

A large group of approximately 30 people, including men, women, and children, are posing for a group photo in a natural setting. They are standing on a grassy bank next to a river. The background features dense green trees and a clear sky. The people are dressed in casual outdoor attire, including t-shirts, shorts, and hats. Some individuals are holding tools, suggesting they might be involved in a project or activity. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

Wild Utah Project 2019 Impact Report



Staying agile through times of change

Change is an experience that unites us all. Like you, I look to nature for inspiration in times like these. As we all face massive change, from adapting to a pandemic to responding to the impacts of inequity, the importance of staying agile has never been greater.

Wild Utah Project's ability to persevere through recent events, keep projects running, and ensure our volunteers' safety is exceptional. Yet, we recognize that we did not do it alone. Your support, along with a strong network of partners, keeps our crucial conservation work moving forward. While it may seem that nothing feels normal anymore, our ideals remain constant. We continue to work together and adapt in order

to advance our shared mission.

I am honored to join a team of dedicated professionals working to conserve the wildlife and wildlands that we all treasure. I am energized by each new connection I make with people who are passionate about conservation. Together, we can preserve our natural resources for future generations.

Joshua Wood
Executive Director
Wild Utah Project

Joshua Wood joined our team as Executive Director in June 2020.

Science in Service of Wildlife and Wildlands

Wild Utah Project's mission is to provide science-based strategies for wildlife and land conservation.

We believe wildlife can be conserved when strategies are built from a foundation of science in collaboration with partners and stakeholders. Our conservation priorities are **promoting habitat connectivity**, **protecting species in conservation need**, and **restoring vital habitats**. To achieve our mission, we focus on **applying objective conservation science**, **establishing strategic partnerships**, and **facilitating community engagement**. Last year, over **883 community science volunteers** contributed a remarkable **10,412 hours of service!**



More than **700** volunteers contributed over **8,000** hours to sustain and restore corridors of habitat that allow all the region's wildlife species the space to complete their life cycles and maintain healthy populations. Learn more about the Wasatch Wildlife Watch project on page 3.



92 volunteers contributed **1,112** hours to increase the population trends for species of conservation concern that contribute to overall ecosystem health and the persistence of other species. Learn more about Amphibian and Aquatic Assessments on page 5, Black Rosy-finch on page 7, and Pollinators and Plants on page 9.



91 volunteers contributed **1,300** hours to maintain or improve habitats that are considered vital to wildlife species in the region. Learn more about Stream and Riparian Restoration and assessments on page 11.



A frolicking mule deer courtesy of Wasatch Wildlife Watch

Wasatch Wildlife Watch

Our goal is to document habitat use, habitat connectivity, and locations impeding wildlife movement to facilitate native wildlife habitat corridors across the Wasatch.

The Wasatch Wildlife Watch Project engages community scientists in gathering native wildlife and habitat use data along the wild-urban interface using motion-activated trail cameras. Our second field season ran from March – August, with many volunteers contributing to image identification throughout the year. Baseline habitat use data and occupancy modeling for native wildlife will inform future landscape-level planning decisions that consider maintaining or improving habitat connectivity for wildlife movement, benefitting both humans and wildlife throughout the Wasatch Mountains.

Key Stats

700
Volunteers

8,000
Volunteer
Hours

234
Camera
Stations

236,280
Camera Images
Collected

Project Partners



Community science volunteers learn how to set up a trail camera

Our continued partnership with the University of Utah's Biodiversity and Conservation Ecology Lab and Ph.D. candidate Austin Green has been vital to project success. Together, we've coordinated community scientists and developed data products that will be useful for wildlife habitat connectivity planning. The Natural History Museum of Utah has graciously hosted community scientist engagement, training, and thank you events since the advent of this project. Thank you to Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Forest Service, and Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands for your support and coordination on the distribution of wildlife motion cameras.



Boreal toad documented in Big Cottonwood Canyon

Amphibian and Aquatic Assessments

Our goal is to increase populations of boreal toads throughout their historic range in Utah and identify opportunities for high alpine aquatic habitat restoration and toad repatriation.

The amphibian project began in the summer of 2014 and is our longest-running project. In 2019, we documented boreal toad presence, population demographics, and breeding habitat condition data throughout Utah's current and historic breeding locations. This information is essential for amphibian and aquatic habitat managers tasked with prioritizing how and where to focus their conservation and restoration efforts. Last year, aquatic habitat condition data were used to identify suitable habitat locations for releasing captive-bred boreal toad juveniles intended to bolster the wild population.

Key Stats

40
Volunteers

1,500
Volunteer
Hours

100
Field Surveys
Completed

Project Partners



Our partnership with Utah's Hogle Zoo provided invaluable staff time in community scientist engagement on field trips as well as project planning support. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources continues to be an integral partner in prioritizing the list of breeding sites, assessment of field protocols, and ongoing amphibian and aquatic habitat conservation planning and adaptive management. Utah Geological Survey provided crucial expertise in database management and protocol development and adaptation to ensure data quality and control. We value the ongoing coordination and support from the U.S. Forest Service to access and gather data alongside managers of field sites in high alpine aquatic habitats.



