



The Center's COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a permanent and catastrophic impact on people and the environment. The crises we face is a call to action: an opportunity to understand more about the relationship between people and nature and to work harder towards sustaining healthy ecosystems. As the world grapples with this pandemic, our work at the Center to protect Earth's natural landscapes is more relevant than ever.

From habitat loss and fragmentation caused by roads, urban expansion, deforestation, and other activities, to increased human contact with wildlife through wet markets, wildlife trade, and wet markets, wildlife and the natural world are facing unprecedented levels of pressure and contact with people, and we are all suffering the consequences.

Landscape health is human health. The future of conservation relies on a global recognition that the cumulative impacts species endure due to human-caused impacts creates environmental stressors and provides ripe conditions for disease transmission and subsequent spillover into humans.

To buffer against future pandemics, we have to reduce the stress on wildlife species and their habitats. We need to maintain connectivity across landscapes, minimize land use change, and address climate change.

The Center remains committed to our mission to reconnect Earth's natural world. Here's how we are working now, and preparing to adapt to a new reality:

- We build our work around **successful networking**. This is an approach that works remotely and we are continuing to meet with peers and partners. Participation at meetings has, for the most part, been excellent.
- We provide **collaboration and technical and science support** where needed to leaders in their communities. We don't need to be there in person, we just need to work with key partners.
- We are **working to mitigate barriers** to keep our partners connected, informed, and engaged. We recognize the barriers some partners face in accessing digital tools and resources, in particular this is the case with Tribal partners and partners in developing countries that may lack internet speed and connection.
- **We believe in "budget equity"** for our more underserved partners more than 50% of our budget goes to our partners to build capacity within communities. This increases community resilience and acts as a "conservation stimulus" package for areas with high unemployment.

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation
P.O. Box 1587, Bozeman, MT 59771 • 406.586.8082

www.largelandscapes.org

