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Accomplishments

2012 was a year of gaining ground for wildlife and landscapes from the Washington coast to the BC Rockies. With your support, Conservation Northwest protected and restored habitat, recovered wildlife, and built partnerships that made a tangible difference across the region. This comprehensive list of this year's accomplishments spells out a wild Northwest for people and wildlife.

Protecting and restoring habitat

- Brought nearly **\$1 million per year for restoration and jobs** to the Colville National Forest when we helped win a federal Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program grant.

- Advanced tens of thousands of acres of forest restoration projects on the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests.

- Protected substantial areas in the Colville National Forest from potential ORV trespass when we convinced it to reverse its South End Off-Road Vehicle Project.

- Restored habitat in the Colville National Forest and healed damage from ORV abuse by raising funds and hands for volunteer projects.

- **Reforested unused roads in grizzly bear habitat** in northeast Washington with the help of American Forest's Global ReLeaf and amazing volunteers.

- Found common ground and cutting-edge forest science for restoration projects with the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition.

- Published a report detailing how ecological restoration thinning can bring timber jobs and restore Northwest forests, while fully protecting old growth forests and other sensitive habitat.

- **Gained agreement for removing 27 miles of national forest road** in the Buck Forest Restoration Project in the Methow Valley.

- Raised funds for the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition's road restoration work north of Leavenworth, Washington.

- Reached agreement with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest on the Walter Springs Project to protect suitable spotted owl habitat and reduce aquatic impacts in the Manastash watershed.

- Supported closing and restoring unused roads in in the I-90 corridor in the Cle Elum Ranger District by organizing private funding.

- Improved the Forest Service's proposed plans for 5 million acres on Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville national forests. 20,000 public comments called for connected habitat, wildlife protections, and reduced roads.

- Won preliminary votes from the Whatcom County Council and Washington Board of National Resources to establish a Lake Whatcom Forest Preserve Park, which will **protect over 8,000 forest acres in the Lake Whatcom watershed.**

- Helped recover endangered salmon and trout on 60,000 miles of streams and rivers by improving Washington's 9-million-acre Habitat Conservation Plan.

- Achieved firm protection for 1,600 acres of Skagit County's Blanchard Mountain, the core of an agreement Conservation Northwest helped forge in 2008.

- Protected, again, the **best remaining oak-woodland prairie in Pierce County** by turning back another attempt to fund the disastrous Cross-Base Highway

“Your Fall issue mainly on wolves, is the very best ever. From Mitch’s editorial, and Joe’s bear item, every page was perfectly pitched with the class of knowledge, fairness, passion, persuasion and clarity that has been scarce among conservation organizations in recent decades. Brava and Bravo! Our copy is going to rancher friends who live in the range of Washington’s Touchet Pack.”—Roger Contor, member since 2002



Wildlife habitat and connectivity remained our focus in 2012. Moose and calf near Chewelah in northeast Washington. Dave Heflick

Protecting wildlife

- Resisted efforts by the timber industry to eliminate old-growth forest protections for marbled murrelets, an endangered seabird that nests in old forests.
- Supported US Fish and Wildlife Service expansion of habitat protections for northern spotted owls in light of owl numbers dropping by half in recent years.
- Successfully defended Washington's wolf recovery plan from hostile state bills that would hurt wolf recovery.
- Created a **\$10,000 poaching reward fund** with the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to deter future illegal wildlife killing.
- Moved the state and members of the ranching community to publicly prioritize non-lethal strategies for avoiding conflicts between wolves and livestock, in response to the potentially avoidable loss of the Wedge Pack.
- Cosponsored a WDFW **summer range rider pilot** program to reduce conflict between wolves and cattle in northeast Washington. The rancher involved lost no calves this season.
- Increased WDFW's understanding of wolf conflict avoidance by organizing a series of meetings between the agency and wolf-livestock conflict specialists, including a field trip to Montana's Blackfoot Challenge.
- Inspired millions of viewers with the return of Washington's wolves through the BBC/Discovery Channel film, **Land of the Lost Wolves**. The film stars our own Jasmine Minbashian and Cascades wolves.
- Educated (and inspired!) hundreds of people at screenings of *Land of the Lost Wolves* and discussion panels.
- Organized hundreds of citizens to push for the protections of Pacific Northwest wolves as a distinct population under the Endangered Species Act.
- Demonstrated support for wolf recovery and the state's wolf plan, turning out 100 people before Washington's Fish and Wildlife Commission.
- Created the **first grizzly bear sightings hotline** in BC to increase awareness about the precarious status of grizzly bears in southwest British Columbia and trans-boundary Cascades.

- Engaged the St'at'imc First Nation in BC to discuss collaborating on grizzly bear recovery planning in their traditional territory.
- Began a comprehensive forest roads inventory and analysis to inform access management in grizzly bear habitat in the BC Cascades, a template for work in other ecosystems.
- Supported augmentation of the Purcell's mountain caribou herd, transplanting animals, consistent with BC's recovery plan.
- Partnered with Parks Canada on a caribou maternity penning project in Revelstoke that aims to protect vulnerable calves from predation.
- Created a **Columbia Highlands wildlife viewing and hiking guide** highlighting the region's rich wildlife and wild lands. Numerous local businesses are sponsoring and promoting this valuable resource.
- Helped visitors to the Selkirk Mountains avoid conflicts with grizzly bears by funding Forest Service's education presence on the ground.

