

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Minnesota

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Defending What is Too Wild to Drill

Putting polluters over people, the Trump administration continues its attack on public lands. The administration prioritizes development of coal, oil, gas, metals and minerals above all else—selling out America's natural heritage to private industry.

President Trump has offered nearly 95 million acres of public lands and waters to oil and gas companies; many from the top 25 percent of the wildest places in the lower 48 states.

Trump has also tried to strip protections from more than 153 million acres of lands and waters, and drilling is being

recklessly pursued in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Now he is threatening Minnesota's Boundary Waters by allowing destructive mining next to the country's most visited wilderness area.

Additional unique wildlands under attack include Carlsbad Caves and Rivers in New Mexico; the North Fork of the Gunnison River in Colorado; and Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.

Fossil fuel development on U.S. public lands represents more than 20 percent of national emissions of the greenhouse gases driving climate change. The Trump administration is now pushing rampant development without regard to the impact on our climate.

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Dear Public Lands Champion,

Thank you for stepping up for our wildlands in so many important ways, at such a critical time.

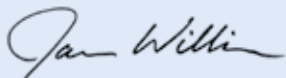
Spring brings renewal with the first green shoots and leaves. This spring, with the challenges facing the natural world, we must all renew our efforts to address the greatest existential threat of our time—climate change. Tackling climate change can begin with our public lands.

As you'll read in our cover story, energy extraction from our public lands represents more than 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. But with your help, we're working hard to make these lands part of the climate solution.

Meanwhile, we are fighting the Trump administration's excessive drilling proposals in the courts. We can't, and won't, let this administration sell out our wildest places to private industry.

And we're celebrating Women's History Month with a nod to some of the visionary women who have had a lasting impact on conservation. Their leadership changed the world for the better—and together we continue that fight for future generations.

Thank you for your deep commitment to saving our wildlands,


Jamie Williams
President

It is with your help that we fight back. Together, we're battling the Trump administration in court to preserve Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. We're also working with the new pro-conservation majority in the U.S. House of Representatives to hold this administration accountable for its sellout of public lands to private industry.

Our science and conservation teams are developing climate-smart land and energy policy ideas that the next administration can use to maximize the potential of America's public lands. Such policies will significantly reduce fossil fuel development on public lands and also protect big connected landscapes, allowing plants and animals to migrate and adapt to the changing climate.

Equally important, with your support, we continue the tough work on Capitol Hill, in federal agencies and in concert with our partners to build the political will to get these climate-smart policies enacted.

Our public lands can, and must, lead our national strategy to confront climate change.



PRINTER PLEASE
UPDATE

America's Wilderness is published three times a year by The Wilderness Society.

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DESIGN:
Studio Grafik

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Your Actions Matter



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The Three Sisters Wilderness area in Oregon is just one of many landscapes across the country that have benefited from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In a huge victory for conservation, the Senate passed legislation in February to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the largest funding source for America's parks! The new legislation also protects more than 2.3 million acres of wildlands in six western states and extends free entrance to national parks for fourth-graders and their families for seven years, so they can more readily experience wildlands together. (As we go to press, the House of Representatives is taking up the bill and is expected to pass it. President Trump has also signaled that he will sign the bill.)

After the Land and Water Conservation Fund expired last September, you joined more than two million people to demand that Congress save it. You raised awareness of the Fund's importance through rallies, social media and letters to the editor in newspapers all over the

country. As a result, new supporters in Congress emerged and the bipartisan agreement was reached to not only reauthorize the Fund, but to do so permanently. Finally, after 55 years of protecting wild places and improving peoples' access to them, the Fund will no longer be threatened with extinction.

With your continued help, our next goal is to secure stable funding from year to year for this essential conservation program. "The voice of the people got the Land and Water Conservation Fund reauthorized," said Jonathan Asher at The Wilderness Society, who co-chairs the national coalition fighting for the Fund. "Our members are a powerful force and we need your continued help to strengthen the Fund for the future." For details about how to get more involved, please visit our website at www.wilderness.org/get-involved.

Celebrating Women in Conservation

In the spirit of Women’s History Month, we celebrate the leadership of women in preserving wild landscapes for the benefit of all. We remember Rachel Carson’s bestselling book, *Silent Spring* (1962), which motivated the grassroots movement that led to the creation of the EPA, and acknowledge Mollie Beattie, the first woman to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1993–1996). Stories of women leaders are woven into the history of The Wilderness Society and the wild places we work to protect today.





