



## Annual Report 2020-2021





## Dear supporters,

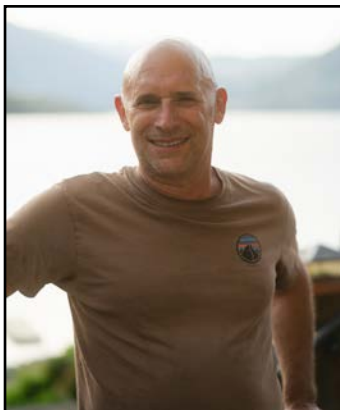
If asked about life before 2020/21, most people might answer in terms of the pandemic. Not me. Here's what I remember from that time:

There were no lynx in the Kettle Range of northeastern Washington. Reintroduction of Pacific fishers in the Olympics and Cascades was incomplete. There was no safe way for wildlife to cross Highway 97 where it transects the Cascades to Rockies wildlife corridor. And the critically important habitat of the massive Figlenski Ranch was at risk of being sold for development. Those challenges are now all successfully behind us, along with many more wins from the past two years.

This report describes some of what Conservation Northwest accomplished over the last two years. We didn't just endure the pandemic; we thrived! Our great program work continued: keeping conflict between wolves and livestock lower than in a decade; protecting old growth and restoring degraded forests and watersheds; bringing a case before the Washington Supreme Court to decide the very purpose of our state public lands. We also expanded our Sagelands Heritage and Cascades to Olympics Programs. Working entirely by video call, our staff and board not only developed a new strategic plan, but launched one of the new programs we envisioned, this one to address the impact that expanding outdoor recreation is having on our wildlife. We didn't just make progress; we had some of our biggest wins ever!

Conservation Northwest is stronger now than we've ever been. Our staff is full and energized, our budget is stable and growing, and our programs are rolling. The months ahead will see more habitat protected and more highway crossings installed in the Cascades to Rockies corridor. We'll see grizzly bears actively moved to help boost ailing populations in southern B.C., and more lynx moved from the B.C. Okanagan to the Kettle Range. And we and our indigenous community partners will demand (and I expect win) regulatory and engineering changes to better protect transboundary rivers like the Similkameen from the pollution threat of hard rock mining in B.C. headwaters.

Thanks to your help, we at Conservation Northwest don't have to measure our output in terms of meetings held, headlines generated, or arms waved. Instead, our progress is manifested on the land in a future Northwest healthier and wilder than it was before the last year, every year.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch Friedman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

**Mitch Friedman**  
**Executive Director**

Thank you for supporting Conservation Northwest! I will not dwell on the challenges that we have had to overcome because of the pandemic, except to say how proud I am of the staff for having adapted and been able to pull off several remarkable achievements. In the last two years Conservation Northwest has fought for a landmark supreme court ruling that will change the way state forest lands are managed, permanently protected nearly 10,000 acres of connected habitat in the Okanogan Valley, completed wildlife crossings that reduce animal-vehicle collisions up to 90%, augmented the populations of endangered iconic species, launched a new program to minimize the impact of recreation on wildlife and habitats, and much, much more.

Looking ahead, we can expect that the wild lands and wild critters in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia will face accelerating challenges, brought on by climate change, continuing political shifts, and a growing population. We will rely on our tenacity, science-informed pragmatism, and willingness to collaborate to tackle these challenges. Thank you for continuing to make this possible. Our collective impact will last generations.



**Joseph Joy**  
**Board President**

#### CONSERVATION NORTHWEST BOARD:

Joseph Joy, *President*

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Joaquin Marchand

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Kevin Scott

Dr. Valerie Tarico

LiLi Wong





# Keeping the Northwest Wild

— since 1989 —

Our mission: we protect, connect and restore wildlands and wildlife from the Washington Coast to the British Columbia Rockies.



## Connect Habitat

Our most distinct work is protecting habitat corridors that keep our Northwest ecosystems interconnected for wildlife to move. Large and linked blocks of habitat are the cornerstones of building resilience, and those linkages are often tenuous and at risk. We find innovative ways to both protect habitat corridors and build structures that provide wildlife safe passage under or over highways.



## Protect Wildlands

We defend large blocks of habitat that are essential for the long-term resilience of ecosystems and native wildlife. Conserving these core areas is critical for carbon storage and ecological adaptation in the face of climate change. We engage collaboratively to ensure that projects are based on science and protect large trees, watersheds, and other critical elements of Washington's ecosystems.



## Restore Wildlife

Diverse animal species make our region rich and vibrant. Thriving wildlife populations signal and sustain healthy ecosystems. We restore and protect iconic Northwest species including wolves, lynx, fishers, pygmy rabbits and grizzlies.

Conservation NW Staff '22  
Lake Palmer, Washington



## Map Key

Staff Locations



Forest Protection & Policy



Watershed Restoration



Wildlife Rec. Coexistence



Cascades to Olympics



Highway Fencing



Sagelands Heritage



Tribal Reacquisition



Virtual Fencing



Wildlife Crossings



Wildlife Monitoring



Fisher



Grizzly Bear



Lynx



Pronghorn Antelope



Pygmy Rabbit



Sage-grouse



Wolf



Wolverine





# Connect Habitat

Sustaining habitat connectivity has been a cornerstone of Conservation Northwest's work for more than 20 years. By focusing on big landscapes, we've successfully protected vital wildlife corridors and reconnected habitat between Washington's North and South Cascades, from the North Cascades to the Kettle River Range and Greater Rocky Mountains, and more.

## Cascades to Olympics

Our Cascades to Olympics program restores habitat links between Washington's two premier wild ecosystems so wildlife populations are reconnected, genetically diverse, and ultimately more viable. Our work includes influencing land use policy that sustains forest habitat, identifying corridors, and providing ways for wildlife to cross highways.

### I-5 WILDLIFE ACTIVITY AND VETERANS COLLABORATION:

In 2020, we partnered with The Veterans' Ecological Trades Collective (VETC), a nonprofit that supports veterans to gain career skills in conservation, agriculture, forestry, and ecological design. VETC owns a 120-acre property within a wildlife corridor that borders I-5, where wildlife face a four-lane barrier to movement between the Cascades and Olympic Mountains. This project is a unique approach to addressing veterans' mental health and employment, ecosystem resilience, and wildlife connectivity.

