacy.



Moose Fund

Wildlife enthusiasts across Wyoming enjoy the majestic Shiras Moose. You would be hard pressed to find a bigger advocate for moose than Mary Rumsey of Meeteetse. Mary has generously jumpstarted the Moose Fund that will specifically invest in habitat and research which benefits the moose of Wyoming.

Did you know that beavers are incredible ecosystem engineers and their work directly benefits an abundance of wildlife, including moose? Beavers create and maintain habitat associated with river ecosystems. Beavers, or more specifically the dams they build, can drastically alter these river ecosystems by impounding water. These alterations can result in a multitude of benefits, including higher water tables, reconnected and expanded floodplains, higher late season base flows, expanded wetlands, improved water quality, and more diversity and richness in the populations of plants, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals.

The first investment from this fund went to building and fabricating a beaver translocation trailer for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. This tool will allow for the strategic relocation of beavers which will improve wildlife habitat for a multitude of species, moose included!



If you would be interested in making a tax deductible gift to an established legacy fund, or would be interested in making a unique restricted gift of your own reach out to us at (307)316-3863 or chris@thewyldlifefund.org

CONTACT US: 307-316-3863
chris@thewyldlifefund.org

A Closing Message from **The President**

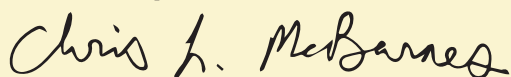
Dear Friend,

As you can glean from this report, The WYldlife Fund (The Fund) took substantial strides forward in 2022. We not only made significant investments in Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Commission priorities like the I-25 (Buffalo to Kaycee) Wildlife Crossing project but we also helped introduce hundreds of youth to Wyoming's great outdoors through the Maury Brown Kids Fishing Day and Inspire a Kid Camp. I am unable to adequately express my gratitude to both Maury Brown, the Hamlin Family and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for making the fishing day and camp possible. Folks like Maury and the Hamlin's lead by example and work to strengthen Wyoming's wildlife legacy. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is a deeply valued partner of The Fund and I applaud their dedication, passion and unyielding efforts on behalf of Wyoming's wildlife. The Fund will continue to do all we can to advance their priorities in the years to come. We also thank President Ken Roberts and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission for their support and commitment to this cause. Without their leadership, our progress would not be possible.

The Fund welcomed new team members in 2022. Brian Tyrrell of Cheyenne joined the Board of Directors. As a third-generation business owner, Brian will bring an array of talents to the team. Brian was critical in helping implement the Maury Brown Kids Fishing Day in June. He is passionate about connecting youth with Wyoming's wildlife and wild places. Nate Brown became The Fund's second employee in May as he assumed the role of operations manager. Nate's family homesteaded in Fremont County in the early 1900's and has called Wyoming home ever since. Nate has worked in the livestock industry, outfitting and guiding hunters, building saddles, and as a farrier. As a young man, Nate had the opportunity to work extensively in the Bridger-Teton Wilderness and Wind River Range and loves packing horses and mules into the backcountry. His grit and tenacity will serve The Fund and Wyoming's wildlife well.

Thanks to our amazing supporters, giving was up 150% in comparison to 2021. The Fund is committed to putting dollars on the ground to advance Wyoming's wildlife along with inspiring the next generation of wildlife enthusiasts. We will always remain project driven but people focused. Thank you for your continued support, we will never take this for granted.

Sincerely,



Chris McBarnes
President



Ways to support our mission:

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estate plans**

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to Learn More!





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