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# NORTHERN ROCKIES CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

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*Conservation for the Common Good*

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*- since 1987 -*



2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

## DEAR FRIENDS



Peyton Curlee Griffin



Susan G. Clark

The past year has been a time of amazing energy and growth for the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative (NRCC). We welcomed a new Executive Director, Jennifer Jellen, brought on nine new Research Associates, added two new members to our Board of Advisors and three new Experts in Residence, and elected Lisa Friesecke to our Board of Directors.

In 2013, NRCC undertook a period of reflection and reexamination. During this time, NRCC's Administrative Director, Maggie Schilling, did a superb job of maintaining the organization's essential tasks, administering the Research Program, and bringing back the Jackson Hole Wildlife Symposium. Now, with renewed focus, new team members, and exciting new programs, we are charging ahead once more.

Jennifer Jellen, our new Executive Director, comes to us with more than 20 years of experience in biological research, program development, and public outreach. She has been involved in the Jackson Hole non-profit community for several years, working in development and outreach, while also leading an international research project that examines the genetic structure of recovering avian populations. Prior to moving to Jackson, she was based in Chicago, where she led several successful firms specializing in management consulting and biotechnology. She received a Master's degree in molecular genetics and completed her doctoral coursework before joining us. With the addition of Jennifer, NRCC is now well-positioned to expand programming and partnerships.

For nearly thirty years, NRCC has been promoting innovative, integrated conservation in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) and beyond. We have achieved hundreds of successes for wildlife and human communities, and we remain committed to changing how conservation is done by using innovative and integrated approaches. We accomplish this in three important ways:

- 1) By generating reliable knowledge, including scientific data: Our 40 Research Associates are working around the world to generate essential information on species, ecosystems, human communities and policy processes.
- 2) By fostering effective leadership: Education programs bring proven leaders together to mentor, teach, and elevate conservation practitioners' skills.
- 3) By enabling innovation: We create a place of opportunity, where innovation is valued and cutting-edge work can be done without limitation or reprisal.

As we move forward, your participation is key to our success. We hope you will join us as we challenge ourselves to think bigger, work smarter, and achieve conservation for the common good.

Sincerely,

Peyton Curlee Griffin  
*President, Board of Directors*

Susan G. Clark  
*Founder, Emeritus Board Member*

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## STAFF

Jennifer R. Jellen,  
*Executive Director*  
 Maggie Schilling,  
*Administrative Director*

## EXPERTS IN RESIDENCE

R.J. Walter  
*Photographer in Residence*

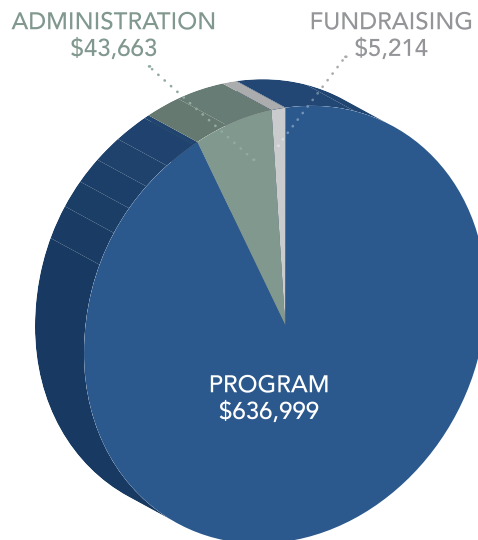
NRCC's mission is to advance conservation by generating reliable knowledge, fostering effective leadership, and enabling innovation.

# 2014 Financial Report

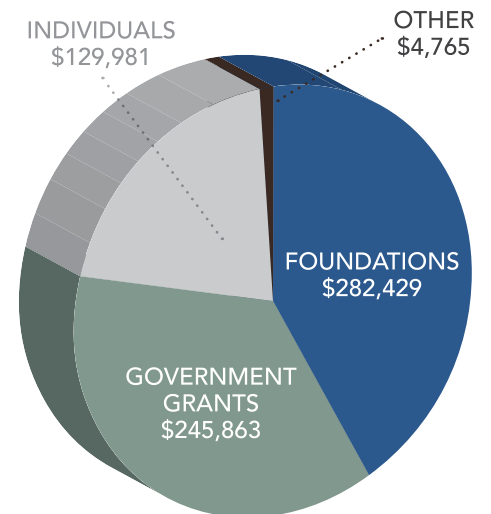
NRCC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, headquartered in Jackson, Wyoming. Our revenue comes from a wide variety of sources including foundations, government agencies, and individuals.

In 2014, 93% of all revenue directly supported conservation projects.

## Expenses



## Income



## OUR PEOPLE

In the past year, NRCC's team has grown by leaps and bounds. We're proud to welcome these accomplished individuals, each full of creative energy and knowledge.



**Lisa Friesecke**  
*Board of Directors*

From enabling mentally challenged kids

to achieve an exceptional quality of life, to teaching visitors in America's National Parks, to helping care for injured wildlife, Lisa Friesecke's passion for people and nature is evident in everything she does. As an interpreter at Grand Teton National Park's Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve, she helped thousands of visitors learn about the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem's unique wildlife and landscapes. She has played an integral role in local conservation efforts, serving as a long-term volunteer for Teton Raptor Center, assisting in ecological field studies, and organizing fundraising events. NRCC is pleased and grateful to welcome her to the team!



