DEAR FRIENDS,

I’m very pleased to send you this review of our work over the past year, especially in the context of our 30th anniversary. Since officially opening our doors as a chapter, The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming has made huge strides. Moving from our early focus on nature preserves and conservation easements, we have branched out into much broader efforts to protect Wyoming’s spectacular lands and waters.

We are still committed to protecting this natural bounty, but we have also accelerated our efforts to transform the way we use valuable natural resources and inspire citizens to take action for conservation. In partnership with you and others, we can realize a Wyoming where people and nature thrive.

This has also been a year of change, including the departure of Milward Simpson from the helm. The chapter had many great successes under Milward’s stewardship and we all thank him for his leadership, inspiration and energy.

We are extremely fortunate to have Elizabeth Kitchens step in as our interim director. Starting as a member of TNC’s global legal team and now as Utah’s associate state director, Elizabeth’s experience of over 17 years with TNC has shown her to be a steady hand and sound leader. We are confident that she will continue to move forward our conservation agenda without missing a beat. Each of you is also an essential part of our conservation success and we are honored to have such committed supporters on the team. Thank you for being part of this continuing journey!

All the best,

Margie Taylor
Chair, Board of Trustees
1,087 attempts by deer to cross roads captured on camera trap video in FY19

53,949 Pounds of CO₂ emissions offset by the solar array on our Lander office, which provides 85 percent of our electrical needs

20,000 sagebrush seed pods planted

302,811 Acres in TNC Wyoming’s 185 conservation easements

234 Wildflower Watch citizen scientists (ages 2–89 years old!)
**Coming Full Circle**

When John and Lucille Hogg’s dog brought home what looked like some kind of weasel 38 years ago, little did they know it would open a new chapter for the most endangered mammal in the country: the black-footed ferret. Now, the Hogg family has taken an important step in the successful return of the ferrets to the wild by placing a 2,354-acre conservation easement with The Nature Conservancy on their Lazy BV ranch near Meeteetse.

In 1981, no one believed there were any black-footed ferrets left in the wild, so the discovery on the Hoggs’ ranch came as quite a surprise. Since then, more than 70 captive-bred ferrets have been released on the Lazy BV and neighboring Pitchfork Ranch (also protected with a conservation easement), and biologists have documented six wild-born kits at the release sites.

The Lazy BV was purchased by the family in 1918, and Allen Hogg and his wife Kris are now the third generation to steward the land. For them, a conservation easement just makes sense.

“We really agree with the idea of conservation, keeping this land in ranching and good for wildlife,” says Allen Hogg. “We also want our son to be able to inherit the place, and the payment for the easement will help make that possible.”

TNC land strategies director Jim Luchsinger had high praise for the family’s perseverance: “The Hoggs deserve our appreciation for sticking with us throughout a very long process.”

In addition to the ferret, the easement conserves habitat for greater sage-grouse, grizzly bears and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. It also protects important big-game winter range and stretches of the upper Greybull River and Rawhide Creek.

The Lazy BV is part of approximately 27,000 acres of land under easements in the Greybull River–Cottonwood Creek region, preserving the agricultural character of the area, protecting habitat and preventing degradation of important streams and wetlands.
A Little Help from Our Friends

Our donors have always had different ways of showing their commitment to The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming. Most offer us essential financial support. Some donate valuable conservation easements on their land. Some volunteer their time as members of our Board of Trustees. Others make a more unusual contribution.

Former trustee Deborah de la Reguera and her partner Bill Mayo just completed the second year of their three-year commitment to help us monitor easements. De la Reguera’s family put an easement on their ranch south of Lander before they sold it, so she was familiar with the tool. As part of an easement agreement, TNC is obligated to regularly visit the land and ensure that the contract terms are being fulfilled. The visits also let us keep in touch with landowners with whom we enjoy a special partnership.

“What a great way to experience the landscape and to meet some wonderful people,” says Mayo.

For de la Reguera and Mayo, who are also Legacy Club members, easement monitoring is a way to add a little extra to their love of outdoor activities.

The couple spend part of the year in Baltimore, close to family, but count the days until they can be back in Wyoming. They are both “hooked” on TNC’s collaborative and nonconfrontational approach. “A lot of open lands we have today, a lot of migratory corridors that are protected today are thanks to people’s past efforts,” de la Reguera explains. “TNC is building upon that great work to ensure our wildlife and open space have a future.”
HEALTHY WATERS

Tongue River Initiative

This year, private contributions from sponsors like you allowed The Nature Conservancy and partners to remove 10 acres of invasive Russian olive trees from tributaries of the Tongue River and replace them with native cottonwood and willows. Russian olives crowd out native plants that provide critical habitat for birds and other wildlife. They also use enormous amounts of water—far more than the native plants—taking it away from the wildlife and people who need it.

