

# CENTER *for* LARGE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

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## 2019 Fall Newsletter

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### Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

This year, groundbreaking reports have shed light on the alarming threats to global biodiversity. One million plant and animal species face extinction. Bird populations in North America have declined 29 percent in 49 years. And in September, more than 7 million people from across the globe marched to fight for climate change solutions. Scientists, conservationists, and communities are rallying together to take action for our planet's species and health.

These actions and reports have moved the threats of climate change and biodiversity loss to the forefront of audiences worldwide. Here at the Center, efforts to address climate resiliency for landscapes and communities have continued. The race to ensure species survival, restore the integrity of landscapes that communities depend on, and slow the fragmentation of our natural world has never been more urgent. Our programs, staff, and impact have expanded to meet these growing challenges.

With this growth has come one of our busiest seasons yet. Whether we are meeting with local stakeholders or traveling abroad to network with our global partners, we are working to push back the tide of biodiversity loss and fragmentation by educating, engaging, and expanding our impact. Through our Community Resilience, Corridors and Crossings, and International Conservation programs, we inform best-practices, share data, and implement on-the-ground solutions to habitat fragmentation and climate change.

The Center's growth has also created opportunities for us to reach broader audiences. In April, we officially launched our new [website](#). As our work accelerates to meet the urgent demand to protect the world's large landscapes, this new website tells the story of our history, our areas of focus, and our vision for a more connected future. Visit the site to access publications, best practices, and other tools you can apply to your large landscape conservation practice.

Connected landscapes require connected people. We could not do this work without partners, friends, and supporters like yourself. We would love to hear from you with any questions, suggestions, or ideas on how we can work together. Let's connect.

Warm regards,

Gary, on behalf of the entire staff and board



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## Program Updates

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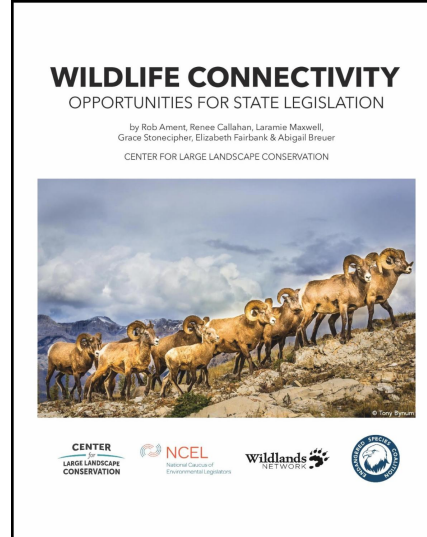
### Corridors and Crossings Program

## Toolbox

Earlier this year, the Center launched our latest publication:

["Wildlife Connectivity: Opportunities for State Legislation."](#)

This toolbox summarizes a variety of ways in which state legislators can act to protect wildlife corridors, which are vital to ensuring healthy wildlife populations, providing critical ecosystem services, and sustaining our nation's social and economic health and well-being. The toolbox has been distributed to over 2,000 partners and policymakers, and has been highlighted at conferences and presentations across the country. This resource will help state legislators implement policy solutions to protect corridors that allow wildlife to move more freely across the landscape, and has already been used by partners to help secure wildlife corridor bills in three states.



## Wildlife Corridor Policy

Along with a group of conservation partners, the Center helped draft legislation for a bipartisan five-year, \$500 million wildlife crossing program that has been included in the recently-proposed transportation bill. We also drafted and supported the re-introduction of the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019, which, for the first time ever, has bipartisan support in the House. These policy advancements offer important opportunities to fund on-the-ground connectivity solutions, protect wildlife migration corridors, and make roads safer for people and wildlife.

## Community Resilience Program

### Ksik Stakii Project

The Ksik Stakii (Beaver) Project grew out of our climate adaptation planning work with the Blackfeet Tribe. The project goal was to bring the plan to life through implementing drought prevention measures and educating the community about climate change impacts and beavers. The 2019 field season consisted of four weeks with two different crews, doubling the number of crews and weeks from the 2018 field season. Over the season, the Native Science Fellows built four beaver dam analogues (BDAs) and the Piikani Lands Crew built an additional eight. The BDAs are contributing to healthier riparian areas, increased water storage, and improved climate resiliency, while providing education and skills development opportunities for field crew Fellows.



Follow the Ksik Stakii Project on Facebook [here](#).

### Blackfeet Land Planning Effort

The Blackfeet Tribe is working to identify key lands for conservation along their border with Glacier National Park. The Center is providing the tribe with technical support through spatial planning, plan analysis and meeting facilitation. We have completed a guidance document for the tribe that provides an analysis of past plans and a compilation of spatial layers for reservation lands. Kendall Edmo, a tribal member, has joined the Center to coordinate this effort which is moving forward in cooperation with many tribal partners and participating nonprofit organizations.

