



Anti-Conservation House Majority Fights for Fossil Fuel Dependency

Chaco Culture National
Historical Park, New Mexico
Mason Cummings

Since assuming control of the House of Representatives in January, the anti-conservation Republican majority has focused on ramping up fossil fuel production on public lands and reversing the nation's progress in fighting climate change.

This past spring they passed H.R.1, which:

- Rescinds common-sense reforms requiring the oil and gas industry to pay market rates to lease public lands and clean up after themselves;
- Sharply curtails environmental review of and public input to fossil fuel leasing and permitting decisions;
- Requires quarterly lease sales of public lands for oil and gas extraction;
- Changes federal law to prioritize mining on public lands and repeals existing protections that keep polluters from harming our health, safety, communities and treasured landscapes; and,
- Undermines the fundamental purpose of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)—a bedrock law that has served our country and our environment for more than 50 years—by radically limiting the scope of reviews by federal agencies.

With your support, we are fighting back against these attacks.

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Dear Conservation Champion,

In the 1970s, in response to a massive, people-powered movement that demanded action, politicians from both parties aligned to enact bedrock laws to restore a healthy environment.

Today, inspired by that era of unprecedented activism, we are supporting the growth of a **new people-powered movement for our time**—one that will spark collective action to protect the health of people and the natural world.

Of all that we have accomplished together, I am most proud of our role in helping to build the America the Beautiful for All Coalition. This one-of-a-kind coalition has assembled more than 200 organizations that represent communities that have been underrepresented at conservation decision-making tables in the United States. What's more, the Coalition has advanced a shared policy agenda to make major progress towards national climate, conservation and equity goals.

We have the opportunity—with your continued support and partnership—to grow the conservation movement to meaningfully address the climate crisis, protect vital public lands and waters, and ensure their benefits reach all. Thank you for the integral role you play in our success!

Jamie Williams
President



Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska
Lisa Hupp/USFWS

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The Wilderness Society recognizes Native Americans and Indigenous peoples as the longest serving stewards of the land.

To learn more visit:
wilderness.org/landacknowledgment

Since 1935, The Wilderness Society has led the effort to permanently protect nearly 112 million acres of wilderness in 44 states. We have been at the forefront of nearly every major public lands victory.

Our Mission: Uniting people to protect America's wild places.



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

bbb.org/charity

PRESIDENT:
Jamie Williams

DESIGN:
Owen Design Co.

Questions or comments? Please send an email to newsletter@tws.org

The House majority also aims to reverse policies enacted by the Biden administration that combat the climate crisis, with pending legislation to:

- Repeal the 20-year bans on extractive development currently protecting Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota.
- Block the Bureau of Land Management Public Lands Rule, which aims to rebalance the agency's management practices to equally prioritize conservation alongside other land uses like resource extraction, and give local communities and land managers new tools to protect vital wildlands.
- Kill the proposed Forest Climate Resiliency Rule, which would reduce catastrophic wildfire and remove excess carbon pollution from the air and store it safely by protecting the nation's mature and old-growth forests.

In the summer months, the long-predicted dangers and destruction from climate change struck like

never before. The deadliest U.S. wildfire in over a century devastated the town of Lahaina on the lush island of Maui. Thick smoke from huge wildfires in Canada and the Pacific Northwest triggered air quality warnings across numerous states. Prolonged, extreme heat waves engulfed much of the country, and raging floods from record rains destroyed towns in Vermont and upstate New York.

Determined to ignore the mounting climate crisis, the Republican House majority unveiled their next wave of attacks through their role in funding the government. The House Appropriations Committee approved a proposed budget with deep cuts to the agencies responsible for managing public lands and protecting people and the environment. And they attached policy riders to eliminate the climate progress of the previous Congress.

With your help, we're doing everything in our power to help advance necessary and long overdue investments in reducing the brutal impacts of climate change to protect people and the planet—today and well into the future.



Polluted wastewater in the Permian Basin oil field
WildEarth Guardians

You enable The Wilderness Society and our partners to fight against laws that would reverse the nation's progress on climate and conservation under the Biden administration's leadership. We are rallying our members and the public to press their members of Congress to reject these bills. There is so much at stake, especially in places like the Permian Basin in southeastern New Mexico and west Texas, which is experiencing rampant oil and gas development. **Unchecked, it will continue to have a massive impact on the climate, the environment and surrounding communities.**

Reframing How Conservation is Done

Protecting 30 percent of U.S. lands, fresh water and oceans by the year 2030 (30x30) is the largest and most ambitious conservation goal in American history. So, it makes sense that it should be guided by an inclusive community that looks and sounds like communities all across America—one that brings everyone to the table.

When President Biden introduced the America the Beautiful Initiative in 2021, it represented a bold commitment to participate in the global 30x30 effort. The scale of the goal required an immediate, hard look at the way conservation is done. Historically, big national organizations, including The Wilderness Society, set the agenda for national conservation policy. But for this initiative to be successful—to truly drive natural solutions to climate change and close the access gap for nature-deprived communities—there was broad recognition that a more representative coalition needed to be out front, leading our progress toward the 30x30 goal.

With your support, The Wilderness Society teamed up with GreenLatinos and the Children’s Environmental Health Network to form the **America the Beautiful for All Coalition**. Launched in 2022, this coalition is working to shift the paradigm, putting partners with the deepest ties to frontline and historically marginalized communities—who know best what they want and can achieve—at the head of the table.

The effort has since united more than 200 organizations increasingly representing the full diversity of America and the future of the conservation movement, including frontline organizations, Indigenous communities and communities of color, national groups, public health organizations, wildlife and ocean organizations, hunters and anglers, businesses, land trusts and more.

Together, these groups have worked hand-in-hand to create a shared policy agenda to ensure the America the Beautiful Initiative will not only

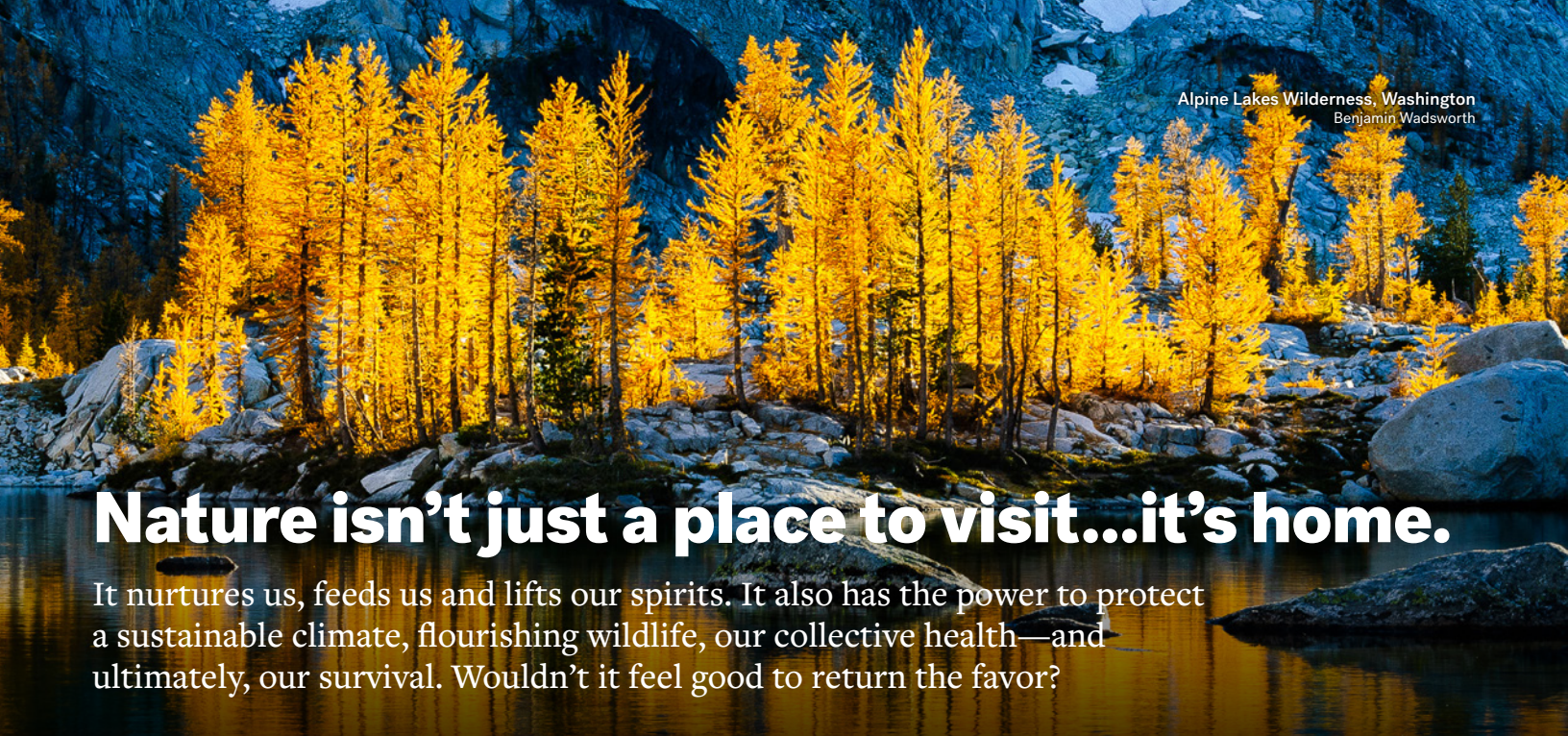
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prioritize the well-being of communities that have been overlooked, but also shift power to grow a united environmental community that truly represents America. This policy platform, unveiled earlier this year, aims to protect wildlife and ecosystems, improve just and equitable access to nature’s benefits, and help prevent and repair the impacts of the climate crisis for all. A pillar of the platform is ensuring that at least 40 percent of investments are made in communities of color and frontline communities that have historically seen little to no investment in conservation and equitable access to nature.

