

# Community & Wildlife



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JACKSON HOLE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

WORKING TO PROMOTE WAYS FOR OUR COMMUNITY TO LIVE COMPATIBLY WITH WILDLIFE

## from the desk of the president

Since our last annual newsletter was published last summer the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation has realized some significant accomplishments and experienced some major changes. The accompanying articles will provide you with details on our four core programs — Nature Mapping, Bearwise, Wildlife Friendly Fencing and Roadkill Prevention. Under the dedicated guidance of our Executive Director, Sue Colligan, all of these programs made significant strides towards JHWF's goal of promoting compatible living between our community and its visitors and the wildlife that make this area so special.

Some brief comments on the highlights are as follows. The Nature Mapping program has now trained approximately 340 citizen scientists who have provided over 13,000 observations. This tremendous community response has resulted in our hiring a full time Project Coordinator, Megan Smith, to ensure that the program continues to grow and the valuable data is put to proper use. As you attend events in the community you will see our new Bear Education Trailer which was purchased in partnership with several local agencies. The Wildlife Friendly Fencing program will celebrate a significant milestone this summer as we remove our 150<sup>th</sup> mile of wildlife unfriendly fencing from our surrounding wild lands. And finally the Roadkill Prevention program continues to provide the community with education regarding how to drive safely with wildlife present while gathering valuable data that will hopefully assist in protecting our wildlife through effective design of future road projects.

There has also been much change within the board of JHWF. Several valuable members — Laura Ladd, Meredith Campbell and Scott Garland — completed their terms of service, leaving JHWF a much better organization through their efforts. Fortunately at the same time we are able to welcome new members Randy Reedy, Kniffy Hamilton, Gretchen Plender and Henry Holdsworth to the board and look forward to the contributions they will make over the next several years.

Sadly, one change that I must include involves our beloved Executive Director and friend, Sue Colligan. This past spring Sue was diagnosed with cancer and will be leaving us to focus on her health. We are tremendously grateful to Sue for all she has done to effectively promote the Foundation's mission and lead its programs during the past year. I would ask each of you to keep Sue in your thoughts and prayers.

On behalf of the JHWF Board of Directors I would like to thank our volunteers, our local agency partners and our financial supporters for making all that we do possible. Please consider us in your Old Bill's Fun Run giving.

Best Regards,  
*Bob Kopp, President*

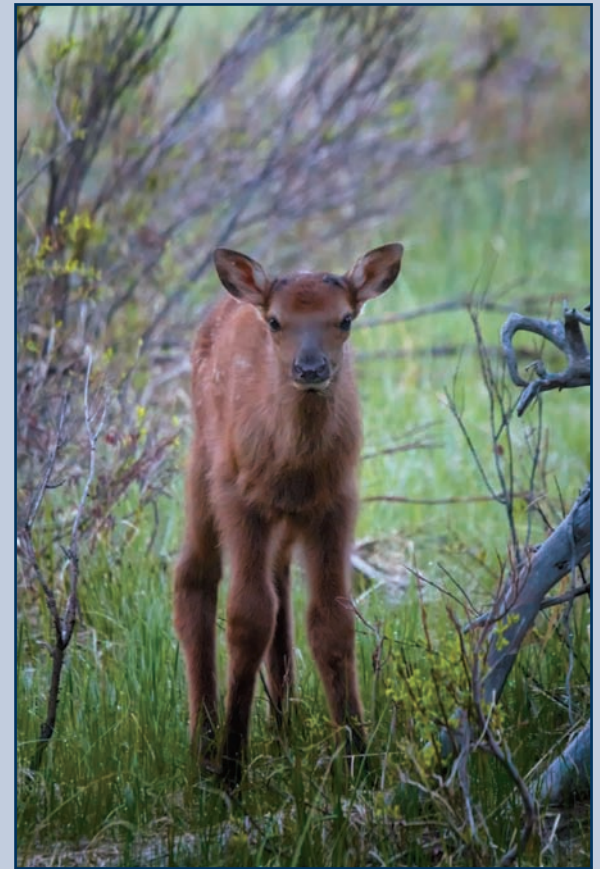


photo © Mark Gocke

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*The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation works to promote ways for our community to live compatibly with wildlife.*

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## When Everyone Contributes a Small Amount, the End Result is Tremendous

Having just begun its third year, as of July 2011, Nature Mapping Jackson Hole volunteers have made over 13,000 observations! With the motto “keeping common species common from the backyard to the backcountry” Nature Mapping’s amazing start is generating a long-term dataset of wildlife observations on both public and private lands in Teton County.

