



The
Wilderness
Society

Connected at the Root

2022 Gratitude Report



**Meaningful change starts at the roots—
in ourselves, in our communities, in the
relationships we build, in the way we
organize ourselves. And it's in this fertile
ground that new seeds of possibility grow.**

When we make a personal connection to the land, we deepen our commitment to its protection.

When we connect with communities, forging long-lasting partnerships, we strengthen the conservation solutions being created close to home.

When we combine local advocacy and national policy, we ensure that environmental progress endures.

When we connect at the root, we grow an equitable, flourishing future together.

And in 2022, with this foundation stronger than ever, that future grew all around us like never before.

I-nv-i-ga-ti a-ni-do-na-v (standing with giants). Matrilineal ties keep us grounded to the land, culture and tradition. Kyndra, Mia, Amy, Rhiannin.



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We honor and acknowledge the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, who welcomed photographer and writer Micheli Oliver (Blackfeet descent) and members of our staff to their ancestral homelands to share their culture, knowledge, language and community.

Front Cover: North Cascades National Park, Washington

Photographer: Kamilah Martin

Land Acknowledgment

The Wilderness Society recognizes Native American and Indigenous peoples as the longest serving stewards of the land. We respect their inherent sovereignty and self-determination and honor treaty rights, including reserved rights that exist off their reservations.

We acknowledge the historic and ongoing injustices perpetrated against Indigenous peoples and are committed to being more conscientious and inclusive and working with Indigenous peoples to advance the establishment of trust and respect in our relationships.

We seek the guidance of Native American and Indigenous peoples to effectively advocate for the protection of culturally significant lands and the preservation of language and culture.

We strive to support actions that respect the priorities, traditional knowledge, interests and concerns of Native American and Indigenous peoples to ensure a more just and equitable future.

Uncompahgre National Forest, Colorado
Matt Payne





2022: Protecting public lands for people, wildlife and climate resiliency

In 2022, we spread our roots and rapidly scaled up our work to unleash the potential of public lands to help address wildlife extinction, climate change and inequitable access to nature. And thanks to the support of our dedicated donors, partners and staff, we achieved significant results.

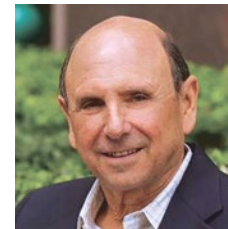
From historic investments in climate action to a new national policy to protect forests, to community-focused and Indigenous-led initiatives to protect treasured public lands, the victories we gained together are bringing us closer to the sustainable and just future we need.

This past year, we saw far-reaching initiatives coming to fruition that will position communities to lead the protection of 30 percent of our nation's lands and waters, make public lands part of the climate solution, and build an inclusive movement that ensures all people benefit equitably from nature.

You are integral to the growing community dedicated to protecting public lands for the benefit of all. Thank you!



Jamie Williams
JAMIE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT



Michael A. Mantell
MICHAEL A. MANTELL
CHAIR, GOVERNING COUNCIL

With connections extending across states and reaching deep into communities, we're seizing the potential of public lands to move our nation toward a more sustainable future.



Big, old trees store far more carbon than other trees. In fact, the largest one percent of trees store 50 percent of the aboveground carbon in all living trees.

Old Growth Trees in Mount Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest, Washington
Mason Cummings

Saving Forests to Help Fight Climate Change

On April 22, 2022 (Earth Day), conserving mature and old-growth forests became the policy of the federal government through a new Executive Order issued by President Biden. The policy will have far-reaching significance not only for the local communities that depend on these forests, but also for the climate we share.

Why? Because mature trees capture, and old-growth forests store, outsized quantities of carbon pollution—making them an important natural solution to the climate crisis. If we protect these forests, they'll sequester even more carbon as they grow. But if we allow them to be cut, the carbon they hold will be released, adding to the climate crisis, and the rich and varied habitat they provide for wildlife will also be lost.

This major new policy comes after a significant local-level win we helped usher in—the protection of old-growth throughout the Tongass National Forest in Alaska—with a strategic approach to local and Indigenous partnerships that demonstrated what can be achieved throughout the country.

The Climate Bill

After years of grassroots efforts and advocacy, the most significant piece of climate legislation in American history became law on August 16, 2022. With major provisions for public lands, it sets a course for a more sustainable future.

The so-called “Climate Bill” (part of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022) invested close to \$370 billion in renewable energy, environmental justice and other conservation measures, and is projected to reduce U.S. climate emissions by at least 40 percent by 2030. This victory relied upon the entire conservation community, from grassroots activists to policy experts at organizations like The Wilderness Society to leaders in Congress and—of course—to donors like you.

Yet for all it accomplished, the legislation was just the first step toward providing what our communities and nature need to flourish. It contained bad provisions, including tying renewable energy development to more oil and gas leasing, and left out many of our frontline and Indigenous partners' priorities. Our work is far from



Musk Ox, Western Arctic, Alaska
Peter Pearsall, USFWS

complete. Together, working from the grassroots up to ensure future policymaking looks different and produces better, more equitable results, we can build on the successes in the legislation, correct its flaws, and push to create the just and sustainable future we all need.

With your support for local partnerships and advocacy, we protected landscapes of national significance and expanded the resilient, continental network our future demands.

President Biden at the national monument designation ceremony, Camp Hale, Colorado.
Chris Dillmann, Associated Press

In 2022, The Wilderness Society, our partners and our supporters continued the critical work of protecting and connecting landscapes as a central solution to the climate and extinction crises we face.

As we added to the continental network of landscapes that the best science says we need, we worked arm in arm with frontline communities most impacted

by the climate crisis—and most often left out of public lands decisions—to ensure that all voices shaped public lands action and all people would benefit equitably.

Your support for this intensive work—the unique combination of local advocacy and national influence that leads to significant progress—made it all possible.



Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument: Safeguarding Our Heritage, Securing Our Future

Amid the towering peaks, peaceful forests and alpine valleys teeming with rare life, our nation's past and its potential converge in central Colorado.

Inhabited for more than 10,000 years by Native Americans from several Tribes, the Camp Hale and Tenmile Range area remains vitally important to the Ute people, who regularly return to forage, hunt and honor their ancestors.

As the training ground for the storied 10th Mountain Division—alpine warfare specialists whose daring proved crucial to the defeat of

“Having taken in the endless views from the top of the Tenmile Range and walked through the historic bunkers of Camp Hale in what is now a peaceful, beautiful valley, we couldn't be more grateful to The Wilderness Society for its dedication and years of hard work to make this national monument a reality.”

—Bob Walker and Cristy Godwin

fascism—the area also helped birth America's outdoor recreation industry: returning veterans of this fabled unit were instrumental in creating ski resorts in nearby Vail, Aspen, and dozens of other places, while trailblazing conservation and outdoor education at major national organizations.

And with rare, fragile alpine tundra ecosystems that support unique plant life and provide habitat for mountain goats, moose, bald eagles and more, the area is an irreplaceable link in a continental network of important landscapes.

Thanks to our donors, we were able to make deep and sustained investments in the locally led effort to protect Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range, serving as a facilitator and resource. As a result of these collaborative efforts, President Biden formally designated 53,000 acres as the Camp Hale—Continental Divide National Monument on October 12, 2022.

Now, a landscape full of natural and human wonders—with a story to tell about our past that can inspire a future where everyone experiences and enjoys nature—will be protected in perpetuity.



Alongside the monument designation, President Biden initiated a process to protect 200,000 acres in the Thompson Divide in western Colorado from oil and gas leasing for 20 years—an important step while we seek permanent protection from Congress.



With communities leading the way, we joined powerful local partnerships moving enduring change forward.

After years of investment that you made possible, we've established deep roots in communities across the nation. As a result, we've supported and nurtured relationships, growing our impact at the community level that can add up to major national change.

Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Nevada

Marie Nygren



Supporting the Fallon Shoshone Paiute

Since 2019, The Wilderness Society has worked closely with the Fallon Shoshone Paiute Tribe as they—and a coalition of conservation organizations—fought the Navy’s proposed expansion of military training on public lands in northern Nevada. And now, thanks to the steadfast partnership and Congressional relationships your support made possible, a major breakthrough—and a major step forward for both the Tribe and conservation values—was achieved in late 2022.

Included as part of the must-pass National Defense Authorization Act, a compromise we helped shepherd allows a smaller Navy expansion than originally proposed (with safeguards for cultural and natural resources) while securing significant, lasting protections for nearly 600,000 acres of this special high desert landscape, including:

182,000 acres of wilderness

A 218,000-acre special management area to protect the Numu Newe (Fallon Shoshone Paiute) traditional homeland

8,140 acres taken into trust for the Walker River Paiute Tribe and \$20 million to remediate damage

Two national conservation areas totaling 164,000 acres

10,000 acres taken into trust for the Fallon Shoshone Paiute Tribe and \$20 million for a cultural center dedicated to sustaining Fallon Shoshone culture, knowledge and language



Rappahannock Land Restored

In April, the Rappahannock Tribe reclaimed 465 acres of their tribal homeland in what is now eastern Virginia more than 350 years after being forced out by English settlers. The area spans a portion of Fones Cliffs that rises more than 100 feet above the Rappahannock River, has substantial cultural, historical and environmental significance. It is both the ancestral home of the Rappahannock Tribe and a globally important area for migratory birds, including bald eagles.

“We have worked for many years to restore this sacred place to the Tribe. With eagles being prayer messengers, this area where they gather has always been a place of natural, cultural and spiritual importance.”

— **Anne Richardson, Rappahannock Tribe Chief**

The Wilderness Society worked with the Tribe to bridge funding gaps by making connections through our existing network of supporters—made up of environmental advocates and donors like you—which ultimately made it possible to purchase back the land. Returning Fones Cliffs to the original stewards of the land ensures the area’s wildlife and habitat will be managed to support the well-being of local communities and represents meaningful progress in the broader movement for Indigenous land reclamation.

Fones Cliffs on the Rappahannock River, Virginia
Ian Plant

Making America Beautiful for All

In May 2021, the Biden administration launched the America the Beautiful initiative—a historic commitment to protect 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by the year 2030.

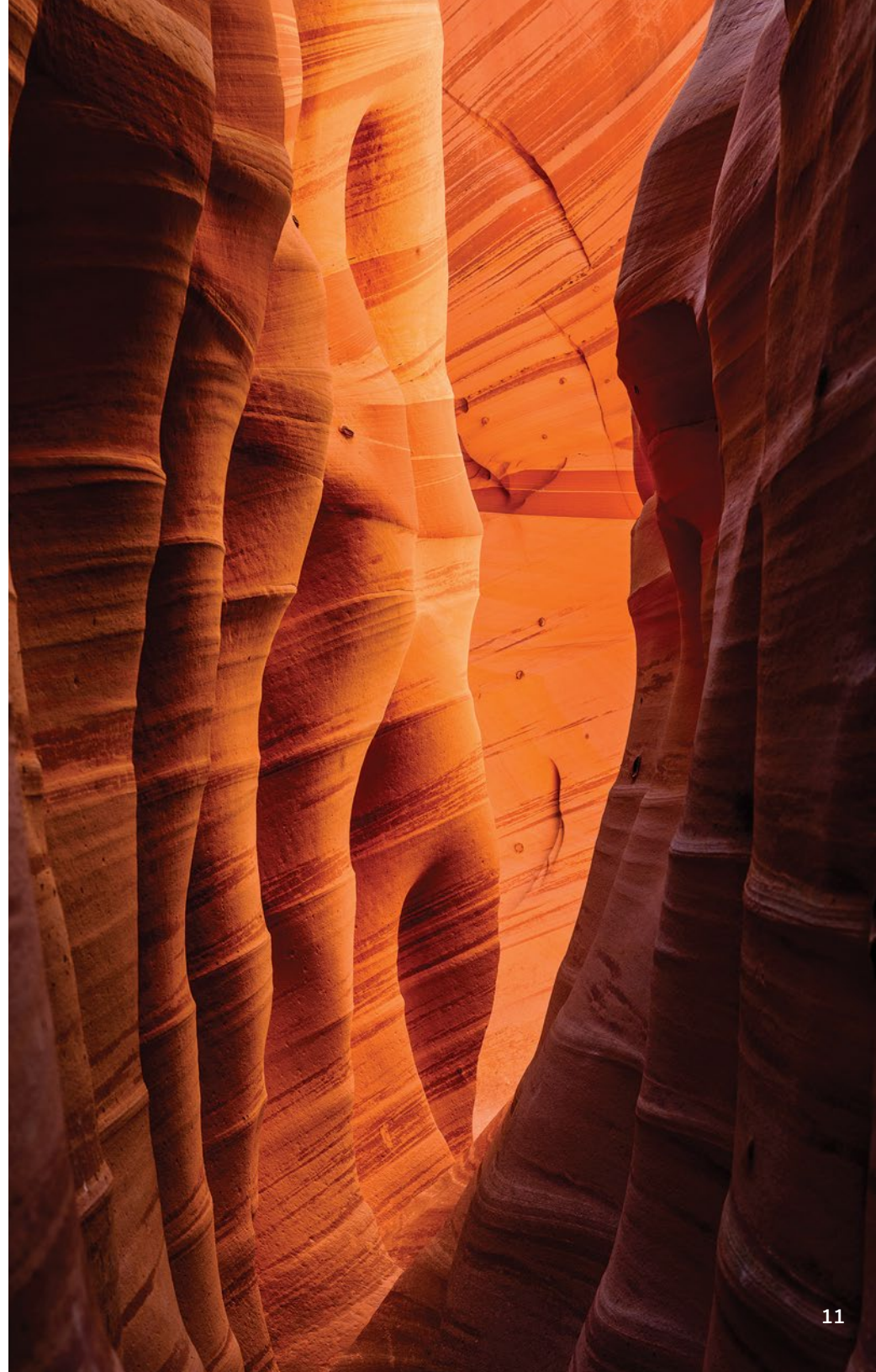
Now, it's up to communities across the country to help make that commitment a reality—and to make sure the future it leads to is one that includes, engages and benefits all people.