With your support, this fall, we’re completing the largest collaborative Tongue River Initiative project to date on the river just outside Dayton. Using rock and wood structures and realigning the stream, we’re improving stability of the banks, habitat for fish and wildlife, and overall stream function. We’re also finishing a smaller project to stabilize streambanks on Little Goose Creek, using on-site woody materials to reshape the channel and banks.

Five Years of Success

This year marks the culmination of a five-year Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant secured by TNC for the Tongue River Initiative. These funds made it possible to take some big strides in improving the health and function of the river system. In most cases, the partnership reached or exceeded the goals for this first grant, which we have already applied to renew it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Septic System</td>
<td>6 projects</td>
<td>16 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing/Water/Cover</td>
<td>8 projects</td>
<td>11 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation On-Field</td>
<td>5 projects</td>
<td>4 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation Infrastructure</td>
<td>3 projects</td>
<td>3 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream Restoration</td>
<td>1 project</td>
<td>3 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Easements</td>
<td>1 easement</td>
<td>1 easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Olive Treatment</td>
<td>No set goal</td>
<td>5 projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RCPP grants are funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Crow Creek Revival

The Nature Conservancy has helped the Crow Creek Revival, a team of community members working to improve the creek, take a big step toward restoration of this valued local resource. The public can look forward to enjoying more recreation and cleaner water on the creek, thanks to a $200,000 grant secured by TNC from the Microsoft Environmental Sustainability Water Replenishment program. The funds will help launch the first phase in the revitalization of a 1.2-mile segment that runs from Happy Jack Road in western Cheyenne to Lincolnway.

In addition to revitalizing the creek system, the restoration will improve water quality, increase habitat and provide recreation for residents and visitors to Cheyenne and Laramie County. It will also improve the visual appeal of the western portion of Cheyenne.

TNC has been a strong advocate for the Crow Creek Revival for several years, helping sponsor local volunteer clean-up days, but this grant moves restoration efforts to the next level.
Through the Lens of Youth

For 10 years, high-school students from across Wyoming have been capturing beautiful photographs for our “I Believe in Nature” Student Photo Contest. You’ve seen many of these images in our publications and on the website. The goal of the competition is to inspire kids to get up close and personal with the natural world and then share their perspectives. Each year, the number of submissions has grown, reaching more than 500 in our 2019 competition. As always, some of the things the teens have to say about the photos are as poetic as the images themselves.

Lucia Mauri: This is a picture of a section of the Yellowstone River... I’ve always loved water and when I saw this perfect curve made by the river, I knew I had to take a picture of it.
**Skyler Woodruff:** This is a beautiful place so we as conservationists need to speak for the forests and protect them so humans and animals can enjoy it.

**Larissa Benson:** Photos are perfect for looking at things with a different point of view. You can look at things that are plain that everyone sees the same, but then you can find a new way that is more interesting.

**Kinley Bollinger:** I reflected on the beauty of our planet while taking this picture. Moments like these make me determined to protect our wild and free home.
NEXT-GEN CONSERVATIONISTS

It was a book she read one summer, *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren, that inspired TNC intern Magda Escudero-Kane to learn more about science. And when her mom heard about our sagebrush seed pod lab, things just seemed to fall into place. As a volunteer at the lab, Escudero-Kane says, “I could have a lasting and profound impact on the Western landscape that I love.”

The 15-year-old Lander native and sophomore at Lander Valley High School has carried out a variety of tasks at the lab, everything from testing which soil and fertilizer mixes generated seeds the best, to counting, on hands and knees, the tiny seedlings that had sprouted in the field.

“That was the most fun,” she enthuses, “seeing something a third the size of my fingernail grow into an actual plant!”

In addition to her internship, Escudero-Kane keeps busy playing the cello and competing as a cross-country runner and skier. And while she is continuing to study science, she has her sights set on a career in politics, preferring a role behind the scenes as an aide.

Wherever she is, Escudero-Kane will no doubt make a big impact on protecting the natural values she so cherishes in Wyoming.
Mary Schneider

Mary Schneider moved to Lander in mid-July, the day before she began her new job with The Nature Conservancy. “I had never been to this part of the state,” she shares. “It was the first time I realized how outrageously beautiful the landscape is here.”

For Schneider, part of that beauty lies in the mosaic of shrubs and grasses beneath her feet in sagebrush country. Originally from upstate New York, Schneider studied restoration ecology and graduated from Washington State University in 2018 with honors. “Since I moved out West, I have been drawn to the sagebrush ecosystem, and I was excited to get involved in its conservation,” she explains.

A chance to serve as TNC’s "Seasonal Precision Restoration Technician" proved the perfect match for Schneider’s education and passion. She’s working with TNC restoration scientist Maggie Eshleman, who is leading innovative efforts to encase sagebrush seeds in a special “dough” to increase their survival rates. The job gives Schneider a front-row seat to the inventive and detailed work involved in repairing nature.

