

PROTECTING THE PEEL
In a time of changing climate, keeping our wild 'wild' is vital. Almost seven times larger than Yellowstone or Jasper National Parks, the Yukon's Peel Watershed is one of the largest intact and unsettled wild places left on Earth. It's a sacred place for many local First Nations and an area considered a refuge for numerous species as the climate changes. Rich in natural resources, the Peel has been under threat of development.

FULL AND LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THE WATERSHED IS NOW ON THE HORIZON. For more than a decade an intense land-use battle over the Peel Watershed has been underway, with competing interests for either protection or development 80% of the Peel. Thanks to the dedicated work of Y2Y partners to elevate the environmental profile of this region during the last territorial election, backed by Y2Y and our supporters, the newly elected government committed to protecting 80% of the region. Protection was further supported by a Supreme Court decision in 2017.



RECOVERING MOUNTAIN CARIBOU
Northeastern B.C.'s Peace River region and the inland old growth forests of central and southeast B.C. are the only places in the world where you can still find the threatened mountain caribou. Once so numerous they were described by First Nations elders as being like 'bugs on the land', industrial activities have cut up habitat and caused caribou numbers to drop so low that this iconic creature could soon be gone forever. Losing caribou threatens what could happen to the other wildlife sharing their home. We work with local conservation groups, scientists and First Nations to recover caribou habitat and help caribou thrive in this heavily industrialized landscape.

THERE IS HOPE FOR CARIBOU. A new proposed First Nations-led Partnership Agreement was negotiated in 2019, which could result in an Indigenous protected area in the Peace's Hart Ranges more than three-quarters the size of Yellowstone National Park. The Peace's Kline-za mountain caribou herd is also quadrupled in size thanks to a maternal penning project run by partners at West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations. Work with Indigenous partners to protect caribou and their habitat in the Columbia Headwaters of southern B.C. continues.

BALANCING THE ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE
The Columbia Headwaters region links the Canadian national mountain parks to important conservation areas in the U.S. Here, unique inland temperate rainforests in deep rugged valleys climb to big snow peaks high on alpine peaks. This region is a known spot for wolves, a species that may be particularly vulnerable to climate change. Along with other organizations, Y2Y is working to ensure communities where wildlife are thriving with a conservation-oriented economy where wealth generated from the local resources and natural assets meet community needs and interests, while not negatively impacting wildlife, water, and other ecosystem values.

RESEARCH IS KEY. Y2Y is working with partners to better understand the needs of wolves in this area. Thanks to the work of engaged community members — like you — researchers received more than 250 reports of den, signs of wolves and even wolves themselves. Understanding what wolves need to survive in this era of climate change will help inform potential habitat protections and management changes. Y2Y aims to expand this research to other species in the future.

RECOVERING GRIZZLY BEARS AND CORRIDORS
In the Canada-U.S. Cabinet-Purcell Mountain Corridor of southern B.C., northern Idaho and southwest Montana, grizzly bears have been at risk for decades. The valleys in this largely unprotected landscape have been used by the South Fork grizzly population to move between two mountain ranges in search of food and mates. But a growing network of farmlands, communities, roads and industry have made movement dangerous; some 60% of non-hunting grizzly bear deaths are the result of bears being killed after they were attracted to garbage, livestock and fruit trees. For the past 15 years, Y2Y and more than 60 other partners have used their expertise to address the myriad issues facing bears here.

THE RESULT: A POPULATION ON THE RISE FROM ~10 TO ~60 BEARS!
The joint efforts of the Cabinet-Purcell Collaborative have helped create the conditions that support these native animals. Together, we increased core habitat, including three vital corridors, by securing 188,500 acres (76,283 ha) of private land. We reduced movement barriers by closing more than 600 miles (1,000 km) of unsafed forest roads to motorized vehicles and habitat, and secured some 500,000 acres (202 ha) of old growth habitat. And thanks to effective community coexistence programs, we have seen an impressive reduction in wildlife-human conflict. The work continues.

What will we achieve together in the next 25 years?

