

wildsight



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ANNUAL REPORT 2016

2016

BY THE NUMBERS

♥ 53,334

JUMBO WILD
PETITION SIGNATURES



77,133 BIRDS

COUNTED IN THE COLUMBIA
WETLANDS BY 111 VOLUNTEERS



6701 KIDS

GOT OUTSIDE IN OUR
EDUCATION PROGRAMS



20 YEARS

RESTORING GRASSLANDS WITH THE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH SOCIETY



230 SCREENINGS

OF JUMBO WILD IN 19 COUNTRIES
AND ONLINE IN 9 LANGUAGES



2045 SPOKE OUT

FOR THE COLUMBIA WETLANDS AND
FOR REAL CLIMATE ACTION



3791 ACTIONS

TAKEN BY STUDENTS TO REDUCE
THEIR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS

x *We the People*

2940 PETITIONS

TO CONNECT AND PROTECT THE
FLATHEAD VALLEY



200+ HIKERS

AND SNOWSHOERS ON WILD
NATURE TOURS & JUMBO HIKE

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last summer, I hiked the length of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. For 8 days, we travelled through true wilderness, through valleys that had never been logged and had never seen a road. Ever since I started my work at Wildsight, I had dreamed of making this journey with John Bergenske, following the route he and others had walked in the early 70s to draw the boundaries of the Conservancy. More than 40 years later, the legacy of their work lays bare our power, working together, to protect the wild.

As Wildsight begins our 30th year of standing up for the wild, our strength still comes from our roots in our communities and from the landscapes that inspire us.

A couple weeks before we emerged from our hike, dirty, tired and inspired, I was climbing up Jumbo Pass for our annual hike to celebrate the 26th year of keeping Jumbo Wild. Members of the Ktunaxa Nation, in the valley for their Qat'muk camp, hiked alongside me as we emerged into subalpine meadows. Surrounded by wildflowers and a 360-degree view of the Purcells, we

needed no words to voice our emotional and spiritual connections to this sacred place.

Over the past year, the deep connection between environmental conservation and reconciliation with Canada's first peoples has come closer to the surface in our work. In the Central Purcells and all of the other landscapes where we work, the strength to protect our wilderness, defend clean water, and share our love for the wild with the next generation, comes from our connections to our communities — and the love we share with all people who call the mountains home.



For the wild,

Robyn Duncan
Executive Director



Mountain Goat in the Flathead Valley, Joe Riis, ILCP

CONSERVATION

From the Purcells Mountains and Jumbo to the Southern Rockies and the Flathead — and everywhere in between — we work from the ground up to protect and connect wilderness, wildlife and clean water across the landscape.

2016 IMPACT

PURCELLS

- ▷ The feature-length Patagonia-produced film *Jumbo Wild* was released, with a worldwide tour. It was later released on Netflix in 9 languages and was one of their top five performers in the first week.
- ▷ Working in partnership with Patagonia, 53,334 petition signatures collected from around the world calling for permanent protection for Jumbo.
- ▷ Produced *Our Wild Purcells*, an evening event on the history and future of the Purcell Mountains, in nine communities around the Purcells.

SOUTHERN ROCKIES

- ▷ Worked with community members and a coalition of hunters, guides and anglers to protect fish and wildlife from motorized recreation and the expanding footprint of logging and mining.
- ▷ Launched *RoadWatchBC*, an app for the public to identify wildlife highway crossings, with more than 200 sightings reported in the first 3 months.

GRASSLANDS

- ▷ Celebrated 20 years working with our partners in the Rocky Mountain Trench Society to restore grassland ecosystems through thinning, brushwork, and controlled burns.

MOUNTAIN CARIBOU

- ▷ Worked to increase habitat protections against logging and enforcement of motorized access closures — and to promote captive breeding to

help recover endangered caribou populations.

FORESTRY

- ▷ Worked on the ground on more than 20 harvest plans for stronger riparian protection, improved tree retention and better wildlife corridors and reserves.
- ▷ Monitored 23 High Conservation Value Areas under Canfor's Forest Stewardship Council certification.

2017: LOOKING FORWARD

- ▷ Present 60,000 petition signatures for permanent protection of Jumbo to the Ktunaxa and the BC Government.
- ▷ Launch a Purcells campaign to protect wilderness, wildlife and water by working to connect protected areas and developing an access management plan for the Central Purcell Mountains.
- ▷ Protect and connect the landscape from Waterton-Glacier to the mountain national parks, including the Flathead Valley and the Elk Valley.
- ▷ Hold industry and government to the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan to reduce of selenium toxicity in the Elk River and tributaries — and ensure no mines are added in the Elk Valley.
- ▷ With data from *RoadWatchBC*, push for measures to reduce wildlife deaths along Highway 3.
- ▷ Working with multiple levels of government and the Ktunaxa, move the Kooecanusa Recreation Access Management Plan forward to protect the sensitive grasslands around Kooecanusa Lake.
- ▷ Increase caribou habitat protections after the release of the Canada-BC Southern Mountain Caribou Protection Plan, mandated by our successful Species at Risk court case in 2012.

