

Nature Mapping Newsletter, January 2014

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Hello Nature Mappers!

It's now my third month as executive director of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation. I'm continually amazed by the hundreds of volunteers who donate literally thousands of hours to help wildlife in Jackson Hole.

That's especially true for Nature Mapping volunteers. Since the program's inception, citizen scientists have collected more than 26,000 wildlife observations in Teton County. That makes the Nature Mapping data set robust enough to aid researchers and guide major planning efforts. For instance, the Nature Mapping Advisory Committee recently approved a request from Biota Research and Consulting—our biggest data request yet.

Biota will use those data to help Teton County with the Focal Habitat Feature Project. Thanks to your observations, wildlife will be a major consideration as the county drafts new zoning regulations. Every moose, boreal toad and mountain chickadee you record on the Nature Mapping website benefits wildlife in Jackson Hole!

As we head into 2014, we have some exciting advancements in store for Nature Mapping volunteers. Chief among them is a mobile compatible website that will allow citizen scientists to enter data from their smart phone or tablet in just a few short steps.

We're also planning several training classes in conjunction with the Teton Raptor Center. Please join us at the Nature Mapping Potluck in late March (date to be determined) to learn more about the website and the Raptor Center classes.

Finally, local botanist Frances Clark has volunteered to serve as the Nature Mapping Volunteer Coordinator for the next six months. As part of that job, Frances and I will endeavor to send out a monthly newsletter, complete with a summary of the previous month's nature mapping observations.

Below you will find a summary of the observations Nature Mapping citizen scientists made in 2013. Our hope is to give you regular feedback. After all, you've worked hard to gather these data and we feel it's only fair that you see the results.

At my first meeting of the Nature Mapping Advisory Committee, naturalist Bert Raynes charged us with an important task: "Put the joy back in Nature Mapping."

That is precisely what we intend to do.

Cory Hatch, Executive Director

P.S. Please take time to say "thanks" to Paul Hood, Frances Clark and the Nature Mapping Advisory Committee for their hard work!

Nature Mappers record 3,312 observations in 2013 -- Cory Hatch

Nature Mapping citizen scientists recorded 3,312 wildlife observations of 190 different species in 2013, according to an end-of-year tally of the Nature Mapping Database.

A total of 64 trained Nature Mappers contributed data. Louise Haberfeld tallied the most observations, 555, with Shirley Cheramy coming in a close second with 550.

Birds and mammals comprised the vast majority of observations—1,814 and 1,483, respectively. Volunteers counted ten amphibians, two lizards and three snakes.

Nature Mappers recorded 515 moose sightings, the most of any species, followed by 314 elk and 277 mule deer. Trumpeter swans (184) and bald eagles (137) topped bird sightings.

There were a number of species with only one sighting each including American badger, eared grebe, greater short-horned lizard, Northern many-lined skink, Northern rubber boa and tundra swan.

