CENTER for LARGE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

2019 Annual Report

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Year-End Reflections

If I could describe 2019 in one word, it would be perseverance. Over the last twelve months, staff and partners at the Center have taken on tough challenges, achieved new levels of success through our core programs, and worked together to transition our organization into a new era.

This year has brought exciting changes, from growing our staff to designing our institutional structures in tackling global connectivity conservation needs. We are excited to look toward a new year—and a new decade—with clarity, commitment, and indefatigable optimism.

This year also marked an important moment for the global climate resilience movement. Across the world, people are calling for change: a change in policies, a change in behaviors, and a change in how we talk about our climate. Large landscape connectivity and climate change are inextricably connected, and as reports and warning signs continue to shed light on the dire impacts of our changing climate, there has never been a greater urgency to reconnect landscapes.

The stakes are high, but we are ready. Throughout a year of growth, the Center has remained true to our roots, our expertise, and our vision for a more connected world. We also end the year grateful for our supporters who are as dedicated as we are to this mission. Thank you to those who have joined us in this effort and supported our work.

It will take more than a village to succeed. Reconnecting our natural landscapes will require dedication from people and partners across the globe. Let's work together to protect, preserve, and create a more resilient Earth.

Sincerely,

Gary Tabor, President

About Us

Vision

Conserving life on Earth by connecting our fragmented natural world.

Mission

Engage, connect, and activate people and communities to protect the integrity of landscapes and ecosystems that maintain our climate and support life.

About The Center

- **We are** a global leader in promoting a more connected natural world through policy, planning, science, and partnerships.
- **We seek** to reverse and prevent fragmentation of the earth's landscapes and restore nature's resilience to climate change.
- We network with more than 2,000 community-based conservation efforts around the globe, and integrate our expertise with effective, sustainable solutions to habitat fragmentation.

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation is the hub of a fast-growing global movement to reverse fragmentation of the earth's large landscapes, restore nature's resilience to climate change, and support community-led action.

Our Programs

- Community Resilience
- Corridors and Crossings
- International Connectivity

Our Focus Areas

Science + Research
 Mentorship + Networking
 Community Resilience
 Policy + Law



We help identify threats and prioritize solutions, connect natural areas, provide critical habitat and safe migration for wide-ranging animals, and protect ecological processes and systems.

2019 Outcomes

By The Numbers

- Assisted in the design of 12 wildlife crossing structures
- 15 publications and papers authored by staff
- Managed 10 conservation networks
- Connected over 2,000 communities and organizations
- Supported 14 landscape conservation partnerships through the newlylaunched Catalyst Fund

Organizational Highlights

- Grew to a staff of 19
- Provided 4 internships for early conservation professionals
- New logo and brand unveiled to distinguish our work
- Increased our operational budget by 30%
- Launched new website, resulting in a 40% increase in site views



Community Resilience Program

Environmental stressors such as climate change and human development impact every community and ecosystem on Earth, but the effects are not equally distributed across the globe. The Community Resilience Program works to promote landscape connectivity and support communities in planning for climate change and sustainable land use to protect cultural and natural resources and build environmental resilience.

- We deliver technical and scientific expertise to inform communitydriven projects that address climate change impacts and infrastructure development, while honoring traditional lifeways and the inequities facing communities that bear the greatest burdens of environmental changes.
- We mentor community leaders, nonprofits, planners, and conservationists to help prepare new leaders, and promote traditional knowledge in conservation practices.
- We collaborate with partners to include diverse perspectives in communitybased climate resilience efforts through shared trust, transparency, and respect.

Environmental issues like fragmentation and climate change put both natural systems and human wellbeing at risk. Efforts to restore and protect ecosystems must include solutions that contribute to ecosystem health as well as strengthened community resilience.

