



The fight to protect Our Wild

Bears Ears National Monument, Utah
© Mason Cummings

In the face of unprecedented threats, Americans show unprecedented support for public lands

The 2016 elections changed our political landscape. Our system of public lands—the parks, rivers and forests that belong to, and benefit, us all—now face new and serious threats. And yet we know that there is overwhelming and bipartisan support for protecting our public lands nationwide. At The Wilderness Society, we are committed to defending the wild places that are beloved by the American people, and that belong not just to us, but to the generations to come.

To meet the challenges ahead, The Wilderness Society is building a robust movement of advocates to hold members of Congress and the administration accountable for attacks on public land. We are using our expertise both in Washington, D.C., and working with local communities to protect Our Wild. We are mounting a strong legal defense fund to defend our public lands in the courts when and where it is necessary to take action.

In one of the most recent and egregious (at time of writing) attacks on our lands, waters and climate,

President Trump signed an executive order on March 28 to roll back President Obama's critical work to address climate change, including undoing the Clean Power Plan and halting an important review of the federal coal program. Not only does this action change the course of our domestic commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it will have implications for our country's global leadership on climate change.

Lawmakers have also unleashed a barrage of attacks aimed at selling off our public lands. On the first day of the legislative session, the House passed a bill that would make it easier for states to take over public lands—paving the way for future sales of these places to private entities.

In February, a bill was introduced that would have sold off 3.3 million acres of public land in 10 western states. The Wilderness Society sounded the alarm and citizens from across the country inundated members of Congress with phone calls demanding that our public lands be kept public—and we won. In a rare move, this bill was withdrawn.

We hope to see the same level of engagement as we launch a campaign to defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—America's last wild frontier. Schemes to open

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The Wilderness Society President
Jamie Williams with his son, Ben, in
Shining Rock Wilderness, North Carolina.

DEAR WILDERNESS SOCIETY SUPPORTERS,

Despite the daunting political forces the recent elections pose against the conservation movement, with your help we can and will defend the land protections and important environmental policies we've worked so hard to establish.

Throughout our more than 80 years as an organization, we

have fought and won many hard battles against threats to our public lands—the parks, forests, refuges and monuments that belong to all of us. We bring this same passion and expertise to the fights at hand.

While Congress and the Trump administration are waging myriad attempts to sell off more public lands and reverse regulations that are integral to the fight against climate change, we know that these actions run contrary to core American values. A recent poll from the Center for American Progress shows strong bipartisan support for public lands with 9 out of 10 Americans feeling that protecting public lands for future generation is very important.

With this kind of support from a clear majority of Americans, we will continue to speak up about the importance of our shared lands, and reject any policies that would jeopardize bedrock conservation laws. Already, we've seen success with this strategy: an outpouring of calls and social media responses from our members and supporters around the country to fight numerous congressional attacks on our lands, waters and clean air.

As we double-down on our defensive efforts in the short-term, we do so without losing sight of the long view: to win protection for large, connected landscapes; to connect more Americans to the outdoors; and to ensure sound management of energy development on public lands.

Your support is pivotal in these challenging times and while I urge you to stay engaged, I also urge you to take every opportunity you can to remind yourself what we are fighting for. This spring, take the time to get outside and experience all of the wonders our lands have to offer. Equal access to these astounding places is a valuable part of what it means to be American. Thank you for all you do to protect Our Wild.

Sincerely,

Jamie Williams
President

THE FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR WILD *continued*

the 1.4-million-acre coastal plain of the Refuge to oil and gas drilling are more severe than they've been in a decade—threatening to change this irreplaceable landscape forever.

In addition to the continued attempts to sell off and sell out our public lands, we expect aggressive attempts to overturn the Antiquities Act—the law that presidents have used since 1906 to designate our nation's natural, cultural and scientific treasures. The act has protected some of the most treasured lands in the US, and we are marshaling support across the country to defend this landmark law. The Trump administration is threatening to reverse the recent victories the Antiquities Act has secured—like the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah that protects one of our country's most culturally-significant landscapes.

Despite the unprecedented anti-conservation agenda being pushed by the current administration and Congress, we can win this fight. Momentum is on our side. Never before have we seen such an outpouring of support for our issues—from a notable increase in donations and social media engagement, and vast numbers of people like you picking up the phone and calling their members of Congress. We will continue to do everything in our power to defend our work to date. Thank you for your continued support in helping us do that.

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PRESIDENT:
Jamie Williams

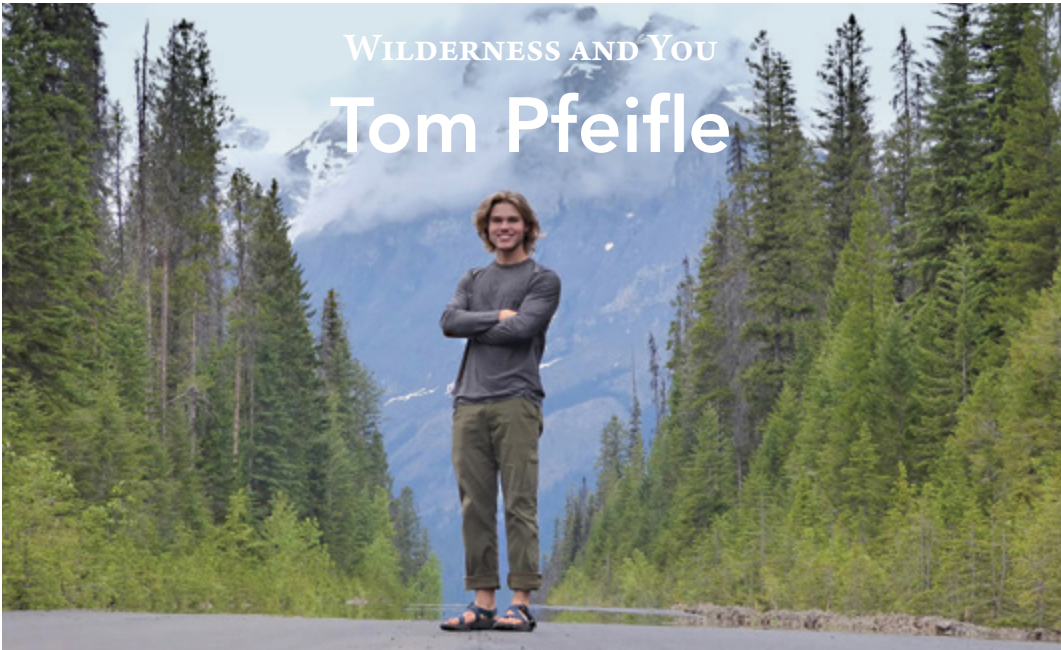
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Please contact
Jamie Clark at
Jamie_Clark@tws.org



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WILDERNESS AND YOU

Tom Pfeifle

the outdoors and the land we all own and share.”

The importance of public lands was obvious to Tom, and he planned to pursue a policy-making position to help preserve them for future generations. Jane recalls, “Tom and I often talked about our appreciation for the foresight of communities—including Rapid City—to set aside green spaces for the public. He understood how very long-lasting and impactful those decisions are.”

Admired for his boundless energy and adventuresome spirit, nineteen-year-old Thomas Craig Pfeifle believed that time in nature was key to living life to its fullest and best. Though he passed away on August 29, 2016, his passion for America’s wild places and his desire to ensure their protection continue to live on.

The son of Jane and Craig Pfeifle and the youngest of four, Tom grew up in Rapid City, S.D., where he earned a reputation as a strong athlete and an avid outdoorsman. Fueled by fresh air and sunlight, Tom could often be found biking in the morning, hiking in the afternoon, and running at night. “He intended to get to as many high

places as possible,” Craig says. If he wasn’t summiting a peak, he was reading about one.