Black Rosy-finch at Alta Ski Area

Black Rosy-finch

Our goal is to document an increase in the rosy-finch population and conserve their alpine habitats in Utah, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Nevada.

The Black Rosy-finch Project kicked off in mid-winter 2019. We met the year's project aim to establish a network of Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID)-enabled bird feeders to collect demographic data on Utah's rosy-finches. Without this information, we are not able to recommend ways to conserve the species. It was also important to build partnerships with community stakeholders such as ski resorts to grow the project throughout Utah and into neighboring states.

Key Stats

40
Volunteers

1,500
Volunteer
Hours

12
Sites

500
Data points
collected

Project Partners



Our list of partners and supporters and what they bring to the project is impressive. They provide staff and resources such as capturing study birds, providing access to study sites, and maintaining equipment on the many bird feeders. Thank you to Utah State University, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Tracy Aviary, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Defense, Alta Ski Resort – Alta Environmental Center, Beaver Mountain, Bridgerland Audubon Society, Brighton Institute, Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Cross Charitable Foundation, Friends of Alta, Great Salt Lake Audubon, Solitude Mountain Resort, Powder Mountain, Powder Ridge Village Resort, Snowbasin Resort, The Nature Conservancy Canyonlands Research Station, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wasatch Audubon, and many individuals like you.



Monarch butterfly courtesy of Rachel Taylor

Pollinators and Plants

Our goal is to increase Utah's monarch butterfly population and other native pollinator populations and associated rare plant communities.

The Pollinators and Plants field season began in the spring of 2019 with the launch of a smart phone app, which allows community scientists to document pollinators and potentially suitable habitat for the monarch butterfly. This information is important for wildlife and habitat managers to prioritize restoration projects for crucial breeding and feeding habitats. With the data gathered in 2019, we are taking the first step toward developing a map of the distribution of monarch habitats in Utah.

Key Stats

55
Volunteers

490
Volunteer
Hours

105
Field Surveys
Completed

505
Data Points
Collected

Project Partners



Community science volunteers document monarch eggs

In 2019, our partnerships with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah State University provided crucial expertise in rare plant and insect communities. They also supported the development of a prioritized list of survey locations based on spatial modeling, a phone application data collection tool, and database management.

Did you know?

The monarch butterfly is experiencing a 99% decline along its Western migration route. Utah is home to a large portion of this vital migration corridor.



Volunteers plant sedges and willows at a stream restoration site

Stream and Riparian Restoration

Our goal is to restore 100 miles of degraded stream throughout the Intermountain West using low-tech process-based restoration.

In the next 10 years, our Stream and Riparian Restoration Program will restore 100 miles of degraded stream throughout the Intermountain West using low-tech, process-based restoration. In 2019, volunteers came together to implement human-made beaver dams to improve the health of degraded streams throughout Utah. We monitored the success of our restoration projects using the Rapid Stream-Riparian Assessment and our Monitoring Database to ensure our methods are successful. These restoration activities also pave the way for potential beaver re-establishment.

Key Stats

91
Volunteers

1,301
Volunteer
Hours

10
Stream
Assessments

Project Partners



Community science volunteers building a beaver dam analogue

In 2019, our partnerships with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Department of Food and Agriculture provided valuable materials and equipment. Trout Unlimited continues to be a valued partner for project implementation. We developed new partnerships with Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter and the Utah Army National Guard - Camp Williams to conduct restorations. We also value our relationships with private landowners. Their initiative in restoring private properties will benefit communities across the state as well as future generations.



Community scientists monitoring bats

Working Groups

Utah Bat Conservation Cooperative

The goal of the group is to conserve bat populations, communities, and habitats in the State of Utah through the cooperative efforts of its members. We strive to integrate bat research into our existing project work by gathering acoustic monitoring data regarding bat presence and habitat use along riparian corridors and the wild-urban interface.

Utah Forest Restoration Working Group

The vision of the Utah Forest Restoration Working Group is to enhance and protect the ecological health and economic values of forested lands and communities in Utah. Wild Utah Project provides recommendations concerning the restoration and management of forested lands in Utah, including the riparian forests we restore each year through our Stream and Riparian Restoration Project. In 2019, the Working Group completed the “Utah Riparian Forest Restoration Guidelines” published by the U.S. Forest Service’s Rocky Mountain Research Station.



Watershed Restoration Initiative

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) was developed as the state's major program to fund watershed improvement projects. We are able to provide meaningful input at the project development stage to facilitate better conservation outcomes. In 2019, Janice Gardner was nominated as co-chair of WRI's Central Region committee. Recently, some of the strongest opportunities for restoring wildlife species such as beaver and boreal toad have been forged with WRI.

Wildlife Action Plan

A diverse group of stakeholders, including Wild Utah Project, developed Utah's Wildlife Action Plan with the goal of managing native wildlife and habitats to prevent listings under the Endangered Species Act. Currently, we engage in developing and implementing conservation strategies focused on identified species of conservation need and vital habitats.