### SATSOP HABITAT CONNECTIVITY RESTORATION PROJECT:

Volunteers and a local landowner helped us work with the Washington State Department of Transportation to improve an existing underpass where Highway 12 crosses over the Satsop River to create an undercrossing for Roosevelt elk, black bears, cougars and other wildlife. Volunteers removed three football fields of impenetrable, invasive Himalayan blackberry.

This saved numerous native plants, exposed hazards like old barbwire fencing, and freed up space for animal movement in this corridor for the first time in decades. We hope this will help serve as a model to inspire additional wildlife crossings under or over Highway 12 and I-5 in southwest Washington.



### Brian Stewart

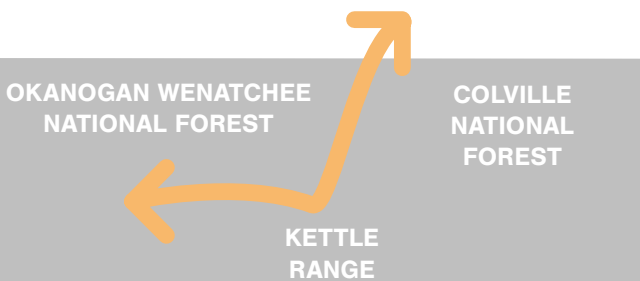
#### Cascades to Olympics Program Manager

Brian joined CNW in 2020 as the Cascades to Olympics Program Manager, based in rural Lewis County. The generational traditions of spending weeks at a time camping at locations like Mt. Rainier and the Hoh River gave Brian a profound love and passion for the local environment and native wildlife. He applies that to building relationships with communities and partners in southwest Washington to reconnect two of our iconic habitats.



Lower Tunk Mountain in Okanogan County. Justin Haug

# Cascades to Rockies



**9,243** acres

transferred to the Colville Confederated Tribes.

Biologists have identified the corridor linking the North Cascades and Rocky Mountains as one of the most critical in the Pacific Northwest. The function of this linkage is challenged by climate change, increasing wildfires, and new housing spreading into wildlands. This landscape and connection are vital for Canada lynx, wolverines, mule deer, wolves and other native wildlife.

In 2021, Conservation Northwest raised nearly \$5 million to purchase 9,243 acres and secure a critical piece of the Cascades to Rockies corridor, essential for migrating wildlife. The deed to this property was transferred directly to the Colville Confederated Tribes with a protective covenant that sustains its cultural and conservation values. By returning this land to the Tribes, we helped right a historic wrong, saved habitat for endangered sharp-tailed grouse, and made a safer, more connected, future for lynx.



“As it is similar for many of our donors and supporters, in Native American culture, there is a deep obligation to create and maintain prosperous land, as it is paramount to healthy living for all that occupy it. When Conservation Northwest participates in land back initiatives, it’s because we strongly believe that the best stewards of our land are those that are the most deeply connected to it. When you donate to CNW you not only protect our landscapes, but you also return the sense of home to generations of tribes where it has been lost.

**Bailey Kitka (Tlingit L’uknax.ádi (Coho clan) in Alaska)**  
Membership and Events Coordinator



# Sagelands Heritage Program

Our Sagelands Heritage Program works to protect, connect and restore shrub-steppe landscapes in central and eastern Washington. The focus of our work is a “Connected Backbone” of important habitat linkages that run north and southeast of the Cascade Mountains. Priority species include sage grouse, bighorn sheep, badgers, sharp-tailed grouse, mule deer, pygmy rabbits, pronghorn antelope, and Rocky Mountain elk.

Post Pearl Hill Fire on the  
Okanogan, 2022. CNW ▼



## Staff highlight:



Jay Kehne

Sagelands Heritage Program Lead

Jay Kehne joined Conservation Northwest in 2010 after a 31-year career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. In 2021, Jay was awarded The National Conservation Leadership Award from the National Wildlife Federation, the nation’s oldest and largest wildlife conservation group.

In 2020, Jay watched the start of the Cold Springs and Pearl Hill Fire move from a hillside on the Colville Reservation near his Omak home. At the time, he had no idea that these fires would quickly become

the largest in Washington history, as these and others burned more than 800,000 acres.

The areas of Okanogan and Douglas counties burned include critical habitat for threatened wildlife from sage and sharp-tailed grouse to pygmy rabbits and pronghorn antelope, and critical mule deer range. In central Washington’s sagelands, only a fraction of the historic shrub-steppe habitat remains, and it is vital for sustaining wildlife. Protecting the remnants is a top priority of our Sagelands.





# Safe Passage Highway 97



▲ Bucks using the Janis Bridge underpass. CWMP

## PHASE TWO (2020 - 2025)

4.25 miles of protected highway from the Highway 7 intersection south to Crumbacher Road.

