



Impact Report

2022



Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative is a joint Canada-U.S. not-for-profit organization that drives conservation solutions on the scale that nature demands.

Y2Y is confronting two of the greatest threats facing the planet today — climate change and biodiversity loss — by connecting and protecting one of the last healthy, intact mountain ranges left on Earth. From the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to the Arctic Circle in the Yukon, we strive to connect and protect enough space so that a wide range of species have enough space to roam, migrate and reproduce. Y2Y is the only organization dedicated to securing the long-term ecological health of this entire region.

Y2Y protects core habitats for species ranging from bees to bears, keeps these habitats connected, and inspires and supports others to engage in similar work. To achieve our mission, we engage with Indigenous Peoples, local community groups, non-governmental organizations, media, corporations, governments and more.

To advance Y2Y’s mission and vision, our work focuses on:

- Landscape Protection
- Landscape Connection
- Communities and Conservation

We use best available information and strive to create an enabling policy framework from global to national and regional to local.

Alberta’s Ram River cascades in a waterfall before it joins the North Saskatchewan River and flows downstream providing drinking water for millions of people. Photo credit: Shutterstock

We believe in the power of a big, bold idea — and of people like you

Y2Y’s ambitious but achievable mission is to connect and protect habitat from Yellowstone to Yukon so people and nature can thrive. It is advancing because of all of us working together.

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Responding to change

from Y2Y president and chief scientist, Dr. Jodi Hilty

Y2Y's efforts make for a better future

Nature often seems vast to us: towering peaks, a majestic sunset, grasslands as far as the eye can see, or a full-grown grizzly bear in the wild. Nature IS vast, but the impact — and sometimes pace — of humans changing the landscape can also be extraordinary and should never be underestimated.

Rural sprawl and extractive industry creep relentlessly into green spaces, while stands of old-growth trees that have stored carbon for hundreds of years can be logged in a day, and growing numbers of visitors and the intensity of recreation take their toll.

Big challenges mean that we, in turn, need to think even bigger. In fact, research into wildlife has shown us just how big we need to think to help them survive: the scale of the Yellowstone to Yukon region. At Y2Y, our new seven-year strategic plan taking us through 2030 reinforces the need to address conservation challenges not just at the local level, but from local to global scales, and focuses us on effecting change both strategically and at the systems level.

Photo credits top to bottom: Alex Popov, Ross Donihue

Y2Y is making real progress because of a growing movement of people, like you, determined to help carry out and scale up conservation work across the region. And it helps that we have unprecedented alignment in national and global commitments to nature, matched by significant levels of investment by governments, foundations, and businesses.

It is a time for hope and to learn from what has come before.

Y2Y's reflections from the past year include:

Slow, slow, quick, quick, slow...

Like a foxtrot (or the latest TikTok dance!), conservation moves to different beats. Sometimes we must respond quickly and decisively to unexpected, and potentially devastating, threats — such as with the overnight repeal of a coal policy that had protected Alberta from new mining for decades. Through 2021, Y2Y worked with myriad partners to help the voices of tens of thousands be heard in protest, and the policy was finally reinstated in early 2022. Now our job is to ensure that the policy remains in place.

Other efforts can require years of research, planning and patience. From supporting Indigenous-led conservation in complex contexts (see p.8), to helping provincial governments and recreation user groups better manage massive trail networks and effect large-scale behavioral change (see p.14), we are just now starting to see long-term collaborative endeavors blossom.

As an organization, we must constantly adapt to changing circumstances, and therefore seek flexible funding and support that allow us to respond nimbly when necessary. We develop trusting relationships, lay strong foundations for work that may only bear fruit years into the future, and bring about gradual but lasting change.

Systems change is hard but possible

The most enduring change is often brought about by tackling not just symptoms but systems. Efforts by Y2Y and diverse partners throughout 2022, building on years of previous engagement and advocacy, have been the catalyst for some extraordinary advances. From the state of Montana's announcement of new tools and processes that will help them to move the needle on wildlife connectivity across highways (see p.11), to work with governments and communities in Alberta and British Columbia to transition to more nature-positive and equitable social and economic models (see p.13), to breakthroughs in global cooperation (see p.12), we are seeing fundamental shifts in attitude and understanding translate into action.

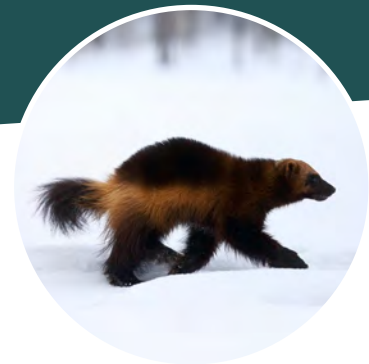
Y2Y is a model for global conservation efforts.

Your role is deeply appreciated, and integral to making the Y2Y vision a success. So many others from around the world have been and continue to be inspired to advance similar large landscape and seascape efforts, so getting it right in the Yellowstone to Yukon region also supports conservation at scale around the world. Together we have the power to inspire the world by being a model of how to advance conservation at the scale that will help nature and humanity through this time of climate change.

2022 highlights

Your support makes a tangible difference in safeguarding not just protected areas, but the spaces between them to restore and retain connectivity. Ultimately this work addresses climate change, maintains habitat and biodiversity, supporting humans and nature into the future.

