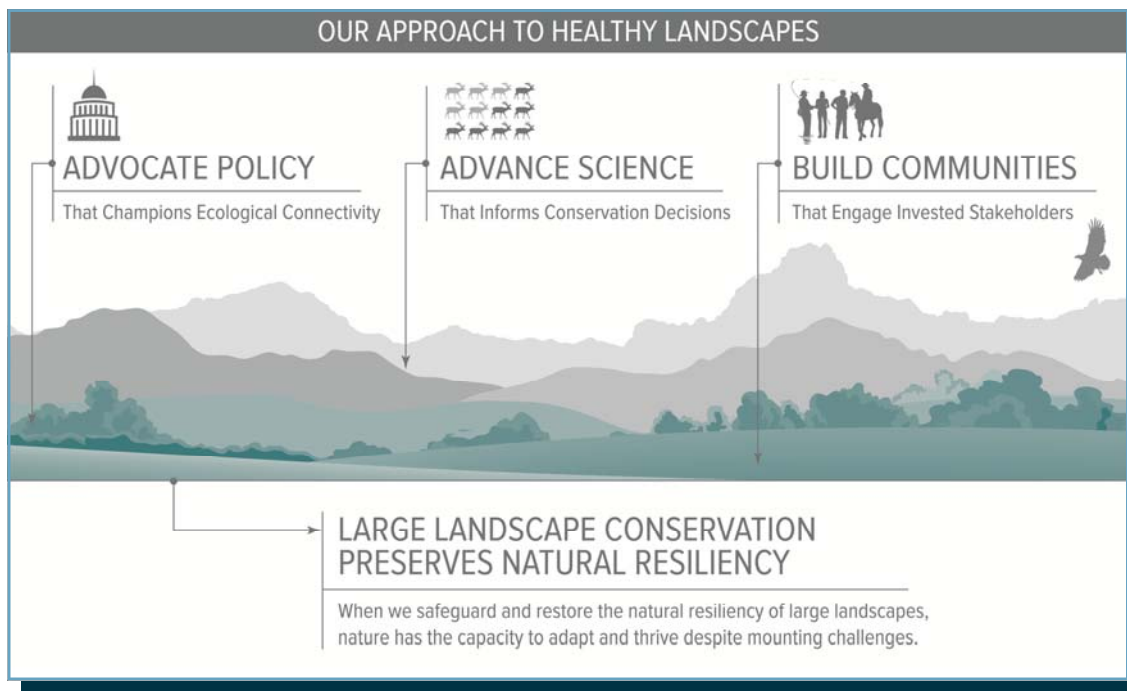




WE strategically **CONNECT** ideas, individuals, and institutions
TO CONSERVE Earth's resilient, vital **LARGE LANDSCAPES**.



We've had a great year at CLLC and here are some highlights of our recent work

Building Communities

In late October, CLLC staff Gary Tabor, Melly Reuling, Sue Higgins and intern Sam Williams, plus 600 natural resource managers, stakeholders, and nonprofits, attended the **National Workshop on Large Landscape Conservation** in Washington, D.C. Melly and Sue presented on the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent, and Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewel, was the keynote to this event, which was a confluence of the best and brightest in the field. The conference was hosted by the Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation. CLLC is in discussion

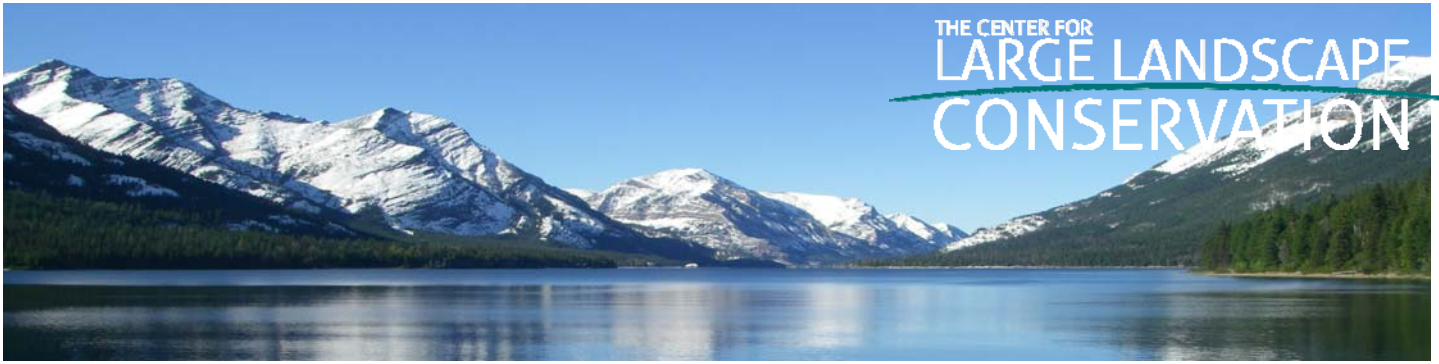
with The Nature Conservancy, Lincoln Institute, University of Montana and Highstead Foundation about becoming the home for the Network.