Ecological Services

Wild Utah Project continues to provide professional ecological consulting services to our community. Our staff are expert in federal and state environmental regulations, impact assessments, mitigation planning, and applications with Geographic Information Services (GIS).

In 2019, we continued to work with many non-profit partners and expanded our work with government clients. Our projects included analyses of Utah's wildlife and vehicle collisions along transportation corridors, developing a database to share environmental information within the Central Wasatch, implementing a long-term avian monitoring study, and planning a two-day BioBlitz in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.



Allison Jones at The Nature Conservancy's Shoreline Preserve

Staff and Board of Directors



2019 Staff:

Janice Gardner, M.S., CWB®
Conservation Ecologist

Kim Howes
Development Director

Allison Jones, M.S.
Emerita Executive Director

Mary Pendergast, Ph.D.
Conservation Ecologist

Sarah Woodbury
Communications Coordinator

2019 Summer Interns:

Liz Rideout
University of Utah

Sara Baldwin
Utah State University

2019 Board of Directors:

Jim Ack, D.V.M.
Director of Partnerships
Pathway Vet Alliance

Kirsten Allen, M.P.H.
Publisher, Editorial Director
Torrey House Press

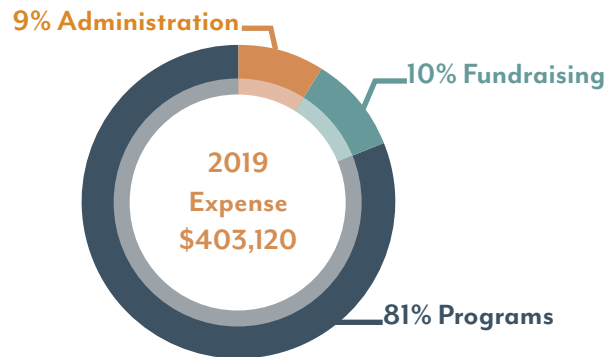
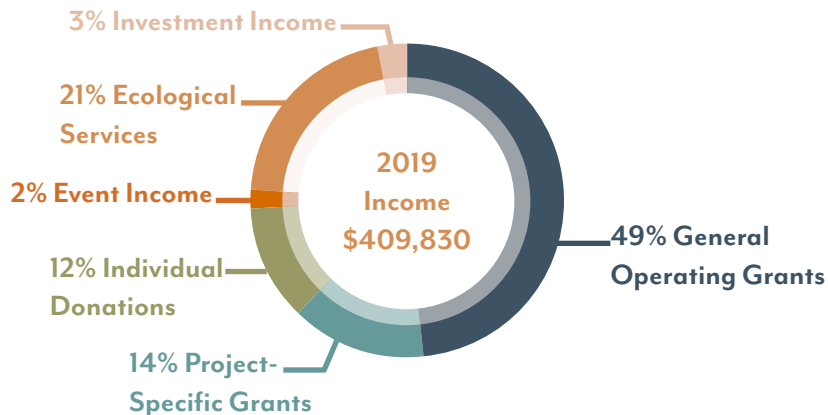
Mark Bailey
Community Leader

Carly Ferro, M.S.
Chapter Director
Sierra Club Utah Chapter

Kathleen Metcalf
Creative Director
Torrey House Press

Nalini Nadkarni, Ph.D.
Biology Professor
University of Utah

2019 Financials



Statement of Activities 2019

Income	
General Operating Grants	\$199,500
Project-Specific Grants.....	\$57,285
Individual Donations	\$49,308
Event Income	\$7,018
Ecological Services	\$86,167
Investment Income.....	\$10,552
Total Revenue	\$409,830

Expense	
Program	\$325,050
Fundraising	\$42,007
Administration.....	\$36,063
Total Expense	\$403,120

Thank You to our 2019 Funding Partners

Steven B. Achelis Foundation

Lawrence T. & Janet T. Dee Foundation

George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation

ESRI Conservation

The Fanwood Foundation

Richard K. and Shirley S. Hemingway Foundation

JEPS Foundation

David Kelby Johnson Memorial Foundation

Jones Family Charitable Foundation

Jones Family Charitable Trust

Steven C. Leuthold Family Foundation

Maki Foundation

Melling Family Foundation

The Nature Conservancy

Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

Charles Redd Center for Western Studies

Smith & Wilcox Blue Skies Foundation

Steiner Foundation

Terracon Foundation Community Grants

Tracy Aviary Conservation Fund

The Walbridge Fund

Kody Wallace and Gary Donaldson

Wilburforce Foundation

XMission

And all of our generous individual donors

We know not everyone can be involved in all of our projects—but there are other ways to help! If you are able to give, please consider donating to ensure that this work continues. Visit www.wildutahproject.org to make a tax-deductible donation today.

Wild Utah Project EIN 83-0468561

Wild Utah Project

Cover Photo:

2019 Beaver Dam Analogue Field Day

Courtesy of Trout Unlimited

824 South 400 West · Suite B119 · Salt Lake City, UT 84101
801-328-3550 · info@wildutahproject.org · wildutahproject.org