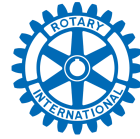




Glacier National Park
CONSERVANCY



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada



Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

Jodi Hilty
jodi@y2y.net
403 678 1137
www.y2y.net

Canada, US
Size: 500,000 sq mile



Participants in coordinating the ongoing transboundary cooperation:

Over our 20+ years of existence we have partnered with more than 300 different entities, see examples below.

National Government:

- Canada
- USA

Local Government:

- State and provincial land and wildlife management agencies
- Town governments (e.g., Canmore)

Protected area administration:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- Alberta Parks
- Parks Canada
- National Park Service

International NGOs:

- Wildlife Conservation Society

National NGOs:

- Canadian Parks and Wilderness
- Defenders of Wildlife
- The Wilderness Society

Local NGOs:

- Great Yellowstone Coalition
- Alberta Wilderness Association

Intergovernmental organizations:

- NAFTA
- CEC

Multi-National Corporations:

- Timber companies
- Mining companies

Local Small Businesses:

- Yes, a variety have sponsored our work over the years

Community-based Organizations:

- Road Watch
- Bow Valley Naturalists

Objectives: Protect and connect habitat from Yellowstone to Yukon so that people and nature can thrive.

Values and importance:

- Natural - one of the most intact mountain ecosystems in the world.
- Social and cultural- mountain communities with a strong fabric of indigenous cultural presence and values.

- Economic – Strong eco-tourism, a long history of energy exportation.
- Political – stable but lots of boundaries within and across countries.
- Security importance – stable area.

Aspects of transboundary cooperation: Nature conservation; science research is a tool to direct priorities

Stage in the process: 20+ years into implementation with demonstrated successes; bottom up collaborations with limited top-down formal structure

Date Established: 1993

Official Protected Area Designation ~21% of the Y2Y region is now in protected areas

- Canadian National Parks and Reserves
- Alberta Wilderness Areas
- Alberta Wilderness Parks
- Alberta Provincial Parks
- BC Provincial Parks
- BC Conservancies
- BC Ecological Reserves
- NWT Parcels of Conservation Interest
- Yukon Territorial Parks
- Yukon Wilderness Preserves
- Yukon Peel River Protected Areas
- US National Parks
- US Wilderness
- US National Monuments

The Catalyst: A group of conservationists realized that protected areas while hugely important were insufficient to protect one of the continent's most intact ecosystems. The vision has and still continues to compel people to engage toward the vision of a protected and connected Y2Y region.

History

1. The collaborative vision "to protect and connect habitat across Y2Y so that people and nature will thrive. The power of a compelling vision cannot be underestimated.
2. Leadership – the major leaders at the time all united around the vision.
3. Science at the initiation and continues today to define the places that are the biggest priorities
4. Community groups to international NGOs working on tangible conservation issues across the region using a suite of tools continues to drive the initiative forward.

Barriers, challenges, obstacles, or constraints:

1. Fear of a new entity that might be from the United Nations and/or might be a land-grab agency. While this still pops up from time to time, the single best way to address this is through active engagement of individuals from Y2Y working in partnership on shared priorities.
2. Enormous and increasing human populations settling in and around the southern part of the region and utilizing significant amounts of land that were either natural or in low intensity use as well as increasing pressure on public lands for recreation that can have inadvertent impacts. Y2Y and partners are working hard to develop and disseminate tools and approaches to address these issues and maintain mountain community identities that emphasize co-existence with wildlife and nature.
3. Enormous and increasing pressure around natural resource extraction particularly further north in the region but ubiquitous. Key to addressing this is reframing Y2Y as a global gem and that the best and highest good is conservation such that for natural resource extraction to advance, they need to rebut this.
4. Climate change – fires, floods, fear can all result in policies that threaten conservation gains. Planning for climate change and resiliency in nature and in communities is essential.

The Governance and Management Structures

- **Cooperative relationship:** While we have binding contracts to move forward specific work, the broader partnership approach of Y2Y to move forward a shared vision is voluntary engagement.
- **Legal basis for cooperation:** n/a
- **Governance structure:** As the promoter of the Y2Y vision that encourages and facilitates collaborations, Y2YCI is a non-profit organization in both Canada and the US and is governed by boards on each side of the border. Program and project level collaborations are worked out through both formal and informal mechanisms.
- **Cooperative management arrangement:** Not sure this is applicable to Y2Y. Y2Y is a non-profit and does not manage lands or wildlife.

Results

- In the 20 years since the inception of the shared vision of Y2Y was articulated to connect and protect habitat from the Yellowstone to the Yukon so that people and nature can thrive; protected areas have increased from 11 to 21 percent in the region, almost doubling the protected areas.
- In the region, few if any designated road wildlife crossing structures exist. Today arguably the most progress wildlife crossing structures in each country (in Banff on

the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Reservation) now sit in the Y2Y region and many other crossing structures have been built or are in the plans.

- Various large carnivores in the Y2Y region have increased in populations.
- Two countries agree to place coal off-limits in the Flathead watershed.
- Y2Y has inspired other large landscape efforts around the world.
- And so much more.

What sustains the initiative is a simple, clear and powerful vision.

Lessons Learned

- Working together can synergize the work of multiple groups to new levels
- Bottom up and top down levers are ultimately required for long-term success
- Engagement of community within the region and more broadly is essential

For More Information

Name	Title	Organization	Email	Phone
Stephen Legault	Program Director Alberta and NWT	Y2YCI	stephen@y2y.net	403 609 2666
Candace Batycki	Program director BC and Yukon	Y2YCI	candace@y2y.net	2503523830
Kim Trotter	Program Director US	Y2YCI	Kim@y2y.net	208709-1114
Bill Weber	Co-chair Y2Y	Yale University	Bweber13@gmail.com	202 3029697

Major documents and other general information are available at <http://www.y2y.net>