



Annual Report for April 2017 to March 2018

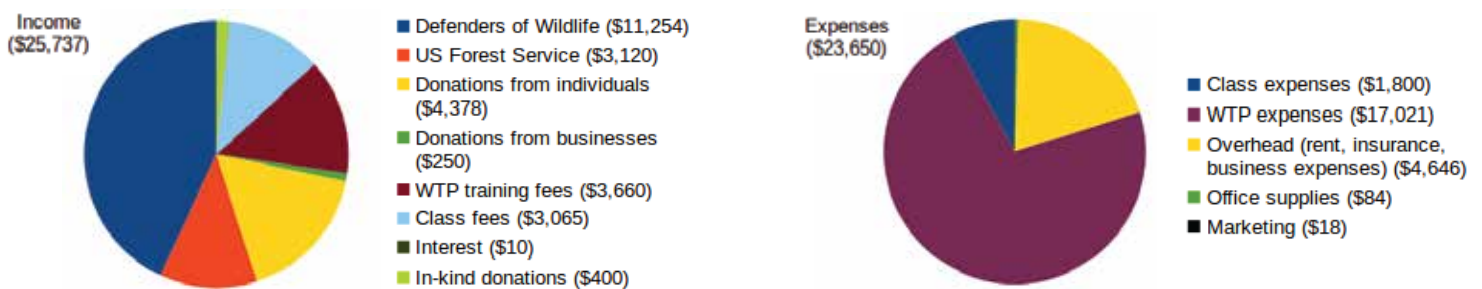
I want to say a big THANK YOU to all our volunteers and supporters for making this year successful! I am grateful to have the opportunity again this year to work with all of you and help make Cascadia Wild's important work happen.

We live in a time when many people have little connection to the natural world. Scientific studies have demonstrated this as being at the root of many of today's problems, from personal health to crime rates to the lack of foresight in our use of our natural resources. In spite of this evidence, the problem seems to keep getting worse year by year.

As humans, we are complex, holistic people and to be fully ourselves, we need the natural world. And, in turn, the integrity of the natural world depends on us. Humans have been shaping the earth from the time our species first arrived on this continent over 10,000 years ago and we can't forget our responsibility as stewards.

Through teaching old skills such as animal tracking and wild plant foraging, and through providing a way for people to contribute to knowledge of our local wildlife, Cascadia Wild strives to help people make a real connection to the natural world and understand more about its complexity. It is our hope that this will enable us all to make wiser decisions about how to live our lives. Thank you to all of you who helped make this happen once again.

-Teri Lysak, Board Chair

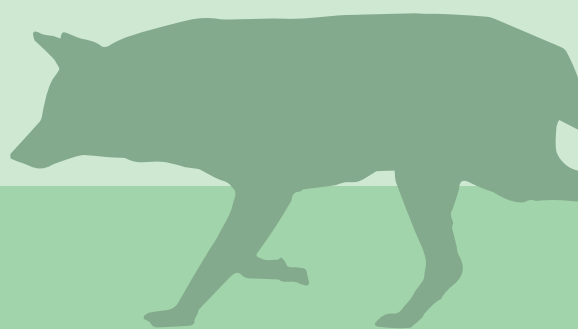


Accomplishments in 2017-8

- 51** miles of tracking surveys completed
- 3551** days of camera surveys completed
- 3048** hours of volunteer time carrying out surveys
- 250** people engaged in and more knowledgeable about the natural world



Programs in 2017-8



Wolverine Tracking Project

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped survey for wolverine and other rare carnivores on Mt Hood! 157 volunteers donated over 3000 hours looking for tracks and monitoring cameras to collect data on these important species. This year we were also able to use the project to reach out to kids, bringing two school groups to visit the wildlife cameras, the Portland Waldorf School and Saturday Academy.

Wolverine still have not returned to the area, but Sierra Nevada red fox, a rare subspecies of red fox found only on isolated mountains in the Sierra Nevadas and Oregon Cascades, were documented again. This year they were detected in two new locations, including the first picture of one on the east side of Highway 35. Marten were also detected at one new location, the lowest elevation yet documented by our surveys.

The project also collected a lot of data on other carnivore species to add to long term databases. This data is used by many different organizations, including the Mt Hood National Forest, Forest Service PNW Research Lab, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Cascade Carnivore Project, and Defenders of Wildlife.

In addition to detecting the presence of these carnivores, we are also collecting genetic samples of Sierra Nevada red fox so that researchers answer important questions about this subspecies of fox's genetic uniqueness and population connectivity. This year we piloted a new survey method - scat surveys - in which volunteers search for fox scat as they hike around the mountain in the summer. Four people participated, collecting 3 samples. Since only one sample was found during the snow tracking and camera surveys, this a huge improvement! We hope to expand the scat surveys in the upcoming year.

We want to give a special thanks to our 14 trip leaders who spent a minimum of two years in training to be able to lead the snow tracking surveys, and to our partners, Defenders of Wildlife and the Mt Hood National Forest.



Trip Leader Training Program

Eight people started the multi-year learning process of becoming a tracker and trip leader with the Wolverine Tracking Project. Although wildlife tracking is an ancient skill, we believe it is still highly relevant in today's world, teaching us not only about the animals we track but about ourselves as well. We are glad to be able to help keep this skill alive.



Cybertracker Tracking Certification

We hosted our second Cybertracker Tracking Certification class, a professional certification in wildlife tracking. The certification is a way to encourage the use of tracking in scientific research and environmental education, and we hope to host more of these in the future.

Botany/Wild Plant Foraging Classes

Three free wild plant identification outings were held this year, two to local Portland natural areas and one day trip to the Mt Hood National Forest. All were very well attended.



Japanese Knotweed Removal and Cook-off

One outing this year focused specifically on harvesting and cooking wild plants. Because foraging can have a detrimental impact on native plant populations, this event targeted a very invasive species - Japanese knotweed. Effort was made to eradicate the patch, while at the same time collecting a tasty snack.

Programs for others

Every year instructors from Cascadia Wild are asked to guest lecture for various organizations. This year our volunteers helped out at the Sandy Delta Ecoblitz, and taught at BARK's Ecology Club and Forest Watch program.

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