

**Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund  
Final Grant Report – One Page Executive Summary**



**Title of Grant:** 2019 Jackson Hole Wildlife Symposium (JHWS)

**Submitted by:** Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative (NRCC)

**Award:** \$1,500

NRCC is pleased to report that the 2019 Jackson Hole Wildlife Symposium was a success – 125 researchers, agency personnel, educators, students, and citizens gathered at the Center for the Arts to discuss and suggest improvements for human-wildlife coexistence in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The free public evening keynote was attended by 150. The event included opening and evening keynotes, panel discussions, individual speakers, quicktalks, an art show, and presentation of the Raynes and Craighead conservation awards with an awards reception. New information, novel ways of thinking about human-wildlife coexistence, and innovative approaches to collaboration between stakeholders, researchers, and citizens were emphasized. The day prior to the symposium, NRCC hosted a workshop with 45 local and regional educators, interpreters, guides, and others involved in formal and informal environmental education in Greater Yellowstone.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the Raynes Citizen Conservation Award to Susan Marsh for her outstanding contributions to conservation and education through her writing, art, and volunteer initiatives. Many thanks to the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund for your support as a Gold Sponsor!

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**Date of Award:** Feb. 2018

**Project Completion:** Summer 2019

## **Final Report**

### **1. How the funds were used:**

Funds were used to present a plaque and honorarium to the Raynes Citizen Conservation Award recipient and to help cover some of the venue costs.

- A. \$250 honorarium
- B. \$72.55 plaque
- C. \$1,177.45 for venue costs

### **2. How the project objectives in the approved grant application were met:**

- A. *Education:* The primary objective of the JHWS is to educate researchers, conservationists, educators, and citizens. The JHWS is the only regular, local forum for the exchange of ideas, research, and on-the-ground projects. Young professionals gain real-world experience at the event thanks to a scholarship program.

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- B. *Dialogue:* The JHWS offers a constructive format for successful dialogue about what is at stake for wildlife and humans and how we can work together to make improvements.

We increased the amount of time for dialogue between speakers, panelists, quicktalk presenters, and attendees compared to previous JHWS symposia.

- C. *Networking:* There is a need for networking opportunities in Jackson Hole. The JHWS is an important incubator of conservation collaboration. We increased the amount of time for coffee and lunch breaks to facilitate networking.

One respondent specially remarked: "Thank you for a wonderful symposium. I always look forward to this important event and to networking with other wildlife professionals."

- D. *Action*: The JHWS emphasizes practical ways to improve how we carry out research, education, and conservation projects in Jackson Hole. The Raynes and Craighead awards reward outstanding local and regional conservationists.

Attendees indicated the content was very applicable to current conservation challenges and we hope this will enable attendees to be more effective in their research, education, and on-the-ground conservation work.

One attendee noted "Excellent choices for the two awards!" The Raynes and Craighead awards inspire volunteers and professionals to make unique contributions to conservation in Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

### **3. Conclusions and effectiveness of the project.**

Metrics for evaluation of the success of the project:

A. *Attendance*

We would have liked higher attendance than the 125 attendees during the day and 150 attendees at the free evening keynote. Challenging winter weather and the Federal Government shutdown earlier in the year, which made registration and Quicktalk presentation submissions difficult for numerous community members, likely impacted attendance. Students and young professionals appreciated receiving a deeply discounted admission rate and allowed many to attend who would not otherwise have been able.

B. *Participant satisfaction*

A graphical summary of the post-event survey is attached and shows that a large majority of respondents found the symposium content thought provoking and relevant to their conservation work/interests. This is the most important measure of success.

C. *Symposium abstracts and videos are available online*

The symposium content has been made available for review and a larger audience.

–Quicktalk abstracts are available on our website at:

<http://nrccooperative.org/education/2019-jackson-hole-wildlife-symposium/quicktalks-concurrent-sessions-1-2/>

–We have posted videos of all presentations on NRCC's Facebook site:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/nrccooperative/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/nrccooperative/videos/?ref=page_internal)