



JACKSON HOLE



WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

#### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Summer is off to a roaring start!
- GV USFS Study Completes 2nd Year
- Data Requests
- Megan Smith, Project Coordinator Introduction
- Observations Update

#### OVERALL NATURE MAPPING GOALS:

- Keep Common Species Common
- Increase knowledge and appreciation for wildlife in Teton County
- Engage citizens in long-term research
- Inform management decisions in favor of sustaining wildlife

# Nature Mapping

Summer 2011

## Gros Ventre USFS Study: Nature Mapping Fills a Need

In January 2009, the Bridger-Teton National Forest issued a new travel and use plan that affected roads in the Gros Ventre drainage. Forest Service staff did not have the resources needed to adequately cover the monitoring needed to study the efficacy of this new plan. The USFS' need presented an ideal situation for Nature Mapping to assist in collecting critical information that will inform local management decisions. The first two years have been successful and the USFS is excited to continue engaging citizens in this timely and meaningful wildlife project.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE THIS PROJECT A SUCCESS!**

## Data Requests

The Nature Mapping Database is growing and others are interested in the data. Nature Mapping data are now given to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department quarterly to add to their Wildlife Observations System. Additionally, the Nature Mapping Advisory Board is



Pronghorn crossing the GV River, June 11, 2011 © Mark Gocke

#### 2011 Highlights

- 25 volunteers participated in 14 field days.
- Approximately 344 hours of fieldwork were contributed to the project. This is the equivalent of 43 technician days.
- 708 observations were made.
- Vegetation monitoring techniques were added in 2011 to measure for a "green up" effect.
- Many amazing sightings were enjoyed by volunteers including the first pronghorn of the year, grizzly and black bears, badgers, thousands of elk and wolves.

For more information please see the GV Morning project page on the Nature Mapping Website: <http://www.naturemappingjh.org/Gros-Ventre-Project.aspx>

actively working to create a web-based process through which organizations can request data. This spring, the Advisory Board approved a data request from Western Transportation Institute, a consulting firm hired by the Conservation Alliance to study road crossings on the proposed highway expansion south of Jackson. WTI requested observations along

stretches of valley highways. This data was also provided to WYDOT for their analysis. Please keep those observations coming, management decision depend on them!



## Megan Smith, Project Coordinator

Megan grew up on the coast of Maine where her love of wildlife and the outdoors began. She received a B.A. from Middlebury College in Environmental Studies and an M.S. in Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England. As Project Coordinator for Nature Mapping, she enjoys combining her early career in outdoor education with ecological research to focus on applied conservation projects while training and educating citizen science volunteers. Her research experience has focused on bird studies in both New England and the Rockies and habitat assessments throughout western Wyoming. In her new

position as Project Coordinator (began in February 2011), Megan has particularly enjoyed the growth of both the Nature Mapping project and the incredible community of volunteers who are the heart and soul of the project. When not working, Megan enjoys spending time in the outdoors skiing, hiking, sailing and watching wildlife.



## Thank You!

Building a long-term dataset takes a high level of commitment from a lot of volunteers. Thank you very much to all of you who have been submitting observations. With over 13,000 observations in just over 2 years, the Nature Mapping database is off to an impressive start. This project is truly a testament to the idea that if everyone gives a little bit, the end result is tremendous! Please keep those observations coming.

**Thank you all for all that you do!**



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FOUNDATION

**Keeping common species common from  
the backyard to the backcountry**

## Donations Appreciated

Nature Mapping relies on donations of both time and money to be successful. We appreciate both tremendously!

To make a directed, tax-deductible gift to Nature Mapping, you may contribute directly to the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation either through PayPal at [www.jhwildlife.org](http://www.jhwildlife.org), through the mail or through Old Bill's Fun Run.

When donating through Old Bill's, your gift will go further with matching funds.

Thank you very much for your generous support of Nature Mapping!



## Data Update

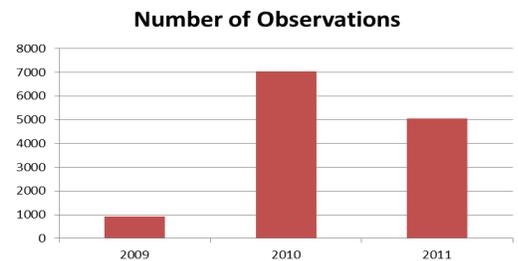
With over 5,000 observations submitted in the first half of 2011, we're positioned to far outpace the number of observation made in 2010 (~7,000). This is amazing continual growth!

### Breakdown by Project

Backyard: 44%

Casual Observations: 33%

Systematic Projects: 24%



Sandhill Crane with colt  
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