

wildsight



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2015**



wildsight

2015

BY THE NUMBERS

1 EXPIRED
ENVIRONMENTAL
CERTIFICATE
FOR JUMBO GLACIER RESORT!



54,000 BIRDS
COUNTED IN THE COLUMBIA
WETLANDS BIRD SURVEY



6240 KIDS
GOT OUTSIDE



25 YEARS
OF KEEPING JUMBO WILD!



**50 CITIZEN
SCIENTISTS**
TRAINED IN WATER MONITORING



7150 HECTARES
OF CONSERVATION LAND SURVEYED
IN THE ELK & FLATHEAD



1365 ACTIONS
TAKEN BY STUDENTS TO REDUCE
THEIR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS



**160KM OF
SHORELINE**
ON LAKE KOOCANUSA MAPPED FOR
SENSITIVE HABITAT



250 BOOKINGS
OF OUR FREE FRUIT HARVESTING &
PRESERVING EQUIPMENT

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of my earliest memories is of walking with my mom in the Kimberley Nature Park. To me, the endless hours of exploring the forests and lakes were as good as it got. My parents were founding members of the East Kootenay Environmental Society (which later became Wildsight); between forest wanders and monthly newsletter stuffing at our home, you could say I was born into the environmental world, with a deep love for all things wild.

The environmental movement has changed a lot since I was a child, from the days of the 'war in the woods' in the 1990s. The complexity of the issues we face now demands a new approach to finding solutions, but the key ingredient remains the same: local people passionate about the wilderness in their backyards.

We live in one of the most beautiful and biodiverse regions in the world, blessed with clean water, free

roaming wildlife and intact wilderness. The love of the wild that I grew up with is the same love shared by so many others who call this place home. Our shared love motivates us to collaborate across traditional lines to tackle complex issues. After my first year as Executive Director, I am proud to share some of the successes we've accomplished together, and I invite you to join us in the coming year.



Together, we can
make change.

Robyn Duncan
Executive Director



Grizzly in the Flathead Valley, Joe Riis, ILCP

CONSERVATION

KEEPING JUMBO WILD

The Jumbo Valley lies deep in the Purcell Mountains. Known as Qat'muk to the Ktunaxa Nation—home of the grizzly bear spirit—it's part of a crucial international wildlife corridor. For 25 years, Wildsight, along with its partners, has fought a proposed large-scale ski resort that threatens to gut the region's spiritual and ecological values.

2015 IMPACT

- ▷ Rallied and spoke out against the Official Community Plan for the Jumbo Municipality, a town with no residents.
- ▷ Defended Jumbo Wild with environmental law firm Ecojustice by making a submission in Jumbo Glacier Resort's Environmental Assessment process.
- ▷ Collaborated with partners to operate a citizen's monitoring camp for 57 days.
- ▷ Chosen as Patagonia's environmental spotlight in 2015/2016, bringing Jumbo Wild to the world.

2016: LOOKING FORWARD

- ▷ Present 30,000 petitions calling for permanent protection of the Jumbo Valley to BC Premier Christy Clark.
- ▷ Support the Qat'muk declaration and work with the Ktunaxa Nation to permanently protect the ecological and cultural values of the Jumbo Valley.

SAYING YES TOGETHER.

In 2015, we shifted the Jumbo Wild campaign from a no to a yes—yes to permanent protection, yes to Jumbo Wild. As *Jumbo Wild*, a film made by Sweetgrass Productions with support from Patagonia, takes the message out of our valley and around the world in 2016, it is our hope that people not only learn about Jumbo, but also say yes to protecting their own special pockets of wilderness.

SOUTHERN ROCKIES

The southern Canadian Rockies are a stronghold for vulnerable species like grizzly bears, wolverines, and westslope cutthroat trout. Expanding mining and forestry threaten to fracture the landscape, leaving few safe havens for wildlife passage. Wildsight works to protect intact landscapes, connecting the Flathead to the mountain parks on both sides of the border.

2015 IMPACT

- ▷ Worked with industry, the Ktunaxa Nation and BC Government to develop the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan, with the goal to reduce selenium levels.
- ▷ Increased riparian protection and forest retention by working with forestry companies at both the corporate and operational levels.
- ▷ Formed a coalition with hunters, guides and anglers to protect fish and wildlife from unregulated motorized recreation and the expanding footprint of logging and mining.
- ▷ Held the 4th Annual Flathead Bioblitz to survey 7150 hectares of conservation land in the Elk and Flathead River Valleys.