## PHASE THREE (2020 - 2025)

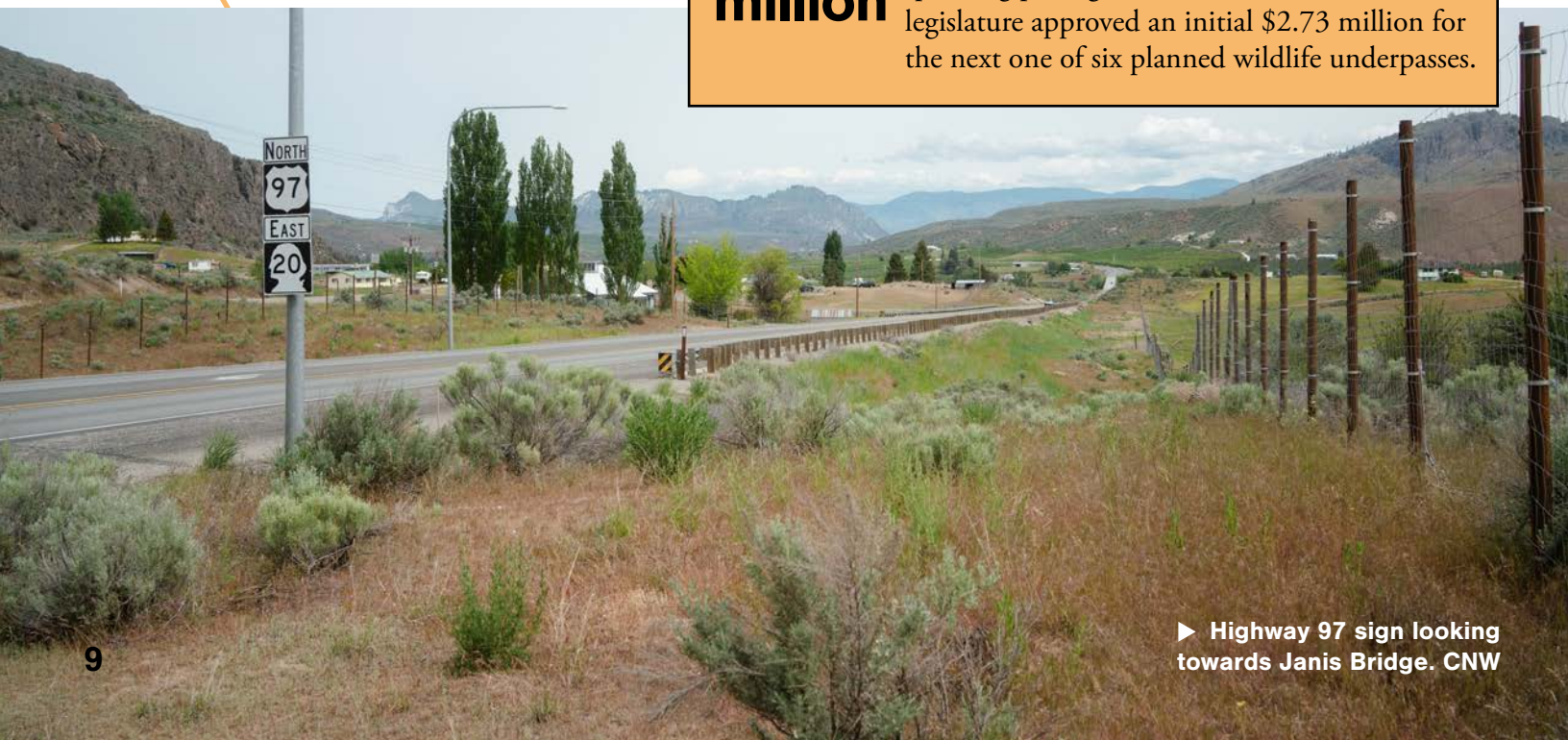
4.3 miles from south Crumbacher Road to just north of Riverside.

POSSIBLE CROSSING LOCATIONS

In August 2020, donations allowed us to complete the first wildlife crossing and mile of deer fencing on Highway 97 at Janis Bridge. This 12-mile stretch of highway in Okanogan County has the highest rate of vehicle-wildlife collisions in the state. For years, a deer was killed nearly every day, though estimates put total fatalities as high as 3-times that number. Two years after the crossing was finished, data from the Washington State Department of Transportation shows there has been a 91% reduction in the number of vehicle-deer collisions in the section near the underpass. Game cameras are capturing hundreds of photos per month of wildlife safely using the underpass to cross the highway. In the first year more than 2,000 animal crossings were documented, including mule deer, bobcat, cougar, coyote, raccoons, skunks, and wild turkey.

**\$18  
million**

In 2021, we successfully advocated for \$18 million to be included for wildlife crossings in the Washington state transportation projects spending package. In March 2022, the legislature approved an initial \$2.73 million for the next one of six planned wildlife underpasses.



► Highway 97 sign looking towards Janis Bridge. CNW



# Protect Wildlands

Healthy forests, thriving grasslands and clean watersheds go hand-in-hand with healthy, prosperous communities and abundant wildlife. Large blocks of forest and wildland are the cornerstones of ecological resilience and provide core habitat that is essential for the long-term survival and recovery of imperiled wildlife. Conserving forests and other wildlands is increasingly critical for carbon sequestration and habitat protection in the face of a changing climate. Our wild public lands also offer cherished places to hike, camp, climb, ski, wildlife watch, fish, hunt and otherwise enjoy the Pacific Northwest's rich natural heritage.

## Conservation Northwest v. Commissioner of Public Lands

In January 2020, Conservation Northwest led a group of nonprofits in filing a suit against Washington's Department of Natural Resources to challenge the precedent that the state must maximize revenue from our forests through logging.

In July of 2022, the Washington State Supreme Court gave us one of our greatest wins in its landmark ruling on *Conservation Northwest, et al. v. Commissioner of Public Lands, et al.* Per this ruling, the state and its agency, the Department of Natural Resources, now has broad discretion to serve "all the people" of Washington and the public interest when managing state lands. This

sets aside the mandate that has driven aggressive logging on state land here for almost 50 years; the presumption of "undivided loyalty" to maximize income to benefit state institutions. The Court upheld our argument that Article 16 of the Washington Constitution provides for balancing the interests of the public and the trusts, and that the state must consider both generating revenue and the multitude of other ecological benefits of state forestlands. Going forward the state has the power to manage public lands in ways that truly reflect and support our state's evolving environmental, economic and social needs, including protecting its remaining old forests as carbon reserves.



Ponderosa pines in WA. James Johnston

“

The court issued a monumental conservation ruling. Over coming years and decades, this ruling will be cited in support of nature-protection policies made by the legislature and the DNR. In short, the nature of this trust is that the state has the discretion to protect the public's resources.