- Advanced climate
 change adaptation
 planning and actions
 in 3 Native American
 communities
- Installed 3 beaver
 mitigation systems to
 reduce flooding and
 conflict between people
 and beaver in Blackfeet
 Nation
- 30 tribal youth mentored in partnership with tribal agencies

2019 Highlights

In the face of growing environmental challenges there is a critical need for expertise in how to identify, design, and implement conservation projects that protect landscape integrity and human health, while respecting culture and tradition.

The Ksik Stakii Project is a partnership between the Blackfeet Fish & Wildlife Department, Blackfeet Community College, Blackfeet Environmental Office, Blackfeet Agriculture Resource Management Planning Team, and the Center for Large Landscape Conservation.

Healthy Landscapes, Healthy People Publication

In October 2018, the Center published a new guidebook titled, "Healthy Landscapes, Healthy People." This publication, prepared for the first-annual Faith, Science, and Climate Action Conference, serves as a guide to human health and climate change, with a specific focus on faith communities. The guidebook examines how the impacts of climate change threaten human health, and how we can better protect ourselves by protecting landscapes.

Outcome: The guidebook makes the case that protected landscapes protect our health and offers a set of strategies for communities and individuals to take.

Blackfeet Nation Land Planning

The Blackfeet Nation Tribal Business Council has commissioned the Center to provide technical support for their agricultural and land planning efforts. This work has included management plan analysis, GIS, social surveys, meeting facilitation and reporting. Our work with the Blackfeet is led by tribal priorities and integrates traditional knowledge with Western science and other information needs to support smart sustainable land use planning that serves Blackfeet ways of living and knowing.

Outcome: The Blackfeet tribal council has formally requested continuing support from the Center on tribal land management planning initiatives.

Ksik Stakii (Beaver) Project 💚

From 2018 to 2019, the Ksik Stakii Project explored how beaver, a spiritually important species to the Blackfeet, are a powerful tool to moderate the impacts of drought brought on by climate change. The partnership included Blackfeet Tribe resource mangement agencies and the Blackfeet Community College Native Science Field Center's program to engage high school and college students in fieldwork experiences. As our climate warms and glaciers melt, beaver play a critical role in promoting natural water storage on the landscape by building natural dams that improve water quality and riparian habitat. Water behind beaver dams is released more slowly so it can be used throughout the summer. Students worked with mentors to build semi-permeable mimic dams which will behave like beaver dams by slowing water flow over time and increasing natural water storage.

Outcome: Mimic dams will cultivate healthier landscapes and increased climate resiliency, while demonstrating that climate adaptation can be an affordable and fun activity that brings people together in the outdoors and advances science education.

Corridors and Crossings Program

Through **policy, science, and partnerships**, the Corridors and Crossings program protects and reconnects habitat corridors and wildlife connectivity across the United States to reduce habitat fragmentation, increase safety, and link protected areas.

- We **connect** practitioners working on political, cultural, and social connectivity conservation solutions by building, supporting, and facilitating collaborative efforts.
- We **educate** technical partners and apply best-available science to inform strategic and successful on-the-ground solutions, from identifying historic migration routes to helping design overpasses or underpasses that connect these routes across roads.
- We **advise and lead** on local, state, and federal policy to increase support, awareness, and funding opportunities to facilitate improved habitat connectivity.



Habitats and species can only thrive as part of large, interconnected networks. Protecting a piece of land here or there is no longer enough. We need to conserve ecosystems at the landscape scale, restoring the networks of life that development has fractured.

- Guidance provided

 on 13 on-the-ground
 connectivity projects and
 crossing structures
- Advised on or drafted 17
 federal, state, and local
 policies
- Advocated for wildlife
 corridors and habitat
 connectivity in 7 land
 management plans
 covering 10 national
 forests

2019 Highlights

Conflicts between habitat needs and human development span geographic and political boundaries. The solution calls for a collaborative approach that links agencies, organizations, politicians, and communities.

In December 2018, Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage, along with the Montana Department of Transportation and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, hosted the firstever Montana Wildlife and Transportation Summit. The Center was a proud sponsor and planner of the Summit, which catalyzed collaboration around wildlife and transportation issues across Montana, and will have long-term impacts on Montana's pristine landscapes.

State Policy Toolbox Publication



Outcome: The toolbox has been distributed to over 2,000 partners and policymakers, and has been used by partners to help secure wildlife corridor bills in New Mexico, Oregon, and New Hampshire, with numerous other states planning on moving bills forward in 2020.

Custer Gallatin National Forest Connectivity Modeling Pilot Project

In a first-of-its-kind effort, the Center's spatial ecology staff partnered with the Custer Gallatin National Forest to conduct wildlife corridor and connectivity analyses for the forest's Forest Plan Revision. The Center was then hired by Custer Gallatin National Forest in southwest Montana to develop an approach for improving and standardizing the U.S. Forest Service planning process for addressing connectivity, both within the planning unit and across jurisdictions. This analysis and its integration into the plan will serve as a model for other forests. The Bridger-Teton National Forest is working with us to use the same science in their forest plan.

Outcome: The completed connectivity model for the Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan influenced several of the draft alternatives proposed for the final forest plan, with the opportunity to result in significant benefits for wildlife.

Blackfeet Animal-Vehicle Collision Reduction Master Plan

The first-ever reservation-wide animal-vehicle collision study in the U.S. has been finalized by the Center and the Blackfeet Nation Fish and Wildlife Department. This project identifies, prioritizes, and proposes mitigation measures for road stretches with the highest incidence of animal-vehicle collisions within the reservation.

Outcome: Completion of the Animal-Vehicle Collision Reduction Master Plan, which will provide a blueprint for the Blackfeet Nation to reduce wildlife and livestock collisions through mitigation projects.

International Connectivity Program

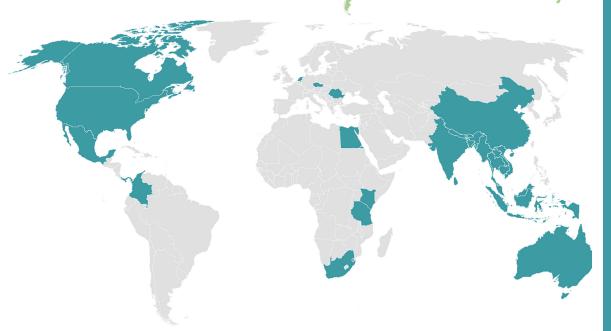
The Center's International Connectivity Program works around the world to strengthen commitments and actions that maintain, enhance, and restore ecological connectivity for the connection and protection of crucial habitats and biodiversity.

- We **provide** guidance and technical support to develop global connectivity policy by contributing language, scientific protocols, data analyses, and social science tools.
- We **engage** in international organizations, conferences, forums, symposia, and workshops to share expertise and knowledge with partners.
- We **support** networks of individuals and institutions to promote collaboration, information sharing, and best practices.

Where We Are Working

Countries represented by CCSG Membership

International Connectivity Program



Biodiversity loss and habitat fragmentation are global crises, affecting every country and every ecosystem on earth. Only through collective efforts can we restore the health of our shared planet.

- Advised partners

 in 14 countries
 on connectivity
 conservation and road
 ecology
- Incorporated comments from 200+ contributors to the forthcoming IUCN guidance for areas of ecological connectivity
- 20+ presentations and webinars delivered at events in 12+ countries

2019 Highlights

To conserve ecosystems at the landscape scale, conservation itself must become a large and interconnected network of partners, working collaboratively across borders and cultures to protect biodiversity, enhance climate resilience, and restore our shared ecological wealth.

