

Craighead Institute

2011

Annual Report



Building Conservation Solutions *for* People *and* Wildlife

Photo by Tom Mangelsen

A Recap of 2011...*preparing for change*

2011 was a busy year for us in all four of our program areas: Sustainable Land Use, Climate Change, Transportation, and Renewable Energy. Many of our projects overlapped across program areas; due to the interrelatedness of the issues we try to address. For instance, Brent Brock developed models to assess the impacts on wildlife of alternate transmission line routes for the MSTI (Mountain States Transmission Intertie) line: a transportation (of energy) project that would hopefully allow for intelligent development of renewable energy without sacrificing wildlife habitat. Finding a route with the lowest impact on wildlife and local economies is an important part of sustainable land use. Our new book: *Conservation Planning: Shaping the Future*, focuses on sustainable land use, but also includes climate change modeling and touches upon transportation issues. Our pika studies may be the lone exception: by and large they all have a single focus: addressing the changing climate and how it manifests in alpine ecosystems.

Climate change is the overriding environmental issue of our time: it will affect all of the other areas we study, and it will have huge impacts on the natural world as we know it. It is already having an effect on pika populations and grizzly bear food resources. By improving conditions for insect outbreaks, it is drastically changing the nature of our forests. As conservation scientists we feel that we can be most effective by understanding how the environment is going to change – in terms of climate and human land use – and by helping society adapt to those changes. While we work toward those goals we all personally try to do what we can to lower our contributions to greenhouse gases and other environmental impacts.

Adapting to climate change depends upon how many options are left open for wildlife, plants, and people. Natural ecosystems are buffers for environmental change: they can absorb changes in the atmosphere and temperature and even pollutants. But ecosystems have limits to how much abuse they can mitigate: the more intact ecosystems we can maintain, and the larger they are (in biomass, area, species richness etc.), the better the chances for life to adapt as things change. We work to keep wild areas intact and to keep habitat connections open between secure core areas.

Most of our efforts in 2011 focused on Montana, and particularly on the High Divide and Madison County. We worked closely with the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Forest Service, and Madison County government. We developed a project with The Western Transportation Institute and Montana Department of Transportation to study wildlife-vehicle collisions and habitat connectivity in the Madison Valley. These partnerships, and more, will continue into 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lance". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Looking Ahead...into 2012

As we look ahead, I feel like a fund manager on the Titanic just after hitting the iceberg. My business mind is telling me, *diversify, diversify, diversify*, while my survival instincts are telling me to put all my efforts into getting the lifeboats into the water. After all, it may just be a small rip, and the ship is too big to fail, right? This is the conundrum facing the Craighead Institute, and most small NGOs. Do we try to broaden our base of support and do more work with agencies, government, and industry who have their own agendas but need help? Or do we devote all our energy and time into addressing the looming crisis [climate change] even though it is getting more and more difficult to find support from donors and foundations to do what we think is most important? We may be able to find enough support, but then we may not have enough time left to actually do the work.

The coming years will be a balancing act for us: as our reputation grows and our credibility continues to increase, we will be able to pick and choose from a number of contracts and projects that are offered by others. We can work on issues and problems that are consistent with our mission and priorities. We will continue to develop projects that we feel are critical to maintain and protect biodiversity; and seek funding for them from foundations and donors. The funding world is changing however. Most donors like to see immediate results. The nature of our work, however, takes time to bear fruit. It takes years to protect habitat linkages, change local government policies, or get state governments to use conservation planning tools.

It took seven years just to complete the book on conservation planning. The results are not flashy, or dramatic, and we resist the increasingly common practice of hyping or exaggerating our accomplishments in order to attract funding.

So, our long-term strategy will be to form careful partnerships with other entities such as the Western Transportation Institute, Montana Department of Transportation, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the US Forest Service, and county governments where our interests and values align. We will continue to develop tools and approaches for effective conservation, climate change adaptation, and wildlife protection with support from grants and donations. We will freely share our data, methods, and innovations. We hope that book royalties, fees for service, and a broadening donor base will provide a small revenue stream to help fill in the gaps and provide a stable pathway under our feet as we move forward.