The coalition helps ensure that we are advocating for durable conservation policies that serve everyone. In some cases, this means addressing the inequities that have historically been embedded in these

policies, which affect who does—and who does not—have access to public lands and the key decisions regarding their management and use. In addition, the coalition is paving the way for a bigger and broader conservation movement. Communities that have a deep stake in what happens on public lands are making their voices heard, bringing their ideas, energy, commitment and numbers to tip the balance toward better policies for all.

We are a stronger movement today than we were just a year ago, with frontline groups and the big national organizations amplifying each other’s strengths. That’s the convening power supporters like you make possible—and the type of inclusive collaboration the crises of this moment and our vision for the future demand.



Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Washington
Benjamin Wadsworth

Nature isn't just a place to visit...it's home.

It nurtures us, feeds us and lifts our spirits. It also has the power to protect a sustainable climate, flourishing wildlife, our collective health—and ultimately, our survival. Wouldn't it feel good to return the favor?



BNIK - AFGC National Monument, Arizona
Amy S. Martin

New National Monument Protects Tribal Lands and Waters

Let's do our part to take care of nature, just as it takes care of us!



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This August, President Biden responded to years of effort by the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition by designating Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

The new national monument in Arizona spans more than 900,000 acres around the South and North Rims of the Grand Canyon. It includes homelands, cultural and archaeological sites, springs, hunting grounds, trading and migration routes, ceremonial lands, and other places that figure prominently in the lives and histories of the people of 13 tribal nations.

Designating these federal public lands as a national monument also prevents new mining claims from being issued and supports the economic well-being of the many communities that rely on visitors to Grand Canyon National Park. Further, it enlarges the protected landscape that is home to wildlife like California condors, black bears, elk and mule deer, as they navigate the increasing challenges of climate change and habitat loss.

President Biden's decision to designate Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument underscores his administration's commitment to cultural

preservation and safeguarding the greater Grand Canyon region's clean air and water sources.

With your support, The Wilderness Society played a key role in the long effort to protect these lands. For more than a decade, our Arizona State Director, Mike Quigley, has worked closely with tribal leaders, local partners and Congressman Raúl Grijalva to develop legislation to protect this unique area around the Grand Canyon. Together, we will continue our long-term investment in Indigenous-led conservation and protecting the cultural and natural heritage of the land.

Did you know?

Baaj Nwaavjo translates to "where Indigenous peoples roam" in Havasupai and I'tah Kukveni translates to "our ancestral footprints" in Hopi.



For more on the story, visit wilderness.org/grandcanyon



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Yosemite National Park, California
Matt Payne



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Tongass National Forest, Alaska
Colin Arisman