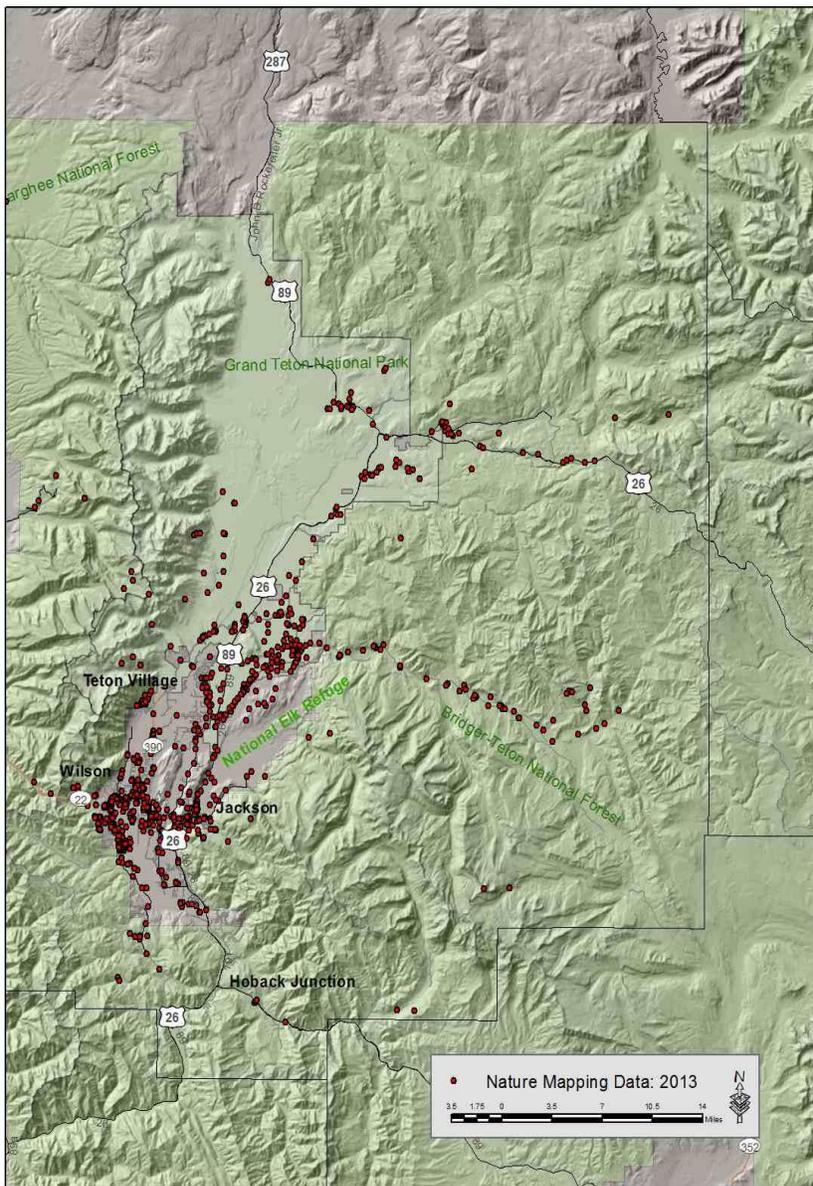
Of the different Nature Mapping projects, Casual Observations accounted for most sightings (1,705) followed by Project Backyard (1,511), Moose Day (49), the Osprey Project (41) and Field Education (6).

Thanks so much for your observations. Stay tuned for a summary of January's

observations in next month's newsletter.

Data Map 2013 -- Paul Hood

Below is a map of all the observations mapped in 2014. It is not too late to enter your data! A bit rusty? Go to the Nature Mapping website <http://www.naturemappingjh.org/Getting-Started.aspx> for a review, and email Paul paul@jhwildlife.org if you need your password or have other technical questions. It would be great to have all 2014 data entered by March 1, before our potluck at the end of March.



Volunteer Thanks, Calendar, and More:

Welcome new Nature Mappers: Eleven new citizen scientists were trained January 13 by Paul Hood and Natalie Fath at the offices of Wyoming Game and Fish: Ross, Katie, Kenneth, Cory, Paul, Gwen, Olena, Alex, Kathy, and Rick and Karen. Thank you!

Nature Mapping Potluck and Silent Auction! Monday, March 17, Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m. : We will celebrate the work of all Nature Mappers and we will introduce you to the new mobile data mapping option. We plan on a few select silent auction items, too, to add to the fun!

Upcoming educational opportunities: Many organizations offer programs that enhance our awareness and understanding of the wildlife in the Valley. We will keep you posted on relevant opportunities. Check the Nature Mapping Website Calendar <http://www.naturemappingjh.org/Event-Calendar.aspx> for updates.

- February 25, Tuesday, Teton County Library 6:00 p.m. "Managing Rangeland for Sage Grouse" Two USDA specialists will show us what a sage grouse sees, help us understand what this sagebrush species needs for survival, and how to manage rangeland habitat for its benefit. <http://tetonplants.wordpress.com/>

- Tuesdays are "Nature Nights" at the Teton County Library from 6:00-8:00 p.m.: Free programs are co-sponsored by the library with Jackson Hole Bird and Nature Club, 1st Tuesdays; Geologists of Jackson Hole 2nd & 4th Tuesdays; Wyoming Native Plant Society--Teton Chapter, 4th Tuesdays <http://tclib.org/index.php/calendar/>

Special sightings: In addition to entering data, let us know of any unusual species or fascinating behaviors you observe while Nature Mapping so we can let other Nature Mappers know! Email your stories to Paul: paul@jhwildlife.org
We will also be posting the results of the 2013 Jackson Hole Bird Count on our website. Keep an eye out!