In 2022, thanks to your efforts to protect nature with Y2Y:



55,000 km of B.C. and Alberta trails were identified and mapped as part of a recreation ecology project, 25 percent of which weren't on the radar of resource managers. Knowing where people recreate will ultimately improve recreation management and help us share space with sensitive species such as grizzly bears and wolverines.

A suite of highway crossings is advancing on Highway 3 in B.C., along with a new wildlife overpass on Highway 1 in Alberta, and various measures to mitigate busy roads in Montana and Idaho, which will help to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions for the safety of all.

3 wildlife corridors of continental-scale significance were boosted to protect animal movement in Montana between the Cabinet, Purcell and Selkirk mountains, as voluntary private land conservation ensured 3 properties will support safe wildlife passage.

15 First Nations were supported in their actions to realize their visions for wildlife habitat across the Y2Y region safeguarded through Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

A coal mine that could have seriously impacted critical caribou habitat will not go ahead — northern B.C.'s Sukunka coalmine was denied an environmental assessment certificate after **more than 1,000 letters were sent to the B.C. government in opposition.**



Photo credits left to right: Shutterstock, Annie Loosen



Grizzly bears roaming along Montana's Big Hole River will be kept out of conflicts with thousands of campers through the **installation of 37 food lockers** to keep them away from campers' food.

A key corridor for sensitive species like grizzly bears and threatened native trout was improved in Montana's Lolo National Forest through road restoration and **the removal of 12 culverts.**

In Alberta, the provincial government reinstated restrictions to coal development in the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies, after **tens of thousands protested**, and Y2Y and other organizations provided support, including research and presenting on policy options.

A 217% increase of mountain caribou, from 36 to 114 (as of 2022), was announced for northern B.C.'s Klinse-za herd thanks to 9 years of leadership from Treaty 8 First Nations to recover this endangered species.

More than 3.5 million people learned more about large landscape needs and solutions, through more than 200 global media mentions, through such outlets as CNN International, National Geographic and High Country News, and major publications in France, Germany and Italy.



Photo credits top to bottom: Adams/NPS, Adam Linnard, Ecoflight

Supporting Indigenous Peoples driving forward conservation

With both Canadian and U.S. governments increasingly recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the centering of many cultures on connections with the land, Indigenous communities are setting forth ambitious conservation visions that also advance the Y2Y mission.

From supporting the creation or declaration of Indigenous Protected Areas, to building tools to help Indigenous and non-Indigenous decision-makers engage ethically and effectively, to restoring habitat, building species survival projects and more, Y2Y is advancing these Indigenous conservation efforts.

In 2022, Y2Y supported Indigenous leaders who developed or declared at least seven more Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas within the region. This includes more than 56,000 km² (13.8 million acres) currently in various stages of designation, plus at least 127,000 km² (31.3 million ac) of new areas. Y2Y is now one of the key partners helping to provide the groundswell of support needed to progress these areas and have their status ratified by Canadian governments.

With many First Nations' capacity stretched, and a lack of clear legal frameworks to create Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, non-Indigenous partners, including Y2Y, play crucial support roles. Y2Y staff work to help build the political will, public awareness and support, and resources needed to ensure the protection of some of the most biodiverse landscapes in the region.

A collared mountain caribou in the maternity pen helping recover the Klinse-Za herd. Photo credit: David Moskowitz



Indigenous-led conservation models help caribou — and communities

Caribou are a key species for many First Nations, and an iconic emblem in Canada, but herds of mountain caribou are dwindling at alarming rates. West Moberly First Nations and Sauteau First Nations are leading one of just a handful of successful initiatives to increase caribou numbers in North America, with the support of provincial and federal government and organizations including Y2Y.

An important new milestone was celebrated by the partnership in 2022, with the Klinse-Za mountain caribou herd reaching 114 animals, reflecting steady growth from just 36 in 2013, thanks to these Indigenous-led efforts in Treaty 8 territory.

Research shows combining Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge and western science has brought these caribou back from the brink of local extinction, with a special 'maternity pen' set up for calving season. And this unique partnership has also resulted in the habitat protections necessary to create a self-sustaining caribou population.

Above right: Native plants are a key part of habitat restoration to support resilience for wildlife, the landscape and communities. Photo credit: David Moskowitz



Ancestral knowledge addresses climate change

Ananasocum, the Place Where Condors Used to Be, is in Nez Perce Territory of the interior Pacific Northwest, near Oregon's Joseph Canyon. This is the homeland of the Nimiipuu, or Nez Perce people, and where the Columbia River flows. Like many communities, the people here have witnessed lands, waters and ecosystems changing due to climate shifts and human impacts.

The Camas to Condors initiative is a landscape-scale climate resilience effort led by the Nez Perce Tribe to address these challenges. The Nez Perce have asked Y2Y, other non-governmental organizations, agencies, and university partners to work together.

Through restoration of waterways and habitat, this project will use traditional knowledge to support movement and migration of wildlife in water, air and on land. It aims to bring back wildlife who have gone extinct locally, protect and heal lands with traditional plant foods and medicines, and rebuild Indigenous conservation stewardship.

This project restores relationships with the land and improves climate resilience in this home for many species, including California condors. In fact, the two focal species the project centers on — camas flowers and condors — honor Indigenous sovereignty and symbolize a complete, resilient homeland that provides seasonal cycles of abundance for all.

