

THE CENTER FOR
**LARGE LANDSCAPE
CONSERVATION**



FALL NEWSLETTER 2016

In This Issue:

Taking Connectivity of Nature to the Global Level

And the Winner Is...the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

Helping Local Tribes Plan for a Changing Climate

If Roadkill Could Talk

We have National Parks and Monuments, how about National Wildlife Corridors?

Dear Friends,

No one said conservation was going to be easy. Every day, each of us needs to be mindful of our health - what we eat, exercising, handling stress – and roll up our sleeves to better our family, our community and our world. Why should conservation be any different than our actions to care for ourselves? And, that's the point. **Conservation is an active process and it looks like we may have to face some stiff headwinds over the next few years.**

We have faced opposition before and we are ready for the conservation challenges ahead. We will double down and focus on scaling up on-the-ground conservation to the large scale that nature functions. With local communities and tribes we will continue to address large landscape stewardship, habitat connectivity, drought, and adaptation to climate change. **Our work is more important than ever because we believe that the way forward is empowering people who live and work on the land, identify their values and fighting for them.**

We are celebrating our 10th year of operations and our dynamic staff is fired up to make change to build communities of conservation practitioners, stakeholders, and government agencies around large landscape issues. **We can make a collective difference.** As you assess your charitable giving this year, please make it your goal to preserve our precious landscapes with a gift to the Center for Large Landscape Conservation ([donate](#)). We don't have fancy offices but we engage in fancy efforts that help save the planet—one large landscape at a time. On behalf of our team, **thank you!**

Warmest Regards,
Gary Tabor, Executive Director

New Faces



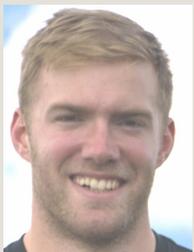
Martin Kaplan, New Board Member. Marty is a retired partner of the law firm, WilmerHale. He is a former

trustee of the V. Kann Rasmussen and Germeshausen Foundations, both active in environmental grant-making. Marty and his wife Wendy live in New York and Massachusetts, and enjoy travel, music, art, nature and their grandchildren.



Emily Bateson, is the Coordinator of Network for Landscape Conservation, a collaborative of practitioners

in the public, private, nonprofit, academic and philanthropic sectors focused on supporting and advancing the practices of landscape conservation. Emily lives in Massachusetts and has held leadership positions in land conservation policy, advocacy, and funding for more than 30 years.



Matt Collins, Conservation Associate, is a recent graduate of Bowdoin College and joins us from Baltimore. He has

focused his youthful exuberance and affinity for open space towards collaborative conservation efforts both big and small. Matt assists with communications, writing and outreach.

Tyler Creech, Spatial

Taking Connectivity of Natural Areas to the Global Level

Ever heard of World Heritage sites like the Taj Mahal, the Great Barrier Reef or Easter Island? The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has asked us to lead a global effort to **create a new global protected area designation for wildlife corridors.** This global effort will advance ecological connectivity and standardize ways to protect critical landscapes.

Traditionally, conservationists and resource managers protected "islands" of land, which were often disconnected from each other and insufficient to conserve the functions of the nature.

The new approach seeks to connect nature and conserve the ecological processes such as wildlife migration, dispersal, natural disturbance, pollination and hydrology while also considering human use and traditional values.

CLLC will create and lead the team who will develop standards for these new **Areas of Connectivity Conservation** and establish guidelines on how to designate, manage and protect them. Gary recently spoke in Hawaii at the IUCN World Conservation Congress about how CLLC will create this team of specialists and their plans for implementation.



(Above) Gary Tabor, speaking at the World Congress for the Conservation of Nature, in Hawaii, on the need for a new global designation for connecting protected areas and corridors.



(Left) Rob Ament, in the city of Guwahati, in far northeastern India, at the request of the Asian Elephant Specialist group, which convened 14 nations to discuss strategies

in addressing road and rail impacts on elephants.



Tyler Creech

Ecologist, is leading CLLC's Science program and has broad experience in landscape ecology,

conservation biology, genetics, and wildlife disease ecology. He has conducted ecological research in many parts of the western U.S., from Alaska to Arizona with Bighorn sheep as his specialty.



Matt Williamson

Matt Williamson, Conservation Science Fellow, is integrating his dissertation research on the

effects of social and environmental change on human-wildlife interactions and wildlife connectivity into our conservation science projects. Prior to returning to graduate school at UC Davis, Matt was a Program Director at the Grand Canyon Trust in Arizona.

And the Winner is...The Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent!

CLLC is part of the leadership team which received the first US Department of the Interior's **National Climate Adaptation Award** for efforts in the Crown of the Continent. We are proud to be on the team and fiscal sponsor of the **Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent**, a large landscape multi-stakeholder collaborative that engages tribes, individuals and organizations across the 18 million acres in and around Glacier and Waterton International Peace Parks.



The Roundtable's Adaptive Management Initiative (AMI) is significant because of its climate adaptation projects, which often need collaboration in order to catalyze and implement landscape-scale action. **The goal of the Initiative is to promote a culture of stewardship by finding common values, supporting community leadership, promoting shared learning, and seeking place-based solutions.**



More than 45 of the AMI projects identified threats to the landscape and built resilience into natural and social processes. **The projects engaged local communities in climate-related ecosystem monitoring, supported landowner cooperation in**

watershed management, strengthened drought resilience in specific watersheds, and assisted in the development of climate adaptation plans on tribal reservations.

