

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



I want to say a big **THANK YOU** to all our volunteers and supporters for making this year successful.



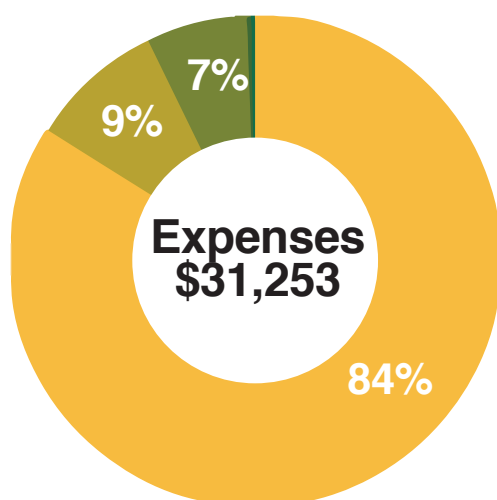
It has been quite a year. Between enforced social distancing, closed recreation sites, catastrophic forest fires, and partial economic shutdown, it has been quite a year not only for us humans, but for the forest and its inhabitants as well. I am exceedingly grateful for everyone who has continued to help and support Cascadia Wild through these difficult times. Although most of our group activities were put on hold, many of you still trekked out to Mt Hood to help with our wildlife monitoring efforts, and many others connected with us in the virtual world in lieu of being able to connect in real life. I am grateful that our wildlife monitoring was able to continue, and even more important, I am grateful that so many of you continued to offer support, send us emails about the tracks you were seeing, and in other ways show your commitment to learning about the natural world and to being responsible stewards.

With normal activities interrupted, our core needs as humans were able to shine through clearly in this last year. We are social creatures, and healthy social interactions are paramount to our health and wellbeing. We also need the natural world. On a physical level it supplies our basic needs for food, water, and resources, but also on a deeper level it supports us emotionally and spiritually as well. It teaches us about things like curiosity, connection, and gratitude. In short, nature teaches us to be fully human.

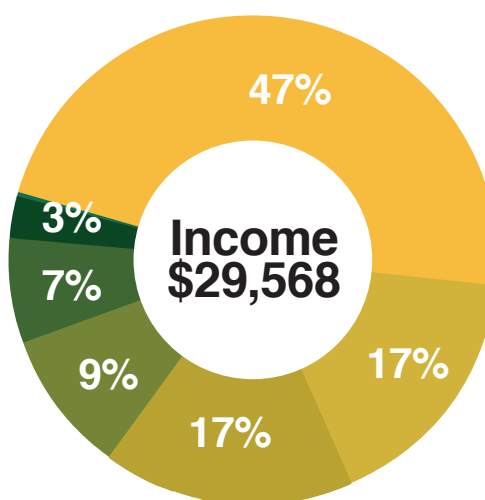
I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to work with all of you and help make Cascadia Wild's important work happen. Through teaching old skills such as animal tracking and wild plant foraging, through providing a way for people to contribute to knowledge of our local wildlife, and through bringing people together to learn and have fun, Cascadia Wild strives to help people make a real connection to the natural world and to each other, and to help people understand more about the complexity of the natural world. We hope that this connection and understanding will enable us all to make wiser decisions about how to live our lives, for the benefit of all beings.

Thank you for your support,

Teri Lysak  
Board Chair



Program Expenses	\$26,237
Rent	\$2,760
Insurance	\$2,133
Business Fees	\$100
Fundraising Expenses	\$23



Defenders of Wildlife	\$13,970
Mt Hood National Forest	\$5,000
Donations from Individuals	\$4,928
Class fees	\$2,796
Grant from Schwab Charitable Trust	\$2,000
Donations from businesses	\$859
Interest	\$16



# WOLVERINE TRACKING PROJECT

Cascadia Wild's largest program is the Wolverine Tracking Project, a community science project in which volunteers collect data on rare carnivores on the Mt Hood National Forest. In spite of group trips being on hold for the year and fewer volunteers involved, intrepid volunteers still helped monitor wildlife and much of the work was still able to be carried out. Volunteers maintained wildlife cameras, hiked in search of scat, and documented tracks seen in the snow.

Many modifications were made to the surveys in order to allow them to continue. Trainings were held online, with videos made of field procedures. Instead of having organized group tracking trips, volunteers were encouraged to use their training and go out with members of their own quarantine group. Camera volunteer groups were also limited to people of the same quarantine group and volunteers were asked to supply much of their own equipment rather than coming in to our office and using shared equipment. Unfortunately, many of these modifications resulted in fewer people being able to participate.