Highways of hope

Connectivity is as essential to life as water is to drink and air to breathe. Maintaining or restoring the pathways for wildlife between protected areas means that animals can go where they need to, to eat, mate, and adapt to a warming climate.



A wildlife overpass on Montana's US 93 is one of 41 fish and wildlife crossing structures built with Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal knowledge. Photo credit: Marcel Huijser

Wildlife migration and movement are not just important for individual grizzly bears, elk, wolverines and wolves: conserving populations of these animals depends on gene flow, or broader genetic mixing across a larger landscape for both individuals and populations to survive and thrive.

Major highways slice directly across the Yellowstone to Yukon region and its habitat, and we need to think big — and creatively — to reduce animal and human deaths related to collisions, and to help wildlife cross roads and stay connected.

For decades, Y2Y staff, partners and supporters have advocated for animal crossings over and under roads to allow species to safely move. We've based our work on sound science and local knowledge, including expert road ecology studies, and data collected by hundreds of community members who have reported their observations along key highways — and we've also rooted it in relationships.

Change takes time and buy-in, and that means working closely with provincial, federal and Indigenous governments and agencies, community members, industry, and partners.

Key Y2Y roles include providing a clear case with economic, scientific and strategic evidence for wildlife crossings — which have a high upfront cost that is more than defrayed over time; identifying and helping to address local concerns and cultural issues and technical challenges; and amplifying diverse voices in support of crossings to encourage decision-makers to act.

Real change is happening! Not only are major individual crossing structures being built, but some transportation agencies are exploring and devising ways to 'normalize' the consideration of wildlife crossings within their planning.

This is an ongoing journey, and our collective progress can be seen in key projects now advancing wildlife connectivity, including:



A CASE FOR CONNECTIVITY OVER I-90

Interstate 90 is a major highway that slices east-west across Montana, dividing wildlife habitat. As grizzly bear populations continue to recover in the nearby area, restoring connectivity across this road is a way to help them stabilize. With partners, Y2Y examined the best places for wildlife crossing structures as I-90 is the biggest barrier to wildlife movement in the U.S. Rockies.



STONEY NAKODA EXSHAW WILDLIFE ARCH ACROSS HIGHWAY 1

Alberta's first overpass outside of a national park began construction in 2022. This bridge just east of Banff National Park connects Indigenous territory and wildlife migration corridors across Canada's longest highway, the Trans-Canada, helping communities, wildlife and people stay safe. The project only advanced thanks to years of advocacy from Y2Y, our partners, and supporters like you.



ENHANCING SAFE WILDLIFE PASSAGE ALONG HIGHWAY 93

Running north-south through the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe's Flathead Reservation, Highway 93 is one of Montana's busiest roads. It already has a series of well-used over- and underpasses that help grizzly bears and elk stay connected. Y2Y is elevating this good work and supporting a request for federal funding for additional crossings where nine grizzly bears have been killed in recent years. These structures would keep wildlife alive and people safer.



RECONNECTING THE ROCKIES ALONG HIGHWAY 3

Highway 3 cuts across southern Alberta and British Columbia, through what biologists call "the mother of all wildlife corridors", critical for connectivity for grizzly bears and other wildlife. Four of the top eight wildlife-vehicle collision areas on Highway 3 fall within this corridor. With partners, Y2Y is playing a key role in implementation of a government commitment to 11 crossing structures. Fencing is already in place at the first of six phases of construction on this project, and will guide wildlife to existing and planned over- and underpasses.

Future-proofing the Y2Y region

Positive conservation change can take years to accomplish — but fortunately its impacts can also be long-term.

And system-wide change that tackles not just impacts, but underlying processes that can keep us ‘stuck’ or support broader change, is often at the heart of enduring progress. The long-term commitment of our supporters helps Y2Y to forge the relationships, trust, tools and strategies that can lead to foundational shifts in how we live our lives and co-exist with wildlife.

Some of the collaborative initiatives that reflect this approach include:

Creation of an enabling policy framework

Shifting to policies that center the importance of nature in decision-making is key to conservation outcomes across the region. Y2Y was the institutional home for the global IUCN Beyond Aichi committee that sought to gather knowledge and support ambitious global biodiversity goals. We are proud that such work and the efforts of many others supported an ultimate agreement coming out of the Convention for Biological Diversity that commits the world to significantly advance nature conservation in an equitable, nature-positive way. Y2Y staff also played expert advisory roles to support the planning and roll-out of Park Canada’s new ecological corridors program, which has now started funding pilot projects around the country.

Entering Ethical Space with Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples have stewarded lands within the Yellowstone to Yukon region for countless generations and play a tremendously important role in conservation. Ethical space is a concept and approach used to recognize and honour different ways of knowing based on mutual respect where no system has more legitimacy than another, and requires development of relationships. It creates a space for respectful collaboration and decision-making.

Since 2020, Y2Y has engaged hundreds of participants sharing different perspectives and knowledge through ethical space workshops and videos. Attendees including provincial and federal government staff, academics, conservationists, and more have learned from Indigenous experts about revitalizing Indigenous law, ecological renewal, land-based reconciliation, and more. These gatherings have also explored how Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and organizations can work to create and sustain prosperous communities and healthy landscapes in B.C., including through land use planning. What began in the Upper Columbia area is now being enacted across the Yellowstone to Yukon region.

Dive deeper at y2y.net/EthicalSpace.

In 2022, a Gitksan Nation house group declared Gwininitxw as a new Indigenous Protected Area in the upper Skeena River watershed. Photo credit: Troy Moth photographed with permission on Gitksan Territory via Lichen Project.

Transitioning to nature-positive economies

Building a resilient future is not just about reducing our impact on the Earth now, but about careful planning to improve our planet and communities. This nature-positive approach represents a shift in how nations, businesses, investors and communities approach the environment. Y2Y-commissioned research in southwest Alberta and southeast B.C. has increased local understanding about the value of economic development focused on healthy ecosystems, as a foundation for healthy, prosperous, and stable communities. The associated reports offered a series of nature-positive recommendations for action by organizations and key community groups — and provides hope for a gradual shift from reliance on resource extraction.

Read the reports at y2y.net/NaturePositiveAB and y2y.net/NaturePositiveBC.

Ensuring a wild future

Understanding wildlife, and the impacts on them of changes in the climate and ecosystem, is crucial as we seek to prioritize conservation actions. That’s why we’re participating in Room2Roam, a multi-year, multi-partner research, NASA-funded project that uses satellite data to better understand bird and animal movements. It’s also why we support not just research into how animals use the landscape now, but studies to help us predict future impacts.

We’ve also supported modelling by our partners at University of Calgary that reveals a 39% decline in wolverine population in the study area since 2011 — reflecting the kinds of pressures that snow-dependent species such as wolverine are likely to face as the climate changes. And with wolverine numbers in the U.S. portion of the Rockies lower than in Canada, implications are far-reaching. Y2Y’s work to convene wolverine researchers, government managers and non-profit organizations to share knowledge and discuss research and conservation approaches, is filling a critical gap and will help to translate the science into action.

Finally, in Alberta’s Bow Valley, it is crucial to understand how development, recreation, and roads can collectively impact wildlife movement in the area. Careful planning is the only way of ensuring we stand a chance to continue to keep iconic species on this landscape. With input from Alberta Parks and the Towns of Canmore and Banff, Y2Y and ALCES Landscape and Land-Use developed cumulative effects models to see how development decisions, people, and recreation impact grizzly bear movement here. This is an example of our work to guide land-use planners in prioritizing coexistence and helping large carnivores thrive. [Explore the model at y2y.net/WildFuture](https://y2y.net/WildFuture).

Beyond safe passage: the future of wildlife crossings

Roads are one of the biggest barriers to wildlife around the world, not just in the Yellowstone to Yukon region. With traffic and road building only projected to increase in the decades to come, this is the time to be planning ahead. In spring 2022, a diverse gathering of communicators, engineers, ecologists, policy experts, designers, landscape architects, road ecologists and more

met in Banff National Park to do just that. Funded by a grant awarded to the Ecological Design Lab at Toronto Metropolitan University, the Visualizing Connectivity CoLab supported Y2Y and our partners at Animal Road Crossing Solutions to explore different ways to make a stronger case for landscape connectivity. Groups focused on three priority locations dealing with

high wildlife-vehicle collisions in the Yellowstone to Yukon region, coming up with new storytelling and visual approaches to build the case for crossing structures in each place. The CoLab revealed innovative ways to share effective, engaging, and compelling stories of connectivity with various audiences, from scientists to decision-makers and the public.

So people and nature can thrive...

Our experiences in nature and our connections with the land are integral to our well-being.

Our favorite spots often help to protect and invigorate our mental and physical health. They provide space for us to be nourished, rejuvenate, practice cultural ceremony and tradition, build new memories, and reconnect with and explore new parts of the ecosystem — and ourselves.

As the human footprint in the Yellowstone to Yukon region grows, it's essential to recognize our interdependence and find harmonious ways to live with nature. These concepts are at the core of Y2Y's conservation approach, as illustrated below.

Helping people to connect to nature while keeping sensitive wildlife protected

In recent years, more people have been going not only more often, but further and faster, into nature than ever before. And as recreation trails become ever busier and user-made trails expand, better planning to keep people that explore, and the wildlife they share key spaces with safe is crucial.

Science tells us animals who roam vast areas, such as wolverines, grizzly bears and caribou, are also especially sensitive to human disturbance. But we lack information about where people recreate and how often. Government agencies in Alberta and B.C. are keen to better understand the scale and detail of the issues but have insufficient information and resources. That's where Y2Y comes in.

Led by Dr. Annie Loosen, Y2Y's recreation ecology project team is examining where and how trails are being used in southeast B.C. and southwest Alberta, and just how this intersects with key habitat for wolverines, grizzly bears, caribou and other animals. Using more than 40 data sources (ranging from print and digital maps to recreation apps), we have already mapped around 54,000 km (33,000 mi) of trails (including other 'linear features' such as cutlines and resource roads that can be used as trails) in two study areas. Almost a quarter of these were unofficial trails not previously recorded by government agencies. Unknown trails can't be managed. The team is also mapping wildlife habitat to compare with recreation use.

Now in its third year, an initial report shows the researchers have already identified some significant ways we can work to improve. In the Alberta study area, for example, the density of trails already exceeds thresholds for grizzly bears in eight out of 30 watersheds — and for bull trout, Alberta's provincial fish — in 16 out of 30 watersheds.

