



Impact Report 2024

“It’s wonderful to know that the work you’re doing is extending and strengthening wildlife habitat for the future. It’s inspiring and energizing, and this big vision means a great deal to me.”

SCOTT S., Y2Y DONOR, ERIE, PA



Bighorn sheep ram. Credit: National Park Service.

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Our vision

An interconnected system of wild lands and waters stretching from Yellowstone to the Yukon, harmonizing the needs of people with those of nature.

The Yellowstone to Yukon region is an extraordinary landscape. Protecting a place like this starts with people like you.



Cover image photographer

Tom McDonald, a member of the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation and a Y2Y board member since 2023, is a passionate wildlife photographer. A lifelong resident of the Grande Cache area in Alberta and owner of Eagle Child Images, he brings the region's wild beauty to life through his lens — sharing his respect for nature and the intricate relationships that sustain it.

Tom photographed this Canada lynx on a crisp December morning in the Eastern Slopes of Alberta. After spotting tracks on a remote road, he patiently waited, hoping for a sighting. His patience was rewarded when the lynx emerged from the willows, comfortable in his presence. As it moved gracefully atop a snowbank, Tom captured this striking image during their quiet, remarkable encounter.



A bold vision: Every step counts

**Reflections on 2024 from Y2Y
President and Chief Scientist,
Dr. Jodi Hilty**

The first 30 years of the Yellowstone to Yukon vision have taught us many lessons. Above all, we've learned the value of building meaningful partnerships across a spectrum of people, communities, and political perspectives. We also know that realizing this vision depends on persistence and the thoughtful, often small actions of people like you and me.

The results of our collective efforts have been significant.

Since 1993, we've seen protected areas created at twice the rate of the rest of North America, with much larger average sizes. Overall protection in the Yellowstone to Yukon region has increased by more than 80 percent!

In 2024, we saw major strides in Indigenous-led protected areas and in the conservation and connection of critical habitats, wildlife corridors, and freshwater sources — protecting landscapes essential to diverse cultures and livelihoods.

With 177 wildlife crossings now in place across the Yellowstone to Yukon region and many more in the works, we are making some of the busiest roads safer for both people and wildlife. Through close collaboration with landowners, Indigenous nations, ranchers, governments, companies, and communities, we're helping animals like bears to move freely between protected areas, avoiding things like garbage, fruit, and livestock that can lead to conflict.

It's about creating safer, more connected landscapes for wildlife and the people who live alongside them. And we've learned that for both people and nature to thrive, conservation must happen at every level — and be embedded in government planning.

Even during these times of uncertainty in our world, it's heartening to know that we're still making progress for nature and people — both big and small steps both. Major decisions like new parks or investments in wildlife crossings may grab the most attention, but they're only possible because of the thousands of smaller actions we take every day.

This report shows how far we've come by working together, from local to global initiatives, and making nature conservation a priority. I'm excited about what we can accomplish together in the years to come.

In celebrating our successes over the last year — and the past 30 years — we celebrate people like you: who advocate for nature, steward landscapes, choose to give wildlife space, and support our work through donations, support, and action when it matters most.

The Y2Y vision inspires and unites us, and together, the Y2Y community creates lasting change. Thank you for being an essential part of each step of this conservation journey.

Dr. Jodi Hilty. Credit: Ross Donihue.

A lasting legacy

Remembering wildlife and landscape defender, Karsten Heuer



In the 1990s, Karsten Heuer hiked the entire stretch of the Yellowstone to Yukon region, where he walked among caribou, bears, wolves, elk, pronghorn, bison, and other animals, along the spine of the Rocky Mountains, from Wyoming to the Arctic Circle in the Yukon.

It was an inspiring journey that eventually sparked countless people's support of the Yellowstone to Yukon vision.

Karsten experienced firsthand the protected areas and natural corridors wildlife travelled through. And, for the rest of his life, he never stopped sharing and fighting for the importance of keeping these corridors open and connected to keep wildlife thriving.

Karsten passed away peacefully on November 5, 2024. We were deeply saddened to lose an inspirational leader and mentor, great friend, and champion of our cause.

"There are journeys that choose you more than you choose them, necessary journeys that demand to be followed more than pursued... I didn't know exactly what would be involved, only that our journey would start in Yellowstone, end in the Yukon, and following the wildest and least developed route possible, we would find out whether wildlife corridors existed or could be created among the parks and already protected lands. It was time to unite the theory with the land; to test a dream against reality. It was time for a hike."

KARSTEN HEUER IN 'WALKING THE BIG WILD,' P XVI

As a biologist, wildlife and landscape defender, storyteller, best-selling author, husband, father, son and friend, many people and organizations felt Karsten's impact. And Karsten was an integral part of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative for many years and in many ways.

He was our President and Executive Director from 2013 to 2015. He later continued as an advisor and an unofficial ambassador, supporting

Y2Y and sharing stories of our work with his many interviews and speaking engagements.

We are grateful for all he accomplished with his long career and love for the great outdoors.

We remember Karsten when we see the wildlife he gave a voice to and all the wild places that are better off because of him.

Read our full tribute to Karsten at y2y.net/BigWild.