EDUCATION

Protecting the places we love for the long-term means inspiring the next generation to love them too. Our six education programs get kids outside to teach them about nature, sustainability and themselves.

“I can teach about ecosystems, but unless students get outside and see an ecosystem in action, they are not making connections. The day we spent with Wildsight is more valuable than many hours of teaching in the classroom.” Janet Bouchier, Teacher

2016 IMPACT

- ▷ Connected 5192 students to the ecosystems in their wild backyards through 236 of our Classroom with Outdoors and Winter Wonder field trips.
- ▷ Eco-Stewards students built an interpretive trail, grew local food, protected Western Painted turtles, dove deep into ecosystems and more.
- ▷ Led 472 students on a 24-week investigation into waste, energy and solutions for sustainability in our Beyond Recycling program. Students took on 3791 EcoChallenges to reduce their footprints.
- ▷ Taught 1012 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. Seven classes delved into specific water topics in Deep Learning programs.
- ▷ Took 25 teenagers on 5-6 day backpacking trips into the Rocky Mountains.

2017: LOOKING FORWARD

- ▷ Transition Know Your Watershed to grade 9 to meet curriculum changes, gather Beyond Recycling educators for a major program review, and increasing our program capacity to have long-lasting effects on understanding and action for tomorrow's leaders.



Winter Wonder, Revelstoke

WATER

Human activity and climate change are significant threats to our rivers, lakes and wetlands. Wildsight's Living Lakes Canada connects communities, academics, industry, First Nations and government to protect the water that is central to our lives.

2016 IMPACT

- ▷ Trained 30 citizen scientists in BC and Alberta to gather information on their cherished rivers and streams using the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) protocol.
- ▷ Completed the Brilliant Headpond Stewardship Initiative Scoping Study to support local residents in taking a bigger role in managing the headpond for ecological and cultural values.
- ▷ Monitored five locations in the Flathead River watershed with CABIN for the fourth year.
- ▷ Led the national dialogue on community-based water monitoring.
- ▷ Expanded the two year pilot of citizen groundwater monitoring in Invermere to become the Columbia Basin Groundwater Monitoring Program, which will cover 12 priority aquifers across the Basin.
- ▷ Gathered data for the Lac la Biche Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping project.
- ▷ Completed phase II of the Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping of Koochanusa Reservoir, including critical high and low-pool habitat surveys on this highly variable reservoir.

2017: LOOKING FORWARD

- ▷ Increase community water stewardship capacity by training at least 100 more citizen scientists.
- ▷ Inspire local watershed governance through our successes in the Columbia Basin, in collaboration with POLIS at the University of Victoria.



Upper Athabasca CABIN Field Practicum, Whitecourt, AB



Wild Nature Tours, Invermere, Pat Morrow

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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

2016 IMPACT

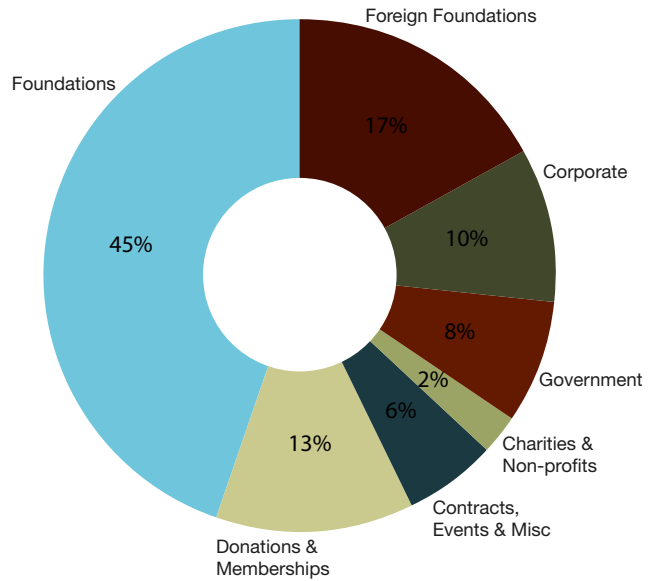
- ▷ Focused on local, sustainable food: ran farmers' markets, nutrition programs, community gardens, food garden tours and composting projects. Educated our communities on growing their own food, permaculture and food forests, seed saving, water conservation, food waste and more.
- ▷ Promoted local sustainability with workshops, discussions, and presentations on subjects from invasive plants to climate change.
- ▷ Launched a project to monitor and protect the endangered Limber Pine in the Golden area.
- ▷ Protected and celebrated our birds with the second year of the Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey, a citizen-science initiative, and the fourth annual Creston Valley Bird Festival.
- ▷ Brought climate science to classrooms and groups around the Columbia Basin and presented four net-zero building workshops with Canadian experts.
- ▷ Helped our communities get outside and learn about their wild world with Wild Nature hikes, snowshoes and kids summer camps.