That's why 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, the Coalition centers the voices of communities of color and frontline communities in advocating for the goals of the America the Beautiful Initiative. At the same time, the Coalition is pushing further to ensure at least 40% of the funding benefits communities that have historically seen little to no investment in conservation and equitable access to nature.

To achieve these goals, the Coalition has united 150 organizations representing the full diversity of our nation and the future of the conservation movement—frontline organizations, Indigenous and communities of color, national groups, public health organizations, wildlife and ocean organizations, hunters and anglers, businesses, land trusts and more.

That's the convening power that donors like you make possible—and the type of inclusive collaboration the crises of this moment and our vision for the future demand.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah
Benj Wadworth



Deepening Relationships, Honoring Resiliency

The Wilderness Society is committed to building meaningful relationships with Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples, who we recognize as the longest serving stewards of the land. To lead our efforts to make manifest the aspirations of this shared partnership, Starlyn Miller joined our staff in 2022 as our Native Lands Partnerships Director. Sitting down with Starlyn, we asked her to reflect upon this work.

My work is focused on deepening relationships with Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples. Of course, over the years, The Wilderness Society has built meaningful, long-term partnerships with Tribal Nations working to protect sacred and cultural sites like Bears Ears, Badger-Two Medicine and the Arctic Refuge. But my charge now is to ensure that we do this intentionally and consistently—everywhere.

Everyone here is open to learning more about U.S. history with Tribal Nations and Indigenous people and about fundamental concepts such as Tribal sovereignty, Tribal self-determination and treaty rights. Together we're exploring how to respect and, where appropriate as led by our Tribal partners, incorporate Indigenous knowledge, generated from thousands of years of experience, in the conservation world. When we invest the time to better understand our Tribal Nation and Indigenous partners, my colleagues are better able to center and honor the resiliency of Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities and to appreciate the traditional lifeways and deep

connections to the land, water, spirit, history and culture that have sustained us.

In my community, we are experiencing a sense of joy that my mother and grandparents never felt in their lifetimes before—but fought very hard for. We see Deb Haaland, an enrolled member of the Laguna pueblo, leading the U.S. Department of the Interior, which has responsibility for so much of the nation's public lands. She is a role model for what can be done to respect and elevate Indigenous leaders and knowledge. We have hope for real change as led and demonstrated by Indigenous women. I am grateful to have a role in this transformative work at The Wilderness Society.



Starlyn Miller is an enrolled member of the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe of Montana and a direct descendant of Menominee and Stockbridge-Munsee. She earned her law degree at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.



Top: Sacred spaces aren't just u-li-s-ge-di (serious), sacred spaces heal children through movement. The Ancestors rejoice at the sound of children laughing where they themselves once ran. Enola, Coche and Shaligugi. Bottom: O-s-da Tsu-na-le (Good Morning) Ancestors' place, Ki-tu-wah Mound greets a new day.

Micheli Oliver



I-tsu-la (Together). The path of a Cherokee woman isn't walked alone. We walk behind our elders to receive wisdom. We walk in front of the next generation to protect them. We walk beside Ancestors' shadows to receive the strength to be resilient. —Beloved Woman Carmelita Monteith, Nikki, Anita, Kimberly, Faith, Jasmine, Zailyana, Janée.