Wild by nature

The Yellowstone to Yukon region is an irreplaceable and awe-inspiring landscape stretching for 3,400 km (2,100 miles) through tree-cloaked valleys, meandering rivers and precipitous peaks. It is home to grizzly bears, elk, wolves, caribou, wolverine, and thousands of other plant and animal species — along with many diverse human communities.

This region is special — and important. It's the most ecologically intact large mountainous area on Earth. And it needs more protection so that current and future generations can gaze at its grandeur and marvel at the myriad iconic creatures that make it such a wondrous place to become immersed in.

There is still much work to do, and your support will ensure that it gets done.



Protecting Earth's wildest large mountain landscape for all

What does it mean to be the most ecologically intact — and least developed — large mountain region in the world?

Research published early in 2024 in the leading journal *Conservation Biology* compared the Yellowstone to Yukon region to the largest mountain regions in each continent (not including the Antarctic). This paper underscores that the Yellowstone to Yukon region has the lowest levels of human modification and the highest degree of wild, connected landscapes.

Yet less than 20 percent of this landscape is protected — far less than the globally agreed upon goal of 30 percent by 2030.

The research emphasizes the crucial importance of our work, and the need to scale up protection against a backdrop of worldwide biodiversity loss, land-use pressures, and the stark reality of rapid climate change — the effects of which are already having a profound impact on mountainous regions globally and the plants and animals within them.

The Yellowstone to Yukon region is a treasure, not just for North America, but for the world. We have a responsibility to keep it wild, leading by example — something we have been doing for more than 30 years.

And by maintaining this ever-changing web of life within these landscapes, we maintain our mental, emotional and spiritual connection to the land. It's a connection that runs deep: from the melting glaciers and life-giving headwaters of our mighty rivers, through alpine tundra, mountain forests and wildflower meadows, down to lush grasslands and vital wetlands. A magnetic place we're drawn to for all different reasons, while being spellbound — and humbled — by the scale.

As humans, we are inherently part of nature, and this is what drives our shared motivation to protect these extraordinary and important landscapes. We have held an unbreakable bond with nature for eons, and we must never lose sight of this.

Creating vital connections

Connected landscapes are a lifeline for ecosystems, helping animals to find food, water and mates. They help populations exchange genes between islands of habitat that are carved up by our road network and other human development.

With the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss being felt by communities and wildlife, keeping landscapes connected and ecosystems functioning is more urgent than ever.

Wildlife crossings, voluntary private land conservation, and solid policies and funding help strengthen nature's connections, enhancing resilience to extreme climate events and allowing species to adapt to shifting conditions.

We're steadfast in our work to maintain and restore key corridors and improve wildlife movement across some of the busiest roads in the Yellowstone to Yukon region. Thank you for being with us on this journey.



177 wildlife crossings and counting

To cross or not to cross? Countless animals encounter this dilemma when faced with a busy highway — a decision laden with potentially life-threatening consequences for the animal and the driver who collides with them or swerves to avoid. Wildlife crossings are a solution to this widespread problem.

The 177 wildlife crossings situated across the Yellowstone to Yukon region are reducing the risk and number of these collisions one underpass or overpass at a time. And we're making progress on ensuring four of the biggest road barriers in the region are easier for animals to cross, while resolving key bottlenecks for wildlife movement.

Momentum for wildlife crossings

In 2024, progress accelerated towards establishing crossings on our two priority highways in the United States: Highway 93 and Interstate 90 (I-90).

Overall, more than \$30 million from the U.S. Federal Government was secured to fund work on Highway 93 — and it's the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that continue to drive this work forward. The result will be several new crossings in addition to the 41 existing structures on this highway — emphasizing the importance of reliable federal funding in progressing wildlife crossing projects.

The new crossings will line a stretch of Highway 93 where 11 grizzly bears have been killed by fast-moving vehicles as they attempted to cross a valley bottom filled with roads and development, to expand their range southwards.

Y2Y has supported these efforts through coordination with the Tribes. Our support and encouragement have extended to the Montana Department of Transportation and the Federal Highways Administration, whom we hope will continue providing state and federal investments in wildlife crossings here and elsewhere.

During 2024, partners including Y2Y also raised funds to have several miles of new fence installed and increase the height of existing fence along Idaho's I-90 — which, altogether, will funnel wildlife to two crossings on the highway. And in partnership with the Western Transportation Institute, we're studying where more crossings are needed along I-90 to guide future decisions.

Wildlife crossings are a win-win for nature and people. And Montanans agree. Our public opinion polls reveal strong support for more crossings on our roads. By working with government and other partners, we aim to make wildlife crossings a standard part of transportation planning and funding — not an afterthought. Together, we're creating safer pathways for wildlife and people alike, fostering a future where our roads work better for everyone.

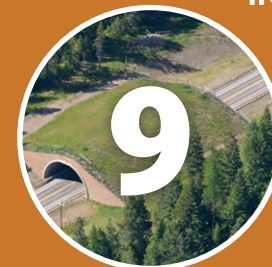


FIRST TIME LUCKY!

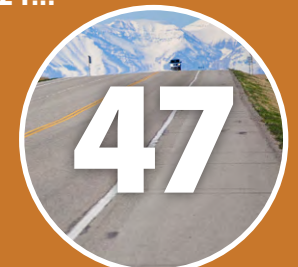
Idaho's first wildlife overpass on US-21 (also known as the Lucky Peak or Cervidae Peak overpass) won a national award for improving safety and safe passage for elk, deer and other animals.

Y2Y proudly supported this project — a result of successful collaboration among Indigenous groups, agencies, and supporters like you.

IN 2024...



Crossings completed
or under construction



Projects committed to
design or planning

Lucky Peak overpass on US-21. Credit: Idaho Department of Transportation.

Left Inset: Wildlife overpass on Highway 93 in Montana. Credit: Marcel Huijter. Right Inset: Highway 3 in Canada. Credit: Rob Ament.

Safer passage through the Canadian Rockies

Late 2024 marked the completion of the Bow Valley Gap wildlife overpass (Stoney Nakoda Exshaw wildlife arch) west of Calgary, Alberta. Rising above the Trans-Canada Highway, the overpass frames the entrance to the Canadian Rockies and creates safe passage in one of the most vital regional wildlife corridors in Alberta and the Yellowstone to Yukon region.

This crossing is the culmination of almost two decades of research, planning, fundraising and building — thanks to a collaboration of partners, İyāñhé Nakoda (Stoney Nakoda) Nations, biologists, and transportation experts, and thousands of supporters like you.

In addition to the crossing, 12 km (7 miles) of wildlife fencing guide animals like elk, cougars, and grizzly bears to the bridge. And trail cameras captured animals using the crossing even before its official completion — heartening to see at a location where there were on average 27 wildlife-vehicle collisions a year.

These crashes are costly in dollars as well, with damages, emergency response, and medical expenses adding up. Wildlife crossings protect animals and drivers — and save money in the long run.

Thanks to Y2Y's long-term efforts, the Alberta government also announced three new crossings over Highway 1A with fencing to guide wildlife across. Several existing Highway 1 and 1A bridges and culverts will also be modified for safe animal use.

Reconnecting the Rockies

Y2Y is a longtime partner on Reconnecting the Rockies, a collaborative wildlife crossing initiative improving connectivity along 80 km (50 miles) of Highway 3 between Alberta's Crowsnest Pass and British Columbia's Elk Valley.

Drawing upon decades of wildlife and road ecology research, this transboundary project supports an essential movement corridor between Banff National Park in Alberta and Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park crossing Alberta-Montana.

Y2Y and Reconnecting the Rockies was one of the few pilot projects chosen by Parks Canada for the National Program for Ecological Corridors (NPEC). Their support was instrumental in helping advance fencing, crossings and ungulate guards.

We played a key role in securing the NPEC funding for the most recent phase of the project to ultimately embed 10 wildlife crossing points connected by fencing by 2027 on the B.C. side of Highway 3 — six of which are already in place.

Work is also underway on the Alberta side: three overpasses are in design and an underpass and fencing at Rock Creek are being constructed. Y2Y and numerous partners conducted the science starting in 2010 that helped prioritize key crossing points that are now underway.

Protecting nature's pathways

When Y2Y began in 1993, grizzly bear populations in the Yellowstone region had become separated by over 240 km (150 miles) from bears in the Glacier National Park region of Montana and into Canada.

Human development prevented bears from safely migrating and mating, which kept populations small, isolated and vulnerable to weakening genetically.

Conservation activities (like easements and crossings) are improving habitat quality and giving wildlife room to roam.

And today, the gap between grizzly bear populations in the southern Rockies has shrunk to less than 80 km (50 miles)!

In 2024, Y2Y worked with partners to protect key corridors that matter most for wildlife movement through the voluntary purchase of private land and conservation easements.

We helped conserve six private land parcels across the U.S. and Canada and secured an agreement to protect a seventh — safeguarding 27 sq. km (6,794 acres) this year for nature, with another 7 sq. km (1,668 acres) pending for early 2025.

These protections included our funding of an innovative conservation easement that secures thousands of acres of grizzly bear habitat while ensuring perpetual Indigenous access for cultural uses and practices.

In western Montana, we worked with the Vital Ground Foundation to purchase 0.22 sq. km (55 acres) of key grizzly bear habitat in Evaro Canyon where wilderness meets highway.

Grizzly bears and numerous other species will benefit from this protected land. Two expanses of wilderness funnel here, each one extending out into western Montana and north Idaho. This valuable corridor also sits close to the Bitterroot Mountains, just across I-90, making the goal of reconnecting the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem to the Bitterroot Range even closer.

Meanwhile in Canada, with Y2Y's financial support, the Nature Trust of British Columbia secured protection for three land parcels in the Kootenay region of southeast B.C.: Bummer's Flats, Wycliffe Prairie, and Lower Wolf Creek are crucial links in the connectivity chain of the Yellowstone to Yukon region, acting as wildlife corridors for animals big and small.

The 5.24 sq. km (1,297 acres) now protected are home to rare and at-risk species across a patchwork of habitat, including wetland, grassland, riversides and Douglas-fir forest.



Protecting landscapes for future generations


Picture lush forests, vibrant valleys, majestic mountains, gigantic glaciers, and life-sustaining water sources; herds of buffalo, caribou, and elk, wolfpacks, grizzly bears and their cubs roaming vast, intact landscapes. This is a glimpse of what we're working to protect here in the Yellowstone to Yukon region.

Animals need wide open spaces to roam, feed, and reproduce. This landscape still supports much of its native biodiversity — Y2Y's goal is to keep it this way.

And as the only organization dedicated to securing the long-term ecological health of this entire region, we know that keeping these landscapes intact is the best way to tackle the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate.

Where appropriate, science and Indigenous knowledge help us inform how and where to advance protected areas, which not only protect nature but also sustain us by providing clean air, fresh water, physical and mental well-being, and cultural and spiritual values.

Hundreds of thousands of passionate individuals like you are the source of hope and the reason we are getting this work done piece by piece.

An aerial photograph of a stunning landscape. In the foreground, a large, irregularly shaped lake with vibrant turquoise water is surrounded by dense green forests. The lake's edges are fringed with small islands and peninsulas. In the background, a range of rugged mountains with some snow-capped peaks stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and wilderness.

“I am so grateful to be able to enjoy the landscapes that surround the mountain parkways. I want to support a movement that works to conserve and protect the land, in particular the animals who are a part of these habitats.”

SUE L., Y2Y DONOR, EDMONTON, AB

Nahanni National Park Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was expanded in 2009 by Canada and Dehcho First Nations with Y2Y's support. Credit: Peter Mather.



Growing allyship for Indigenous partners

Indigenous-led protected areas and land stewardship are vital for both upholding Indigenous rights and safeguarding nature at a large scale. In Canada, this includes expanding Indigenous-led protected areas, such as Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs).

In the Yellowstone to Yukon region, one-quarter of protected areas are managed or co-managed by Indigenous Peoples, with more on the way. These agreements support the leadership of Indigenous communities; and they are also key to achieving our mission of connecting and protecting habitats where both people and nature can thrive.

As a trusted ally in Indigenous-led conservation, we support Indigenous governments and communities in building the political will, public awareness and support, and resources

needed to protect some of the region's most biodiverse landscapes. With First Nations' capacity often stretched and legal frameworks often lacking, our role as a partner is crucial in advancing these efforts.

In 2024, Y2Y was invited to partner on 11 initiatives supporting Indigenous-led land designations and stewardship, including a major National Park proposal in the Yukon, Indigenous Guardians programs in northern B.C., and a Kaska Elders gathering to advance the proposed Dene K'eh Kusān IPCA through knowledge sharing.

These partnerships have strengthened our collective nature conservation efforts and will also uphold the rights and sovereignty of First Nations, leading to a more inclusive and holistic approach towards the protection of biodiversity and cultural heritage.

BRINGING BUFFALO BACK

By invitation, we attended the 10th anniversary of the Buffalo Treaty and proudly supported the celebration financially. First signed in 2014 at the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana, the Buffalo Treaty united eight First Nations and Tribes in a pledge to restore buffalo populations and revive the cultural bonds that have sustained them through centuries. Many communities across the Yellowstone to Yukon region and beyond are working to bring back buffalo — a species vital to the health of ecosystems.

Y2Y is proud to support the work of those who continue to lead this movement.

Left Inset: Daniel Desjarlais, member of West Moberly First Nations, gathers lichen for a caribou maternity pen.

Credit: David Moskowitz. Right Inset: Mountain caribou. Credit: David Moskowitz.

Sidebar: Y2Y's Nicole Olivier, Dayna Big Plume, and Nadine Raynolds at the Buffalo Treaty anniversary. Credit: Nicole Olivier.



A bright future for caribou and communities

Nestled in the northern foothills of the Rocky Mountains, the Klinse-za/Twin Sisters Park is a sacred and ecologically vital landscape, home to the revered Twin Sisters mountains. For generations, this area has been central to many Indigenous Peoples' spiritual and cultural traditions.

A decade ago, mountain caribou in this region were on the brink of extinction. Thanks to the leadership of the West Moberly First Nations and Saulteau First Nations through their collaborative conservation, restoration, and stewardship initiatives, the Klinse-za caribou

population has rebounded from just 13 animals to a thriving herd of close to 200 in 2024. This incredible feat offers renewed hope for both the caribou and local communities.

Y2Y has proudly supported this transformative project for over ten years through scientific research, advocacy, fundraising, community engagement, and storytelling such as through supporting and sharing the film *Caribou Homeland*.

Watch: y2y.net/CaribouHomeland



Y2Y was honored with the 'Partnership Excellence' award at Saulteau First Nations' Healing the Land Conference. It's a generous recognition of a decade of Y2Y's support — from impactful storytelling to land restoration — of West Moberly First Nations and Saulteau First Nations' conservation vision and community priorities, including their leadership in the wildly successful and collaborative mountain caribou recovery project within Treaty 8 territory of northeastern B.C.

Mountain caribou. Credit: David Moskowitz.



Celebrating the largest B.C. park in a decade

In June 2024, the expansion of Klinse-za/Twin Sisters Park was announced by the two First Nations and the governments of British Columbia and Canada. The park's size was expanded 75-fold — from 2,689 to over 200,000 hectares — giving caribou a safe home and room to roam.

This designation is an example of how governments can work together and be a model for effective collaborative conservation. It is only together — Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working in partnership — that we can help endangered species recover, sustain thriving communities and healthy landscapes, and safeguard this landscape, cultures, and wildlife for future generations.

You helped us celebrate this monumental achievement. Through our letter-writing campaign, nearly 1,000 people wrote to voice their support for Indigenous-led caribou recovery.

Momentum in the wild heart of Yukon Territory

Imagine protecting an area as big as Switzerland — that's what the Ross River Dena (people) are working to do. They have proposed creating an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area spanning more than 40,000 sq. km (15,000 sq. miles) of central-east Yukon Territory. That's approximately eight percent of the Yukon Territory's land area.

Northern Canada's wild landscapes burst with life, a place where Boreal forests, rugged peaks, and winding rivers weave together a rich ecological tapestry. This remarkable region is a vital stronghold along the vast Yellowstone to Yukon corridor, sustaining wildlife on a huge scale.

The Ross River region, known as Tū Łī dlini ("where the rivers meet" in the Kaska language), also holds deep cultural meaning for the Ross River Dena, who have long depended on and stewarded this landscape.

In December 2024, after more than five years of hard work by the Ross River Dena, they signed an agreement with Yukon Government and Parks Canada to conduct a study to explore making this vision a reality through a national park reserve.

Y2Y proudly supported these community efforts in the year leading up to this agreement through engagement and education around the proposed IPCA — which helped lead to this promising next step.

THE BEST CLIMATE SOLUTION ALREADY EXISTS: INTACT NATURE.

Learn how connecting and protecting landscapes from Yellowstone to the Yukon is a powerful climate strategy at y2y.net/ClimateStrategy.



Supporting flourishing communities and nature

Whether through responsible recreation or helping people and bears to share space safely, our work with diverse communities across the Yellowstone to Yukon region has become a movement for reshaping how people and wildlife interact.

Our guiding message is simple: respecting wildlife and protecting their habitats makes a difference. Everyday actions can have a profound effect on nature's wellbeing without us even being aware of it, while keeping us safe too.

The bear necessities

Grizzly bears are a keystone species with a vital role to play in our ecosystems, and by protecting them, we indirectly help numerous others — both plants and animals, including humans. Within many of our communities, including for some Indigenous Peoples, they also hold great significance historically and culturally. Grizzly bears are resilient, but they need our help.

2024 is a prime example of the ups and downs bears face, with one being spotted in the Tobacco Root Mountains of Montana — the first sighting in this area for decades — while the famous grizzly bear 399 was killed in Wyoming following a vehicle collision. This underscores the importance of

safe wildlife crossings and bear-smart practices to reconnect isolated grizzly bear populations between Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park. There are effective social solutions to support their comeback: from ranchers installing electric fencing around livestock, to securing and removing bear attractants, we're seeing progress in our communities every day.

Work to create the right conditions for coexistence and conflict reduction has been in high gear this year, with a focus on living alongside grizzly bears. A prime Canadian example of this came out of Elk Valley in British Columbia (B.C.), in a region that sees exceptionally high bear mortality rates — half from collisions with road vehicles and trains, and the other half arising from conflicts with people.

Working with local leaders, Y2Y helped form the Elk Valley Coexistence Coalition, a partnership between communities, First Nations, industry, conservation groups, and the provincial government. To make coexistence more affordable for community members, an electric fencing and fruit tree removal and replacement program was successfully put into action, bear hazard assessments are underway, and the Fernie Trails Alliance is working with local biologists to provide recommendations on how to sustainably manage the Elk Valley's recreational footprint.

And in the United States we're a member of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee — a leading voice for the species' resurgence and conservation. We led discussions at their annual summit which focused on building more 'bear smart' communities through engagement and collaboration, with a focus on providing practical advice to help them deal with bear encounters. There has also been a big push in 2024 to make human-wildlife coexistence and conflict reduction common practice, and across the Yellowstone to Yukon region we've identified at least 40 communities where positive steps are being taken to achieve this.

Upscaling our efforts

Having already invested over \$60 million in community conservation projects to date, we're scaling up our efforts to give communities the support they need to endure over time, including coexistence and conflict reduction efforts.

The main challenge for communities across the Yellowstone to Yukon region is a lack of stable funding and an overarching policy that supports ongoing community action. Our Communities and Conservation team is working closely with our policy specialists to create systemic change that will see human-wildlife coexistence best practices become the norm. Through our on-the-ground practical advice, we're empowering communities far and wide, while shining a spotlight on the need for government to increase financial investment.

Measuring our recreational footprint

Y2Y's collaborative recreation ecology project aims to improve the management and planning of outdoor recreation and reduce impacts to sensitive wildlife across southeast B.C., southwest Alberta, and beyond. Constructive meetings are being held with provincial and federal governments, Indigenous communities, and leaders in the recreation and research communities, to build up a full picture of the challenges and possible solutions for coexistence at a time when more and more of us are venturing into the wild.

Collaborative research that began in 2019 with the University of Northern British Columbia wrapped up in 2024, thanks to many partners and funders. We have gained valuable insights into this developing field, at a time when its relevancy is greater than ever. Knowledge gaps are being filled with a better understanding of how to navigate human-wildlife interactions in the context of outdoor recreation.

We identified key areas where high-quality wildlife habitat intersects with human activity, focusing on grizzly bears, mountain caribou, and wolverines. By targeting these hotspots, we can help enhance human-wildlife coexistence and reduce conflicts. Our trail data analysis revealed that nearly 30 percent of trails are unregistered in government databases. Improved data is crucial for more effective planning and management.

We can all play our part in implementing solutions. Our data, maps and tools are already informing better practice. **Find out how: y2y.net/RecEcology**

SHARING THE BACKCOUNTRY WITH FELLOW SNOW LOVERS

Since 2020, we've worked to raise awareness about the impact of recreational activities on wolverines and mountain caribou.

Workshops and signage introduced adventurers to these snow-loving species, fostering respect for shared habitats. In 2024, our signs became trusted guides, reminding backcountry explorers of their role in protecting these remarkable creatures. y2y.net/WildlifeWise

"We want more people to think of our land as kin — seeing nature as more of a sibling or a mother to be nourished, rather than a commodity to be sold."

Y2Y PARTNER COLE MANNIX ON HIS VENTURE,
THE OLD SALT CO-OP IN HELENA, MT



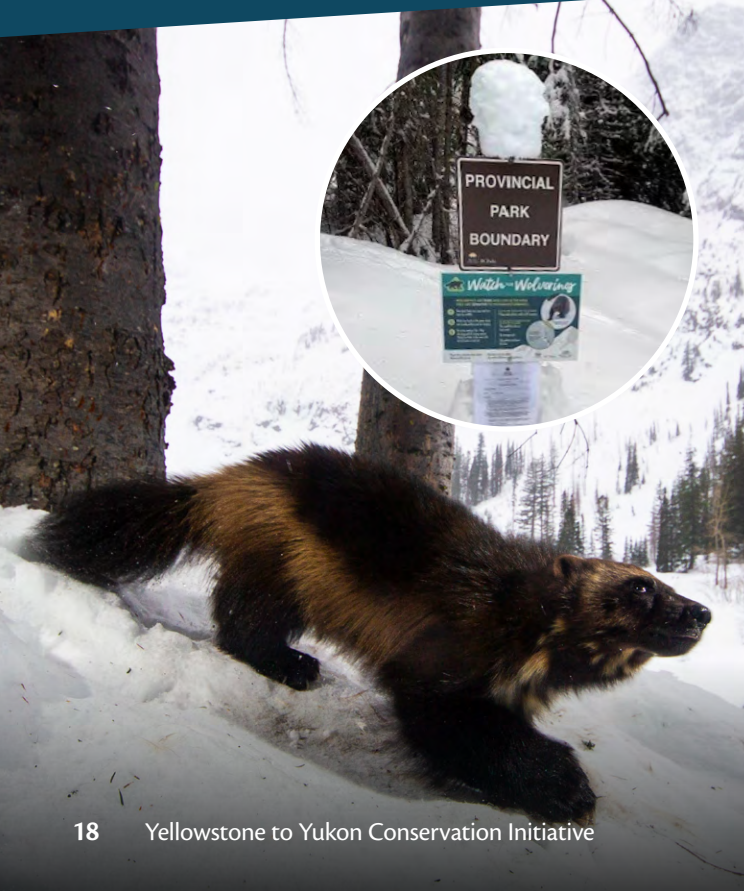
Shaping policy, expanding perspectives

We've shared our recreation ecology project findings and recommendations with hundreds of government officials, land managers, and recreation groups, encouraging changes to benefit both wildlife and people. Our efforts to promote responsible recreation have resonated with thousands of supporters eager to make a positive impact.

Our recreation ecology team presented key research at major parks and land-use planning events, engaging a wide range of professionals, including land planners, Indigenous groups, and biologists. We also connected with recreation organizations through webinars and keynote presentations, where we shared our insights on responsible recreation practices.

We continue to provide advice, resources, and foster relationships with land managers to promote better stewardship and reduce impacts on wildlife in priority areas. BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC are already implementing our recommendations in southeastern B.C., while some of the busiest places in Alberta like Canmore and Kananaskis are adopting innovative coexistence practices.

Parks Canada has been a strong partner in this work, and in 2024, we collaborated with them to align our recommendations with their multi-species action plans, ensuring that recreation doesn't harm sensitive areas in national parks like Banff, Kootenay, and Yoho.



Bull elk bugling in Yellowstone. Credit: National Park Service.

Left: Wolverine in the Cascade Mountains of Washington. Credit: David Moskowitz. Inset: Wolverine sign. Credit: N. Raynolds.

Stronger together

Achieving our vision across the Yellowstone to Yukon region — spanning the Yukon in Canada to Wyoming in the U.S. and at least 75 Indigenous territories — requires deep and ongoing collaboration.

Since 1993, Y2Y has partnered with over 730 groups, including Indigenous governments, NGOs, local communities, biologists, businesses, and government agencies, to advance large-landscape conservation.

In 2024, we contributed \$1.68M to support transformative projects driving progress toward this expansive vision.

Here is a collection of some of the impactful partnerships we are proud to be part of:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A Connecting the Grizzly / Rob Green | I Nakoda Youth Council |
| B Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance | J Siksika First Nation |
| C Wild Montana | K Harvest Share |
| D Wyoming Wildlife Advocates | L Valhalla Foundation for Ecology |
| E Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands | M Wildlife Science Centre |
| F Jimmy Thompson | N CPAWS Yukon |
| G Bragg Creek Wild | O Níó Nę P'ęnę – Trails of Mountain Caribou |
| H Blood Tribe Land Management | |

Read more about our partner projects at y2y.net/StrongerTogether

Donor and funder list*

Canada

Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
 Audain Foundation
 Banff Canmore Foundation
 Barb & John Taylor Legacy Fund held at and administered by Vancity Community Foundation
 BC Parks
 Boje Family Fund at Calgary Foundation
 Calgary Foundation
 The Chawkers Foundation
 Consecon Foundation
 The Donner Canadian Foundation
 Enterprise Holdings Foundation
 Evergreen Foundation
 Fall Line Initiatives Fund at Calgary Foundation
 Galvin Family Fund at Calgary Foundation
 Gencon Foundation
 Government of Alberta Community Initiatives Program
 Government of Canada Environmental Damages Fund
 Greg Cote & Nancy Rourke
 Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

Harvey Locke Conservation Inc.
 Kirsten Anderson & David Keith
 Lee & LeQuelenec Family Foundation
 Mactaggart Third Fund
 MakeWay Foundation — Renewal Funds Charitable Giving Fund
 Max Bell Foundation
 Mind on Development
 Palmer Family Foundation
 Parks Canada Agency
 RBC Foundation
 Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia
 Ruby Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation
 Screaming Retriever Brewing Company
 The Sitka Foundation
 Valhalla Mountain Touring Ltd.
 Vancouver Foundation
 Volker Stevin Contracting Ltd.
 Weston Family Foundation
 Winkler Family Foundation

United States

The Alben F. Bates & Clara G. Bates Foundation

Animal Welfare Institute
 Anonymous donor advised fund at The Chicago Community Foundation
 Anonymous donor at The Denver Foundation
 Barbara Goodman Manilow
 Beagle Charitable Foundation
 Bergmann & Filakosky Donor Advised Fund
 Buckridge Family Foundation at the Montana Community Foundation
 Bunting Family Foundation
 Cross Charitable Foundation
 The Donald Slavik Family Foundation
 Eleanor & Fred Winston — The Longview Foundation
 Ernest J. Abele Fund of the Columbus Foundation
 Fanwood Foundation
 The Franklin Philanthropic Foundation
 Fredrick Prah & Karen Skjei
 Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation
 Head and Heart Foundation
 The Henry & Susan Rose Family Fund

Holdfast Collective
 House Family Foundation
 Jeff & Jacqueline Miller
 Joe Albright & Marcia Kunstel Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole
 John A. Mills & Susan K. Mills Charitable Fund
 Ken & Kim Johnson
 The Kendeda Fund
 The Laura L. Tiberti Charitable Foundation
 Leavy-Galvin-Knight Family
 Liz Claiborne & Art Ortenberg Foundation
 Louis F Weyand and Florence H Weyand Charitable Foundation at US Bank
 M. Piuze Foundation
 Marcescent Fund held at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
 Marshall & Susan Mortenson
 Mary & Charles Sethness Charitable Foundation
 Michael Olshavsky
 Missy Mayfield / Spotted Mutt Fund
 The Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for the Americas

Mosaic
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Keiser Donor Advised Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation
 The Otis Booth Foundation
 Patagonia Inc.
 Peter H. Bachman & Janet Rice Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
 Pumpkin Hill Foundation
 Ravenswood Charitable Foundation
 Rebecca Patton & Tom Goodrich
 Robert & Michele Keith
 SB Foundation
 Stephanie & Andrew Towell
 The Volgenau Foundation
 Walton Family Foundation
 Weeden Foundation
 Wilburforce Foundation
 Woodcock Foundation
 Xanterra Travel Connection

*We appreciate all our supporters! Listed here are Donor-Advised Funds, Family Foundations, Corporate and Grant Funders (>\$1,000).

2024 financial highlights

Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) is comprised of two distinct organizations: a Canadian organization, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative Foundation and a U.S. organization, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative.

Each organization is governed by an independent Board of Directors, who share a similar passion for and commitment to our shared mission.

These organizations work together to fund, facilitate, and operate programs and activities to fulfill the Y2Y mission. Although the U.S. and Canadian entities are separate, the accompanying financial highlights combine information across both 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, each organization completed the year in a strong financial position.

In 2024, 87 percent of Y2Y's expenses directly supported conservation projects and campaigns across the region.

Balance Sheet – December 31, 2024 (USD)

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	1,868,051
Investments	5,729,061
Other assets	459,788
Total Assets	8,056,900

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts payable	424,944
Deferred revenue	3,487,117
Net assets	4,144,839
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	8,056,900

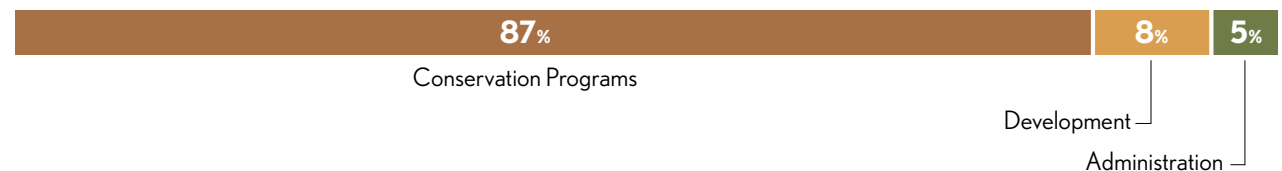
HOW Y2Y IS FUNDED

Revenue: 6,325,291



HOW YOUR DONATION IS USED

Expenses: 6,168,316



2024 Board and Council Members

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative is a collaborative effort between a U.S. non-profit organization and a Canadian public charity.

These two organizations connect and protect habitat from Yellowstone to the Yukon so people and nature can thrive.

Our Boards of Directors oversee governance and the overall strategic direction of Y2Y's work. Because of our international scope, there are two Y2Y boards: one American and one Canadian.

Currently, 20 directors from both countries contribute local knowledge and expertise in fields like conservation science, law, accounting, and non-profit management to support Y2Y's efforts in protecting the ecological health of the world's wildest large mountain region.

CANADIAN BOARD

Steve Baker, *Chair*

Geoff Burt

James Cross

Richard Harrison,
Vice-Chair

Peter A. Johnson

Robert Lapper

Tom McDonald

Scott Niedermayer

Robert Pratt

Nancy Rourke

Alison Woodley

Pamela Wright

U.S. BOARD

Jonah Greenberg

Craig Groves

Bill Guza

Bryan Hurlbutt,
Vice-Chair

Pat Smith,
Chair

Amy Vedder

Leslie Weldon

Germaine White

Y2Y COUNCIL

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

Charles C. Chester,
Chair

Joe Lougheed

Coral Lukaniuk

Cameron Naqvi

Jill Pangman

Lynn Scarlett

Read more about each board member and their roles at y2y.net/board.

In this together

Collective action, extraordinary results



Leslie Weldon, board member, U.S.

What first drew me to Y2Y — and continues to inspire me — is the understanding that we are deeply connected to the landscapes and species we share them with. This interconnectedness shapes our responsibility to act.

2024 was remarkable. The huge expansion of Klinse-za/Twin Sisters Park and progress on wildlife crossings in Montana, Alberta, and B.C. proved the power of thoughtful collaboration to sustain these spaces.

To all who support Y2Y, your dedication and the ways you share our story matter. Your actions help perpetuate healthy, wild landscapes and connect us all to something bigger.



Pat Smith, board chair, U.S.

Reflecting on 2024, I'm proud of Y2Y's deepened relationships with Indigenous nations — built on trust, respect, and a commitment to listening. Supporting their leadership has led to meaningful progress in ecosystem and homeland protection.

Wildlife crossings were another standout. Our work integrating conservation with transportation is gaining momentum, transforming practices across borders.

Looking ahead, I'm inspired by our dedicated team and ambitious vision. Together, we'll build on this momentum for even greater impact in the years ahead.



Pamela Wright, board member, Canada

Y2Y's bold vision is realized through partnership, and 2024 underscored this — conserving landscapes while supporting the empowerment of communities to lead. Deepening allyship with Indigenous partners has created lasting conservation outcomes that honor culture, ecosystems, and livelihoods.

A moment I'll never forget: standing with my students in Dene K'eh Kusān (the Muskwa-Kechika) as a caribou emerged from the forest, undisturbed by our presence. A powerful reminder of the Kaska people's millennia-long stewardship and why protecting large, intact ecosystems is essential — for wildlife and for the people connected to these lands.



Steve Baker, board chair, Canada

My connection to Y2Y is deeply personal. My late uncle, an early supporter, introduced me to Y2Y's work, and since then, my appreciation for the landscapes we protect has only grown.

In 2024, Y2Y achieved extraordinary milestones: expanding Indigenous-led protected areas, surpassing private land conservation goals, and helping mountain communities embrace coexistence with wildlife. These efforts align with our mission and strengthen conservation, communities, and local economies.

As we advance our vision, I remain optimistic about the future we're shaping together. Thank you.



Join us in ensuring a rich natural legacy for future generations — the wonder of wild places across the most intact large mountain region on Earth.

For the **Forever Wild Legacy Circle** at Y2Y, contact Renée Krysko at legacies@y2y.net or 587-807-0404

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Back cover photo by Abdulla Moussa.

Back cover photo

Abdulla Moussa, founder of Wild Moussa Photography, is a Canadian Rockies-based wildlife photographer. His ethical, inspiring images support conservation and reconnect people with nature. He photographed this bull moose in Kananaskis Country, Alberta.

“Connectivity is the key to protecting the Y2Y corridor and everything in it. I’ve been supporting your mission as best I can for a while now. I believe that collectively, humans can accomplish good things together.”

DOUG W., Y2Y DONOR, CALGARY, AB