**Jennifer Jellen**  
*Executive Director*

NRCC is thrilled to be

back at full capacity with the addition of Executive Director Jennifer Jellen. Jennifer's background in biology, social science, business management and non-profit development ensure that NRCC will be well-positioned as we move forward with new programs and conservation initiatives. Please feel free to stop by our office (185 N. Center Street in Jackson) to meet Jennifer and say hello.

## Research Associates

Learn more about these accomplished researchers and their work in NRCC's People and Projects report.

### **Matt Hall** *Board of Advisors*

Matt Hall is a former president and chief operating officer of Pardee Resources, a natural resource company headquartered in the Appalachian region. In addition to his experiences with natural resource issues, Matt brings a broad legal perspective to NRCC's Board of Advisors. He has served as general counsel for the University of Pennsylvania and practiced law in Seattle. He previously served on NRCC's Board of Directors.

### **Sue Lurie** *Board of Advisors*

Sue Lurie is a policy scientist whose work focuses on the intersection of economics, natural resource management and conservation. She is particularly interested in the role that institutions play in the evolution of conservation policy. She previously served as faculty at Oregon State University and recently returned to Jackson, Wyoming where she continues her efforts to conserve wild places and the communities that thrive within them.



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**David Mattson**

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**Ruth Shea**

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# NRCC Works to Achieve *Conservation for the Common Good*

**T**hroughout NRCC's nearly 30-year history, a lot has changed in our organization, in the communities we serve, and in the landscapes we work so hard to protect. After taking time to reflect upon these changes, NRCC has emerged with a strong and cohesive new plan for moving forward.

More than 100 years of social science research has taught us that conservation issues begin with people. From local habitat loss, to regional conflicts involving policy and management, to global issues like climate change, humans are at the heart of it all. Because of this, NRCC believes that the best approaches must begin with people, too. Only then can we create effective, lasting solutions to conservation issues.

Ultimately, NRCC would like to see a commonwealth of human dignity, a system in which each person's needs—physical and social—are met, so that we can move beyond ourselves and begin to address problems that require large-scale cooperation.

That's not to say that other methods aren't also important. Without quality data, problems go undetected. Without effective leadership, challenges go unanswered.

To meet these needs, NRCC is re-shaping its programs into two key areas:

**Research & Innovation:** We are expanding our Research program, providing biological, physical and social scientists around the world with the freedom and support needed to conduct truly innovative research that leads to effective solutions. While we are committed to helping solve conservation issues wherever they arise, our main focus remains on the Northern Rockies and applying lessons learned abroad to solve problems right here in our own back yard.

**Education & Leadership:** We are committed to fostering informed and empowered leaders in the conservation community. Our educational programs are designed to teach novel skills, to provide necessary experience, and to create opportunities for conservationists at every stage of their career. We will be offering exceptional courses and professional development workshops, hosting key scientific symposia, and providing essential resources for scientists in every branch of conservation.

Our goal is to change how conservation is done by creating a world-class center for research, education and innovation. We hope you'll join us on this journey as we work to advance conservation for the common good.



*This summer, NRCC welcomed its first Resident Photographer, R.J. Walter. She brings a keen eye to NRCC, recording both the beauty and challenges of our work in the GYE. Here she recounts the road that led her to NRCC.*

I have always had a deep passion for the natural world. Raised by two biologists and a professional artist, my life has been infused with art and animals from infancy.

I always knew I wanted to help make the world a better place, but I never could have imagined it playing out like this. My father, Bart Walter, is a wildlife sculptor who works from life, and when he wanted to do African animals, he decided to make it a family affair. I first went to Kenya when I was seven years old; it was there that I truly fell in love with the natural world and began to understand my calling to become a wildlife and conservation photographer.

I began going to Africa alone when I was sixteen, doing photography and helping to collect research data for Save The Elephants (STE) in Kenya. I have been back many times since, continuing to work for STE, as well as the African Wildlife Foundation in Southern Africa, and the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT) in Uganda. At a fairly young age I began to see what a powerful tool photography can be, using it to connect people with issues and places they might otherwise never experience. My training is in Environmental Studies, but my vehicle for change is my photography.

In June I made my way to Jackson Hole, Wyoming where I have been working for NRCC. While documenting its field researchers I have found myself doing everything from surveying Bald Eagles on the south fork of the Snake River, to wading through wetlands in search of rare amphibians. I also discovered a new passion for photographing the night sky, spending nights standing in some of Grand Teton National Park's most beautiful lakes, photographing the Milky Way and its reflection in the water as it moved across the sky.

Partnering with NRCC has been fantastic and I'm excited to be part of such an amazing team. It has allowed me to connect with others who share that passion for the natural world and conservation. I look forward to many new adventures to come.

*The photos in this newsletter were generously provided by R.J. Walter. To see more of her work, or to inquire about purchasing a piece of your own, please visit: [www.rjwalter.com](http://www.rjwalter.com)*

*"I have always had a deep passion for the natural world. Raised by two biologists and a professional artist, my life has been infused with art and animals from infancy."*



*NRCC would like to extend a special thank you to each of our supporters.*

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