Micheli Oliver



full photo essay

By giving everyone the opportunity to develop a personal connection to the land, we are growing the movement to protect and connect public lands—and ensuring their benefits reach all.

By finding new ways to welcome everyone to public lands and sharing a more authentic, inclusive story of their creation, we are using the resources and reach of The Wilderness Society to help thousands of people form personal connections to the land and develop the will and skills to protect it.



Curecanti National Recreation Area, Colorado
Mason Cummings

“Making outdoor recreation more accessible to youth really matters, because experiencing a place can make us fall in love with it and want to protect it.”

— **Gabriel Otero, Director, Equitable Funding Policy Advocacy, speaking to Colorado Public Radio, and pictured here with his niece, Ralene Rodriguez**



Colorado Public Radio Interview

Getting Kids Outside

In 2022, Colorado awarded its first-ever Outdoor Equity Grants with \$1.8 million in July and another \$1.3 million in December going to dozens of organizations focused on reducing barriers, advancing outdoor education and conservation, and making the outdoors accessible to all.

Gabriel Otero, our Director, Equitable Funding Policy Advocacy, helped lead the effort to establish these first-ever, state-level outdoor equity grants. He convened a broad coalition of community leaders who shaped the legislation that established the program. “We took the approach of going to communities first to listen to their needs, and gather their insights and recommendations,” Gabriel says. “Working from the ground up, we were able to develop a better policy and build support for it along the way.”

Now, Colorado is helping everyone connect to the outdoors—one child, one organization and one community at a time, across dozens of places and organizations each year. And Gabriel and his coalition partners are helping to shape a Statewide Conservation, Outdoor Recreation and Climate Resilience Plan—a “30x30 for Colorado” with the voices, perspectives and needs of local communities at the center.

Jill Harley and her dog Piper
in the Dolores River Canyon, CO

Mason Cummings



(left to right) Rawan Arar, Kristian V. Jones and Intisar Rashid
in North Cascades National Park, Washington

Kamilah Martin



Sand to Snow National Monument, California

Bob Wick, BLM



Unspoken Stories Engage Youth

With the support of our donors and in collaboration with organizations and individuals representing a wide range of racially and culturally diverse communities, we updated our Public Lands Curriculum in 2022 in order to tell a more authentic and complete history of public lands in the United States.

By including stories often left unspoken and unheard—from Native American land stewards to the Black family who helped

create Biscayne National Park—we can help young adults know the past so they can change the future. In doing so, we can help move land management and conservation policy forward so that all people benefit equitably from public lands.

More than 3,000 educators, youth leaders and outdoor recreation groups embraced our updated Public Lands Curriculum within weeks of its release in September 2022.



Left: High school student Ava Frazee on a field trip with our partner, the Glacier Peak Institute. Right: Julia Dahlquist, Summer 2022 Mosaics in Science intern, North Cascades National Park, Washington

Mason Cummings

Making Public Lands Welcoming for All


Across the United States, thousands of mountains, rivers, lakes and other features on public lands bear racist and offensive names—tributes to Confederate leaders, ethnic and misogynistic slurs and more. These offensive place names convey to victims of historical trauma, such as Black, Indigenous and other people of color, that they are not welcome on these lands.

That's why we worked with The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) to create *A Guide to Changing Racist and Offensive Place Names*, which provides a step-by-step guide for grassroots organizations and local leaders to change harmful place names. At the same time, we are collaborating with Indigenous partners and local coalitions to enthusiastically support the Department of the Interior's bold action to make long-overdue changes to more than 650 place names across the country that contained the same offensive slur.

Ultimately, these changes are not just about reckoning with historical wrongs. They're a way to make public lands more open to and inclusive of all, replacing a history of closed doors with a future of warm welcomes.


In Gratitude

The Wilderness Society is a vibrant, growing community of more than 1 MILLION dedicated people working to protect public lands. You are at the heart of this community. Every action you take on behalf of public lands brings us closer to the day when these shared lands not only support the survival of threatened species, but benefit all people equitably, and are helping to solve the climate crisis that threatens us all.

A close-up portrait of Dr. Sarah James, an elderly woman with short, wavy white hair and glasses. She is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark olive-green jacket over a red patterned scarf. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a warm glow.