Lance Craighead

2011 Highlights

Craighead Institute received accolades for our research and services during 2011: the highest of which was receiving an ESRI Special Achievement award in GIS. In addition, we also accomplished:

- Completed the wildlife connectivity modeling with MT Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks for the Crucial Areas Planning System (CAPS) and Western Governor's Connectivity Initiative;
- Participated in MT Fish Wildlife & Parks' Wildlife Guidelines for Subdivision Development working group and helped complete final draft;
- Completed an assessment of using Wild Planner to evaluate compliance with MT Fish Wildlife & Parks Wildlife Guidelines for Subdivision Development;

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Brent Brock, Landscape Ecologist

April Craighead, Wildlife Biologist

Jonquil Nelson, Development Director

Karl Cowan, GIS Specialist

- Completed the manuscript for the book: *Conservation Planning: Shaping the Future* to be published by Esri Press in 2013;
- Completed contract work for Wildlife Conservation Society's *Conservation Value of Roadless Areas for Vulnerable Fish and Wildlife Species in the Crown of the Continent*;
- Finalized the Scope of Work for our new highway project with Western Transportation Institute and MT Department of Transportation; *Evaluating Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions and Habitat Connectivity in the Madison Valley, MT*;
- Finalized the contract and began identifying least-cost corridors for wildlife in Madison County as a collaborator on Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) Review Project;
- Lance gave presentations for: Society for Conservation GIS conference, International Conference on Ecology and Transportation, BearFest 2011, Teton Regional Land Trust, Montana Import Group, Henry's Fork Foundation, and IUCN-UNESCO World Heritage Mission to Yellowstone Park. He attended the Endangered Species Coalition Lobby Event in Washington DC, Esri Users Conference in San Diego, and Western Wildlands Network Steering Workshop in Bozeman (CI became a member of the Steering Committee);
- Brent conducted a workshop under a grant from MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks *Living with Wildlife* program; gave presentations for: MSTI Review Program (four at county board of commissioners meetings, four public workshops, two for MT Department of Environmental Quality, and two for Northwestern Energy), Henry's Fork Legacy Program, Madison County Planning Commission, MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Connectivity Project, and Teton Regional Land Trust; presented at the Planning for People and Wildlife Workshop in Helena hosted by MT Fish Wildlife & Parks/ Sonoran Institute,; and was an invited lecturer at the Intermountain GIS Conference;
- April gave presentations for: Recreational Equipment Cooperative (two), Montana Import Group, US Forest Service, National Park Service, and Montana Natural History Center regarding pikas and our citizen science program;
- April conducted pika field surveys in the Gallatin, Bridger, and Crazy Mountains and recorded at least 26 new pika haypiles expanding the known pika distribution in two mountain ranges; and
- Broadened our regional and national exposure via interviews, articles, various media outlets, and community outreach events and festivals.



REVENUE

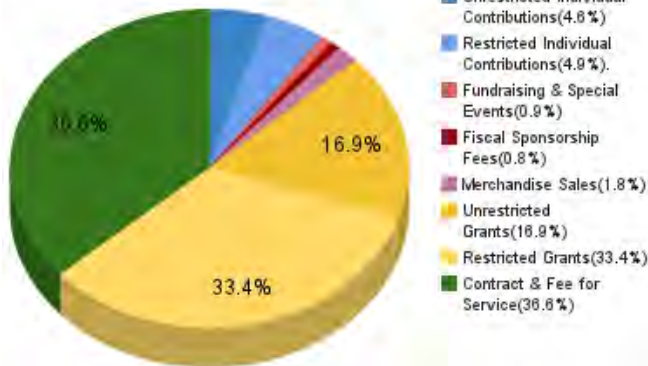
Unrestricted Individual Contributions(4.6%)	\$16,024.07
Restricted Individual Contributions(4.9%)	\$17,000.00
Fundraising Events(0.9%)	\$3,275.00
Fiscal Sponsorship Fees	\$2,815.00
Merchandise Sales(1.8%)	\$6,263.93
Unrestricted Grants(16.9%)	\$58,125.65
Restricted Grants for Craighead Institute(33.4%)	\$115,120.68
Contract & Fee for Service(36.6%)	\$126,213.83
TOTAL REVENUE	\$344,838.16