The next phase of the study is critical in ensuring that the data gathered are available and used by managers for land-use planning and well-managed recreation. We will also be working to encourage the study's use as a model with other communities.

[Explore the results at y2y.net/RecreationReport.](https://y2y.net/RecreationReport)



Corridors for grizzly bears

Y2Y has worked with bear biologists to identify the most crucial pathways for grizzly bears across Montana. And now, with land trust partners and willing landowners, we are ensuring that those key corridors remain unclogged by development. Together, in 2022, we advanced three different voluntary private land conservation efforts to safeguard three linkages — supporting our common goal of connecting habitat, and finding conservation solutions for land, wildlife and people.

Sharing stories

Telling the diverse stories of our connections to the land is part of honoring both people and nature, and of reflecting and reinforcing the relationships between them. In 2022, Y2Y commissioned four story-gatherers to share perspectives on nature often underrepresented in media and conservation. The writers covered topics ranging from mental and physical health to the only gay ski week in the Canadian Rockies, to Indigenous entrepreneurship, ecology and more. They shared personal experiences and memories and revealed unique stories from special places on Alberta's Eastern Slopes.

[Read their pieces at y2y.net/storygatherers.](https://y2y.net/storygatherers)

Bearproofing busy campgrounds

Many of us love camping. But when bears are drawn to campgrounds by the smells of human food and other attractants, the story too often ends with the bear's relocation or death. Starting in 2020, Y2Y funded the purchase of 37 bearproof bins that were installed in busy campgrounds along Montana's Big Hole River. Especially important as grizzly bears return to this area. Campers and hikers can now help bears thrive by storing food and trash securely. We also partnered with BearVault to share tools and methods to keep bears from smelling or accessing the foods that fuel your adventures. That's good news for people and wildlife.

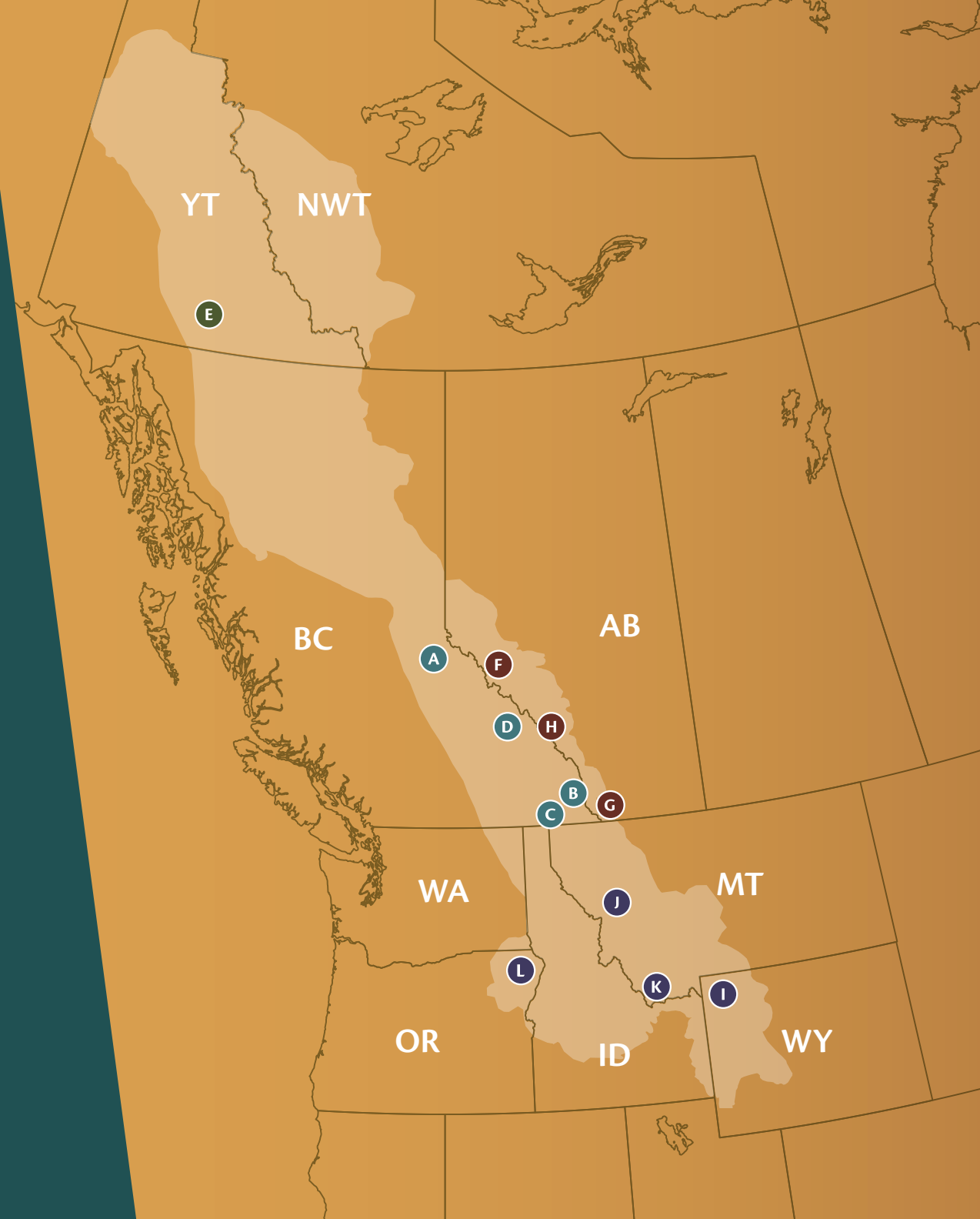
*Recreation is a great way to enjoy nature, but its impacts on landscapes and wildlife is just becoming better understood. Credit: K. Zenkewich
Inset photos left to right Mitch Doherty/Vital Ground, Jo Boxwell, USFWS*

Mapping our impact

Since embarking on our big, bold mission in 1993, we have worked with more than 460 partners, including non-governmental organizations, communities, Indigenous governments and entities, government agencies, land trusts, biologists, and ranchers.

The Yellowstone to Yukon region spans the Yukon and Northwest Territories, British Columbia and Alberta in Canada; Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming in the U.S.; and at least 75 Indigenous territories.

In 2022, thanks to funders and donors, Y2Y spent \$2.4 million on strategically supporting partners with projects that not only have a local impact, but help to realize the larger Y2Y vision. Here, we outline a selection of the projects that are already making a difference on the ground.



British Columbia

- A Fraser Headwaters Alliance**
Upgraded 5 km (3 mi) of a hiking trail in the Goat River Valley by rerouting it from a logging road and up along a ridge, supporting wildlife movement and keeping habitat intact.
- B Lamb Ecological Research**
Removed 21 fruit-bearing trees known to attract bears, which reduced potential human-bear conflicts. This community work driven by local champions also provided education on coexistence and supported local solutions.
- C Wildsight Creston**
Removed abandoned barbed wire fencing that blocked wildlife movements and injured animals, improving a wildlife corridor along Highway 3A in the Creston Valley.
- D Wildsight Golden**
Mapped trails and collected data to understand how people recreate and what the cumulative impacts on wildlife habitat are, ultimately informing a recreation access plan for the ecologically sensitive Dogtooth Range — a key corridor for grizzly bear and mountain goat movement between Yoho and Glacier National Parks.

Yukon Territory

- E Wildwise Yukon**
Hosted gatherings to share stories from Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nations Elders and youth about relationships with bears in the north.

Alberta

- F CPAWS Northern Alberta Chapter**
Promoted conservation of an ecologically important area just east of Jasper National Park by amplifying voices of concerned local community members and using science as a basis for decision-making.
- G Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association**
Identified and improved migratory corridors for trumpeter swans on private lands in southern Alberta's Waterton biosphere reserve.
- H Stoney Nakoda AV Club**
Shared new and old perspectives of Stoney Nakoda culture, wildlife, and ways of life through the camera lens of a local filmmaker.

U.S.

- I EcoFlight**
Flew 22 people over conservation projects on Blackfoot Nation lands, Yellowstone National Park and others parts of the U.S. Yellowstone to Yukon region to illustrate the ecological needs to partners and media to solidify support.
- J Great Burn Conservation Alliance**
Outreach to visitors on best practices to help them avoid conflicts with bears, restored native habitat and hosted state agencies on field trips in the 7,689 km² (1.9 million ac) Great Burn Ecosystem.
- K J Bar L Ranches**
Reduced conflict between grizzly bears and cattle on grazing leases across the southwestern portion of the West Fork of the Madison Grazing permit.
- L Pandion Institute**
Built ecological and cultural knowledge to inspire restorative action by supporting 33 members of Nez Perce and Cayuse tribes in three land-based learning trips to ancestral homelands.

A Wild Legacy

Since launching our 'Forever Wild' legacy giving circle in 2020, we've been heartened to hear from dozens of Y2Y supporters about their personal commitments to helping protect nature for future generations.

It's clear that planning a legacy is an extension of the love we feel for the land and wildlife around us in our lifetimes — and a way of ensuring that our shared visions and values live on.



The Baker family, who created the Sarah Baker Memorial Fund to honor the life of their family member, Sarah Baker, over a decade ago, exemplify this.

Sarah herself had a tremendous appreciation for the natural world — and an ability to find solutions. And since her father, Allan (pictured), launched the Fund in her name through Y2Y in 2009, it has annually provided post-secondary students and postdoctoral fellows the opportunity to pursue nature-positive solutions, by conducting conservation-related research in the Yellowstone to Yukon region.

In fact, the Sarah Baker Memorial Fund has to date supported more than 20 early-career researchers, powering critical science and knowledge, and helping all to gain a stronger understanding of how to help nature and people thrive.

The Fund is just one part of Sarah's father's legacy. Allan Baker, who himself passed away in February 2021 at the age of 96 years, was a dear friend to Y2Y and contributed to our shared vision in many other ways for decades.

Allan believed in education and championed wilderness, wildlife and conservation in Alberta's Bow Valley and beyond. He was someone who connected people and helped create the conditions for enduring change. From supporting research to mentoring early Y2Y directors, recruiting valuable Y2Y board members, and being a voice for nature, Allan has played a significant role in keeping the Yellowstone to Yukon region 'forever wild.' Not only does his legacy endure with the Fund that he started for his daughter Sarah, but his smile, kind heart and passion live on with those who knew him.

