



Uncompahgre National Forest, Colorado

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You Are Leading the Defense of America's Public Lands

As we look back on 2018, it is incredible to reflect on the key successes you made possible for America's public lands—in Congress, in communities, and in the courts.

Your outreach to elected officials in Congress was critical to asserting the will of the pro-conservation majority of Americans. You helped beat back hundreds of anti-conservation measures throughout the year.

You kept Congress from:

- ✘ Opening magnificent old growth sections of Tongass National Forest in Alaska to logging;
- ✘ Weakening the sage-grouse protection plan that preserves 67 million acres of habitat across 10 western states;
- ✘ Undermining bedrock laws that guide the conservation of public lands and provide the public with the opportunity to shape how our shared natural heritage is managed.

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The Wilderness Society President Jamie Williams with his two children.

Dear Public Lands Champion,

Thank you for your unwavering support for America's public lands and waters throughout this very challenging year. Because of your leadership, the movement to defend our treasured wildlands is growing. You helped us block virtually every anti-environmental bill in Congress this year. Still, we need more people to join our cause, and that is why we are investing in programs like Urban to Wild (pages 4 & 5) in Los Angeles.

Our commitment to the idea that all people deserve equal access to our public lands is not new. Indeed, in the 1930's, our co-founder Bob Marshall pioneered efforts to dismantle the Forest Service's discriminatory barriers against people of color. He understood then, as we do today, that the only way to protect our public lands is to unite everyone in the awareness, enjoyment, and protection of our natural heritage.

Please join me in drawing inspiration from this idea as we greet the new year with more resolve than ever. Thank you for all that you are doing—together we will prevail!

Sincerely,

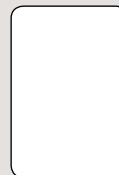
Jamie Williams
President



Many members of
The Wilderness Society
make gifts in their
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causes that have been
important to them.

To learn smart ways to
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Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, Maine
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UPDATE

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The Wilderness Society meets all standards as set forth by the Better Business Bureau/Wise Giving Alliance.

bbb.org/charity



“Access to public lands is one of the biggest economic drivers in the State of Idaho. It’s what attracts new talent and new businesses to our state. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is an important part of making sure those things remain.”

—Merrill Beyeler, Rancher, Lehmi Regional Trust, ID

In communities across America, your involvement fueled our massive effort to express public support for renewing the Land and Water Conservation Fund. While Congress failed to act by the deadline, we believe the Fund will be re-authorized. Your calls, letters, and emails helped persuade key members who had been blocking progress to relent. We will keep up the fight for America’s largest conservation funding program and are heartened by the growing momentum for its re-authorization and full funding.

In the courts, your gifts meant that we never wavered in our fight to prove that no president has the authority

to remove protection from a national monument, as this president has tried to do to the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah. Your support has also allowed us to develop the legal strategy in this vital stage of defending the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and will sustain us as we continue to challenge all attempts to drill in our last pristine wilderness.

Because of you, this Congress and this president have heard a rising call from Americans across the political spectrum to support the conservation and protection of our most treasured public lands.



Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

© Ryan Gasper



The Wilderness Society's Urban to Wild program works to address the inequity in access to parks and open spaces by facilitating connections for a broader constituency in Los Angeles.

Wild Places

Connecting Urban Communities to Wild Places

Today, an astounding 80% of us live in or around urban areas. To enjoy the outdoors, we are more reliant than ever on our city parks and open spaces. But a look at a map of any city in America reveals that a century or more of discriminatory urban planning and development policies have placed most of the parks and open spaces in moderate and higher income neighborhoods, leaving areas with the fewest resources starved for public green space.

Through our Urban to Wild program, The Wilderness Society is addressing this stark inequity in access to parks and open spaces by facilitating connections to nature while building a broader constituency of people willing to take action on behalf of our public lands.



Because of your support, we are now building on the success of these initial efforts in Los Angeles and expanding our **Urban to Wild** program to Seattle and Albuquerque in order to protect green spaces, connect park-poor communities to them, and develop new champions for public lands.



For years, you championed the effort to inspire broad community support to secure designation of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument near Los Angeles. That victory protected 346,177 acres of spectacular wildlands adjacent to the city and empowered a new constituency for public lands. Today, Urban to Wild engages that constituency in making sure the national monument will be accessible to and cherished by area residents from all walks of life.

