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## We must keep up the fight

From the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota, we must keep up the fight to protect America's wild places.

All year, you stood strong against the Trump administration's unprecedented assault on public lands in communities, in Congress and in the courts.

Your support of The Wilderness Society has encouraged people across the country to join you in the fight for the magnificent wildlands we all love. And you continue to inspire countless new champions in this fight. You are lifting up the voices of the people and communities who have the most to gain—or lose—by how the Trump administration manages public lands.

Despite the odds, we achieved amazing victories this year, including the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the protection of 2.3 million acres of wildlands, and the extension of a program that enables kids and their families to visit national parks for free. But this only happened because you believe in the work we do together.

This year also saw important wins in the courts. We were encouraged to see decisions from judges across

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## Dear Public Lands Champion,

Thank you for fighting for public lands, places of spectacular beauty that are critical to the clean air we breathe and the clean water we drink.

While these benefits are indisputable, a fierce battle continues. The administration's reckless and misguided policies on these lands put drilling and mining above all other uses, creating devastating consequences for our environment and our communities.

But we can all take heart. The landmark public lands bill that passed early this year proves that a majority of Americans, of all political stripes, continue to strongly support the conservation of our public lands and waters.

You and more than one million members and supporters are bringing together millions of people, in hundreds of communities across the country, to stand up for public lands.

We must keep up our fight, empowering each other to act for a better future with thriving public lands.

Alone, we cannot win. Together, we will not fail.  
Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Williams".

Jamie Williams  
President

the country upholding our key arguments—that the Trump administration is ignoring laws and regulations and exceeding its authority. It was your generosity that put us in these courtrooms, defending national treasures like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and many more. You make it possible for us to leverage our expertise in public lands law to lead more than 65 lawsuits defending treasured places and bedrock environmental laws.

And now, as we look ahead to 2020, it will be more important than ever that we help people rise up to defend fragile landscapes that are too wild to drill. With you by our side, we will battle in court to restore Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments to their original boundaries. We will work together to lay the groundwork for swift passage of key legislation when the politics for conservation improve in Washington, D.C. And we will stand together to not only protect the core laws that support a safe, clean environment, but to work to make public lands all across this country a model for equitable solutions to the climate crisis.

United in our shared love for wild places, we will keep up the fight against the short-sighted, ruinous plans to destroy public lands and waters meant to benefit all people in the name of profits for a few.



PRINTER PLEASE  
UPDATE

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

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

bbb.org/charity



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*“Wilderness fills me with joy and a sense of well-being.”*  
 .....

— Audra Adelberger,  
 Seattle, WA

.....  
*“Wilderness keeps me whole and gives me balance and rejuvenation in my life.”*  
 .....

— William Lightner,  
 Saint Paul, MN

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## What does wilderness mean to you?

In this season of gratitude, we hope you’ll take a moment to think about the important role wilderness—and our natural world—has played in your life. Like all of our members, we know you believe in the power of nature and importance of our public lands! Thank you for showing your love of wilderness by supporting The Wilderness Society.

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*“Wilderness travel has always been an inspiring and relaxing change from an active urban lifestyle.”*  
 .....

— Keith Sendall, Washington, DC

.....  
*“The power and beauty of the natural world is inexhaustible. Walking in nature and wilderness is a sublime spiritual experience.”*  
 .....

— William Croft, Albuquerque, NM

.....  
*“As a mother it is important for me to go to the wilderness for my soul. It is also important for me to share my love of wild places with my children.”*  
 .....

— George W. Stanley III, Jackson, WY

.....  
*“The best times of my life have been spent hiking, camping and fishing with my family in wilderness areas in Idaho. I have made a number of enduring friendships from these activities as well.”*  
 .....

— Shelby Gerking, Geneva, FL

.....  
*“Nature is, in a way, my God and my religion. I have always enjoyed being outdoors and drinking in the wonder of it all!”*  
 .....

— John Manley, Scarsdale, NY

**We want to hear from you!**  
 If you have a story to share about wilderness and why it is important to you, we invite you to email [stories@tws.org](mailto:stories@tws.org).



# Some places are just Too Wild to Drill

The Greater Grand Canyon Watershed is greatly threatened by uranium mining as the Trump administration pushes to roll back a 20-year moratorium on new mining leases.

The agenda of the current administration to aggressively prioritize drilling and mining at the expense of all else threatens our wildest remaining forests, deserts and grasslands. With greater frequency, oil and gas drilling jeopardizes irreplaceable landscapes, disrupts wildlife and releases dangerous chemicals into the environment. Mining operations expose our clean air and water resources to pollution and contamination. Mazes of pipelines, drill rigs and heavy machinery pose serious consequences to the places where families hike and camp.