EXPENSES

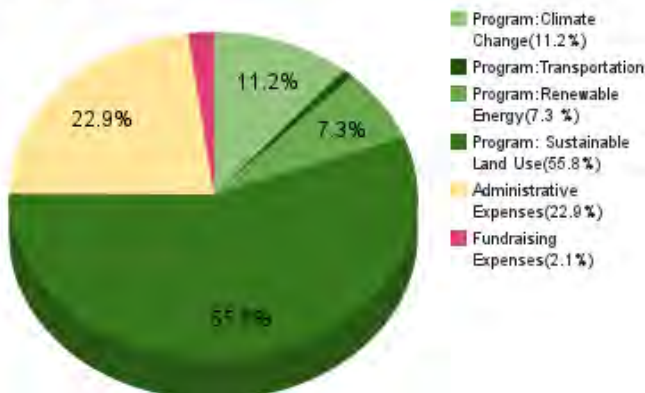
Program Expenses

Climate Change(11.2%)	\$34,737.96
Transportation(0.8%)	\$2,414.63
Renewable Energy(7.3%)	\$22,676.49
Sustainable Land Use(55.8%)	\$173,456.51
Total Program Expenses(75%):	\$233,285.59
Total Administrative Expenses(22.9%)	\$71,002.56
Total Fundraising Expenses(2.1%)	\$6,394.64
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$310,682.79

2011 INCOME:



2011 EXPENSES:



FINANCIAL FACTS

2011

With gratitude & appreciation from the following support in 2011:

Please accept our apologies for spelling & grammatical errors.



ABR, Inc.
Anonymous
Architecture118
Steve and Rebecca Barkley
John Barsness
Yvonne Baskin and Mike Gilpin
Robert and Shirley Bayley
Blue Ribbon Flies
Chris and Jennifer Boyer
Bozeman Brewing Company
The Brainerd Foundation
Bridger Outdoor Sports, Inc.
Andrew and Nancy Carson
Linda and Jim Cherney
Cinnabar Foundation
Cecily Costello and Mark Haroldson
Joe Craighead
Petra and Darcy Davis
James and Rebecca Deboer
Evelyn Delgado
Carol des Cognets
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Fred and Barbara Hudoff
Mark Hudoff and Hresula Cheakalos
Patricia Humphry
Peter Husby and Linnea Wang
Marge Hynes
Insty-Prints, Bozeman
Judy Jennings
John and Mary Kay Turner
William Klenn
Michael and Jean Koelzer
Chuck and Pam Koob
Jade Lange
Ashley Larsen
Mary Lennon and Bradley Shepard
Richard and Pamela Lessner
Tiffany Linbo
MacKenzie River Pizza Co., Bozeman
Kent Madin and Linda Svendsen
Maki Foundation
Tom Mangelsen—Images of Nature
Mike and Faith May
Janet McGahan
John McMurray
Microsoft Corporation
Phoebe and Gerrish Milliken
Wendell and Florence Minor
Marilyn Ryley Mitchell and John Mitchell
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Montana Natural History Center
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TransWild Alliance
USFS - Gallatin
Brad and Betsy Webb
Wild Joes Coffee
Suzanne Winchester
Yellowstone Club Community Foundation
Y2Y Conservation Initiative
In Honor/Memorium:
Joseph Craighead
Frank and Jean Johnston
Alena Madin
For the Pika!
On behalf of Montana!
Don Ritchie
David Werntz
Tor
Vernon Wescott
Kenneth White

Photo by Tom Murphy



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