Urban to Wild in Los Angeles has already achieved major victories, such as helping to secure \$94.6 million in local funding for new parks in park-poor areas and working with transportation authorities to establish new bus routes to popular trailheads, so that people who rely on public transportation can reach our shared wild places. And we continue to develop new conservation champions through our Leadership Academy, which annually trains 30 individuals from under-served communities to care for and protect public lands.

Through Urban to Wild, we continue to work with local communities in greater Los Angeles to make sure that local and federal land managers listen and respond to the concerns of people who live in park-poor communities.

The Wilderness Society remains committed for the long haul to ensuring that the San Gabriel Mountains and other natural treasures like them are accessible to people who have often been excluded from America's public lands in the past.



“I joined the Leadership Academy to be a part of protecting our local mountains, learn about civic engagement, and create projects for the betterment of my community. When our national monuments were challenged, I used the advocacy skills I gained through the program to build community support.”

—Dorothy “Dot” Wong

Looking Ahead to 2019

The new year promises to bring new challenges, even as we sustain our fierce defense of America's wildest places. But thanks to this powerful community that we're building together, we will be ready for the fights ahead, like:

- Defending the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the administration's rush to give it to oil companies who will destroy it;
- Proving in court that no president has the authority to destroy Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante or any national monument;
- Preventing essential environmental protection laws such as the Antiquities Act from being overturned by anti-conservation members of Congress; and

- Protecting our rights as citizens to decide how our national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and other public lands are managed and specifically, whether activities like drilling or mining should occur on the sensitive wildlands that belong to all of us.

Together, in 2019, we will continue to lead the defense of our parks and public lands for future generations. We will stand against the calls by the president and Congress to sell them out to special interests. While we face an uphill battle ahead, your sustained commitment reminds us that we can strike a balance between conservation and development that leaves our children and grandchildren fresh air, clean water, and access to nature.

Mary Helen Korbelik

Very sharp at age 90, Mary Helen Korbelik can still evoke the magic moment that awakened her love for wild places as an adolescent. “I was wading in a clear, cold stream in Yosemite National Park feeling awestruck by the beauty around me,” she reminisces. Her family was camped nearby, having arrived by car from south Texas via the Grand Canyon. It is a memory she recalls fondly from her present-day home in Mission Hills, Kansas.

Ever since that cross-country trip, Mary Helen has felt a deep appreciation for public lands and



© Laura Tuel

a strong commitment to ensuring their protection. In 1993, she joined The Wilderness Society with her late husband George, making small membership gifts for several years before becoming Advocates for Wilderness. In recent years, having built close relationships with Wilderness Society staff, Mary Helen

“I know the public disagrees with the way the current administration is treating our precious wildlands, and I’m grateful that The Wilderness Society is making sure our voices are heard.”