**Mitch Friedman**  
Founder & Executive Director





# Central Cascades Watershed Restoration

Our Central Cascades Watersheds Restoration program (CCWR) works to connect and restore wildlife habitat north and south of Interstate 90 and on both sides of the cascade crest between Mount Rainier National Park and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Just over an hour from the Puget Sound metro area, this region is loved by outdoor recreationists—from hikers, backpackers and equestrians, to off-road vehicle users, hunters, mountain bikers and target shooters. Conservation Northwest has been deeply engaged in the U.S. Forest Service's Snoquerra Project for several years, working with a consortium of partners that includes the U.S. Forest Service; the Tulalip, Muckleshoot and Puyallup tribes; Pacific Crest Trail Association; Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance; and South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

In 2021, we began shifting from planning to implementing restoration actions in the heavily-used area of the Upper White and Greenwater river watersheds on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Our collaborative is focused on landscape scale restoration to right size the road system; provide sustainable recreational opportunities that also protect fish and wildlife habitat; increase forest resilience and protect old-growth; and preserve indigenous cultural and natural heritage including elk forage areas, prescribed fire and thinning for huckleberry enhancement and fish passage improvements.

## Staff highlight:



**Laurel Baum**

Central Cascades  
Conservation Associate

Laurel volunteered with the Community Wildlife Monitoring Program for 5 years before joining the staff in 2017 to run the program. She now coordinates our Central Cascades Watersheds Restoration program with a focus on the southern half of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and the Naches Ranger District in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

**850 lbs. of trash**  
collected by volunteers from dispersed campsites in a single day.

**26 volunteers**  
helped with native seeding, recreation cleanup, and surveyed dispersed campsites to help Forest Service staff prioritize sites for restoration.

**15 signs installed**  
informing the public of responsible recreation practices along a 10-mile stretch of the Greenwater river.



## education partnership

with Citizens for a Healthy Bay and their Environmental Justice Camp for Girls to host a group of young, BIPOC women to introduce them to themes of watershed health, work on salmon and riparian restoration projects, and help in native plant seeding.



# Forest Field Program

Conservation Northwest was one of the first groups to recognize the power of ecological forest restoration and community collaboration. We continue to work across the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan-Wenatchee, and Colville National Forests to promote ecologically managed forests and watersheds that allow wildlife to thrive.

Forest Field staff support scientific research and its application to shape national and regional policies for sustainable forest planning. And they get their hands dirty repairing damage from unauthorized recreation, restoring meadows and wetlands critical to fire resilience, decommissioning roads to improve aquatic health and secure habitat, removing invasive species/planting native species, and building collaborations that will protect our forests and headwaters for decades to come.



## Dave Werntz

**Science and Conservation Director**

Dave is a forest ecologist and field biologist long involved in Pacific Northwest conservation efforts. On staff at CNW for nearly 20 years, he leads our Forest Field Program with a focus on national forests and forest collaboration. He also manages numerous other conservation initiatives, including fisher, Canada lynx and wolverine recovery work.

Staff highlight:

# 1,000 members

Conservation Northwest members helped us block proposed Off-Road Vehicle routes, salvage logging of burned forest, and old-growth logging in Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest along the Twisp River.

In 2020, we objected to road construction across Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument which would cause irreparable damage to long term ecological research site.

**Buck Creek. David Moskowitz**

# 1,900 acres

Conservation Northwest members joined us in objecting to a proposal to clearcut 1,900 acres in the Nooksack Valley of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The land was on unstable slopes above endangered salmon and trout habitat.

In 2021, we won a lawsuit against Colville National Forest, defeating plans to open hundreds of miles of road to Off-Road Vehicles without public input or consideration for fish, wildlife and sensitive habitats.





► Day hikers at Ollalie Lake. Tyler Ung

Staff highlight:



## Kurt Hellmann

### Advocacy Associate

Kurt volunteered with our Community Wildlife Monitoring Program before joining the CNW staff in 2021 to launch the WREC program. Kurt brings a background in fundraising, data science and community engagement, as well as a deep passion for recreation and protecting wild spaces.

# Wildlife Recreation Coexistence

In 2021, we launched the Wildlife-Recreation Coexistence Program (WREC). Experiencing nature firsthand is one of the best aspects of living in the Pacific Northwest. But, as our population grows, so does the disruption we cause to wildlife. The number of hikers coming out of Seattle and into Northwest wilderness doubled between 2008 and 2017, with nearly one million people venturing onto Washington trails and wildlife habitats. Outdoor recreation has become a leading cause of wildlife harm on Northwest public lands and can have negative impacts on wildlife behavior, physiology, and reproduction.

Our goal with the WREC program is to promote greater coexistence between wildlife and outdoor recreation by reducing impacts on sensitive species and habitats. We'll do this through applied science, education, outreach, and policy advocacy, while advancing sustainable outdoor opportunities and supporting Indigenous cultural priorities.

WREC will identify areas in Washington where recreation activity may disturb sensitive wildlife or damage habitat, and we'll work with recreation groups to establish balanced guidelines to protect the wild, support responsible recreation, and educate people on minimizing harmful impacts.



# Restore Wildlife

Diverse animal species make our region rich and vibrant. And thriving wildlife populations signal healthy forests, grasslands and watersheds. As we work to protect Northwest wildlands and to connect core habitats and large landscapes, we also champion the return of key animal species while building greater social tolerance to safeguard their long-term recovery. In the last two years we've augmented the populations of species like lynx and fishers, supported recovery efforts of endangered species like pygmy rabbits and grizzly bears, and continued to foster peaceful coexistence between humans and Pacific Northwest wildlife.

In 2021, a female grizzly and her two cubs spent the entire spring and summer near an agricultural area in southwest British Columbia. Our collaborative worked with the residents daily, providing peaceful coexistence strategies including electronic fencing and managing food attractants. People and bears emerged to denning season conflict-free, both accepting the others' presence.



## Grizzly Bears

Iconic grizzly bears, once abundant in Southwest British Columbia's Coast to Cascades region, are now confined within a few small, scattered, and semi-isolated populations. We work to stem the ongoing loss of grizzly bear range, advance recovery of their southwest B.C. populations, and promote habitat connectivity to the North Cascades. In partnership with First Nations, we are boosting bear numbers by conserving key habitat and promoting peaceful human-bear coexistence.