Recent Publications

Helping Local Tribes Plan for a Changing Climate

Based on Montana Department of Transportation carcass data, CLLC determined Montana's "Top Ten" high-risk roads for wildlife-vehicle collisions during the fall migration season. [Learn MORE.](#)

Local highway listed as 2nd riskiest for wildlife crashes

By MICHAEL WRIGHT
Chronicle Staff Writer

A report from a local group says the stretch of U.S. Highway 191 between Four Corners and the mouth of the Gallatin Canyon is the second most dangerous in the state for wildlife-vehicle collisions.

Researchers from the Center for Large Landscape Conservation analyzed carcass observation data collected over the last five years by the Montana Department of Transportation. The study looked at several 10-mile-long road sections. The report says the section of U.S. Highway 191 west of Bozeman sees about four carcasses per mile during autumn, second only to a stretch of U.S. Highway 93 near Kalispell, where about six carcasses were observed per mile.

Renee Callahan, one of the authors of the report, said wildlife crashes are a problem that has a variety of solutions, whether it be structural changes or efforts to change driver or wildlife behavior.

"We know we can fix this issue," Callahan said.

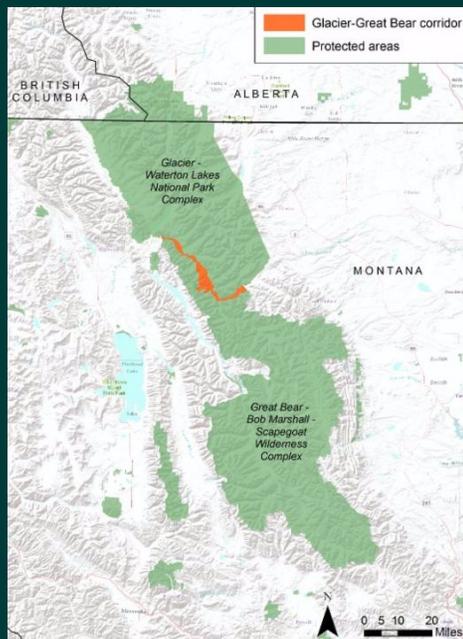
The report was released in conjunction with the group Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage, a coalition of organizations pushing for government officials to take action to reduce wildlife crashes. It said that more than a million of these crashes happen in the U.S. each year, and that the annual human death toll surpasses 200.

Their analysis hinged on data MDT collects by observing carcasses, not actual crashes. MDT recorded more than 3,000 wildlife-vehicle crashes each year between 2009 and 2014, peaking at a little more than 3,500 in 2014.

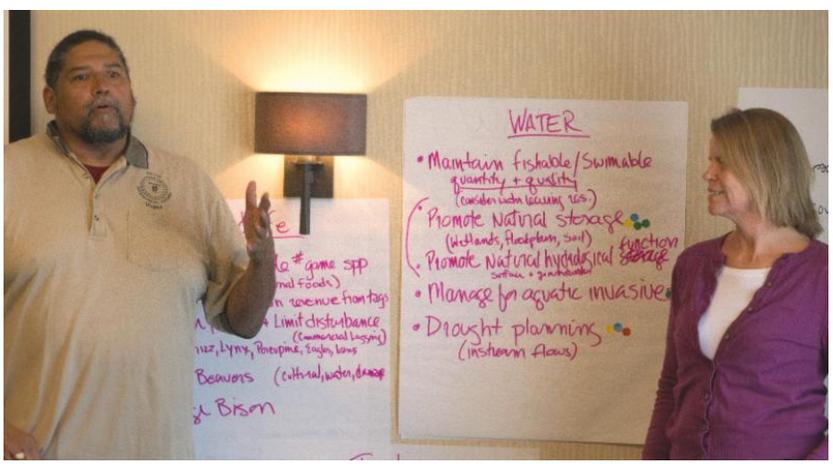
There may have been even more crashes than that, said Charity Watt, an official with MDT. They rely on data from the Montana Highway Patrol for their crash count. Because some might not report their crashes to law enforcement, they might not have data on every wildlife crash in the state.

More CRASHES | AR

The Glacier-Great Bear Connectivity Conservation Briefing shows how an unprotected strip of land, highway and railroad that splits Glacier National Park and the Great Bear Wilderness is hindering movement of wildlife along a 150 mile stretch of wild lands. [Learn MORE.](#)



The best



defense is a good offense! We are working with tribal planners to get ahead of negative climate impacts by building climate awareness and resilience.

Last year, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the Blackfoot Nation, CLLC and the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent received a grant to plan and implement collaborative climate adaptation across the Crown of the Continent landscape.

This ongoing project has generated discussions and implementation of climate adaptation work on tribal lands. **We are finding that tribes are rather progressive thinkers when it comes to climate adaptation planning in the United States.**

If Roadkill Could Talk



Every year, in Montana alone, there are over 3,000 wildlife-vehicle collisions. Nation-wide there

are over 200 deaths and 26,000 injuries due to these types of collisions.

Using Montana Department of Transportation's "carcass counts" over the last 5 years, CLLC scientists have pinpointed the "Top Ten" roads for collisions with ungulates.

Our recent news story received press coverage on the evening news, in the local papers, on the radio in Bozeman, Billings and Missoula and in other newspapers as far away as Roanoke, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Times. CLLC is working to prevent this sort of carnage.

We have National Parks and Monuments, how about National Wildlife Corridors?



It takes an act of Congress to pass a new protected area designation. To that end, we have been working with a coalition of conservation groups in Washington, DC, to help a member of the US House of Representatives develop the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act.

If it were to pass, **the Act would establish a National Wildlife Corridors System to provide for the protection and restoration of native fish, wildlife, and plant species and their habitats throughout the United States. These habitats have been diminished by degradation, and fragmentation.** We hope to see it introduced by Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) before the New Year.

www.largelandscapes.org
info@largelandscapes.org 406.586.8082

THE CENTER FOR
LARGE LANDSCAPE
CONSERVATION

Support CLLC today!