2017: LOOKING FORWARD

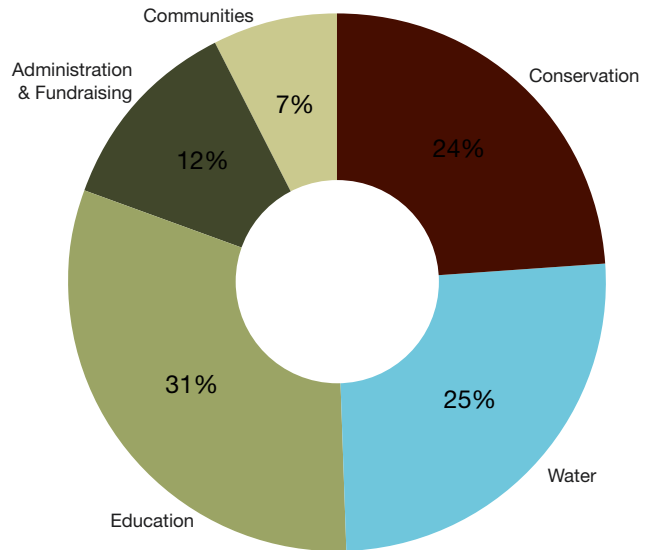
- ▷ Dive deeper into local food by focusing on cold-climate gardening, food waste diversion and food security, and getting students into the garden.
- ▷ Deepening our connections to nature through hikes, workshops, and sustainable trail planning.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE \$1.23M



EXPENSES \$1.20M



This report covers Wildsight's fiscal year 2016, from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. Full audited financials are available on our website.

OUR MEMBERS

21% INCREASE IN 2016 | 1326 MEMBERS

Our members are amazing people who value wilderness, wildlife and healthy communities and who believe in taking care of the things we love, together.



Mt. Hefty Fire Lookout, Flathead Valley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

PROGRAM TEAM AND MANAGEMENT

Robyn Duncan	ED, Purcells Manager
John Bergenske	Conservation Director
Ryland Nelson	Southern Rockies Manager
Eddie Petryshen	Conservation Assistant
Kat Hartwig	Water Director
Heather Leschied	Water Stewardship Manager
Raegan Mallinson	Water Stewardship Coordinator
Nicole Fulcher	Groundwater Program Coordinator

Monica Nissen	Education Manager
Dawn Deydey	Beyond Recycling Coordinator
Mary Searchfield	Beyond Recycling Development
Lee-Anne Walker	Know Your Watershed Coordinator
Dave Quinn	Know Your Watershed Coordinator
18 Environmental Educators	in the Columbia Basin
Lindsay Cuff	Comms & Development Manager
Lars Sander-Green	IT & Comms Coordinator, Climate
Tamara Mercandelli	Administrator
Stephanie Hirn	Office Manager

WHERE WE WORK

Wildsight is based in the Columbia and Southern Rocky Mountain region of British Columbia. Our home in the Kootenays 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 the country through Living Lakes Canada.



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

444S Foundation | Alberta Ecotrust | Alberta Real Estate Foundation | Brainerd Foundation | Canada Summer Jobs
 Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network | Columbia Basin Trust | Columbia Power Corporation
 Columbia Shuswap Regional District | Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund - RDEK | Creston-Kootenay Foundation
 ECO Canada | Environment Canada | Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program | Fortis BC | Hamber Foundation
 John & Barbara Poole Family Funds at Edmonton Community Foundation | Kresge Foundation | Land Stewardship Centre
 Leroi Foundation | Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics | McLean Foundation | Mountain Equipment Co-op
 Osprey Foundation | Patagonia | Patagonia Elements | Province of British Columbia | Public Conservation Assistance Fund
 RBC Blue Water | Real Estate Foundation of BC | Regional District of Central Kootenay
 Sitka Foundation | Stewart Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation | TD Friends of the Environment
 Teck Coal | Teck Trail Operations | Tides Canada Foundation - Full Circle Small Grants Fund | Tides US
 Vancouver Foundation | WC Kitchen Foundation | West Coast Environmental Law | Wilburforce Foundation
 WWF-Canada and Loblaw Companies Limited | Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative