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Year-End Reflections

Ideas know no borders: yielding boundless conservation

As the Center for Large Landscape Conservation celebrates ten years as an independent nonprofit organization, we're reflecting on how far we have come while remaining true to our original guiding principle: we fundamentally believe that climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked global crises that must be tackled together.

We also believe that the response to these two existential crises requires mobilizing action at a large scale. We see full landscapes—regardless of boundaries drawn on maps—as the operational unit of conservation, as they define the spaces where people, place, and species interact.

We take to heart Margaret Mead’s axiom, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” We have clearly shown that a small organization, full of passionate people, based out of rural Montana can influence conservation outcomes at local to global scales. We have consistently demonstrated that compelling ideas have no borders, and our ideas have the power to connect people and organizations across cultures and geographies.

Perhaps our influence is the result of combining our ambitions to address climate change and biodiversity loss into a singular focus: connectivity conservation. Our work advances the science, policy, and practice of ecological connectivity, which allows for the movement of species and the natural flows of ecological processes to be maintained. We often say that connectivity is the circulatory system of nature. From rivers to pollination to wildlife migration, nature is a dynamic system that requires the freedom to move.

Especially during this era of climate change, species are moving to adapt. Yet at the same time, the rapidly increasing human footprint on the planet is creating barriers to that essential movement, making connectivity conservation more important than ever. Now is our moment to save the planet from unprecedented levels of habitat fragmentation and degradation.

Protected areas alone cannot shoulder conservation if they are too small or isolated. To save our Earth, conservation must happen on all lands and waters. From the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to the great ecosystems around the world, you will find the Center for Large Landscape Conservation helping local communities preserve healthy, connected landscapes so humans and wildlife can thrive. Join us as a conservation connector and help us achieve boundless results during our next ten years.

Sincerely,

Gary Tabor, President
2021 At a Glance

Protected Asian elephant movement in **13 countries** by co-creating a report on reducing impacts of linear infrastructure

Developed a road-ecology training program for the Linear Infrastructure Safeguards in Asia (LISA) Project, reaching participants in **18 countries**

Implemented connectivity planning efforts that protect wildlife corridors on **4 continents**

Helped secure **$350M of funding** in the new federal infrastructure law for the wildlife crossings grant program, which the Center collaboratively conceived and drafted

Worked with **7 states** on connectivity policies and projects

Participated in the design of **4 wildlife crossing structures**

Enabled citizen scientists to log **430 live wildlife and roadkill sightings** through use of the ROaDS app for road ecology projects

Awarded, through the Network for Landscape Conservation, **15 new Catalyst Fund grants totaling $330,000** for landscape conservation partnerships

Co-authored more than **35 publications and papers** to grow the base of knowledge on connectivity conservation

Co-hosted **4 transboundary dialogue sessions** to advance conservation collaboration along the U.S.-Canada border

Provided technical support to **4 Tribal Nations** in planning for climate adaptation and other environmental projects
A New Vision for a Connected Natural World

This year the Center for Large Landscape Conservation celebrated ten years as an independent nonprofit organization and our progress toward reconnecting our fragmented natural world.

Back in 2007, a new organization named Climate Conservation was founded by Gary Tabor to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. He was thinking big: large landscapes and seascapes seemed like the logical focus, as nature operates at a large scale and is not defined by borders on a map. Political, cultural, and geographic boundaries often hinder the collaboration necessary to connect and restore fragmented landscapes—an essential strategy for climate-resilient ecosystems that support healthy people and wildlife.

To achieve these ambitious goals, Gary’s partner, Rob Ament, and staff actively engaged policymakers and, in 2007, helped draft the first stand-alone national corridors legislation—an early prototype that would later become the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act. In 2008, the organization helped form the Connectivity Policy Coalition, a group of more than 20 NGOs that continues to collectively shape federal legislation and policy today.

Through these early years, the organization realized that connecting nature is a function of connecting people and thus built enduring networks that would advance conservation efforts on the ground. For example, in 2009, it co-created the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent to enhance transboundary conservation efforts with Canada.

In 2011, having established a strong base of partnerships, networks, and supporters focused on ecological connectivity, the organization was officially renamed the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, received its 501(c)(3) federal charitable status, and established its founding board of directors.
Celebrating 10 Years of Connecting People and Landscapes

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation receives 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from the U.S. federal government.

The Center is selected as one of four NGO representatives on the Department of the Interior’s newly formed Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) Council, the oversight body for the national network of LCCs.

Together with the Blackfeet Nation and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the Center helps secure funding for cooperative climate planning from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, sparking the growth of the organization’s Community Resilience Program.

The Corridors & Crossings program is established within the Center to conserve landscape connectivity and address habitat fragmentation created by linear infrastructure, in the process becoming a national leader in corridor, connectivity, and crossing policy.

The Center’s research and concept paper ‘Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure’, on reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions, catches the interest of federal leaders who use it to create language for wildlife provisions in Congressional infrastructure bills and leads to long-term collaboration with federal legislators.

The Center works with local groups in Wyoming to initiate the nation’s first county-wide wildlife crossings master plan as part of Teton County’s transportation plan, which will result in a series of crossing structure projects.

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The Center assumes fiscal sponsorship of Animal Road Crossings (ARC) Solutions—an interdisciplinary partnership facilitating new solutions for wildlife crossing structures—and the Network for Landscape Conservation (NLC), which was co-created by the Center.

The Center becomes the secretariat of the newly formed IUCN-WCPA Connectivity Specialist Group (CCSG) with Gary Tabor acting as Chair, a position he still holds today. The Group now has 1,000+ expert members worldwide.

The Center provides scientific support to Custer Gallatin National Forest, adjacent to Yellowstone National Park, for the first-ever forest-wide connectivity analysis for planning management of a national forest.

The CCSG forms the Transport Working Group to address linear infrastructure, a first for any IUCN specialist group. The following year two subgroups are created to focus on Asian Elephants and Latin America.

The Center supports the Blackfeet Tribe to produce their Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and the following year collaborates with the Tribe to create the first-ever reservation-wide animal-vehicle collision study on Tribal lands in the U.S., incorporating wildlife corridors to determine priority areas to build wildlife crossings.

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The international Convention on Migratory Species adopts the definition of ecological connectivity, defined by the Center and partners as “...the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth.”

Following four years of coordination by the Center and partners, IUCN releases the first-ever international Guidelines for Conserving Connectivity, involving 86 co-authors from 30 countries.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille adopts two policy resolutions sponsored by the Center in support of ecological connectivity, wildlife-friendly infrastructure, and the setting of area-based conservation targets.

President Biden signs into law the bipartisan infrastructure package with hundreds of millions of dollars for wildlife crossing structures and related projects to improve habitat connectivity—the culmination of over a decade of the Center’s work with policymakers and other partners to craft and secure support for these provisions.

After co-creating the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent initiative two years earlier, the Center starts the region’s first climate adaptation grant program through the Roundtable and helps fund Tribal partners’ work.

Network for Landscape CONSERVATION

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In partnership with WWF International, the Wildlife Connect Initiative is created to integrate connectivity planning throughout WWF’s global work and to implement connectivity practices in four pilot areas on four continents.

The Center supports seven western states in developing wildlife crossing structures, including technical support and matching funds for the first wildlife overpass to be built in Idaho, leveraging more than $1.5 million with a $25,000 investment.

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The International Connectivity Program leads a global movement to safeguard nature and its biodiversity by conserving the interconnections of terrestrial, marine, and freshwater ecosystems. The collaborative efforts of the program were in high demand in 2021. The Center provided advice and leadership in international policy discussions about ecological connectivity, contributed scientific and technical expertise for avoiding and mitigating the fragmentation of nature by linear infrastructure (roads, rails, canals, and power lines), and worked with on-the-ground partners to implement connectivity conservation approaches around the world. The Center’s engagement has led to continued growth of skilled staffing and projects in tandem with operating the Secretariat of the IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group and its working groups.

Promoting Global Connectivity Policy

The Center continues its leadership role in shaping policies for connectivity conservation efforts around the world. Contributions in 2021 included supporting drafting of United Nations Resolution 75/271 ‘Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation – a key factor for biodiversity conservation’ and sponsoring policy resolutions adopted by the IUCN World Conservation Congress to address ecological connectivity and promoting wildlife-friendly infrastructure.

As the human population continues to fragment nature, the persistence of millions of plants, animals, and essential ecosystem services that support all life on Earth are threatened. In response to the dual biodiversity and climate crises, solutions are increasingly sought around the world to conserve ecological connectivity.
Collaboration Across Borders

**Wildlife Connect** The Center and WWF International have worked together over the past few years to create a global initiative to shape international policy, raise awareness, and standardize approaches that ensure landscapes are more ecologically connected and therefore climate resilient. Wildlife Connect focuses on important and vulnerable landscapes in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America that serve as pilot projects for focusing and advancing connectivity conservation.