You can learn more about how to make your own legacy gift and become part of our 'Forever Wild' legacy circle, at y2y.net/ForeverWild or by reaching out to Renée Krysko, director of donor relations, at legacies@y2y.net.

Allan Baker was a long-time supporter of the Y2Y mission and vision. Courtesy: The Baker Family. Background, opposing page: Aspen trees. Photo credit: J. Bonney/National Park Service. Inset, opposing page: Supplied photos.

Some of the Sarah Baker Memorial Fund recipients



Dr. Naima Jutha

focused on woodland caribou conservation in northwestern B.C., after hearing about the widespread decline in the caribou population. Her research has not only contributed to scientific data but helped raise awareness of the caribou's plight.



Mateen Hessami

contributed important knowledge on the links between moose harvest, caribou conservation and Indigenous culture. He said, "I am humbled and honored to have been chosen for the Sarah Baker Memorial Fund award. I am keen to continue working with Y2Y to advance science and policy that safeguard wildlife and ecosystems for future generations."



Rachel Singleton-Polster

has identified solutions for improving accountability and transparency of mine reclamation in caribou habitat. She explained, "Hope for a better world reassures me that we can still do good. The support from the Sarah Baker Memorial Fund and the Y2Y team has been tremendously helpful in progressing this work."

Explore past projects at y2y.net/SarahBaker.

Donor and funder list*

The Alben F. Bates and Clara G. Bates Foundation

Alberta Ecotrust Foundation

The Alpine Club of Canada

Animal Welfare Institute

Anonymous donor advised fund at The Chicago Community Foundation

Banff Canmore Community Foundation

Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund

Bergmann and Filakosky Donor Advised Fund

Bunting Family Foundation

Calgary Foundation

The Chawkers Foundation

The Cinnabar Foundation

Consecon Foundation

The Conservation Alliance

Cross Charitable Foundation

The Crown Goodman Family

Don and Joan Stanley Family Fund at Edmonton Community Foundation

The Donald Slavik Family Foundation

The Donner Canadian Foundation

Eleanor and Fred Winston – The Longview Foundation

Ernest J. Abele Fund of the Columbus Foundation

Fall Line Initiatives Fund at Calgary Foundation

Fanwood Foundation

Franklin Philanthropic Foundation

Fredrick Prahl and Karen Skjei

Gencon Foundation

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Government of Alberta Community Initiatives Program

Greg Cote and Nancy Rourke

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

Harvey Locke Conservation Inc.

Head and Heart Foundation

The Henry and Susan Rose Family Fund

House Family Foundation

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Jeff and Jacqueline Miller

Joe Albright and Marcia Kunstel Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole

John A. Mills and Susan K. Mills Charitable Fund

The Kendeda Fund

The Laura L. Tiberti Charitable Foundation

Lolo National Forest, Northern Region, USDA Forest Service

Mactaggart Third Fund

Maine Beer Company

Mary and Charles Sethness Charitable Foundation

Mastercard Foundation

Merrill Chester Gregg and Josh Gregg

Michael Olshavsky

Missy Mayfield, Spotted Mutt Fund

The Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for the Americas

Mosaic

National Forest Foundation

The New York Community Trust

October Hill Foundation Inc.

Onwardup Sales and Marketing, Ltd.

The Otis Booth Foundation

Palmer Family Foundation

Parks Canada Agency

Patagonia.com

Peter H. Bachman and Janet Rice Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation

Pumpkin Hill Foundation

Ravenswood Charitable Foundation

RBC Foundation

Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia

Rebecca Patton and Tom Goodrich

Robert and Michele Keith

Robert S. Hunter Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable

The Round Barn at Twin Bridges

Ruby Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation

Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee

Screaming Retriever Brewing Company

The Sitka Foundation

Stephanie and Andrew Towell

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Turner Foundation, Inc.

Vancouver Foundation

The Volgenau Foundation

Weeden Foundation

Weston Family Foundation

Wilburforce Foundation

Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund, Supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

Winkler Family Foundation

Woodcock Foundation

Y2Y board address

Y2Y's Board of Directors oversee governance and the overall direction of the organization. Because of our international scope, there are two Y2Y boards: one American and one Canadian. In 2022, we had 19 directors who live in either the U.S. or Canada. They bring local knowledge and expertise — ranging from conservation science and law to accounting and non-profit management — to bear on Y2Y's transboundary efforts to protect the ecological health of one of the last remaining intact mountain landscapes on Earth.

At the end of 2022, we had many reasons to be hopeful.

On the global level, Y2Y staff members representing and sharing the Y2Y vision at COP15 — the 2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Montreal — heard first-hand about a landmark agreement: 196 countries signing up to protect nature's biodiversity.

That included committing to a new set of biodiversity goals and targets to “halt and reverse” biodiversity loss by 2030, and to conserve 30 percent of land and seas in a well-connected system of protected areas. Embedded within these targets is a commitment to respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and recognizing the

contributions of Indigenous and traditional territories as important steps toward the conservation that nature needs to thrive in the long term.

This agreement reflects unprecedented alignment on countries' commitments to nature, and with Y2Y's own mission to connect and protect habitat from Yellowstone to Yukon so people and nature can thrive.