“

We can coexist with grizzly bears; we just have to have the generosity of spirit to share the landscape with these animals.

**Joe Scott**  
International Programs Director





# Wolves

Washington's annual wolf report had good news in both 2020 and 2021: the population increased 24% in 2020 and another 16% in 2021. Critically, the conflict deterrence policies advocated by Conservation Northwest and implemented through our Range Rider Pilot Program, have led to exceptionally low wolf mortality compared to other states. In 2021, only four wolves - less than 3% of the Washington's total population - were killed by wildlife managers after chronic conflicts with livestock. In comparison, when Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming were at a similar stage of wolf recovery, lethal control for livestock depredations amounted to 12% of their total minimum wolf count.

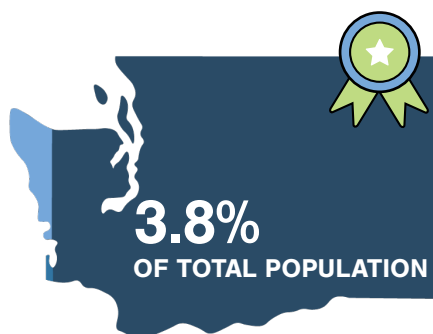


## Staff highlight:

### Jay Shepherd

#### Wolf Program Lead

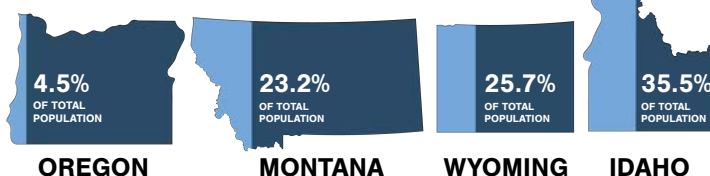
Jay leads our wolf recovery and coexistence field program, including our Range Rider Project and administering the Northeast Washington Wolf-Cattle Collaborative. Jay grew up in Walla Walla where he worked on his family's wheat farm and cattle ranch. As a biologist, Jay has worked with amphibians, ungulates, predators, seabirds, and raptors, as well as shrub-steppe and old-growth forest habitat.



Deliberate Human-Caused Wolf Mortality Averaged over '17-'21

~6 # of deaths

Washington holds the lowest rate of human-caused wolf mortality.



**206** wolves at the end of 2021.

**33** total packs confirmed in 2021, including a new pack in the North Cascades.

**19** breeding pairs confirmed in 2021. 4 breeding pairs in the North Cascades recovery region for two years in a row.



## livestock predation

in Washington were the lowest reported since 2012.



# Lynx

Conservation Northwest is a leader in advocacy, protection and repopulation efforts for Canada lynx in our region. Protecting lynx has been a catalyst for some of our most noteworthy accomplishments, including saving 25,000 acres of Loomis Forest wildlands in 1999. Today we are helping to actively restore lynx to the Kettle River Range, where they were trapped to near extinction by the 1970s. In 2021 we began a 5-year project (in partnership with the Colville Confederated Tribes and Okanogan Nation Alliance) to move 50 lynx from British Columbia to the Kettle Mountains on the Colville Reservation. And due to our work protecting a habitat across the Okanogan River Valley, those Kettle Range cats will be linked to the North Cascades population, boosting lynx viability across the region.



In November, Mitch was present when Timxw, a 28 lb. male Canada lynx, was released into the freshly snowed forest at the northern end of the Reservation of the Colville Confederated Tribes, near the south end of the Kettle River Mountain Range.

“

I have a deep history with this magnificent big-footed snowcat. In 1988, I led protests against the logging of lynx habitat in north-central Washington. In 1991, with my friend Mark Skatrud, I wrote and submitted a petition to the federal government that eventually gained lynx protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 1999, we saved 25,000 acres of lynx habitat on the Loomis State Forest.

We have now spent nearly two decades in collaborative efforts to gain legislated permanent protection of the wildlands of the Kettle Range for lynx. And for the last decade, we've been working to protect habitat linking the North Cascades (wildlands that support the healthiest lynx population in the Lower 48) to the Kettle Range and the Rockies beyond. We can't ask much more of life than to be part of something good that's bigger than ourselves, and hopefully a meaningfully positive part.

**Mitch Friedman**  
Executive Director



Lynx released on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.  
David Moskowitz







# Pygmy Rabbits

**N**amed after their tiny size, pygmy rabbits have both state and federal Endangered status. They are the smallest species of rabbit in North America, and live right in the heart of Washington's shrub-steppe landscapes. Nearly half of the dwindling population of pygmy rabbits was wiped out during the 2020 fires. Our Sagelands Heritage team works with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect the remaining colonies and support breeding projects to ensure these critters continue to exist in the wild.



Volunteers building a new breeding enclosure. WDFW volunteer.

## Staff highlight:



**Jordan Ryckman**

**Conservation Associate**

Jordan develops and implements strategies that protect and restore wildlife habitat, increase habitat connectivity across barriers, and foster scientific, social, and political networks to assist the Sagelands Heritage Program. This includes leading our collaborations to protect pygmy rabbits and helping to launch our virtual fencing pilot project.

**1,000 acres surveyed**

by Conservation Northwest staff, volunteers, and students for wild pygmy rabbits in the winter of 2021.

**30 pygmy rabbits**

released into the wild from breeding pen population.

**6 wildlife cameras**

provided to capture predator interactions and kits leaving burrows.

**5 acres built**

for breeding enclosures.

**4 events**

participated in for capture and release/vaccination (both in breeding enclosures and wild populations).