In November, in Sydney, Australia, Gary Tabor gave three talks at the once-a-decade **World Parks Congress**. 6,000 people attended this UN meeting on parks. Gary's talks included "Why Large Scale Conservation?", "Corporate Partnerships in Conservation -- Freedom to Roam" and "Transboundary Conservation Governance Around the Crown of the Continent."

Also in November, Melly and Sue attended the **American Academy**

of Religions' conference and participated in the Forum on Religion and Ecology, which focused on climate change. Jimmy Carter and Bill McKibben were the keynotes at this conference. CLLC hopes to work with this very inspiring group of religious leaders to bring a better understanding of climate change and climate adaptation activities into communities.





Building Communities - Tribal Workshop



In September, the **5th Annual Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent Conference** convened in stunning Waterton National Park, Alberta, attracting 160 participants from the entire Crown of the Conti-

nent landscape. This annual conference is celebrated for the many networking opportunities it provides to a wide variety of stakeholders. It was organized by CLLC's Sue Higgins and was a huge success. Prior to the conference was the first **Crown Tribal Gathering** attended by tribal representatives from seven tribes and First Nations throughout the Crown. They led discussions about inter- and intra-tribal natural resource issues of concern including fractionated lands, flooding, water rights, and fracking. This 4-hour session resulted in new understanding of

common problems and identification of ways to improve inter-tribal collaboration and communications. Please come to our **2015 Crown Conference, in Missoula, Montana on September 16-18, 2015.**



Advocating Policy

Rob Ament is leading an effort by the **Connectivity Policy Coalition** to enshrine wildlife corridor and ecological connectivity provisions (identification and protection) into the new federal planning directives (called rule-making) for the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM owns 245 million acres, so this would have an enormous impact for many decades to come.

Rob is also working with Defenders of Wildlife, Y2Y and the Wildlands Network to co-author a guidebook for citizens and activists who will be commenting on, and shaping, **the next generation of National Forest and Grassland Resource Management Plans**. It will explain how to advocate for the new plan requirements for protecting wildlife corridors and ecological connectivity. These forest plans set the management direction for the next two decades or more on 174 forests and

grasslands that encompass 193 million acres of public land.

CLLC and ARC Solutions have actively engaged with the community of Jackson Hole, WY, to promote **wildlife crossing structures in Teton County**.



Many groups are involved, including the WY Dept. of Transportation, U.S. Forest Service, National Elk Refuge, JH Conservation Alliance, JH Wildlife Foundation, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Teton Science School, and individual members of

the Safe Wildlife Crossings for Jackson Hole. With a keen eye toward the needs of the community and wildlife, possible sites were investigated, and four potential sites were identified. CLLC is helping launch a citizen-science camera trap project to document wildlife crossings on US Highway 89 south of Jackson Hole. Renee and Rob presented in December at the **Jackson Hole Wildlife Conference**, discussing the potential for a "next generation" Animal Road Crossing in the area.

In October, we facilitated a **Wildlife Overpass Design Workshop** to identify ways to reduce the cost of wildlife overpass structures without diminishing their effectiveness. It was attended by engineers from the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alberta Transportation and Parks Canada plus landscape architects, universities, state DOTs, federal and tribal wildlife biol-



Advocating Policy

ogists and a MacArthur Genius Award bridge engineer.

Back in May, Renee and Rob, on behalf of ARC, convened a workshop to make the case for wildlife crossing structures. The outcome is a paper, *Wildlife Crossings: The Case for a Nationwide Commitment to a Systematic Network of Highway Crossings for Wildlife*, which demonstrates the need, outlines benefits, and lays out guidelines for realizing a nationwide network of wildlife crossing structures.

CLLC has been contracted by the Western Governors' Association to assist in the implementation of a Federal Highway Administration grant. In cooperation with the Western Transportation Institute, the work

will support the **Western Governors' Wildlife Council's efforts to incorporate wildlife values into the surface transportation network of highways and roads.**

As part of the above project, CLLC helped convene a workshop to develop **Sustainable Strategies in Support of Transportation Planning for Wildlife Conservation Priorities across the West.** This event brought together wildlife biologists, conservationists, resource managers, and state and federal transportation officials to discuss and share best practices and to ensure overlaps in conservation and transportation planning are leveraged to the fullest in transportation project development.