Tom’s love of the outdoors can be traced to his family’s month-long tour of the West in 2004, which included stops at Arches and Glacier national parks. Seven-year-old Tom had just completed a water course, and he eagerly checked each stream for turbidity, clarity and temperature.

In a letter to his parents a few months before his death, Tom fondly recounted how the experience shaped him: “I am so grateful for the trip we took 12 years ago and the hundreds of local excursions that gave me a love and appreciation for

A graduate of Stevens High School and a student at Pacific Lutheran University, Tom sought to connect his peers to the wonder of wild places by including them in his hiking excursions whenever possible. In doing so, he changed perspectives and created new public land supporters along the way.

Tom’s family, looking for a way to honor his wishes to protect the “American wilderness west of the Missouri,” established a memorial fund at The Wilderness Society. To date, nearly \$10,000 has been raised in his name—an impressive outpouring of support for a passionate, young wilderness advocate whose story continues to inspire us.

**Stay Informed.
Take Action.
Spread the Word.**

Get the facts about the urgent threats facing our wildlands.

Visit wilderness.org/swat and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter today!

Raise your voice to protect Our Wild



Public land supporters at rallies in several western cities.

Photos; top left ©Scott Brennan, all other ©Brad Brooks

Momentum is on our side.

Protests and rallies across the nation and a storm of phone calls and social media targeting congressional offices are helping lawmakers see that Americans will not stand for attacks on our wildlands and environmental protections. Already, we're gaining strength and winning battles. In the West, people have rallied at state capitols and in front of congressional offices to protest giving away our public lands to the states and the rolling back of Obama-era energy reforms. Recreation industry leaders have decided to move their \$45 million

Outdoor Retailer show out of Utah in reaction to that state's lobbying of Trump to undo the new Bears Ears National Monument, and a groundswell of phone calls inspired the withdrawal of a bill to sell off more than 3 million acres of public land. We also have numerous conservation champions in Congress and others who can be persuaded to do the right thing with enough public pressure. Our best hope to defend our wildlands and protect our environment may be through Congress. We must draw the line and demand that our elected representatives resist attacks on conservation.

Recently, Americans have raised their voices for public lands in cities across the country, including:

- Taos, New Mexico
- Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Helena, Montana
- Boise, Idaho
- Casper, Wyoming

How to make your voice heard:



1. Contact your members of Congress frequently, and at key times

Any contact with your member of Congress is good, but concentrating phone calls and letters around key times, such as the week before an important vote, can be more effective.



2. Attend town hall meetings and public forums

One of the most important ways to be heard by your members of Congress is to attend town hall meetings or other forums. Members of Congress traditionally hold town halls several times a year to hear from their constituents and report back what they've been working on in Washington.



3. Meet directly with your lawmakers.

You can meet personally with your senators or representatives at in-district events, fundraisers or at their offices. Personal contacts and relationships with members of Congress are vital and these contacts can be used to thank, advocate or inform lawmakers.



4. Say thank you and applaud good actions

Members of Congress need to know that voters approve of efforts to initiate positive environmental legislation. Give them a phone call to show you noticed and thank them for standing up for the issues you care about.



5. Help rallies and protests succeed

Is your member of Congress supporting bad legislation affecting climate change, undermining conservation laws or threatening to sell off wildlands in your state? Well-attended rallies and protests send a strong message to congressional representatives.



6. Organize your own event

If you can't find a local or nearby rally or event, organize your own. This can be a demonstration to put pressure on lawmakers or a public forum or panel of experts to raise awareness for a specific environmental issue.



7. Use your social networks

Social media is a great way to drive attention to conservation threats and issues facing your community. Facebook is good for sharing information with friends, such as rally invitations, phone calling campaigns and petitions.



8. Contribute to media coverage

Write a letter to the editor and submit it to your local media outlets or pitch a story. Anyone can call their local newspaper and media outlets to suggest coverage of an issue. Start by calling and asking if the paper has an environmental or lands reporter. If not, you can ask for a news editor.

Visit wilderness.org/activisttoolkit for our complete activist toolkit.