In spite of reduced volunteer numbers, the amount of survey effort carried out was comparable to previous years, and in some cases actually increased. 312 miles of scat surveys were carried out, up from 251 the previous year. Scat surveys, which involve hiking trails and closed roads in search of scat for genetic samples, is an activity that people could easily do with members of their households, and many took advantage of the opportunity. Wildlife cameras recorded 6,175 days of activity, up from 4,570 the previous year. This increase was due to several people volunteering the use of the personal trailcams to the project, as well as less down time between our summer and winter setups made possible moving the trainings online. Tracking surveys, which were usually done as groups lead by experienced tracking leaders, decreased from 48 miles last year to 15 miles this year. In spite of the similar amount of effort carried out, the number of volunteers involved this year was substantially less than previous years. Volunteers were trained at the beginning of the season with the hope that social distancing restrictions would ease up. 175 people were trained; however only 63 were able to go out. These volunteers contributed above and beyond expectations, donating 3,485 hours to the project! Two project interns additionally volunteered another 1,500 hours.

Although wolverine have still not returned to the area, we did capture several new photos of our newly established wolf pack, as well as detect Sierra Nevada red fox, a rare subspecies found only on isolated mountains in Oregon and California, in two new locations. The project also collected a lot of other useful data on many different carnivore species to add to long term databases. This data is used by many different organizations – by the Mt Hood National Forest in their planning and land management, by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for conserving these species, by Cascades Carnivore Project as part of a regional study on montane red fox, and by Defenders of Wildlife to advocate for better wildlife policies.

Given all the difficulties people experienced in the last year, we are very grateful for all the volunteer effort people still contributed towards making this project a success.



## CLASSES

Many of the classes we had planned for the year, including classes on wildlife tracking, bird language, plant identification, and connecting to place, were put on hold. In some cases, however, we were able to adapt.

## NATURALIST TRAINING PROGRAM

The Naturalist Training Program is an 8-month class series designed to teach about wildlife, tracking, plants, and ecology, providing a chance for people to get outside, really look at the landscape, learn how to interpret what they see, and - most importantly - develop a sense of belonging in nature. This year's class continued in somewhat modified format, with some classes on-line, a very small class size, and social distancing restrictions in place during in-person classes. The class was much appreciated by all who were able to attend.

## PLANT IDENTIFICATION CLASSES

In the spring, we were able to offer a series of Plant Identification classes that were a unique mix of on-line instruction and self-guided learning. Participants were given a list of plants in several local natural areas and encouraged to go look for them on their own, then class was held on-line to show pictures and discuss what they had seen.



## WILDLIFE CLASSES

Every year, Cascadia Wild uses the Wolverine Tracking Project to reach out to different communities and educate them about local wildlife. This year, we were able to offer two on-line classes for immigrant and refugee high school students through RISE and Upward Bound.

## FREE CLUBS

Cascadia Wild organizes a monthly book club and a monthly tracking club, free get-togethers to motivate people to learn more about the natural world. Book club moved on-line this year. Tracking club unfortunately was canceled for the majority of the year, with plans to resume in 2021 as social distancing guidelines relax.

## TRACKING CHALLENGES

In lieu of being able to take people outside, this winter we challenged people to look for tracks on their own wherever and whenever they were out, and share their findings so that we could all learn from them. People sent in some amazing photos, from pristine marten tracks in a remote forest area to housecats in the back yard, to a tiny shrew-mole skull found in an owl pellet. Reading the footprints and other sign left behind by animals as they move through the landscape is a skill as ancient as humankind. We believe that this skill is still important in today's world, teaching us both about the animals we track and about ourselves, and we strive to help keep this skill alive. Thank you to everyone who shared their experiences this winter.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**4,985 hours**

hours of volunteer time  
carrying out and supporting  
wildlife surveys

**218 people**

engaged in and more  
knowledgeable about the  
natural world

**312 miles**

of scat surveys  
completed

**6,175 days**

days of camera surveys  
completed

**15 miles**

of tracking surveys  
completed

# MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

## Individuals:

Amanda Ferguson  
Amy Thompson  
Angela Goldsmith  
Carlene Blaich  
Chip Maston  
David Becker  
Derik Gladden  
Doran Burrell

Eric Snell  
Graham Hulbert  
Heidi Perry  
Hobson Lane  
Jennifer Travers  
Jenny Bedell-Stiles  
Jesse Chacon  
Jim Cathcart

John Lehne  
Kelly Hogan  
Kimber Nelson  
Krysten Kirk  
Laura Belson  
Lloyd Vivola  
Maggie Starr  
Malena Kester

Mary Anne Erickson  
Matt Vellella  
Merek Strand  
Mike Little  
Randall Nelson  
Ray Muston  
Samantha Roddy  
Jeray

Sandra Joos  
Sharon Sugden  
Sidney Brown  
Susan Hawes  
Vicky Wessling  
Zenia Liebma

## Businesses and Organization:

Defenders of Wildlife, Mt. Hood National Forest, Columbia Sportswear, Chip Drop,  
Ameritrade, Wells Fargo, New Seasons, Amazon Smile

## Wolverine Tracking Project Interns

Sophie Dimont, Emily Pulliam

## Board Members

Teri Lysak – Chair, Paul Schertz – Secretary, Malena Kester - Treasurer, Graham Hulbert,  
Jenny Bedell-Stiles, Bryan Kappa, Kathe Steck