With the goals of engaging citizens and adding to the body of knowledge available for researchers and local decision makers, Nature Mapping is an excellent example of how when everyone contributes a small amount, the end result is tremendous. As of June 2011, we have 340 volunteers trained to collect Nature Mapping data. With at least 50% of our observations on private lands, these volunteers collect data as they go about their daily lives commuting, enjoying the outdoors and watching wildlife in their backyard. Casual projects represent the

majority of observations and are important for long-term comparisons and identifying trends while systematic projects are able to provide snapshots, multi-year comparisons, and answers to specific research questions. These observations are a valuable addition to wildlife research in Jackson Hole. Nature Mapping data is shared with area agency personnel, land trusts and project consultants looking for additional data to compare with their own research.

Nature Mapping Certification Trainings are held monthly. Once volunteers are trained, they are ready to collect data as well as attend skills trainings (e.g. species identification, tracking, GPS & topographic map skills). For more information and reports on specific projects, please check out Nature Mapping JH at [www.jhwildlife.org](http://www.jhwildlife.org). Contact Megan Smith, Project Coordinator, at the JHWF office (739-0968) with any inquiries. Thanks to all the volunteers who are the heart of Nature Mapping! ✨

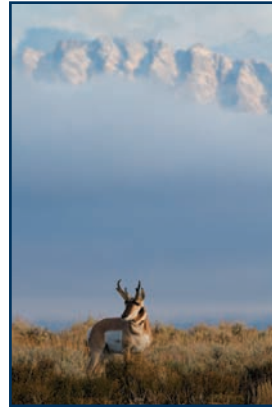


photo © Mark Gocke

## Bearwise Education Protects Bears

The Bearwise Jackson Hole program educates citizens on how to prevent human-bear conflicts. Last fall, JHWF partnered with Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to purchase a bear education trailer. The trailer has been a huge “attention-getter” at a number of public events with its colorful graphics on the outside and life-size display mounts of black and grizzly bears. Other teaching tools in the trailer include bear hides, tracks and skulls, training canisters of bear spray, a bear-resistant garbage can and equipment to set up a mock camp. The bear trailer is being used extensively in Grand Teton National Park this summer. Contact JHWF about bringing the trailer to your event.



photo © Mark Gocke

Last fall, JHWF partnered with Wyoming Game and Fish to raise awareness about the effectiveness of bear spray for human safety and reduce the number of human-caused bear mortalities. With a grant from the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, a total of 167 cans of bear spray were purchased and distributed by Wyoming Game and Fish personnel to citizens, primarily hunters, recreating in occupied grizzly bear habitat north of Jackson. Each recipient had personal contact with WFG staff, allowing for direct education on bear behavior. Recipients also completed a questionnaire. As part two of the project, participants’ contact information will be used to follow-up and determine how the spray was used and its effectiveness. ✨



photo © Mark Gocke

## The FencePull Program Approaches Another Milestone

Next pull: September 17, 2011  
jhwffencepull@gmail.com.

*From small beginnings, great things blossom.*

In the fall of 1996, Ed and Shirley Cheramy decided to remove some old fence from their property due to concerns over hazards that it presented to wildlife. This led to a small group of people who realized that removing old barbed wire and buck rail fencing would be very beneficial to wildlife. In addition to wildlife getting hung up in unused or poorly maintained fences, causing injury and death, they also impede wildlife migratory patterns.