Whether she’s setting up field experiments outside or painstakingly counting seeds under a microscope, Schneider appreciates the big picture behind her work. “It feels really good to be part of the entire story...to problem solve and to be creative along the way.”
WE CARRY OUT OUR WORK WITH A DEEP COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.

Our conservation accomplishments this year have been empowered by sustainable financial resources. We have built a strong and effective organization in keeping with our strategic plan.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN WYOMING STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>As of June 30, 2019</th>
<th>As of June 30, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Investments</td>
<td>$2,417,152</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Lands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td>$203,388,661</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$2,016</td>
<td>$27,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$201,381,425</td>
<td>$203,361,659</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This figure includes our conservation easements. The value of these easements, which cannot be sold, make up the majority of the conservation lands on our balance sheets and reflect the generosity of Wyoming landowners who, to date, have granted 185 easements to TNC.

FY 2019
Operating Expenses $3,761,811

Programmatic Efficiency

Conservation 74%
General, Administration, & Conservation Support 17%
Fundraising & Membership 9%

Revenue*

Contributions 61%
Other Income 8%
Investment Income 24%
Gov’t Grants & Contracts 7%

* Total revenue includes land gifts and investment income that are not part of operating cash.
DONOR PROFILE

The Patten-Davis Foundation

As we mark our 30th anniversary, we pause to thank some of the long-time supporters who have helped ensure that our state’s lands, waters and way of life continue. One of these partners is The Patten-Davis Foundation.

In 1941, Chicago lawyer Courtenay C. Davis moved to Wyoming, where he purchased the 50,000-acre Y Cross Ranch outside of Cheyenne and gradually moved his family and himself to Wyoming. He ran a successful cattle operation over the next five decades. He established The Courtenay C. Davis Foundation in 1992 to help protect open spaces and ranching traditions.

Davis’ daughter, Amy, grew up splitting her time between Wyoming and Illinois. Summers riding horseback on the ranch had a lasting impact and fostered an early conservation ethic. After completing her education, she spent increasing amounts of time at the ranch working alongside her family and ranch hands.

Amy’s adventurous life included jobs at NBC News and in the Wyoming legislature. She also risked her life during a 26-day sailing trip from San Diego to Hilo, Hawaii. One friend recalled that while Amy traveled frequently and visited friends in many places, Wyoming was always a touchstone for her.

After her father’s death, Amy ran the organization (which streamlined its name to the Patten-Davis Foundation) and volunteered with local nonprofit organizations. “She was determined and knew what she liked,” says David Cohen, one of the Foundation’s three trustees. “She was devoted to ranching and that motivated her interest in TNC.” Davis was equally devoted to health care and education.

In 1997, the Foundation gave the Y Cross Ranch to Colorado State University and the University of Wyoming to develop a working laboratory for ranch management. That plan never worked out and, instead, the ranch was sold. Fortunately, Amy had donated a conservation easement to permanently protect the ranch from future development. The conservation easement is held by TNC who continues to monitor it.

To date, the Foundation has donated over $1.7 million to TNC’s Colorado, Indiana and Wyoming chapters. These funds have enabled us to explore innovation in rangeland management and protect important working lands. We are grateful for their generosity and value their partnership as we continue to maintain Wyoming’s wild spaces and working places.
THANKS

The following donors made gifts/pledges to the Wyoming program or live in Wyoming and made gifts/pledges to other TNC programs between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019.

$100,000—$999,999
Anonymous (2)
Dr. Frances W. & Dr. Lenox D. Baker Jr.*
Mary Anne* & Bill Dingus
Linda & Reid Murchison III*
Nancy-Carroll Draper Charitable Foundation
Anne P. Pendergast*
Anne N. Young* & Jim E. Nielson

$10,000—$99,999
Anonymous (4)
Ranlet & Frank Bell, Jr.
Carol & Robert Berry
Peter R. Boerma
Lisa Carlin
Barron Collier II*
Community Foundation of Jackson Hole
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Forrest E. Mars, Jr. Sheridan
Charitable Foundation
Kristine & Richard McGuire
Mule Deer Foundation
National Geographic Society
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Patagonia Environmental Grants
Patten-Davis Foundation
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* Wyoming board member, emeritus board member, staff member or volunteer
The Legacy Club is a special group of supporters who have made a life-income gift to The Nature Conservancy or named us as a beneficiary in their estate plans. Members receive exclusive benefits such as a semiannual newsletter, TNC’s annual report and invitations to special trips and events. But the real benefit is knowing they’ve helped keep Wyoming wild and working.

Won’t you join them in making a gift for the future of conservation?

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Erica Wood | Erica.Wood@tnc.org | 307-673-0992 | nature.org/legacy

The Nature Conservancy cannot render tax or legal advice. Please consult your financial advisor before making a gift.