Addressing the needs of nature is urgent. Together we've come so far. Thank you for being an advocate and supporter of this big, bold vision — with still more to do. The Yellowstone to Yukon vision is a beacon of hope and if we work together we can harmonize the needs of people and nature.

Be part of the next 25-year legacy.
Donate at y2y.net/25years or sign up to take action at y2y.net/takeaction.

All of us here at Y2Y look forward to working with you to connect and protect this beautiful landscape so that people and nature can thrive into the future.

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

25 Activities to Celebrate 25 Years of Conservation

Panning for gold
LOCATION: Dawson City, Yukon
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: spring, summer, fall
WILDLIFE: caribou, red fox, gray wolf, peregrine falcon

Located in the heart of the Klondike, enjoy the thrill of the Gold Rush as you attempt to find precious gold just like the hope-filled prospectors from days of old.

Dog sledding
LOCATION: near Whitehorse, Yukon
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy to extreme
SUITABLE FOR: age 10 and up
SEASON: winter
WILDLIFE: caribou, lynx, otter, moose

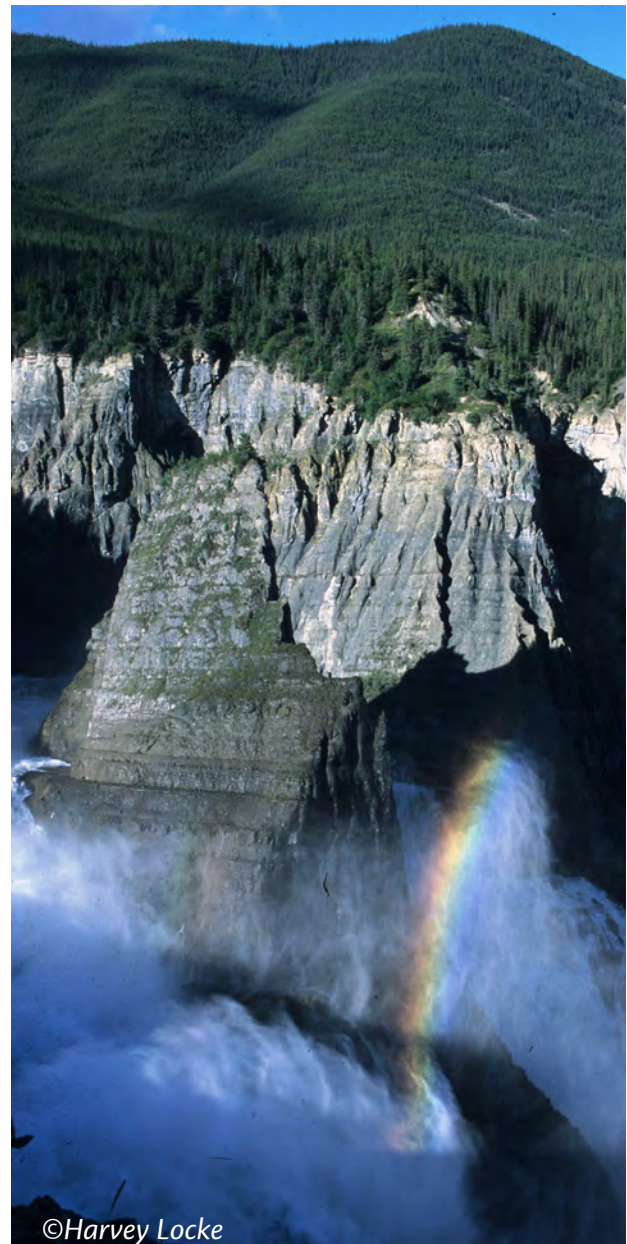
Experience the magic of mushing! Head out into the Yukon wild pulled by a dog team as you enjoy the crisp smell of winter air, breathtaking sights of the low lying mountains and the echoing sounds of a distant eagle. This is a magical winter adventure that is fun for the whole family.

Horse pack through Muskwa-Kechika
LOCATION: Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, B.C.
DIFFICULTY: extreme
SUITABLE FOR: adults
SEASON: summer
WILDLIFE: grizzly bear, black bear, wolf, caribou, lynx, wolverine, elk, moose, beaver, mountain goat

This multi-day horseback riding adventure will take you into a world of wild land and wildlife. Trips can last 14 days and run from mid-June until mid-September. Immerse yourself in the wonders of a magnificent intact forest landscape as you hike, and travel as if you had gone back in time.

River expedition
LOCATION: Nahanni National Park Reserve, Northwest Territories
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: moderate
SUITABLE FOR: age 10 and up
SEASON: summer
WILDLIFE: grizzly bear, black bear, wolf, moose, caribou, wolverine, lynx, mink, marten

Take a trip down the majestic Nahanni River in one of the world's most beautiful, untouched landscapes, Nahanni National Park Reserve. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced paddler, this expedition will leave you in awe of the breathtaking views and inspire you to be an advocate for wild spaces. See first hand how conservation efforts have helped keep this natural and wonderful place wild.



Recovering Mountain Caribou
LOCATION: Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, B.C.
DIFFICULTY: extreme
SUITABLE FOR: adults
SEASON: summer
WILDLIFE: grizzly bear, black bear, wolf, caribou, lynx, wolverine, elk, moose, beaver, mountain goat

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Hike Maligne Canyon
LOCATION: Jasper National Park, AB
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy to moderate
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: summer
WILDLIFE: grizzly bear, wolf, lynx, mountain goat, caribou

As you make your way along the trail experiencing natural springs, abundant forest and wildlife, you'll find yourself at one of the most interesting canyons in the Canadian Rockies. Unlike most water-carved canyons, Maligne Canyon is narrower at the top than it is partway down. The trail culminates in dramatic views where you'll find yourself surrounded by the artistry of nature.

Glacier exploration
LOCATION: Columbia Icefield between Jasper and Banff National Parks, AB
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy to moderate
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: all seasons
WILDLIFE: mountain goat, bighorn sheep, pika, hoary marmot

Walking on a glacier is one of the most strolls you'll ever take. The Yellowstone to Yukon region is rich in glaciers providing wild water to some 15 million people and countless species of wildlife. Here you can experience one of these glaciers for yourself. Walk the Columbia Icefield glacier on a three-hour tour or explore it on a bus with tires specially designed to cross ice.

Kootenay hot springs
LOCATION: East and West Kootenays, B.C.
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: all seasons
WILDLIFE: wild turkey, bighorn sheep, moose, elk, mountain goat, whitetail deer, black bear, cougar

After a long day of skiing, hiking, paddling or climbing, take a relaxing dip in one of the many natural hot springs the Kootenays have to offer. Bathed in the natural minerals long claimed to have healing properties. Most hot spring locations have cold pools or rivers to refresh your body between satisfying soaks.

Kootenay skiing adventures
LOCATION: West Kootenays, B.C.
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy to extreme
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: winter
WILDLIFE: snowshoe hare, lynx, cougar

Big fun in small towns! Experience the thrill of downhill skiing along with some of the most striking towns in the Yellowstone to Yukon region. Known for its incredible snowpack, the Kootenays are a skiing haven, but intense precipitation also plays a critical role in freshwater storage, supporting many animals and plants that live in the region. Whether you're taking the kids on a family ski trip, or pushing your experience to the extreme, the Kootenays are a place of natural adventure.

Butcher Lake fishing
LOCATION: Outside Pincher Creek, AB
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy to moderate
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: summer and early fall
WILDLIFE: brook trout, grizzly bear, black bear, elk

Whether you're solo or with a group of friends and family, fishing is one of the most enjoyable experiences you can have in the Yellowstone to Yukon region. Catch your shore lunch of brook trout and take in the scenic views from the water. Be sure to check out the many local tackle shops.

Arlee Espagayni celebration
LOCATION: Arlee, MT
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy to extreme
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: early July annually
WILDLIFE: mule deer, white-tailed deer, coyote

Experience this traditional, cultural celebration on the Flathead reservation and learn about the history and customs of Indigenous peoples who have been stewards of this landscape for centuries. This six-day long pow-wow includes dancing, singing, and drumming, along with arts and crafts. It's a cultural experience for the whole family.