**Central Asian Ecological Connectivity Initiative** The Center has joined partners across Central Asia—a globally important biodiversity hotspot—to enhance knowledge and capacity through research and stakeholder engagement. Objectives include decreasing human-wildlife conflict and illegal wildlife killing, expanding transboundary partnerships, and informing landscape-scale policies, including the conservation of endangered Persian leopards in Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

Building a Body of Knowledge

The International Connectivity Program develops and participates in networks of professionals and institutions worldwide that are transforming the field of connectivity conservation with innovative science, policies, and collaboration. As part of this work, our staff led projects and co-authored several reports and papers to further the body of knowledge for conserving ecological connectivity, including:

- Producing **French** and **Spanish** translations of the 'IUCN Guidelines for Conserving Connectivity through Ecological Networks and Corridors'
- Contributing to the global **2020 Protected Planet Report**
- Leading the **Linear Infrastructure Safeguards in Asia (LISA) Project** (see page 15)
- Producing the first-ever **Marine Connectivity Rules of Thumb**
- Contributing to the report **Incorporating Nature in Infrastructure Development**

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2021 Highlights

Public and Professional Outreach

While in-person outreach opportunities were limited in 2021 due to the pandemic, Center staff communicated scientific research, shared best practices, and enhanced collaboration, including hosting sessions and presenting virtually in conferences around the world, such as:

- IUCN Global Youth Summit
- Infrastructure and Ecology Network Europe International Conference
- African Conference for Linear Infrastructure & Ecology
- The IUCN World Conservation Congress
- Global Conference on Linear Infrastructure and Environment
- International Conference on Ecology & Transportation

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The Community Resilience Program supports communities to build environmental resilience by addressing the threats of land fragmentation and climate change. Over the past decade, the Center has developed partnerships with three Montana Tribal Nations and relationships with 10 additional Tribal Nations across the U.S. working on landscape conservation.

The Center believes that the strengths of Indigenous peoples as conservation partners include their unique cultures, identities, knowledge systems, and governing structures.

**Comprehensive Land Planning with the Blackfeet Nation**

Led by Blackfeet Tribal Member Terry Tatsey, the Center continues to support the Blackfeet Tribe in a multi-year land-planning effort to evaluate the status and use of resources on the reservation, such as grazing lands, wildlife populations, and water. It started with development of the Tribe’s Agriculture Resource Management Plan, now in the final stages of adoption by the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council. Essential to the effort is the integration of Blackfeet community members, who are all considered critical to the land planning process. To stimulate discussion and input on land planning, Tatsey led a three-day wilderness camp called the Sah Ko Mii Tha Pii: Land and All Living Things Living Together. The camp integrated storytelling and traditional knowledge shared by the elders with youth activities to learn about tracking wildlife, foraging, camping, and living with nature.

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**Environmental stressors such as climate change and human development impact every community and ecosystem on Earth, but the effects are not equally distributed across the globe and conservation efforts don’t always benefit communities equally. There is growing recognition of the importance of involving all who live, work, and recreate in a given landscape in creating sustainable solutions that will stand the test of time.**

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“In Indigenous worldviews, there is no separation between people and land, between people and other life forms, or between people and their ancient ancestors whose bones are infused in the land they inhabit and whose spirits permeate place.”

-Dina Gilio-Whitaker
Understanding Environmental Justice with Tribes in the Crown of the Continent

In collaboration with the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent, the Center and two Environmental Justice Fellows from the Blackfeet Tribe and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) are documenting environmental injustices experienced by Tribal communities. This story mapping project will identify problem areas across the Crown, including the two reservations in northwestern Montana, while amplifying the voices of those who are impacted most. Through a combination of research and interviews, the project will highlight environmental issues that disproportionately impact Indigenous peoples and emphasize the need for solutions that involve and respect all communities across the Crown landscape. The resulting report will be available to Roundtable partners, including the Tribes, to support justice, remediation, advocacy, and Indigenous-led conservation.

Building Climate Resilience in the Little Rockies Forest

The Little Rocky Mountains in north central Montana are a sacred site for the Gros Ventre (Aaniiih) and Assiniboine (Nakoda) Nations, and these residents of the Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) are longtime stewards of the landscape. Yet past government fire suppression practices have left its fire-tolerant ponderosa pine forests overgrown with fire-intolerant vegetation and at risk of catastrophic fires. With the support of the Center, the FBIC-led Little Rockies Forest Resilience Project aims to reduce fire risk through climate adaptation management and restore traditional Tribal fire-management practices. A central activity of the project is the thinning of 300 acres of forest to reduce fuel loads and improve wildlife habitat. After a year of suspended work due to the pandemic, a crew deployed in September 2021 to thin an initial 100 acres. Through this project, the FBIC is connecting with other tribes engaged in climate planning to bring more resources to restoring traditional forest management.
Animals need to move freely across landscapes for their own survival and to help maintain the ecosystems where they live. Ungulates like elk and pronghorn undertake seasonal migrations. Predators like bears and wolves travel long distances to reach prey and mates. Birds transport seeds and control pests, while bees pollinate.

The Center’s Corridors and Crossings program seeks to remove barriers to wildlife movement throughout North America by using science such as spatial models and maps to aid planners in identifying how and where animals move across the landscape, and how people help or hinder that movement. The Center then applies this knowledge to inform policymakers and support on-the-ground action, from protecting vital lands to planning wildlife overpasses across highways. In 2021, Center staff spearheaded collaborative efforts among government agencies and other partners to protect wildlife corridors that extend beyond jurisdictional borders and require solutions that involve multiple stakeholders.

Citizen Scientists Assist with Road Assessments

Staff from the Center have been coordinating conservation partners, local businesses, and residents to gather baseline information for decision-makers about the impacts of two roads leading to and from Yellowstone National Park—Montana Highways 191 and 89. Volunteers help by using the ROaDS smartphone app, which the Center makes widely available to groups working on road ecology projects, to collect data on roadkill and live animal sightings on or near highways—ultimately supporting decisions that will reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.
Creating Safe Passage for the Desert Tortoise

Desert tortoises have roamed the landscape we now call the Mojave Desert for millions of years. But over the last century, their population crashed by 90% as cities and 60,000 miles of new roads were built across their range; today more than 13,000 tortoises are killed by cars each year. The Center is now working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to explore options for creating safe passage for desert tortoises throughout California, Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. In 2021, the Center and USFWS sponsored several webinars, hosted a virtual workshop, led an interdisciplinary Task Force to devise measures to reduce tortoise mortality, and co-authored a workshop summary report in support of this collaborative effort to improve the threatened species’ chance of long-term recovery.

Integrating Connectivity into National Forest Planning and Management

In 2021, the Center sought to explore current challenges and opportunities for integrating connectivity considerations into planning across the 193 million acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land. Staff from the Center and USFS teamed up to investigate the use of science and connectivity conservation in recently completed forest plans. They found some key areas for improvement, including data sharing, the consistent use of science, substantive plan direction, and coordination across forests and with external partners and landowners. The Center is briefing USFS leadership on its recommendations to address these areas and facilitate the development of comprehensive connectivity assessments in the future.
Corridors and Crossings Policy

In addition to technical guidance on wildlife corridors and crossings, the Center provides policy advice and expertise. Center staff works with decisionmakers and stakeholders to collaboratively develop, advance, and implement policies that protect wildlife movement, reconnect habitat, and support conservation at the landscape scale.

Federal Legislation Wins

In 2021, the Center helped secure major legislative victories for habitat connectivity, and looks forward to working with our state and federal agency partners to implement the legislation. Most notably, the bipartisan infrastructure package that was signed into law on November 15 established a $350 million grant program for projects to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity. Additionally, the U.S. House passed the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act in July and both chambers of Congress recently reintroduced a subset of that legislation: the Tribal Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act. Finally, the Build Back Better Act passed by the House on November 19 includes $10 million for wildlife corridor conservation. The Center has been working with conservation coalitions, congressional staff, and federal agencies for over a decade to craft and secure support for these habitat connectivity policies.

State Policy Accomplishments

In 2021, the Center ramped up work with states on policies to protect wildlife corridors and fund wildlife crossing structures. For instance, in Colorado, the Center worked with coalition partners and legislators to craft habitat connectivity legislation and secure unanimous passage. The Center is now working with the state’s Department of Natural Resources to implement existing wildlife migration policy and advance new legislation. Additionally, our staff are working with the Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative to advance the aims of recent wildlife corridor legislation by addressing wildlife-vehicle conflicts and improving habitat connectivity.
The Linear Infrastructure Safeguards in Asia (LISA) Project

Asia is home to some of the world’s richest biodiversity and most complex ecosystems, from the dense rainforests of Borneo to Mongolia’s Gobi Desert steppe. Yet, as Asia experiences unprecedented economic growth, its wildlife is threatened by the rapid expansion of linear infrastructure like roads, railways, and power lines. Without proper safeguards, this expansion will further fragment vital wildlife habitat, creating barriers to daily or seasonal movement, and increase wildlife mortality from collisions and electrocutions.

In 2020, USAID (United States Agency for International Development) launched their Linear Infrastructure Safeguards in Asia (LISA) project—an assessment of the capacity of 28 Asian countries to develop wildlife-friendly linear infrastructure. Due to its expertise and experience, the Center for Large Landscape Conservation was selected to be the lead investigator on this 14-month project.

The Center’s LISA team, with the help of more than 20 experts from seven countries, researched Asia’s ecosystems most at risk from future development, the current state of knowledge about impacts from linear infrastructure and their solutions, and Asia’s existing capacity to provide safeguards such as wildlife overpasses. They have built a solid foundation for a capacity-building program that will promote measures that reduce environmental impacts through better policies, planning, design, construction, and monitoring.

From its extensive research, the team developed several reports and training materials, and conducted six virtual training modules attended by hundreds of professionals from at least 18 countries. These free resources are now available on the Center’s website for anyone interested in helping to protect Asia’s extraordinary biodiversity.
About Us

Vision
A world where humans and wildlife thrive in healthy, connected ecosystems.

Mission
We protect life on earth by promoting ecological connectivity to support healthy wildlife habitats and safeguard nature’s resilience to climate change.

Values

- **Innovation**: We advance a bold new model of conservation that matches the scale of the planetary problems we face. With an ambitious approach that integrates multiple forms of science, policy, and practice, we take risks to pursue creative solutions.

- **Inclusion**: We prioritize building authentic relationships that are rooted in trust and bring together the voices and opinions of all people to improve community resilience and ecological integrity.

- **Co-Creation**: We celebrate communities in managing and governing their own conservation institutions and resources, and work to support conservation efforts that are locally designed, culturally responsive, and ecologically sound.

- **Respect**: We honor, learn from, and continually evolve to reflect the values, experiences, and perspectives of our staff, partners, and people in the communities in which we work and serve. We care about the wellbeing of our staff and support their personal and professional lives with flexibility and understanding.
Networks We Host

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation fiscally sponsors the two networks below, providing them with strategic counsel, infrastructure, and organizational management. Through this sponsorship, each network receives the support necessary to effectively engage and empower landscape conservation practitioners and supporters.

Network for Landscape Conservation

The Network for Landscape Conservation connects leaders in landscape-scale conservation to ideas and innovations—and to each other. The Network has built a nationwide community of more than 250 organizational partners and 5,000 individual practitioners representing urban and rural landscapes of all sizes, and its Catalyst Fund regrant program supports capacity building within regional and local partnerships. Learn more at landscapeconservation.org

Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

The Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent is a diverse, transboundary collaborative of leaders from tribes, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private interests. They are working together to address climate change impacts and to protect culture, community, and conservation throughout the important Crown Landscape ecosystem that straddles the US and Canada. Learn more at crownroundtable.net

2021 Highlights

Network for Landscape Conservation

The Network hosted nine landscape conservation webinars and four virtual policy forums in 2021. These events, attracting more than 4,800 registrants, featured a range of experts and opportunities for learning and dialogue across landscape conservation initiatives.

Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

The membership continues to explore how to engage effectively as a network while working remotely and are planning a future conference focused on co-management with tribal partners in the Crown Landscape and the 30x30 movement.
Financial Statement

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation is a 501(c)(3) organization supported by a broad network of foundations, government agencies, corporations, and individuals. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the Center has completed the year in a strong financial position and our program work continues to thrive. The majority of our funding is restricted for specific projects to advance connectivity conservation around the world.

The Center continues to serve as the fiscal sponsor for numerous projects, the largest being the Network for Landscape Conservation and its re-granting program, the Catalyst Fund. This program accounts for $975,000 of the Center’s net assets and, as of June 30, 2021, $560,000 has been distributed to 27 conservation partnerships, including several Indigenous-led partnerships. The grants support capacity building and peer learning to increase collaborative, large landscape conservation efforts throughout the U.S.