The Transport Working Group (TWG), a subgroup of the CCSG, is delivering practical guidance for the development of linear transportation infrastructure to maintain and enhance ecological corridors. A growing global network of experts is applying this guidance to road and other projects to maximize habitat connectivity in developed and remaining natural areas.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Guidance

As headquarters for operations of the Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group (CCSG) under the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the Center supported 860+ members from 80+ countries promoting connectivity initiatives around the world. As a main objective, the group developed the first-ever IUCN guidance to inform more consistent and effective design, governance, and management for ecological corridors and networks of protected and conserved areas. Slated for 2020 release, the guidance advises best practices for protecting unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth.

Outcome: People around the world will have guidance to empower and advance innovative conservation practices that maintain, enhance, and restore ecological connectivity.

International Engagement for Biodiversity Conservation

The Center brought focus to connectivity conservation by bolstering our presence in international meetings and forums. Contributions continued to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including negotiations for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Center provided support to the Convention on Migratory Species to amplify its leadership, and enhance collaboration at international and national levels. In preparation for the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress, the Center is partnering with global experts to prepare presentations, workshops, and discussions to align cooperation among individuals, organizations, and governments.

Outcome: The practice of connectivity conservation has been accelerated through collaboration and action to realize new global conservation objectives.

Connectivity Conservation Planning Study

In an effort to better understand the state of global connectivity the Center published a new study, "Thirty years of connectivity conservation planning: an assessment of factors influencing plan implementation." This research paper presents the first systematic global assessment of connectivity planning used by a diversity of organizations and agencies, from plan inception to on-theground action. Recommendations for future conservation action are included in the assessment.

Outcome: Using 263 terrestrial connectivity conservation plans that cover six continents, the research determined which factors lead to successful conservation implementation such as crossing structures, ecological restoration, land purchases or easements, recognition of corridors through zoning or government designation, and public engagement.

Networks We Host

Network for Landscape Conservation 🔇 🖇

Founded in partnership with the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy in 2012, the Network for Landscape Conservation (NLC) is building a rapidly growing community of practice of more than 100 organizations and 2,500 individual members. Participants work on a wide variety of landscape conservation efforts, managing landscapes from urban parks to large continental transboundary ecosystems. This year, the NLC launched the Catalyst Fund, a new national grant program that will distribute 1.2 million dollars to landscape conservation partnerships over the next five years.

Highlight: In August 2019, the NLC announced 14 inaugural Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund grant awards for partnerships working to implement community based conservation at the necessary landscape scale.

Learn More: landscapeconservation.org

ARC Solutions 🔿 🔌

Animal Road Crossing (ARC) Solutions is an international network whose mission is to identify and promote leading-edge solutions to improve human safety, wildlife mobility and long-term landscape connectivity. ARC does this by raising awareness of the proven success of wildlife crossing structures in reducing motorist crashes involving wildlife and by fostering innovation in the placement, design and construction of those crossings, with a focus on North America.

Highlight: This year, ARC Solutions released "(Re)Connecting Wild: Restoring Safe Passage," a film that tells the remarkable story of a decade-long effort by the Nevada Department of Transportation and its partners to reconnect a historic mule deer migration. An Official Selection for the 18th annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival, the film allows viewers to witness the restoration of safe passage for migratory mule deer to more than 1.5 million acres of summer and winter habitat.

Learn More: arc-solutions.org

() We Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

Formed in 2009, the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent brings together federal, tribal, regional, and local governments, nonprofits, business, and community leaders committed to protecting an 18-million-acre intact ecosystem that sustains thousands of species and diverse rural and urban communities. The Crown of the Continent forms the headwaters of three continental watersheds and is the only ecosystem in the contiguous U.S. that has maintained all of its native species.

Highlight: Over 150 individuals gathered in Polson, MT at the southern edge of Flathead Lake in September for the 9th Annual Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent Conference, on the theme of "Connecting Land and Culture." Over the course of 2.5 days, the conference featured 52 speakers and stimulated discussion on issues such as traditional ecological knowledge, native salmonids, tourism, and holistic health.