2016: LOOKING FORWARD

- ▷ Enhance wilderness protection and wildlife connectivity through discussions and negotiations with the province, the Ktunaxa Nation and industry.
- ▷ Continue to build local support for Flathead National Park and expanded wilderness areas.

EDUCATION

It's not enough just to protect the places we love right now. If we want them to remain protected into the future, we need to inspire the next generation to love them. Our five education programs teach kids about nature, sustainability and themselves.

2015 IMPACT

- ▷ Connected 5344 students to the ecosystems in their wild backyards through our Education in the Wild field trips.
- ▷ Created living laboratories, installed wildlife cameras and completed schoolyard greenings through Eco-Stewards, our newest education program.
- ▷ Led 258 students on a 24-week investigative journey into waste, energy and solutions for sustainability in our Beyond Recycling program.
- ▷ Taught 896 students how their water gets to their tap and where it goes after it goes down the drain through Know Your Watershed, a program we deliver and manage on behalf of the Columbia Basin Trust.
- ▷ Took 15 teenagers on a five day backpacking trip into the Purcell Mountains.

2016: LOOKING FORWARD

- ▷ Update our programs to complement and enhance the place-based and inquiry-learning focus of the new BC curriculum.

“Thanks to this program I can make a difference in the world.”

Anais, Beyond Recycling Student



Classroom with Outdoors, Revelstoke

WATER

Human activity and climate change are significant threats to our rivers, lakes and wetlands. Wildsight connects communities, academics, industry and government—municipal, provincial, federal and First Nations—to protect the water that is central to our lives.

2015 IMPACT

- ▷ Trained 50 citizen scientists in BC, Alberta and Manitoba to gather information about their cherished rivers and streams using the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network protocol.
- ▷ Completed the second year of citizen groundwater monitoring in Invermere, BC.
- ▷ Launched the Kootenay Lake Wetland Project, a collaborative initiative to improve water quality by treating urban runoff naturally in wetlands.
- ▷ Launched the Brilliant Headpond Stewardship Initiative to empower local residents to take a bigger role in managing the headpond for ecological and cultural values.
- ▷ Were named a 2015 Water Hero by the World Wildlife Federation Canada!
- ▷ Produced a three-part video series about the urgent need for holistic watershed management.

2016: LOOKING FORWARD

- ▷ Increase community water stewardship capacity by training at least 100 more citizen scientists.
- ▷ Co-host the 2016 North American Lake Management Society Conference in Lake Louise, Alberta.
- ▷ Inspire local watershed governance through a case study on our successes in the Columbia Basin, in collaboration with POLIS at the University of Victoria.



CABIN training with the Brokehead Ojibway Nation



Fernie Harvest Feast & Fest, Jesse Bell, Mountain Ash Photography

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

With increasing demands on our natural world, re-localizing is critical. Wildsight works collaboratively with our five autonomous branches in Creston, the Elk Valley, Golden, Invermere and Kimberley/Cranbrook to create sustainable communities in which both humans and nature can thrive.

2015 IMPACT

- ▷ Embraced local food: built community gardens, hosted food preservation and gardening workshops, held harvest festivals and local food dinners, and ran farmers' markets.
- ▷ Helped reduce human-wildlife conflict by moving fruit from local trees to our tables. Our free apple picking, juicing and preserving equipment had over 250 bookings.
- ▷ Completed the first year of the multi-year Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey, a 100% citizen-science initiative to increase knowledge about the internationally significant Columbia Wetlands.
- ▷ Held the third annual Creston Valley Bird Festival, a celebration of birds, community and conservation.
- ▷ Increased membership by 35% by presenting the Wild & Scenic Film Festival in five communities in the Columbia Basin.

2016: LOOKING FORWARD

- ▷ Launch Wild Ideas in two communities, a monthly sustainability discussion group.
- ▷ Create and produce a brand-new environmentally-themed podcast in the Elk Valley!
- ▷ Build community through our local gardens with additions like tiny libraries and local food feasts.



Jumbo Pass, Lucas Jmief

BECOME A MEMBER

Add your voice

DONATE

Protect what you love

VOLUNTEER

Be part of the team

OUR MEMBERS

35% INCREASE IN 2015 | 1100 MEMBERS

Our members are an amazing group of people who value wilderness, wildlife and healthy communities, who believe that by taking care of the things we love, collectively, we can change the world.

WHERE WE WORK

Wildsight is based in the Columbia and Southern Rocky Mountain region of British Columbia. Our home contains North America's longest intact wetland, the headwaters of the mighty Columbia River and the majestic peaks of the Columbia and Rocky Mountains. Our education programs cover the Columbia Basin and our water programs empower and connect communities across Canada.