Forging connectivity

- Brought together the region's best wildlife conservation science, policy, and advocacy players at the 5th annual Wild Links conference.
- At Wild Links, launched the Cascadia Partner Forum, focused on better understanding transboundary connectivity, and a working group to protect carnivores in the US and BC Cascades.
- Launched the **Safe Passage on Highway 97** community coalition, to bring twin wildlife underpasses in a high traffic area in the Okanogan Valley.
- Monitored the spread and success of wildlife throughout the Cascades and northeast Washington, and documented potential new wolf packs in the Columbia Highlands, with 90 **Citizen Wildlife Monitoring Project** volunteers.
- Recorded early success for wildlife crossings on I-90 in the form of a coyote using the partially constructed Gold Creek underpass.

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Volunteers placed remote cameras across the region, monitoring rare wildlife, such as this lynx in BC. Citizen Wildlife Monitoring Project



Gaining ground

More “Accomplishments”

- Documented the first wolverine in decades detected south of Highway 2 in the Cascades.

- Collected data on pine martens as part of the Cascades Carnivore Connectivity Project in the I-90 wildlife corridor.

- Organized a field tour of the I-90 corridor during the Western Governor’s Association’s Annual Meeting in Suncadia, Washington, highlighting the importance of this wildlife corridor.

- With the Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group, helped publish a Columbia Basin connectivity analysis, follow-up to last year’s Washington Landscape Connectivity report.

- Began scientific analysis of **how and where wildlife move in the border region** with British Columbia.

- Coordinated conservation mapping and planning for the BC Columbia Basin, focused on building climate change resilience.

- Working with national partners, ensured a 2-year highway reauthorization bill passed by Congress recognized the importance of connecting lands for wildlife.

- Established funding for **Washington’s first-ever wildlife overpass** as part of I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project Phase II.

- Continued administration of the I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition, including giving the project a fresh online look, i90wildlifebridges.org.

- Planted nearly **6,000 native plants** to restore habitat just north of the Gold Creek wildlife underpass on I-90 with the help of 100 volunteers contributing 700 work hours.

- Collected a year’s of worth of animal sightings in the Cascades near Snoqualmie Pass as part of I-90 Wildlife Watch.

- Helped better connect habitat for wildlife, such as lynx, in northeastern Washington by securing 101 more acres of **easement on the Gotham Ranch** near The Wedge.

The Forest Service’s Aleta Eng and Helen Lau pose with Helen’s daughter before restoring native plants with dozens of volunteers near the Gold Creek underpass at I-90. *Jen Watkins*



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West to east, from Blanchard Mountain (above), the coastal extent of the Cascades, to the forests of the Columbia Highlands, this year we accomplished much for wildlife.

Building community

- Ensured a wild future for the Northwest when we raised a record \$248,000 at our Hope for a Wild Future auction. Thank you!

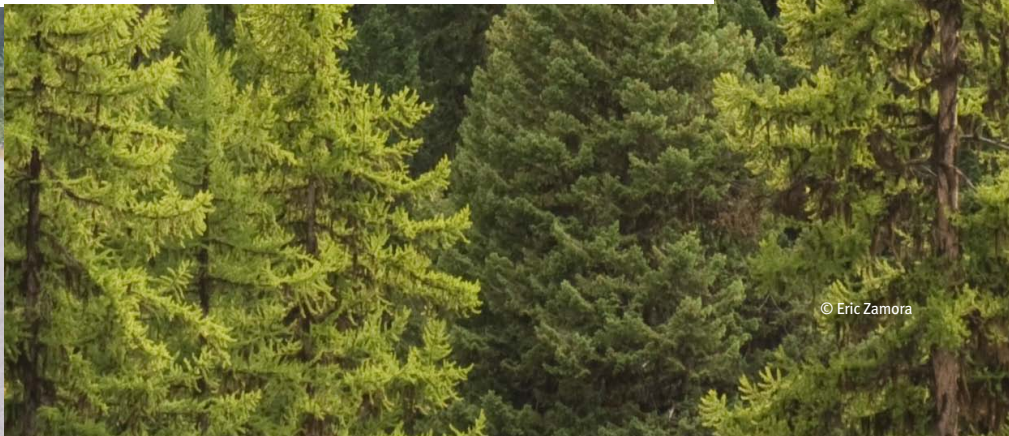
- Kept Mitch from getting a big head after being featured in a **cover story in the Seattle Times’ Pacific Northwest Magazine**.

- Maintained several trails on the Colville National Forest, together with the Washington Trails Association.

- Provided help to the Colville Indian Reservation after a devastating wind storm, coordinating cash donations from conservation groups and timber companies

- Made our important work more accessible with homepage redesigns for our websites, conservationnw.org and columbiahighlands.org

- Engaged more than 5,000 fans of wildlife and wild places on Conservation Northwest’s Facebook page, [Facebook.com/ConservationNW](https://www.facebook.com/ConservationNW)



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