Financial Statement

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation is a 501(c)(3) organization, supported by a broad network of foundations, government agencies, and individuals. Thanks to their generosity supporting our escalating program work, we completed the year in a strong financial position.

The majority of our funding is restricted for specific projects. A new addition to our program work is the launch of a regranting program with our fiscally sponsored program, the Network for Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund, accounting for \$1.9 million of the Center's overall revenue. Of this \$1.9 million, \$1.3 million will be directly distributed over the next five years to conservation collaboratives, through capacity-building grants and peer learning, with the goal of increasing cooperative large landscape conservation efforts throughout the U.S.

Statement of Activities

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Revenue

2,097,180
1,200,000
776,627
211,720
81,345
17,404
4,384,276
1,380,207
368,161
123,666
1,872,034
2,512,242
925,251
3,437,493
(1,300,000)

Financial Position as of June 30, 2019

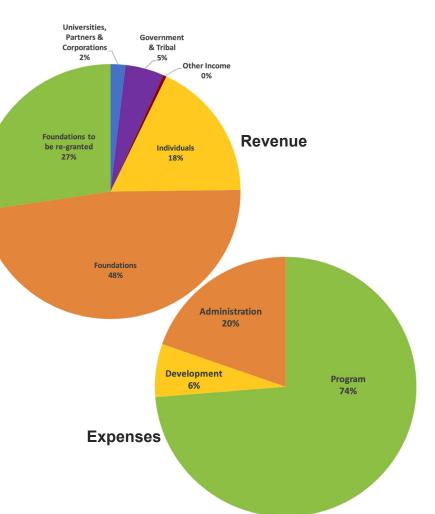
Assets

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	763,954
Grants & Other Receivables	951,415
CDs & Other Current Assets	1,803,365
Total Current Assets	3,518,734
Fixed Assets	29,629
Total Assets Liabilities & Equity	3,548,363
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	41,879
Payroll Liabilities	68,991
Total Current liabilities	110,870
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restrictions	916,403
With Donor Restrictions	2,521,090
Total Net Assets	3,437,493

Total Liabilities & Equity

3,548,363



Vision for the Future

Support

- Communities facing disproportionate impacts from environmental change in their efforts to protect land, biodiversity, and people, and make identifiable progress toward environmental equity.
- Land trusts and private landowners in playing a larger role in habitat connectivity across large landscapes and diverse land ownership patterns.

Develop

- Healthy and robust long-term collaborations with diverse partner groups working towards shared conservation goals.
- Global, large-scale conservation targets that can be applied by multi-partner projects at diverse levels in multiple countries and continents.

Inform

- New provisions for wildlife corridors conservation in local, state, federal, and tribal policies.
- Innovative wildlife crossings being built in multiple locations across the U.S.

Connect

- Agency leaders to wildlife corridor best practices to incorporate into management plans, programs, and projects.
- Global conservation experts to create, publish, and apply consistent approaches for managing large landand seascapes, ecological corridors, and areas of connectivity conservation worldwide.



Our Staff

Gary Tabor, President Melly Reuling, Deputy Director Deb Davidson, Associate Director Rob Ament, Senior Conservationist Renee Callahan, Corridors & Crossings Program Director Tyler Creech, Spatial Ecologist Kendra Hoff, Conservation Program Coordinator Elizabeth Fairbank, Corridors & Crossings Program Officer Aaron Laur, International Conservation Program Officer Katie Pidgeon, Operations & Finance Manager Rachel Caldwell, Conservation Program Officer Abigail Breuer, Conservation Program Officer Angelina González-Aller, Climate Resilience Program Manager Kendall Edmo, Conservation/GIS Associate Gabriel Oppler, Conservation Associate Zachary Wurtzebach, Conservation Social Scientist Emma Spence, Wildlife Corridor Field Lab Manager Emily Bateson, Director of Network for Landscape Conservation Jonathan Peterson, NLC Catalyst Fund Manager



Board of Directors

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Cover Photo by Melly Reuling

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