Margaret “Mardy” E. Murie
(1902–2003)

Revered as the “Grandmother of the Conservation Movement,” Mardy Murie was an author and conservationist who devoted her life to protecting wilderness and wildlife, including leading a community of activists to help establish, protect and expand the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A member of The Wilderness Society’s Governing Council, she advocated for and witnessed the signing of the Wilderness Act in 1964, and in 1998 was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation’s highest honor for civilians.



Celia M. Hunter
(1910–2001)

Celia Hunter—a pioneer in Alaska conservation—helped form the first grassroots conservation organization in the state. In 1976, she was chosen to lead The Wilderness Society, becoming the first woman to preside over a national conservation organization. She played a major role in the passage of legislation in 1980 that protected over 100 million acres in Alaska. On her dying day, she wrote a letter to Congress urging the protection of the Arctic Refuge from oil drilling.



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Terry Tempest Williams
(1955–)

A conservationist, activist and contemporary author of more than a dozen books on environmental and social causes, Terry Tempest Williams is driven by her deep ties to the American West. Her poetic descriptions of wilderness helped convince President Clinton to designate the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah in 1996. Like Mardy and Celia, Terry received The Wilderness Society’s Robert Marshall Award, our highest honor for a citizen’s service to and influence upon conservation.

To learn more about conservation leaders past and present, please visit our website, www.wilderness.org/wildernesswomen.

Building on the legacy established by these great women, our fight to defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, national monuments and other areas that are too wild to drill continues unabated. Today’s leaders include **Melyssa Watson**, who directs our conservation work; **Nada Culver**, who leads our vigorous legal defense efforts; **Lydia Weiss**, who heads our lobbying efforts to protect the Arctic Refuge; and **Jenny Kordick**, who is leading campaigns for climate-smart energy policy on U.S. public lands, to name but a few. Together with the 11 women who serve on our Governing Council, they are among a new generation defending our country’s wildlands from destruction and working to preserve our shared national legacy for the future.

Nancy Warren

On a visit to Washington, D.C. in 1965, eighth-grader Nancy Warren shared a handshake with Robert Kennedy, her New York Senator. “I’ll never forget that day,” Nancy says, “I began paying attention to the words of politicians in a way that I never had before.” Returning home to Brooklyn, she was eager to use her own voice to raise awareness about air and water pollution, and five years later she was organizing activities at her high school for the very first Earth Day.

Eventually, Nancy landed in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula where she has spent more than two decades advocating for the protection of wildlife habitat with a special focus on wolves. While exploring conservation funding options to expand the Ottawa National Forest, she started reading about The Wilderness Society’s leadership on the fight for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Inspired, she became a member in 2001, and in 2011 she flew to Washington to lobby for the Fund.

Today, Nancy serves as the Executive Director for the National Wolfwatcher Coalition, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting positive



attitudes about wolves. In her role, she regularly gives presentations to schools. “I tell students that there are so many things they can do to save this planet. You just need to find your passion, follow it and make your voice heard,” she says.

An additional piece of advice from Nancy: “If advocacy isn’t your thing, you can give money to an organization that shares your values—for me, that’s The Wilderness Society.” As a Robert Marshall Council member, she has included the organization in her estate plans. “Even after I’m gone, I know that somebody will be fighting to protect what I value most.”

Our wildest places are under attack.

Protecting them depends on steady, strong support from committed friends like you.

With your generous recurring monthly donation, you’ll become a Friend of Wilderness and sustain our on-the-ground efforts all year long.

Visit www.wilderness.org/monthly to get started.

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New Wilderness Designated in Tennessee

On December 20, when the 2018 Farm Bill became law, nearly 20,000 acres of wilderness were designated in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest. Your steadfast support made this victory possible and demonstrated once again that conserving wilderness is a bipartisan value.

This new designation bestows the highest level of wildland protection, preserving the unusually rich biodiversity of the region. It provides habitat for hundreds of tree and plant species and over 200 animal species. Located within the largest public lands complex east of the Mississippi River, these wildlands are traversed by the Appalachian Trail, introducing thousands of people each year to these spectacular landscapes. Learn more at www.wilderness.org/tennesseewilderness.



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Create Your Wilderness Legacy

Many people choose to protect our treasured wildlands by making a gift to The Wilderness Society through their will or estate plans. Contact us to learn more about how to create your wilderness legacy.

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