OUR TEAM

Wildsight Annual Retreat, Brian Clarkson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Conrad	Chair
Margie Jamieson	Vice Chair
Morgan Blakley	Treasurer
Annette Lutterman	Secretary
Ayla Bennett	Director
Baiba Morrow	Director
Jim Smith	Director

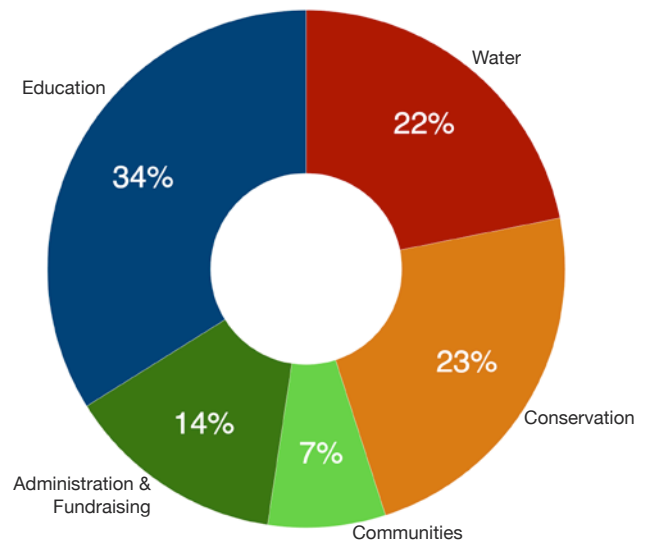
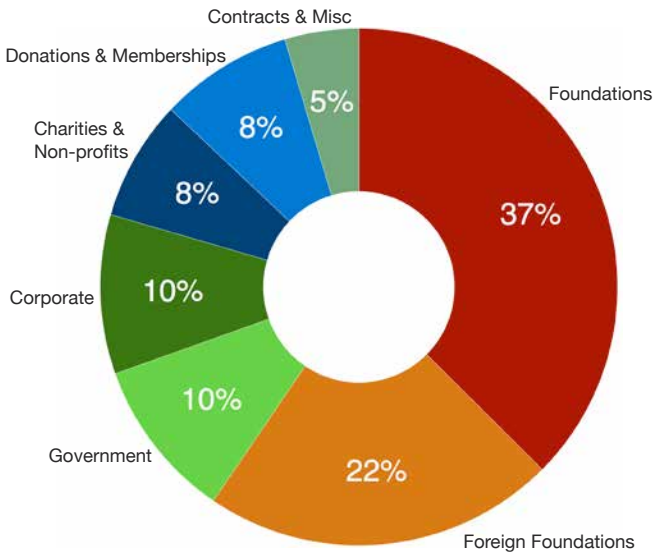
PROGRAM TEAM AND MANAGEMENT

Robyn Duncan	ED, Purcells Manager	Monica Nissen	Education Manager
John Bergenske	Conservation Director	Dawn Deydey	Beyond Recycling Coordinator
Ryland Nelson	Southern Rockies Manager	Lee-Anne Walker	Know Your Watershed Coordinator
Kat Hartwig	Water and Climate Director	Tamara Mercandelli	Administrator
Heather Leschied	Water Stewardship Manager	Stephanie Hirn	Office Manager
Raegan Mallinson	Water Stewardship Coordinator	Lindsay Cuff	Comms & Development Manager
22 Environmental Educators		Lars Sander-Green	IT & Comms Coordinator, Climate

FINANCIALS

INCOME \$953,786

EXPENSES \$962,874



Cover: Hidden Tarn at Jumbo, Howard Smith, phototide.com

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

444S | Alberta Ecotrust | Alberta Real Estate Foundation | BC Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program | BC Gaming Brainerd Foundation | Columbia Basin Trust | Columbia Power Corporation | Columbia Shuswap Regional District | Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund | ECO Canada | Environment Canada | Fortis BC Habitat Conservation Trust Fund | Hamber Foundation | John & Barbara Poole Legacy Funds | Kresge Foundation | Land Stewardship Centre | LaSalle Adams | Leroi Foundation | Lush | McLean Foundation | Mountain Equipment Co-op | Osprey Foundation | Patagonia | RBC Blue Water | Real Estate Foundation of BC | Regional District of Central Kootenay | Regional District of East Kootenay | Sitka Foundation | Small Change Fund | TD Friends of the Environment | Teck | Tides | WC Kitchen Foundation | West Coast Environmental Law | Wilburforce Foundation | WWF-Canada and Loblaw Companies Limited | Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative