

Wildsight Golden Mission Statement

Wildsight Golden works to maintain biodiversity and health human communities in and around our region. Wildsight Golden empowers people to conserve, restore, and enjoy the Columbia and Rocky Mountain regions through education, research, and community action.



wildsight
golden

We gratefully acknowledge that we work, live and play on the unceded territory of the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc Nations and the home to the Métis Nation Columbia River Society.

Wildsight Golden AGM March 30, 2022

1. Call to Order at 7:00 pm

2. Welcome message from Chair Joan Dolinsky, followed by introduction of Board Members.

- Please ensure your first and last name are on your zoom picture.: you can change this by hovering over your picture, there are some dots above it, click on that and there is an option of changing your name. If you need some technical help, click on the chat button and write a message to Jess in the chat box. She will help you out.
- We need your first and last name for the minutes and to enter your name in the draw for the Hanako Nagao painting.
- If you are moving or seconding a motion, please state your first and second name and the motion. ie: Joan Dolinsky, I'll move to accept the minutes as presented.
- Type your questions in the chat, we will monitor this, compile the questions and ask them all at once by the end of the meeting. We will also have a verbal Q&A at the end.

3. Approval of agenda.

4. Approval of Last Year's AGM Minutes.

5. Highlights of 2021/22 Programs

-Swallow video

6. Treasurer's Report

7. Election of Board Members

9. Motion to adjourn

Draw for Print by Hanako Nagao

Wildsight Golden 2021 AGM Minutes

March 30, 2021 by Zoom

Members Present: Joan Dolinsky, Leslie Adams, Hanna Sander Green, Rachel Darvill, Mollie King, Kate Corrigan, Jennifer Greenwood, Brittany Newman, Brittany Verbeek, Aita Bezzola, Katherine Fiebig, Glenn Fiebig, Carrie Ferguson, Isobel Freeman, Meg Langley, Jess Paloposki, Georgia Peck.

Call to Order: at 19:06 PM

Welcome message from Chair Joan Dolinsky, followed by introduction of Board Members.

Approval of agenda: Rachel Darvill moved/Carrie Ferguson seconded, passed unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes: Isobel Freeman moved/Mollie King seconded, passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

Highlights of 2020/2021 Programs: were given by Leslie and program facilitators. Power Point was presented. Highlight was the change Covid-19 made to our programming. (PP added to website, details on projects also available on website.)

Treasurer's Report: Joan Dolinsky moved/Jess Paloposki seconded, passed unanimously – as presented in power point

Election of Board Members

Current board members that wish to continue on the next year: Joan Dolinsky, Meg Langley, Rachel Darvill, Hanna Sander-Green, Jess Paloposki, Georgia Peck.

Nominated for 2021: Aita Bezzola, Jennifer Greenwood, Brittany Verbeek. (Note: Jenna Schulh was unable to be present at the AGM and is also nominated.) Meg Langley moved/Glenn Fiebig seconded, passed unanimously.

Resigned: Mollie King

Motion to approve Wildsight Golden board of directors as presented – Freeman moved/Kathrine Fiebig seconded, passed unanimously.

Thank you to Molly King for your efforts serving on the Wildsight Board of Directors.

Community Outreach and Events

2021, despite being our second Covid Year went very well. The year started with our membership drive and we were given an amazing original painting by Regan Johnson. This painting was won by our very own Carrie Ferguson. We also had an Instagram contest run by a partnership with the Golden Interact Club . Two people had their photos put on snowboards which were given away. Thank you to Off the Wall and the Interact Club for this initiative. Another Social media event was the Hug a Tree event to raise awareness for Old Growth. We had the end of our Winter Speaker Series with Graham Casselman giving us composting tips and Andrea Crook who taught us propagating plants from our fridge!



Community Outreach and Events



We had an online Earth day with prizes and gave away our first Ellen Zimmerman Award to Rachel Darvill for her contributions to the Environment and Ecology of the area.

No Mow May was an awareness event to help the bees by encouraging people to leave the dandelions until the other flowers bloom.

May and into June we did a few bird walks which were full and enthusiastically attended.

At the end of August, there was a film series, hosted by Wildsight Golden, with popcorn from Home Hardware and held at the Museum. We held a successful paddle for World Rivers day and had a huge turn-out for an Old Growth Forestry Walk on a rainy day in October. We had a work party, staining the posts on the Reflection Lake gazebo.

November and December we were able to hold an in person speaker series in partnership with the Golden Museum for the Social Life of Water Exhibit. 2022 Winter Speaker Series which ended March 10. The theme for 2022 was Old Growth Biodiversity.



Thank you to our Volunteers



Wildsight Golden fortunately has volunteers. This year, we were able to organize our volunteers, thanks to a grant through Eco-Canada. We were able to hire a rock-star volunteer coordinator, Kiana Froese.

Our volunteers in 2021.22 did everything from put up posters, pull weeds, survey swallows, hang air quality fliers, help organize events and refurbish the Reflection Lake structure and much much more.

Let's give a special shout-out to our hardworking board of directors who put in hours of volunteer work to keep this organization going. The 2020 board was so nimble and creative in 2020 to keep our Outreach programs going in the face of so much adversity.

Thank-you to everyone who has
helped us through our 2021 – 22 Year!



Climate Task Force

The Climate Task Force was created to bring our volunteers together in an organized group. We meet once a month, here are some things we work on:

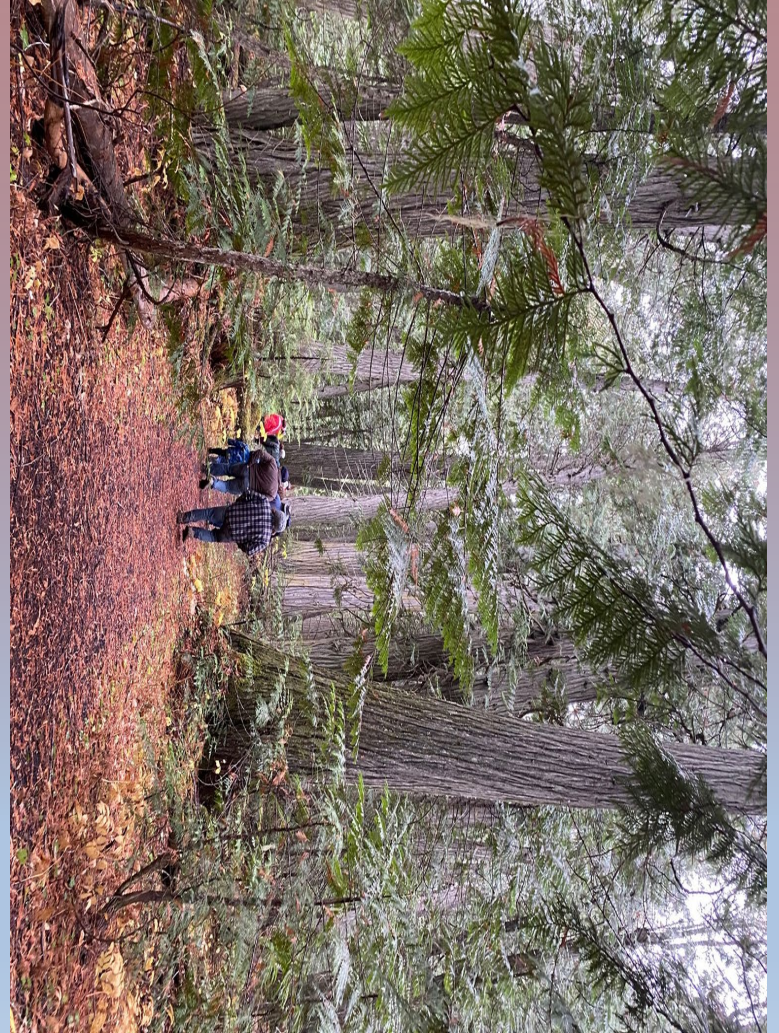
- Researching food waste diversion program and Electric Vehicle Car share program
- Climate Champion: individual or business chosen monthly to be an example to inspire and motivate our community to work to reduce emissions, lower carbon footprints and cut waste
- Supplied resources and made infographics to businesses about reducing waste
- Held a Climate Action Evening at the brewery with performers and a call to action to write a letter to town council about taking specific climate action

Email golden@wildsight.ca to be a part of this group



Conservation & Land Use Planning

- Review of forestry plans for CANFOR BCTS and LP, contract Aita Bezzola to take lead
- Set up volunteer committees to work on Forestry and Wildlife Issues
- Promote Conservation of old growth forests, feature old growth forests in our winter speaker series and International Day of Forests film night
- Participate in GBRAC & Trail Alliance





Wildsight Golden's Community Invasive Plant Program - 2021



Background

- Program was initiated in 2010. First project of its kind in the Columbia Basin.
- Project Coordinator each summer; Evelyn Morett in 2021.
- Program works to increase public awareness about the enviro, social and economic impacts.
- Works in partnership with the Town of Golden and CSISS – public outreach and non-toxic IP removals.



BRING-A-WEED WEDNESDAY

Are you curious about a weed in your yard? Bring your plant (or photo of it) to our table at the Farmers' Market, where we will tell you what it is and how to manage its spread!

JUNE 16, JUNE 30, & JULY 21 -- 11AM-3PM -- SPIRIT SQUARE

2021

Accomplishments

- Focused on 15 IP sites within the Town of Golden; all mechanically treated.
- Priority invasive plant species removed.
- Used Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP).
- Two biological agents were monitored.
- Restoration techniques applied to some sites.
- Coordination with ToG re: removals.
- Public outreach, e.g., :
 - educating those passing by removal sites.
 - weekly online outreach series, “Weedy Wednesday Recipes” – video series.
 - “What’s In My Backyard?” posters were created and shared.
 - outreach with private landowners.
 - signage
 - three farmers markets.
 - eBlasts and PRs
 - community partnerships, cycling club.
 - Organized and facilitated two 14th Annual Community Weed Pull Events – one catered with IPs removed from the community
 - Led five Get Wild Kids Camp events.



The CIPP continues to be effective for keeping invasive plant populations as manageable as possible within the Town of Golden, with continued public outreach, along with the idea of further reclamation/restoration efforts using native plants.
- 14 week position (from 13) in 2021.

Golden's Community Invasive Plant Program
Annual Report 2021



Prepared by Evelyn Morett
Community Invasive Plant Program Coordinator

August 2021

Final reports from previous few years is available online:
<https://wildsight.ca/branches/golden/invasive-weeds-community-program/>

Thank you!



Questions?

Rachel Darvill, R.P.Bio

CIPP Program Manager

[E: racheldarvill@gmail.com](mailto:racheldarvill@gmail.com)



Wildsight Golden graciously acknowledges the financial support of the Town of Golden and the Province of BC (Gaming Grant), as well as the in-kind support provided by CSISS.





Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project (UCSHEP) – 2021

Rachel Darvill, MSc., R.P. Bio
Program Biologist on the UCSHEP
March 2022

- Bank swallows – a species with intrinsic value that provides immense mosquito control is facing the fastest population decline for a species in Canada with an estimated 98% population loss in Canada over a 40-year period. With only 2% of their population remaining in Canada, this species requires urgent conservation action.
- Barn swallows (one individual eats up to 850 insects each day) have an overall population decline of 76% in Canada in a 40-year period.
- Both listed (and protected) under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA).



Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project (UCSHEP) – Providing Landscape Level Benefits

- a) providing citizen-science opportunities to monitor at-risk swallows;
- b) erecting artificial nesting structures at places where current nests are being (or slated to be) removed, and significant nesting areas to increase habitat availability;
- c) restoring and enhancing suitable breeding habitat sites for bank and barn swallows;
- d) providing artificial nest cups to private landowners to help attract Barn Swallows by enhancing structures already in place.
- e) providing education about the importance of swallows, how they are at risk and regulations protecting them.

In 2022-2023, with ECCC CWS we will install Motus Wildlife Tracking System towers in the Columbia Valley, this initiative will tag and track Bank Swallow to learn about movements around breeding colonies, roosting sites, migratory routes and wintering grounds. This will allow for collaboration with other regional and international partners to support habitat connectivity and protection for Bank Swallows. May also help us establish buffer distances to better inform future development.





Known 2020 barn swallow nest site; this site was taken down in late 2020/early 2021.



Artificial nest structure for Barn Swallows in Donald.

Two artificial nesting structures for Barn Swallows were erected in places where known nesting structures will be taken down and where nests are known to exist – increases habitat availability.
A third structure is being built now with two additional structures in 2022.

Highlights from 2021

- 67 volunteer citizen scientists. 56 bank swallow colonies monitored; 67 barn swallow nest locations monitored.
- engaged with Indigenous groups for monitoring and agreement with Ktunaxa and SIB to have Indigenous perspective on swallows on interpretive signage in 2022.
- Identified the area between Canal Flats and Edgewater as Critical Habitat for bank swallow (BANS)– was drafted in 2021 federal Recovery Strategy.
- 96 BANS colonies identified from Canal Flats to Donald.
- Colony at Windermere Lake Provincial Park faced negative impacts (e.g., sticks in borrows, enlarged entrances, unauthorized trail). With BC Parks, restored habitat and placed ropes around the colony (intended to keep people away from the colony) with interpretive signage at the site.
- Worked with The Nature Conservancy of BC on enhancing habitat for Barn Swallows in Edgewater.
- 66 buildings in study area used by breeding Barn Swallows. At least 19 of the 66 buildings had reduction in # of active nests in 2021 (compared to 2020 data).
- Barn swallow nests had been removed from 22 buildings; most during the breeding season.
- 45 barn swallow nest cups installed in ANS + on pre-existing buildings to make them more suitable for breeding BARS.
- 2 large swallow ANS's built (in Donald and Invermere) and a third is being built in Town of Golden.
- Developed/delivered training video, website contact, letters, eBlasts, press releases, etc.



If you want to learn more about the Upper Columbia Swallow Enhancement project, please consider attending events:

Webinar (Swallow Conservation Initiatives in the Columbia Valley) on April 11 from 12-1pm

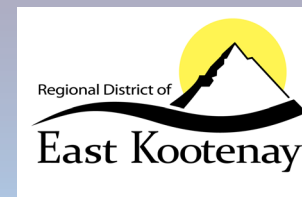
Field Tour (for the Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project) on April 29 from 10am-12pm.

Registration required for both events available on the event pages.



Thank you to our funders and partners.

For questions, please contact:
Rachel Darvill, BSc., MSc., R.P.Bio
Program Biologist – Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project
racheldarvill@gmail.com



Environment and
Climate Change Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada
Service canadien de la faune





Get Wild!

Summer Day Camp



“We aim to inspire youth
to connect with our
community and nature
with fun, inclusive outdoor
activities”

Community Support and Volunteers

Donations: Town of Golden, Golden Community Foundation, Canada Summer Jobs

Presentations & Knowledge Sharing:

Invasive plants with Evelyn, weekly trips to the museum with Brittney Newman, bird watching with Joan Dolinsky, Bear Aware with Johanne Lamoureux, art with Sarah Osadetz, sustainable living and ceramics with Meg Langley, volunteering and community gardening with the Golden Foodbank and their coordinator Martha.



2021 Camp Team: Kate Corrigan, Coordinator
Talus Jacobson, Councilor
Camp saw 72 kids over a 7 week period.

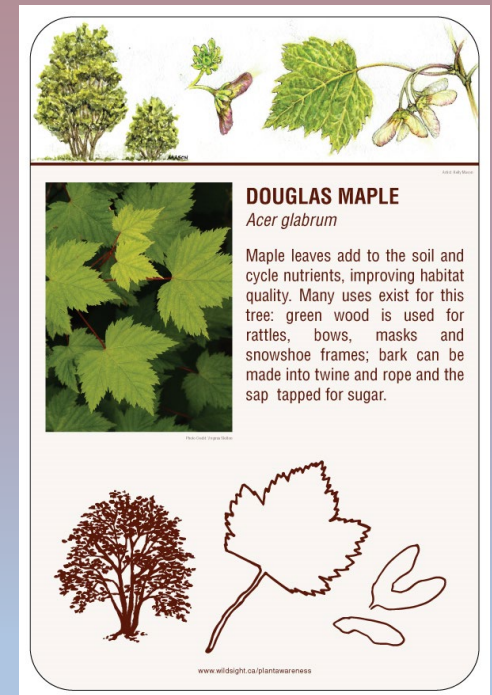
Activities: environmental games, nature
discovery, arts and crafts, hiking, story telling,
rafting, climbing, swimming, indoor climbing,



Plant Awareness Project

To add to the signage developed in 2021, we had the art from each plant digitized into a colouring page, now available at no cost for use by teachers and parents.

Please look for these at wildsight.ca/plantawareness



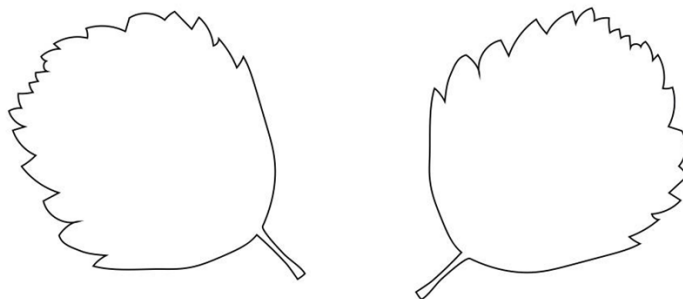


Artist: Lynne Romano

Saskatoon - *Amelanchier alnifolia*

Coloured by: _____

This shrub provides food for ungulates, bears and birds all year long from spring shoots and buds to fall and winter berries and twigs. People also make good use of this plant: the nutritious berries are eaten in soups and dried with fat to make pemmican, even traded. Arrows can be made from the wood which hardens when heated.



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Please visit:

www.wildsight.ca/plantawareness

Art transposed to graphics by:
Sarah Jane Osadetz Art & Design

Wildsight Golden Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Project

Final report available online at www.wildsight.ca/goldensheep

Work published by Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council along with presentation available on the website

Ongoing fecal collection to monitor stress hormones before, during and after construction. Data affected by resumed feeding by Rod and Gun Club.

Continuing to lobby MOTI to change the gates and jump-outs which bighorn sheep breach to gain access to the highway and SW facing slopes. Relevant to Radium area where fencing and overpass is being considered as use of these structures, which is the ministry standard, will likely result in breaching by sheep based on data from Kicking Horse Canyon.

Vanishing Bighorns

To raise awareness about the Bighorn sheep and related issues, we put together an art show. Fourteen artists each painted one member of the Golden herd. These paintings were displayed at AGOG in Golden, Pynelogs in Invermere and are currently at the Radium Visitor Centre and Library until April 20, 2022. This project was supported by the CSRD-Area A, the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and Columbia Basin Trust.

The art is on display online at wildsight.ca/goldensheep

The painting will also serve as illustrations for an upcoming book: *Vanishing Bighorns: Through Their Eyes*.



Ellen Zimmerman Award

- For the past forty years, Ellen Zimmerman was the driving force behind the environmental movement in Golden. In celebration of her legacy of excellence in Environmental Conservation work, Wildsight launched the **Ellen Zimmerman Award in 2021**. This annual award includes a commemorative ceramic art piece and a \$1,000 gift awarded to an individual, celebrating and supporting their outstanding contributions to environmental conservation and education in the Upper Columbia Region.

Rachel Darvill received the first Ellen Zimmerman Award in 2021. This year's award recipient will be announced in April.



Treasurer's Report

2021 Donors to Wildsight Golden

- Rhonda Smith
- Annette Boelman
- Christine Bernier
- Erwin Retzer
- Amber van Drielen
- Andrea Crook
- Margie Jamieson
- Maryann Emery
- Robyn Duncan
- Michael Morris
- Lesley Giroday
- Judi Parrott
- Omnia Ecological Services
- Dan Bulbuc
- Dave Kuehn
- Adam Growe Ent.
- Lauren Irving
- Rachel Darvill

2021 Grantors and Sponsors

Columbia Basin Trust

Y2Y

Golden and District Community Foundation(?)

Columbia Valley Credit Union(?)

Government of British Columbia Community gaming Grant

Government of Canada Summer Job Program

Wildsight Regional

Town of Golden

Eco Canada

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Fund

BC Hydro

Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund

Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance

Election of Officers

Current Board Members standing for Re-Election:
Meg Langley, Joan Dolinsky, Aita Bezzola, Jenna Schulhof, Jennifer Greenwood, Brittany Verbeek

Nominated New Directors:

Tyler Garwood, Sam Foster, Calvin Beauchesne

Resigned Rachel Darvill, Hanna Sanders Green,
Jessie Palaposki, Georgia Peck, Thank you All!

Tyler Garwood

- Tyler grew up in White Salmon, Washington on the Columbia River. He got his BSc in Fire Ecology and Forest management at the University of Idaho while also working as a Wildland Firefighter for 6 years. Here is where his love for trees, being outdoors, and conserving our natural spaces blossomed. He moved to Golden in 2021, with the hope of participating in conserving this beautiful landscape (also on the Columbia) for years to come!
- I want to join the Wildsight board because I have been watching conservation movements and groups from the sidelines for a long time while I was moving around as a seasonal employee. Now that I feel the tug of "home" being here in Golden, I want to commit to helping conserve the space around us. I can think of no better way of doing so than being directly involved with the local conservation organization and lending a helping hand and mind. I want to not only make progress in conserving this amazing landscape and all the creatures within, but I want to involve the community through events and education, which will foster a deep(er) appreciation for the area we call Home.



Sam Foster

- Bio:

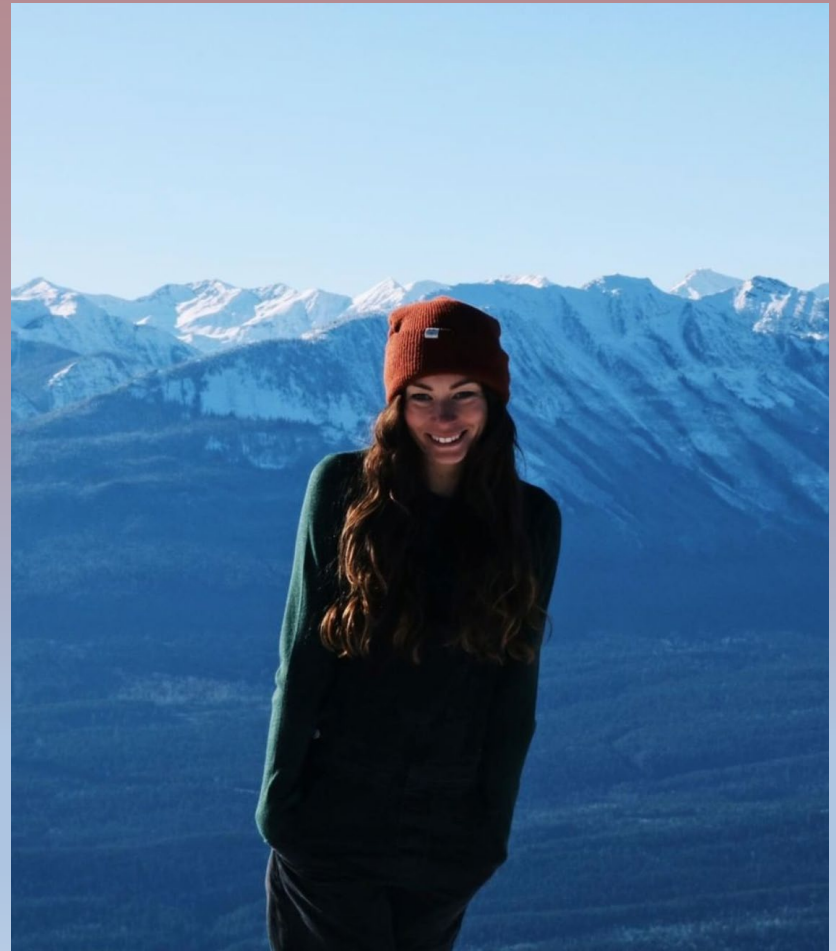
- My lifelong passion has been the appreciation of plant life, specifically trees. In the last few years, this has grown to include their conservation which is why I've spent my time volunteering, managing and sitting on boards for non-profit and educational organizations.

Since moving to BC in 2020 and training with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy Guides, I founded The Wild Lifers. The goal is to offer an accessible space where people from cities and urban areas can foster appreciation and advocacy for our forests through relational experiences and play as education.

Originally from the UK, for the last 17 years, my professional career has specialized in strategic branding, design and communications, as well as consulting on ethical practices for large-scale tech companies. I currently work with a 1% for the planet company based in Revelstoke. We manage projects and communications for environmental, conservation and community growth NGOs as well as small local businesses.

I'm currently studying 'Climate Change and Water in Mountain Regions' part-time remotely with the University of Geneva to better understand the impact of climate change on our region and local ecology.

Being a member of Wildsight and actively participating on the board is important to me for many reasons. I want to invest in this community, which means the people, the plants, wildlife and landscapes. I believe in the Wildsight mission and want to offer my skills in helping the team with their continued impact. As someone who has spent most of their life living in a country where the wild spaces have been decimated by industry and ignorance, I can't think of a better way to spend my time than in helping to protect and give a voice to the most valuable assets this planet has left. I wholeheartedly believe that we are not separate from nature but that we are a part of it and should act as such.



Calvin Beauchesne



- My name is Calvin Beauchesne. I have a BA (Honours) in Environmental Studies and MA in Sustainability Studies. I led the fossil fuel divestment campaign at my university from 2013-2015. I wrote my masters thesis on the effectiveness of different tactics and strategies of opposition to the Trans Mountain pipeline in BC. I have lived in Golden for 3 seasons. This past winter I presented to Golden City Council proposing the town declare a climate emergency and commit to 100% renewable energy by 2050 based on the 100% Renewable Kootenays report by West Kootenay Eco-Society. This year Golden became the 12th community in the Kootenays and the first community outside of the west Kootenays to commit to the eco-society's plan. I've most recently taken on the position of Coordinator for Wildsight Golden's Climate Action task force. I want to join the board because I think Wildsight Golden is doing some very important work and I would love to be apart of a group that's taking action on environmental issues in our community and more broadly.

Draw Prize
Hanako Nagao, has
generously donated this
original painting to
Wildsight Golden.





Thelma Brown

Thank you for attending and supporting Wildsight Golden!