Sadly, energy companies already have rights to drill and mine vast areas of public lands. Indeed, the extraction of fossil fuels on U.S. public lands represents more than 20 percent of national emissions of the greenhouse gases driving climate change. By enacting reckless policies that put more wild places in the hands of fossil fuel and mining interests, the Trump administration

and its allies in Congress are sacrificing everything—our communities, our economy and our future.

With your support, The Wilderness Society is fighting back against industry proposals to destroy public lands and waters for short-lived commercial gains. We are also working to demonstrate broad public support for protecting wild landscapes and are advocating for legislation to protect them. We hope others will join you in this fight to save these places that are simply too special to lose.

**The extraction and use of fossil fuels from U.S. public lands represents more than 20 percent of national emissions of the greenhouse gases driving climate change.**

## **Greater Grand Canyon Watershed, Arizona**

Despite America's love for the Grand Canyon and the incredible resources found within the Greater Grand Canyon Watershed, there has been a call to open the region to uranium mining, rolling back a 20-year moratorium on new mining leases signed in 2012.



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The Bureau of Land Management is plowing forward with oil and gas leasing proposals, putting the treasured North Fork Valley in Colorado at grave risk.

Mining in this sensitive area would destroy crucial wildlife habitat, endanger more than 3,000 documented Native American archaeological sites, devastate the local economy, and put drinking water for the 25 million people who depend on the Colorado River at risk. To preserve this stunningly beautiful landscape, the Interior Department should leave the existing moratorium in place, and Congress should pass legislation to permanently close the lands to mining.

### **North Fork of the Gunnison, Colorado**

Colorado's idyllic North Fork of the Gunnison River is more threatened than ever. The vocal North Fork Valley community has spent years strongly opposing oil and gas lease sales in the region and crafting a locally-grown vision for the valley that would keep energy development away from sensitive areas and protect the valley's water supply, wildlife and scenery. Yet, in June, the Bureau of Land Management announced a plan to plow forward with highly controversial, short-sighted leasing proposals that will open the doors to destructive

oil and gas drilling. Energy dominance will continue to be met with strong opposition; otherwise this wildlife haven and thriving farming and ranching community will suffer irreversible consequences.

In addition to combatting the grave threats to the Greater Grand Canyon Watershed and the North Fork of the Gunnison, we are engaged in ongoing battles to protect places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, Bears Ears National Monument in Utah and many other unspoiled landscapes targeted by the fossil fuel industry.

**With you by our side, we can succeed in our fight to defend these exceptional public lands and waters, and we will. Protected in perpetuity, they help tell our story and define our nation. These places are **Too Wild to Drill**—they are irreplaceable, and together, we must protect them.**



Tongass National Forest, Alaska

## Why logging the Tongass is a tragic mistake

President Trump has ordered Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to open the Tongass National Forest in Alaska to logging and road-building by exempting the forest from a law called the “Roadless Rule,” which is designed to protect the very wildest parts of America’s forests from reckless development.

If successful, this attack on the Tongass could put habitats essential

for wild salmon populations and the \$1 billion tourism industry in southeastern Alaska at risk. Not only that, but it might trigger a wave of similar exemptions in national forests across the country, ultimately declaring open season on the relatively few undeveloped places in the nation.

However, this is more than just a devastating sign of things to come

for our favorite woodlands. At nearly 17 million acres, the Tongass is the largest remaining old-growth temperate rainforest and is one of the most productive carbon-trapping forests on Earth. This means it’s an essential resource in the fight against climate change and one that we cannot put at risk.

**Learn more on our website, [www.wilderness.org](http://www.wilderness.org).**

Many members of The Wilderness Society make gifts in their wills to support causes that are important to them.

To learn smart ways to give:  
1-888-736-4897  
[giftplanning@twso.org](mailto:giftplanning@twso.org)  
[www.wilderness.org/giftplanning](http://www.wilderness.org/giftplanning)



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# So many reasons to love the wilderness.

## Four ways to help save it.

Think about all the ways wilderness touches your life. Imagine living without fields and forests, mountains and rivers, silence and stars, wilderness and wildlife.

**Then, think about what you can do today to create a lasting future for the wild places you love.**



### **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 [www.wilderness.org/advocate](http://www.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!

### **Make a gift of stock.**

Did you know you can donate stock almost as easily as writing a check? Ask your financial advisor about other possible advantages to donating stock this year. Visit [www.wilderness.org/stock](http://www.wilderness.org/stock).

### **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 wild places. Ask yourself, can I do more to protect and defend wild public lands for the future?

## **Speak Your Truth to Power!**

Make your voice heard by getting involved in The Wilderness Society Action Fund, the independent advocacy and political arm of The Wilderness Society. The Action Fund is empowering the pro-conservation majority to build lasting support for America's public lands. Visit [www.wildernessaction.org](http://www.wildernessaction.org) for more information.



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Having that gift  
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**[www.wilderness.org/match](http://www.wilderness.org/match)**