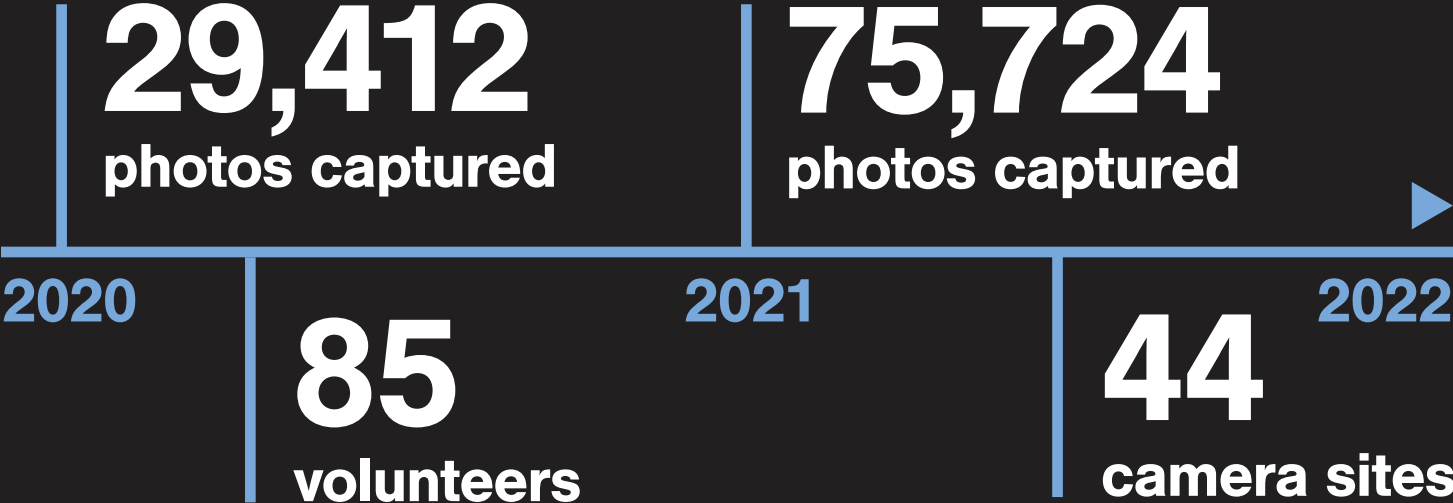
# Community Wildlife Monitoring Program

Underlying nearly all of our projects is wildlife monitoring. These cameras help us understand where the animals are and whether populations are thriving or at risk. In 2008, our cameras captured the return of wolves to Washington after nearly 100 years. In 2021, we confirmed the success of fisher reintroduction by capturing images of pups.

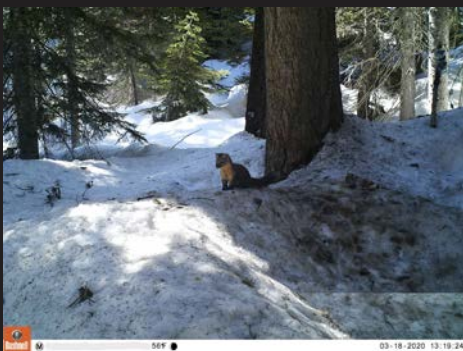
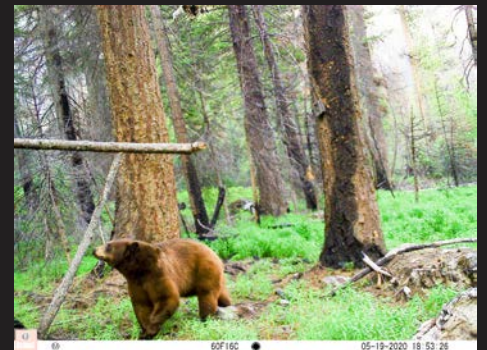
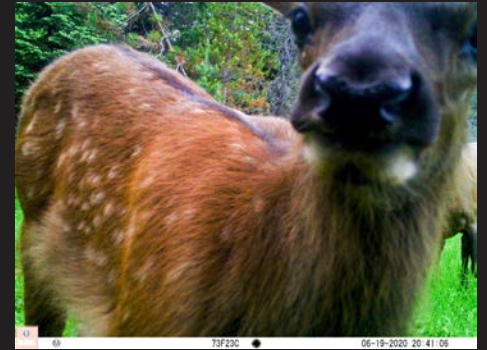
Our Community Wildlife Monitoring Program is one of the largest community-science wildlife monitoring efforts of its kind in North America, working to extend and enhance the scientific research capacity of our organization and our colleagues.



Lynx tracks on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. David Moskowitz







“ I don't know of any other organization that comes close to representing and advocating what is most important to me here in the Pacific Northwest – our wild heritage – and doing so in a way that is creative, science-based, timely and that attempts to bridge divides to unify.

**Christian Martin**  
Longtime Wildlands Partner

# Climate Audit

We know that as we navigate the precipice of a rapidly changing climate, action guided by sound science is more critical than ever. So, in 2021, we contracted researchers at the University of Washington’s Landscape Ecology & Conservation Lab to audit six of our core programs on the degree to which they are informed by climate change research and objectives.

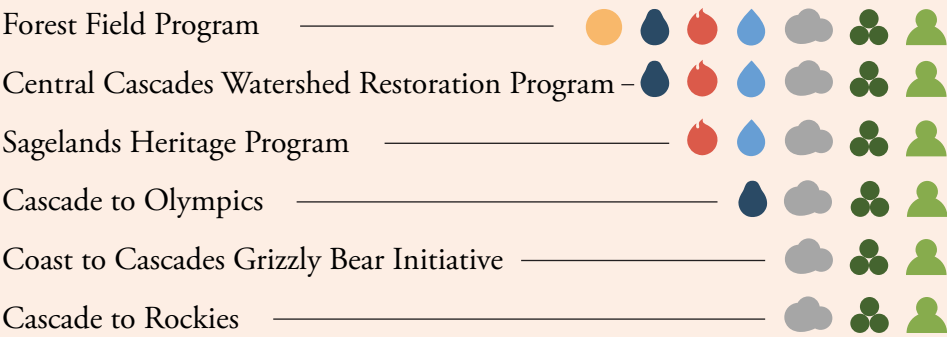
The researchers employed a qualitative study to determine “how the programs address climate vulnerabilities, what science is being used to address climate change, [and if] projects are designed to reduce greenhouse-gas concentrations.”