Thank You!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our loyal donors who make possible all our efforts to reconnect our fragmented natural world. To learn more about our work and how your contributions are making a difference, visit us at largelandscapes.org

Financial Position as of June 30, 2021

Assets

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<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>Liabilities &amp; Equity</th>
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<td>Grants &amp; Other Receivables</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</td>
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Statement of Activities
July 1, 2020 — June 30, 2021

Revenue

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<td>$1,319,566</td>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government &amp; Tribal</td>
<td>147,394</td>
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<td>Universities, Partners &amp; Corporations</td>
<td>146,605</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract for Service</td>
<td>437,444</td>
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<td>Other/PPP Forgiveness</td>
<td>244,785</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fiscal Year Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,527,613</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$2,104,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>344,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>179,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fiscal Year Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,628,345</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Fiscal Year Net Assets** (100,732)

**Total Net Assets** 3,358,144

Unavailable for Expenditure in 21-22 525,000

**Total Liquid Net Assets for FY 21-22** 2,833,144

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Leave a Lasting Legacy for Planet Earth

To include the Center for Large Landscape Conservation in your estate or financial plans, or to explore other planned giving options, contact Deb Kmon Davidson at deb@largelandscapes.org
Inclusive Conservation

Integrating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

Large landscape conservation looks beyond boundaries to focus on full ecosystems, which is the embodiment of a holistic conservation approach that embraces diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ). A grounding in DEIJ principles is not only a moral imperative, but also a clear opportunity to reframe conservation efforts to be bolder, more resilient, and enduring. Across the nation and the globe, historically excluded constituencies, who are often Indigenous communities, hold tremendous potential for diversifying and advancing the conservation movement in innovative ways.

As part of this vision, the Center has fostered diverse partnerships and we strive to understand and include alternative perspectives, educate ourselves and our peer conservation organizations, learn from our successes as well as our mistakes, and seek a more representative and equitable conservation movement.

Since the Center’s founding, our partnerships with Tribal Nations in Montana have grown into an essential component of our work. As our work expands, we apply the same approach across the United States and in our international work. Below are just a few examples of our inclusive conservation work in 2021:

**Internal efforts at the Center:** Adaptation of our hiring practices to encourage greater diversity among candidates; development of a policy of honorariums for compensating Indigenous partners for participation; offering of DEIJ training for staff and board; and offering of a weekly Dialogue Group for staff to explore current issues surrounding DEIJ.

**Work with Tribal Nations:** Continued collaboration with Tribal partners engaged in large landscape conservation and development of proposals that have at least 50% budget equity for Tribal departments and members; solidification of partnerships with Tribal colleges and work to solidify an internship program at the Center; and support of an Indigenous Advisory Committee to evaluate Catalyst Fund proposals and awards to Indigenous-led partnerships through the Network for Landscape Conservation.

**International Programs:** Integration of traditional livelihoods around the world with landscape connectivity work, including exploring solutions to wildlife-human conflicts; development of economic opportunities to support a nature-based economy for communities living among wildlife; and co-creation of inclusive networks of governments, NGOs, and communities to encourage conversation and knowledge sharing.
Our Staff

Gary Tabor, President
Melly Reuling, Vice President for Conservation Programs
Deb Davidson, Vice President for Conservation Operations
Rob Ament, Senior Conservationist
Abigail Breuer, Senior Program Officer
Melissa Butynski, Conservation Coordinator
Tyler Creech, Spatial Ecologist
Meg Desmond, Conservation Associate
Elizabeth Fairbank, Road Ecologist
Hannah Feltis, Administrative Assistant
Braden Hance, Conservation Associate
Kendra Hoff, Conservation Program Coordinator
Annika Keeley, Senior Conservation Scientist
Aaron Laur, International Connectivity Program Manager
Kat Lyons, Conservation Project Coordinator

Sarah Music, Development Manager
Amrita Neelakantan, Conservation Scientist
Gabriel Oppler, Conservation Associate
Megan Parker, Project Director
Kylie Paul, Road Ecologist
Sara Pearce, Conservation Intern
Jonathan Peterson, NLC Catalyst Fund Manager
Katie Pidgeon, Operations & Finance Manager
Emma Spence, Wildlife Corridor Field Lab Manager
Grace Stonecipher, International Coordinator/Geospatial Analyst
Terry Tatsey, Senior Advisor
Rebecca Watters, Conservation Outreach Coordinator
Anna Wearn, Director of Government Affairs
Christine Gianas Weinheimer, Communications Manager
Zachary Wurtzebach, Corridors & Crossings Program Director

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Meg O’Leary, M2O Group
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Rick Weyerhaeuser, Sonen Capital
Jason Kibbey, Emeritus, Higg Index

Page 4: Finalist submission to ARC International Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure Design Competition by ZJA Architects, image courtesy of ARC Solutions