HOT ISSUES >>

Celebrating a conservation legacy

Over the past eight years, President Obama protected more land and water than any president in history, expanded opportunities for more Americans to experience our public lands, and ensured climate change is factored into our land management decisions. In its last couple months, the Obama administration put the final seal on its conservation legacy with numerous significant victories.

» In December, President Obama designated the Gold Butte National Monument, permanently protecting Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon—a cultural treasure containing fossils dating back 180 million years, thousands of centuries-old Native American petroglyphs, and artifacts from westward expansion.

» On Jan. 10, former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced the cancellation of the last remaining contested leases in the Badger-Two Medicine area of Montana, leaving the sacred region free from the threat of oil and gas development for the first time in three decades.

Milestones at risk of being undone under the Trump administration



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Bears Ears National Monument: a historic triumph

In December 2016, President Obama designated the Bears Ears National Monument, protecting 1.35 million acres across southeastern Utah. This historic victory in the fight to protect one of our country's most astounding paleontologically, archaeologically and culturally significant landscapes from vandals, looters and the threat of oil and gas development, was the result of concerted advocacy by the first tribal-led coalition in history.



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Bureau of Land Management's critical rule to reduce methane pollution goes into effect

In January 2017, a new Bureau of Land Management rule to cut natural gas waste from oil and gas operations on public lands went into effect. The rule is expected to reduce U.S. emissions of methane—a greenhouse gas up to 84 times more potent than CO₂—by nearly 170,000 tons annually and earn taxpayers \$800 million in royalties over the next 10 years.



© Carl Donohue

Historic recommendation to permanently protect Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness

In 2015, the Obama administration made history when it finalized the decision to recommend to Congress that 12.28 million acres of the Arctic Refuge and its biologically sensitive coastal plain be designated as wilderness. This landscape, stretching from the Brooks Range to the Arctic Ocean, is home to polar bears, wolves, migratory birds and the Porcupine Caribou Herd—on which indigenous populations rely for subsistence hunting.

The Fight Ahead

The Wilderness Society is on the frontlines of every battle to protect Our Wild—and we need your support more than ever. Here's how you can stay up to date on urgent threats facing our wildlands:



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Trump executive order guts climate change policies

On March 28, President Trump signed an executive order with multiple environmental rollbacks. Here are the ways this sweeping directive harms our lands and our environment:

- » Targets policies to undo the Clean Power Plan
- » Resumes the federal coal program
- » Strikes down guidelines that were put in place to ensure climate pollution considerations were part of the environmental review process
- » Reverses rules to minimize methane pollution
- » Rejects science determining how to calculate the cost of carbon emissions to society

The greatest threat to our lands and waters is a changing climate. Despite this major step backward, The Wilderness Society will continue to do everything in our power to make our public lands part of the climate solution.

Trump administration threatens to undo Bears Ears National Monument

President Trump could try to revoke or shrink Bears Ears National Monument. Encouraged by Utah Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz and other Utah politicians, President Trump may try to rescind or shrink Bears Ears National Monument as soon as possible. Revoking or diminishing Bears Ears monument protection would be unprecedented and legally dubious.

Congress seeks to undo Bureau of Land Management methane waste rule

In January, some GOP members in Congress formally proposed to repeal the Bureau of Land Management's methane waste rule using the obscure and extreme Congressional Review Act. Killing this rule with the CRA would ensure that the oil and gas industry will continue to waste \$330 million worth of taxpayer-owned natural gas each year—and would prevent any similar rule from being developed in the future.

Alaska delegation sets sites on drilling in the Arctic Refuge

Since the 2016 election, the threat to the refuge's fragile coastal plain is greater than it has been in more than a decade. With a pro-drilling president in the White House, Alaska's delegation hopes to seize the opportunity to pass legislation that would tap oil reserves in America's last wild frontier—posing serious threats like chronic spills of oil and other toxic substances that would forever scar this pristine land and disrupt its wildlife.



The Wilderness Society
1615 M St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
www.wilderness.org
1-800-THE-WILD

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