Advancing Science: Why did the bear cross the road?

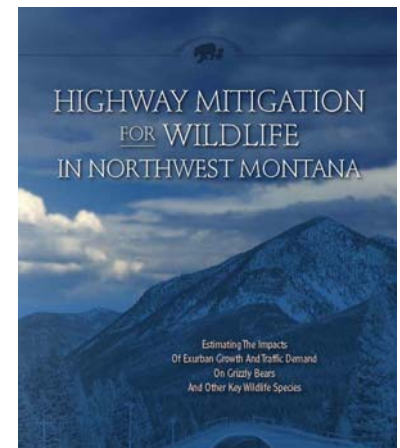
Wildlife Connectivity: Fundamentals for Conservation Action is an easy-to-use primer completed by CLLC staff earlier this year that bridges the science-policy-action gap on wildlife corridors. Print and electronic copies have been distributed widely among our large landscape practitioner colleagues, with very positive feedback. Download a copy [here](#).

Two other recent publications help us and our partners better understand road impacts on wildlife connectivity and where mitigation of

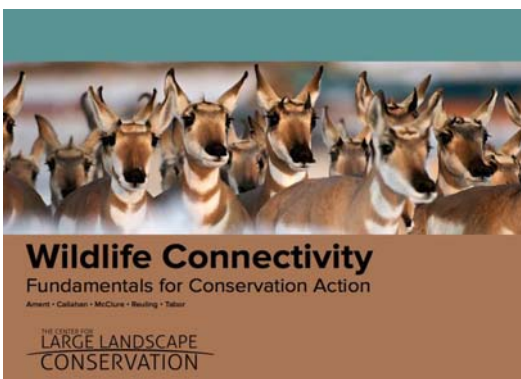
these impacts is needed most.

Highway Mitigation for Wildlife in Northwest Montana. With the Sonoran Institute and Western Transportation Institute, CLLC scientists investigated potential impacts of future housing development on traffic demand to determine where traffic increases may impact the most important habitat connectivity for large carnivores - identifying potential problem sites early for planners, so that future impacts can be budgeted for during project development. Download a copy [here](#).

Where People and Wildlife Intersect. Across the U.S. Northern Rockies, we compared riskiness of roads to wildlife mortality (road kill) and habitat connectivity, showing that high risk wildlife vehicle-collisions sites were rarely found at the same location as important corridors. Since most efforts to address road impacts on wildlife focus on wildlife-vehicle



safety (meaning where deer and elk are common), we highlight ways for diverse stakeholders to support mitigation efforts where they really matter for connectivity (where carnivores and other rarer animals cross), and provide tools to help them choose sites that best meet their conservation or management goals. You can download the report [here](#).





CLLC Board and Staff in Tom Miner Basin, Montana. Summer 2014

Our Mission

We catalyze, advance, and support large landscape conservation by:

- building communities of invested stakeholders around large landscape issues,
- advancing science that informs critical decision-making, and
- advocating policies and strategies that champion ecological connectivity.

Our Vision

Our vision is a dynamic collaboration of ideas, institutions, and individuals that creates a network of connected natural areas resilient to large scale environmental challenges.



Please visit our *new* website: www.largelandscapes.org

New faces at CLLC

Laura Ladd is our newest board member from Wilson, Wyoming. She is the President of Hewitt Ladd, Inc., a consulting practice she formed that specializes in finance and project management for real estate development firms, energy companies and local and state governments. She chairs the Wyoming Retirement System Board, and is an emeritus board member of the Wyoming Women's Foundation. She is a passionate alpine skier, world traveler and recently completed her first half ironman triathlon.



Tara Chesley-Preston is our new GIS consultant. Tara provides technical support for conservation science projects on ecological connectivity in the western U.S. She is also a GIS analyst for the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center. Tara holds a Master's in Geography from Montana State University and enjoys snow, cycling, hiking and spending time with her family.



Sam Williams is our new intern. From Simsbury, Connecticut, Sam recently completed an Environmental Policy degree at Colorado College. His interest is in the interdependence of environmental, social, and economic health. A chance meeting with Gary Tabor, at the State of the Rockies Project, led to an internship at CLLC. Sam spends his spare time skiing, climbing, mountain biking, reading, and practicing yoga.