**THEY DETERMINED THAT ALL SIX PROGRAMS EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE BY:**


- (1) increasing the amount and connectivity of natural habitat
- (2) focusing on specific climatic vulnerabilities of target species and systems
- (3) reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations via protection and restoration of natural systems.


Our programs “take a landscape-resilience approach to climate adaptation [by] connecting large, intact landscapes, and managing for their resilience.” These adaptation strategies consider a wide range of conservation targets and expected climate impacts, including fire and drought. Researchers also noted our partnerships with rural and tribal communities strengthen principles of environmental equity.


**HOW OUR PROGRAMS ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE:**





### Climate Objectives


**Climate equity considerations**


**Connectivity of natural habitat**

**Protection of drought refugia**

**Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> via ecological restoration**

**Restoration for climate-driven variability**

**Restoration of floodplain connectivity**

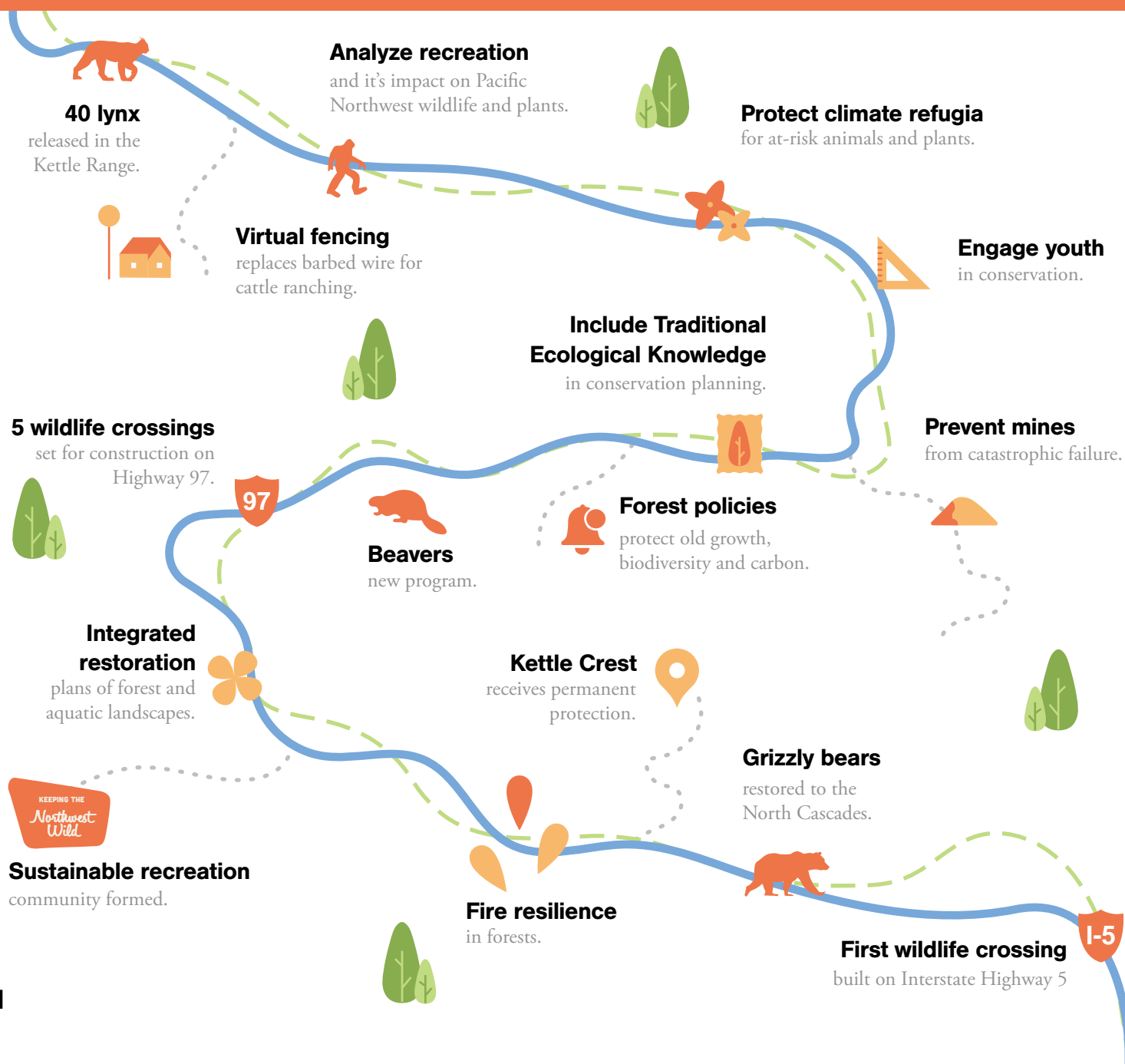
**Restoration to reduce the impacts of fire**



# What's next?

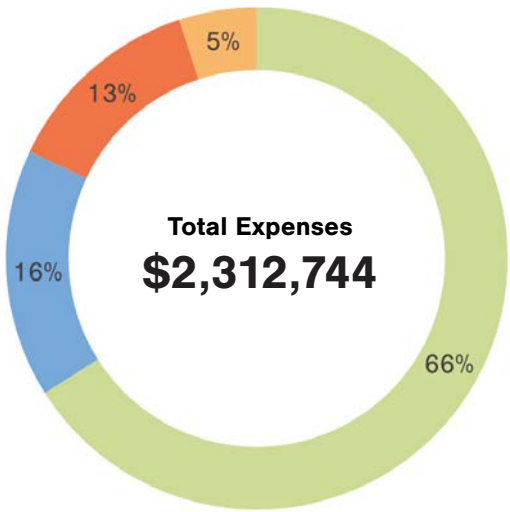
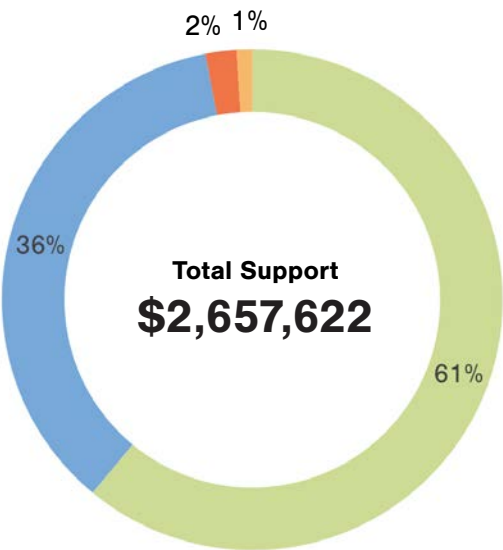
In June 2022, the staff gathered for our first in-person retreat in two years. Half of us are new since the pandemic began, so we gathered near Loomis where CNW's work began 30 years ago. Mitch told us about the origins of CNW and how a nonprofit that still existed decades later with 24 staff and an annual budget of \$3 million wasn't exactly the original plan. He also talked about asking the staff five years ago if our work was done and we've served our purpose.