## International Connectivity Program

### Wildlife-Friendly Linear Infrastructure Workshops

The Center and partners at the [Western Transportation Institute](#) have conducted workshops in the U.S. and around the globe, sharing our expertise on reducing the impacts that roads and highways have on wildlife populations and

migration. With support from National Geographic, we are expanding this work and developing a standardized curriculum for International Roads and Biodiversity Workshops, to be pilot-tested in Kenya and Bolivia in early 2020. These capacity-building workshops will provide partners with tools to address the growing threat of roads and rails to connectivity and wildlife populations, with a focus on developing countries.



### **IUCN Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group – Providing Guidance for 2020**

The Center is leading coordination of two publications that will provide guidance for global conservation partners. The publications, “Safeguarding ecological corridors in the context of ecological networks for conservation” and “Guidance for Connectivity Conservation Impacted by Linear Transportation Infrastructure” have made exciting progress after years of collaborative efforts, and are entering the review and editing stages. These reports will provide global standards and best practices for connectivity conservation, and will be publicized and released by the 2020 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress, and the Convention on Biological Diversity’s 2020 Conference of the Parties to be held in China. Additional background about the consultation process is online [here](#).

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## **Conferences and Presentations**

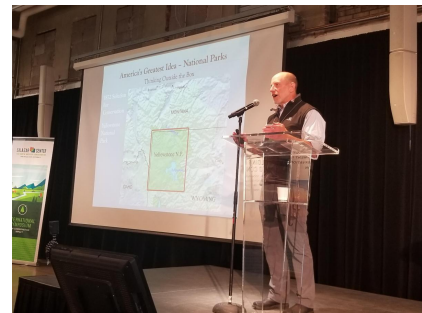
This summer and fall, staff from the Center were busy traveling across the U.S. and around the globe to present at conferences, educate practitioners, and share our research and best practices. A few highlights include:

### **Rally 2019**

Staff from the Center spent three days learning and engaging with land trust professionals at [Rally 2019](#), the [Land Trust Alliance's](#) annual conference. We are excited to continue partnering with the land trust sector, offering our policy, planning, and science expertise to connect private lands with large landscape conservation efforts.

### **International Symposium on Conservation Impact**

Over 200 people, including staff from the Center, attended the Salazar Center's Inaugural [International Symposium on Conservation Impact](#) in Denver, Colorado. The Center's own Gary Tabor delivered a keynote address that centered on the symposium's theme: landscape connectivity across the continent.



### **ICOET 2019**

Over 500 people from 19 countries gathered in Sacramento for the 10th biennial [International Conference on Ecology and Transportation](#) (ICOET) to learn, engage, and network with people working to improve transportation and wildlife challenges across the globe. Staff from the Center shared our collective knowledge through 12 panels, presentations, posters, and film events.

### **ACLIE**

Staff from the Center attended the first annual [African Conference on Linear Infrastructure and Ecology \(ACLIE\)](#), held at Kruger National Park in South Africa. Staff presented on large-scale conservation research, as well as the intersection of transportation infrastructure and wildlife in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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## **Partner Highlights**

### **Catalyst Fund**

The Network for Landscape Conservation (NLC) Catalyst Fund grant program was launched this year to accelerate the pace and practice of collaborative landscape conservation. With support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Hewlett Foundation, we awarded \$335,000 to 14 grantees, four of which are Indigenous-led initiatives. The projects funded through this award will contribute to the Catalyst Fund's vision of accelerating the pace and effective practice of collaborative landscape conservation across the United States. The Network is fiscally-sponsored and hosted by the Center, and Center staff serve on the Operating and Leadership team of the Network. Learn more about the NLC [here](#).

**Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent**

Over 150 individuals gathered in Polson, MT for the 9th Annual [Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent Conference](#). This year's theme was "Connecting Land and Culture." The conference featured 52 speakers, with discussions on a range of subjects including white bark pine, native salmonids, tourism, and holistic health. Natural resource managers from seven tribal groups gathered with representatives of U.S. and Canadian conservation groups; landowners' associations; and county, state and federal agencies to discuss multi-jurisdictional and transboundary resource protection concerns across the Crown region.

**Animal Road Crossings Video**

[Animal Road Crossings \(ARC\) Solutions](#) and the Center for Large Landscape Conservation are delighted to announce the release of *(Re)Connecting Wild: Restoring Safe Passage*. This film tells the remarkable story of the decade-long effort by the Nevada Department of Transportation and its partners to improve human safety by re-connecting an historic mule deer migration that crosses over both US-93 and I-80 in rural Elko County, Nevada. View the film below or click [here](#).

**Coming Up**

**Stay tuned for another email heading to your inbox in December.** As the year comes to a close, we are excited to share the Center's year-end report. This report will provide further details on our work throughout 2019, and spotlight our areas of focus for 2020.

**The Center for Large Landscape**

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation is the hub of a growing global movement to reverse the fragmentation of the earth's landscapes and restore nature's resilience to climate change.

We network and collaborate with experts, practitioners, and local communities. The work of landscape conservation restores human connection, civility, and respect. It is essential to our survival and the quality of our lives. Learn more at [largelandscapes.org](http://largelandscapes.org).

[Donate Here](#)