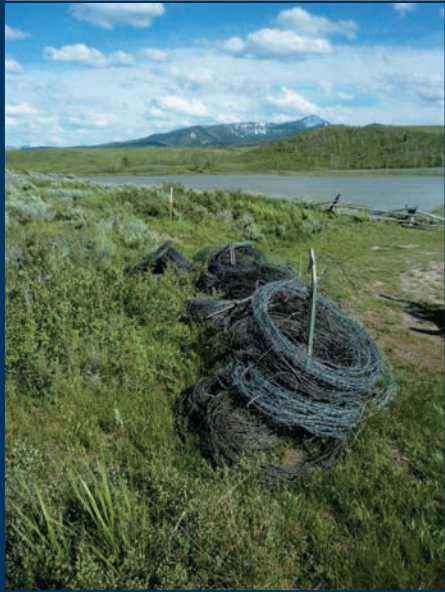


photo © Gretchen Plender

In the early stages, fencing was only removed from private property with success being measured in yards, not miles. As the program grew, volunteer coordinators greatly enhanced our productivity as more people began to volunteer.

From 2002 to 2006, Carol and Chuck Schneebeck assumed responsibility for

the program. Improvements, such as a customized wirewinder with a dedicated transport trailer, significantly accelerated the number of fences removed. The program was also expanded to include fences on public lands. During this time, we reached our 100-mile mark. This summer, we will celebrate our 150-mile mark!

None of this could have been achieved without dedicated volunteers who give their precious time and energy. A special thanks also goes to our public agencies, particularly Grand Teton National Park and Bridger-Teton National Forest, for their support and cooperation in designating obsolete fences on lands under their jurisdiction.

We hope you will join with us this summer as we celebrate 150-miles and our continued march toward the day when abandoned fences are eliminated entirely from wildlife habitat corridors throughout our valley. \*



photo © Gretchen Plender

## Help Us Prevent Wildlife Deaths

*Each year, at least 300 elk, deer and moose are killed by vehicles on Teton County Roads. Vehicle collisions also kill foxes, coyotes, bears and birds. With increases in traffic volume, wildlife are faced with increasingly daunting challenges as they traverse the valley, cross roadways, or simply try to meet their daily needs for food, water and space.*



photo © Mark Gocke



photo © Mark Gocke

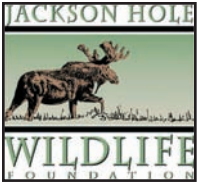
The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation sponsors two important projects to address wildlife mortality. Through radio and print media, JHWF with our partners (Community Foundation of Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park), alert the travelling public to the realities of the alarming number of vehicle-wildlife collisions. We suggest simple changes in behavior:

- ***slow down;***
- ***pay attention to the sides of the road;***
- ***don't phone or text when driving.***

These are smart and safe ways to drive and these behaviors result in dramatically less wildlife killed on our roads!

JHWF participates with Safe Wildlife Crossings for Jackson Hole, a volunteer citizen group which encourages innovative solutions for wildlife crossings that provide safe highways, prevent habitat fragmentation and promote connectivity for Jackson Hole's diverse world-class wildlife. We gather data on animals killed on highways in order to locate and highlight roadkill hotspots.

Please report any roadkill sightings by phone or email: 734-9454 or info@jhwildlife.org. Please include: the animal species with specifics if possible (age, gender); be as accurate as possible on its location (NAD83 UTM coordinates are an added benefit); and tell us the date and time of your encounter. The roadkill database is an effective tool in mitigating our negative impact on local wildlife. Thank you for your help and drive safely! \*



**Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation**  
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## **Four Good Reasons to Support Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation through Old Bill's Fun Run**



photo © Mark Gocke

1. Magnificent wildlife is one of the main reasons many people live in Jackson. JHWF helps ensure that wildlife stay close by and visible.
2. JHWF is well known for its important fence removal on public and private land, insuring easy and safe movement of wildlife. We will exceed 150 miles of fence removal this summer.
3. JHWF works to reduce wildlife roadkill through active media campaigns and brochures. We collaborate with others on safe wildlife crossings.
4. JHWF, through our Nature Mapping project, has trained over 340 citizens to participate in monitoring our wildlife, providing important information to managers and planners.

***Please make your donation by September 16, 2011.  
Your donation will go further with matching funds.***

Online at [www.oldbills.org](http://www.oldbills.org) or mail check to: Community Foundation of JH, PO Box 574, Jackson, WY 83001. For all checks made payable to Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, specify 'Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation' in the memo line.

**We — and the wildlife — thank you!**