Looking back on the last several years - fires, heat domes, threats to endangered species status, ongoing development of wild areas, but also all the amazing things our program staff has accomplished - it's clear to all of us that there is still work for us to do.



# Finances

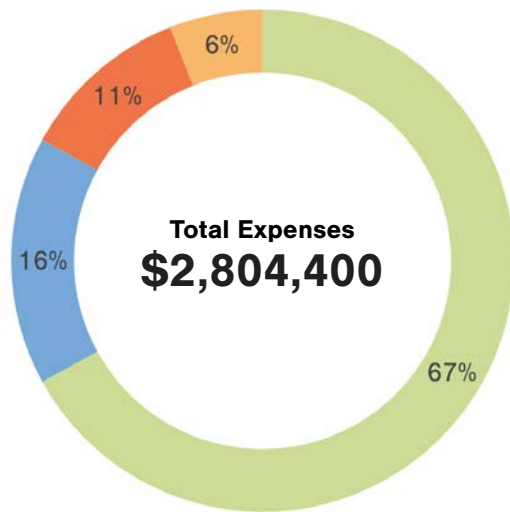
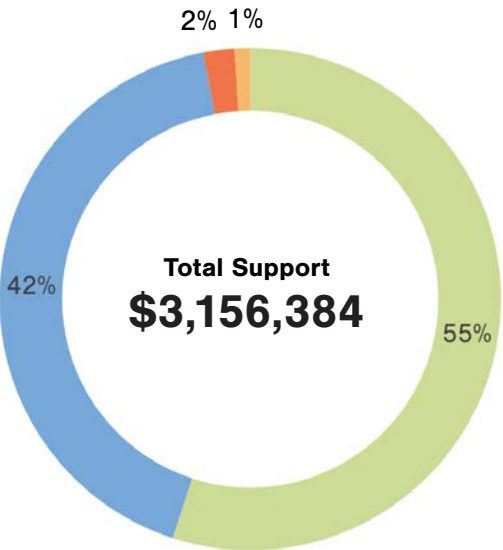
April 2020 - March 2021



- Individual Donations
- Grants
- Corporate Donations/Sponsorship
- Events and Other Revenue

- Programs (Protect, Connect, Restore)
- Fundraising
- Operations
- Outreach and Community Engagement

April 2021 - March 2022



“

Mitch Friedman and Conservation Northwest occupy a singular place for those of us who want to preserve the wild lands of the great Pacific Northwest. Their ability to see the landscape through the eyes of wildlife has helped us all see how vital it is to preserve these lands.

Philip Vogelzang  
Longtime supporter



# Grants and Sponsors

**R**oughly 40% of our funding every year comes from grants, businesses and workplace giving programs. These partners are essential to our work. Thank you for helping us keep the Northwest wild!

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## GRANTS:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
James M. Lea Foundation  
Boreal Songbird Initiative  
Wilburforce Foundation  
The Harder Foundation  
Bullitt Foundation  
Burning Foundation  
George F Jewett Foundation  
Anonymous  
The Campion Foundation  
The Lufkin Family Foundation  
The Volgenau Foundation  
Vitalogy Foundation  
National Park Service - Pacific West Region  
The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation  
National Forest Foundation  
Tortuga Foundation  
Patagonia Environmental Programs  
CREOI  
Northwest Trek Wildlife Park  
Peach Foundation  
Drinking Water Providers Partnership  
The Dudley Foundation  
Horizons Foundation  
Icicle Fund  
McDanel Land Foundation  
Norcliffe Foundation  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Rose Foundation  
Leiter Family Foundation  
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium  
The Erich and Hannah Sachs Foundation  
Deacon Charitable Foundation  
Woodland Park Zoological Society  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund

## CORPORATE DONORS AND SPONSORS

SeaWitch Botanicals  
MiiR  
Dirtfish  
Pabst Brewing Company  
Beneficial Ventures  
Vulcan  
Beneficial State Bank  
HomeLight  
Amazon Smile

## WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAM MATCHES:

Microsoft  
Boeing  
Meta  
Google  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
USAA  
Liberty Mutual  
DropBox

## Thank you donors!

**O**ur individual donors make up the heart of Conservation Northwest. Their contributions are nearly 60% of our revenue, and cross 2020 and 2021, our supporters raised an astounding \$3.3 million for our projects. Individual donations not only provide for our current projects, but they also directly impact the development of new initiatives and our ability to take challenges against our environment head on. Gifts large and small play a direct part in every aspect of Conservation Northwest's impact, from every conflict we resolve to protect our wolf population, to the sagebrush we replant, to the lynx we translocate, and beyond.

Creating this strength as a community gives us resilience when it comes to navigating unprecedented economic changes. Individual giving creates security in a time of uncertainty, and we are so thankful for every person who contributed these last few years. Thank you for staying with us and helping us succeed in protecting, connecting and restoring our unrivaled landscapes.

“

Over the 20+ years I have been a supporter of Conservation Northwest, I have witnessed their tactics change to adapt to the times. What has remained consistent is their scientific pragmatism and collaboration with key partners, allowing them to continue to meet their bold goals. It is rare to see an organization so grounded in the land and the people they serve while maintaining strategic focus.

**Alex Loeb**  
**Board Member**



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