Spelunking the Lewis and Clark Caverns
LOCATION: Lewis and Clark State Park, MT
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy to extreme
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: late spring to early fall
WILDLIFE: western big-eared bat, pronghorn, mule deer

Take an illuminating tour of one of the largest known limestone caverns in the northwest U.S. and experience this geological wonder. Tours vary in length and difficulty so check which one is right for you. Access to the caves is by guided tour only and camping is available not far from the banks of the Jefferson River.

Float the Middle Fork and Main Salmon Rivers
LOCATION: central ID
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: moderate
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: summer
WILDLIFE: bull trout, rainbow trout, bighorn sheep, elk, black bear, rough ground grouse

Each float takes approximately six days, as you travel down the river through solitary wilderness having lots of splashy fun along the way. Experience life on nature's highways. This activity is a favorite of Y2Y U.S. program director Kim Trotter.

Backcountry ski or split-board
LOCATION: Beartooth Pass, MT, WY
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: extreme
SUITABLE FOR: adults
SEASON: late spring, early summer
WILDLIFE: grizzly bear, wolf, mountain goat, mountain bluebird, American clipper

Many skilled backcountry skiers consider this adventure a rite of passage. Join others who make skiing the Pass their annual pilgrimage in late spring or early summer for the ultimate skiing experience. Please remember to take appropriate safety measures for your adventure.

Horseback riding
LOCATION: Sawtooth Wilderness, ID
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy to moderate
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: summer
WILDLIFE: grizzly bear, wolf, pika, elk, pronghorn, porcupine

You can choose your own adventure with various local horseback riding excursions. Pick between one-hour and five-day rides as you experience the natural wild of the Sawtooth Wilderness, just as people did hundreds of years ago. There are many outfitters ready to take you on a one-of-a-kind adventure.

Climb the Teton, Wind River and Big Horn Ranges
LOCATION: Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, ID, WY
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: moderate to extreme
SUITABLE FOR: older children and adults
SEASON: summer to early fall
WILDLIFE: elk, bison, wolf, coyote, moose, mountain goat

You're unlikely to find more challenging mountains in the Greater Yellowstone region than these three. If you're a beginner, here's a guide to ensure a safe experience. Nothing will compare with the feeling of making it to the top of these climbs and gazing at the vast beauty below. Put this on your list of climbing adventures for you to conquer.

Bike Teton Valley
LOCATION: Driggs, ID
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy to extreme
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: all seasons (fat bikes best in winter)
WILDLIFE: moose, mountain lion, sandhill crane, beaver, grizzly bear, black bear, elk, fox, marmot, wolf

Why drive through the Teton Valley when you can bike it? Each mountain range offers a unique mountain biking experience with stunning views. Take the groomed Nordic ski trails or the abandoned rail line trail that is 104 miles (167 km) on converted railway track.

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You're unlikely to find more challenging mountains in the Greater Yellowstone region than these three. If you're a beginner, here's a guide to ensure a safe experience. Nothing will compare with the feeling of making it to the top of these climbs and gazing at the vast beauty below. Put this on your list of climbing adventures for you to conquer.

Bike Teton Valley
LOCATION: Driggs, ID
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: easy to extreme
SUITABLE FOR: all ages
SEASON: all seasons (fat bikes best in winter)
WILDLIFE: moose, mountain lion, sandhill crane, beaver, grizzly bear, black bear, elk, fox, marmot, wolf

Why drive through the Teton Valley when you can bike it? Each mountain range offers a unique mountain biking experience with stunning views. Take the groomed Nordic ski trails or the abandoned rail line trail that is 104 miles (167 km) on converted railway track.

Butcher Lake fishing
LOCATION: Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, ID, WY
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: moderate to extreme
SUITABLE FOR: older children and adults
SEASON: summer to early fall
WILDLIFE: elk, bison, wolf, coyote, moose, mountain goat

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