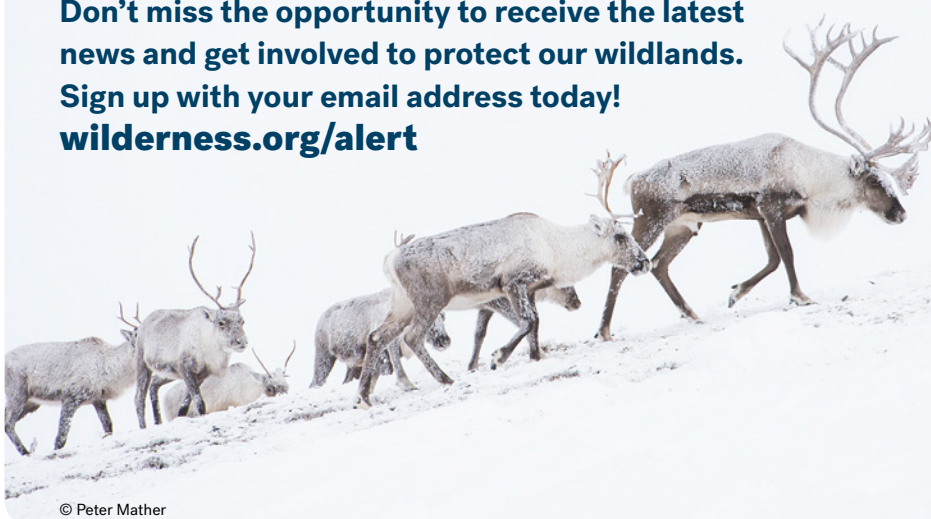
—Mary Helen Korbelik

substantially increased her support to address what she views as the biggest threat to conservation in her lifetime. “This is an administration unlike any other I have seen. If we’re not careful, we’re going to ruin the natural environment that God has given us,” she says. In July, she made a remarkably generous \$50,000 gift to support the legal defense of places like Utah’s Bears Ears National Monument and Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the policies that protect them.

While she admits her concern for the future, Mary Helen finds solace by convening with the birds on her backyard patio—her favorite place. She proudly asserts that her lifelong interest in conservation has only strengthened, not declined. “I know the public disagrees with the way the current administration is treating our precious wildlands, and I’m grateful that The Wilderness Society is making sure our voices are heard,” she says.

Stay connected to wilderness—and to our community.

Don’t miss the opportunity to receive the latest news and get involved to protect our wildlands. Sign up with your email address today! wilderness.org/alert



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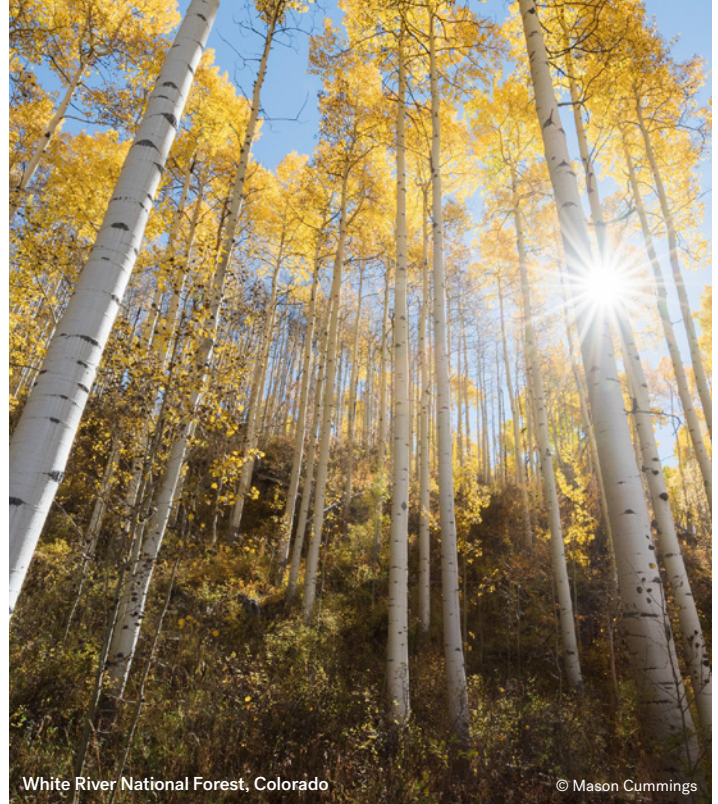
Member Action Center

So many reasons to love the wilderness.

Four ways to help save it.

Think about all the ways wilderness touches your life. Think about the ways your life would change if you didn't have fields and forests, rivers and streams, wilderness and wildlife in your life.

Then, think about what you can do to create a lasting future for the wilderness you love.



White River National Forest, Colorado

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Become an Advocate for Wilderness.

This dedicated group is leading the fight to preserve threatened wild places by making annual gifts of \$1,000 or more. Advocates enjoy special benefits and opportunities. Visit wilderness.org/advocate to learn more today.

Join our Friends of Wilderness.

As a *Friend of Wilderness*, your strong monthly support will help sustain our work all year long. It's easy for you and a great way to protect the wild places you love!

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Check out donor advised funds.

Experience the giving power (and generous tax benefits) of a private foundation without the complexity. Your philanthropic commitment can go far.

You love the wilderness. And the wilderness loves you back. Ask yourself, what can you do to protect and defend our public lands for the future?



Glacier National Park, Montana

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Arches National Park, Utah

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Greater sage-grouse in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon

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