Beyond COP15, at the national level, Canada is already at 18 percent in terms of protected areas, and more large new protections will move the country closer to its promise of halting and reversing nature loss by 2030 to achieve full recovery for nature by 2050. Funding for Indigenous-led conservation, expansion of conservation in the Yukon, and additional initiatives shows real commitment.

In the United States, similar pledges to advance strategic land protections include those through the America the Beautiful Initiative and resources created, such as those through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. -

Supporters of Y2Y's own big vision have helped to set the stage for these advancements, both internationally and within the Yellowstone to Yukon region, through donations, public support, advocacy and collaboration.

Y2Y's president and chief scientist, Dr. Jodi Hilty, and advisor Harvey Locke, played lead roles in setting international standards for connectivity and making the case for more ambitious biodiversity goals preceding this global nature agreement. This behind-the-scenes work helped create the international buy-in and scientific rationale for these targets and science-based guidelines. This work relies on involving communities to connect and protect landscapes and wildlife we all care for.

Keeping the Yellowstone to Yukon region intact is the best way at this scale to tackle the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate. The Y2Y model is already serving as an example to others of a solution to combat habitat and biodiversity loss, but these new global commitments give us both incentive and leverage to elevate our work to new heights.

Thanks to a growing movement of people like you supporting board, staff and partners, we are optimistic about scaling up conservation work across the region to take us closer to realizing Y2Y's big, bold vision.

Pat Smith
Y2Y U.S. Board Chair

Steve Baker
Y2Y Canada Board Chair and
Treasurer, Y2Y Foundation

2022 Y2Y Board and Council Members

Steve Baker,
Chair, Canadian Board

Colleen Brennan

Geoff Burt

Jonah Greenberg

Merrill Chester Gregg

John Donovan

Craig Groves

Bill Guza

Richard Harrison,
Vice-Chair, Canadian Board

Bryan Hurlbutt,
Vice-Chair, U.S. Board

Robert Lapper

Cameron Naqvi

Scott Niedermayer

Nancy Rourke

Lynn Scarlett

Pat Smith,
Chair, U.S. Board

Amy Vedder

Alison Woodley

Pam Wright

Y2Y COUNCIL

The Y2Y Council brings together individuals who provide specialized assistance to Y2Y staff.

Charles C. Chester,
Chair

Joe Loughheed

Coral Lukaniuk

Jill Pangman

The Yellowstone River is the longest remaining undammed river in the lower 48 states. Photo credit: Ecoflight

Thanks to support from donors and funders, the Y2Y vision is possible! For yet another year, your gifts and grants kept us strong and able to stand up for nature. As we enter our 30th year, we can't wait to see what we can accomplish together.



2022 Financial Highlights

During 2022 the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) group was comprised of two Canadian organizations, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative Foundation and Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative Society (Y2Y Society) and one U.S. organization, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative.

Each organization was governed by an independent Board of Directors, who share our passion for and commitment to our mission. You can read more about our board members and their roles at y2y.net/board.

These organizations worked together to fund, facilitate, and operate programs and activities to fulfill the Y2Y mission.

The accompanying financial highlights combine information across all three Y2Y organizations.* We are supported by a broad network of foundations, government agencies, businesses and individuals from the Y2Y region and beyond. Thanks to their generosity, we completed the year in a strong financial position. In 2022, 82 percent of Y2Y's expenses directly supported conservation projects and campaigns across the region.

Balance Sheet – December 31, 2022 (USD)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,209,359	Accounts Payable	183,601
Investments	1,198,280	Deferred Revenue	1,830,015
Other Assets	259,115	Net Assets	4,653,138
Total Assets	6,666,754	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	6,666,754

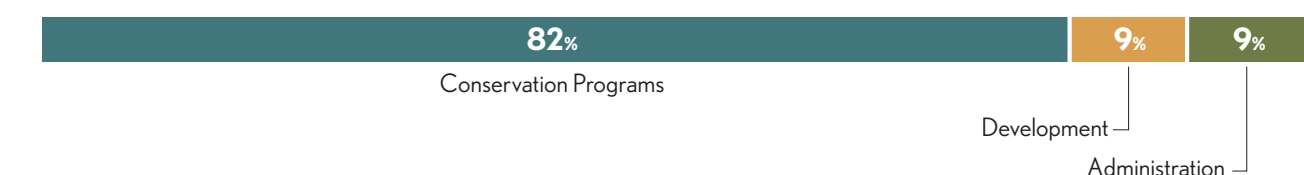
HOW Y2Y IS FUNDED

Revenue: 5,617,345



HOW YOUR DONATION IS USED

Expenses: 4,932,222



*On December 31, 2022, in order to simplify operations, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative Society was dissolved and all its operations were transferred to the remaining Canadian organization.

“Indigenous populations carry humanity’s ability to have a sensitive relationship with the landscape. If humanity is going to survive it’s going to be because they have a sensitive relationship with the landscape.”

JOSIAH BLACKEAGLE PINKHAM, NEZ PERCE ETHNOGRAPHER



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Design and layout by: Emily Morton. Copy by Katrina Bellefeuille, Claire Jarrold and Kelly Zenkewich. Proofing by: Kelly Zenkewich and Claire Jarrold.

Cover photo credit: An elk herd climbs a pass in Yellowstone. Credit: Jacob W. Frank/National Park Service.

Back cover photo credit: Mushrooms spring from moss in Glacier National Park. Credit: National Park Service