Dr. Sarah James—Gwich'in Elder and Leader, Defender of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Member of the IMAGO Initiative Task Force, resident of Arctic Village, Alaska—and one of hundreds of Tribal and Indigenous partners with whom we're working to protect, gain access to, and seek co-management responsibility for their ancestral homelands on today's public lands.

Mason Cummings

A large group photograph of approximately 100 people, likely staff, gathered outdoors in a mountainous area. They are arranged in several rows, posing for the camera. The background features snow-capped mountains and evergreen trees under a clear sky. The people are dressed in casual outdoor attire, including jackets, hats, and scarves.

In May 2022, many of our staff gathered in Estes Park, Colorado. These champions of public lands are based in 22 states and the District of Columbia, where they work with hundreds of coalitions and leaders, locally and nationally.

Mason Cummings

You are among our closest friends and most generous donors, including...

115

Presidents Circle
members

5,660


Sustainers

1,048

Robert Marshall
Council members

1,391

Advocates
for Wilderness



This youthful hand represents the
tens of thousands of young people
who learned about the history of
public lands and what they can
do to protect them through our
updated Public Lands Curriculum.

Kamilah Martin

You took action for public lands by ...



Raising your voice at marches
and rallies



Joining community coalitions to
develop conservation solutions
that work for everyone



Persuading public lands
managers to accept community
input to once-in-a-generation
land management plans



Contacting your elected officials
to tell them you expect them to
protect public lands



Giving testimony to decision-
makers at every level of
government, from the town
council to Congress



Sharing your passion for public
lands with family and friends



Educating your community
through pro-public lands
Letters to the Editor

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Bound by their shared dedication to The Wilderness Society, the individuals who comprise our President's Circle are among our most effective ambassadors and most generous supporters. Together, they advance our mission of uniting people to protect America's wild places through their substantial engagement and commitment to this work.

Anonymous (20)	James Feit	Jacqueline Badger Mars	Nolan Kenneth Snead
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James Ellsworth	Hampton and Kevin Luzak	Jan and Carl Siechert	

LEGACY DONORS

We are honored to acknowledge the dear friends who have expressed their deep love of wildlands and commitment to future generations with a legacy gift. Gifts planned for in advance were received in 2022 from the following individuals.

Jeanette Ainsworth	Mary S. Gerngrohs	Nancy C. Lyons	Janet Roebuck
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* Donors whose lifetime giving exceeds \$1 million

Financials

The Wilderness Society closed the 2022 fiscal year in a strong cash position with growth in net assets, despite investment losses incurred due to a decline in the financial markets.¹

This financial stability allows us to weather market fluctuations and continue to vigorously advance public lands solutions to help address the existential crises that we face.

The generosity of our supporters and extraordinary multi-year commitments enabled us to increase our investment in core programs by 18 percent compared to FY2021. We added staff and capacity to speed our progress in leveraging the potential of public lands to help protect species, stabilize the climate and provide more equitable access to nature.

1. Investment losses are shown as "Other" revenue in the Revenue Sources chart.

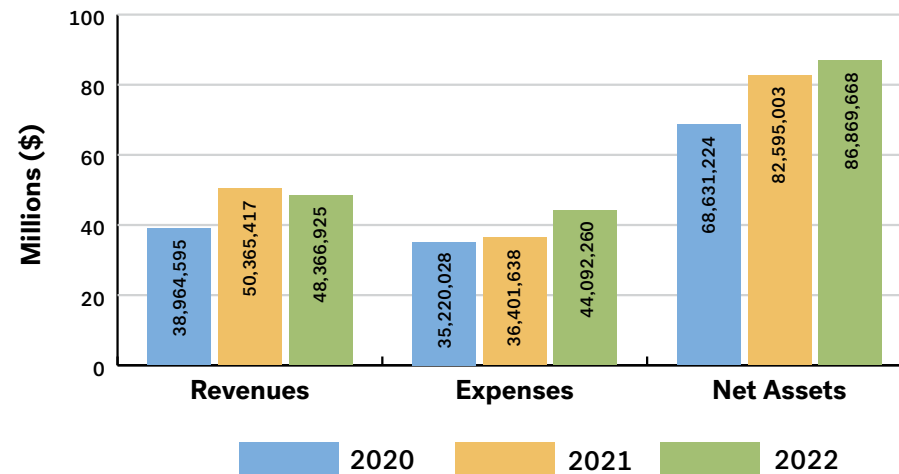
If you would like a copy of the consolidated audited financial statements or have any questions, please contact us:

Email: member@tw.s.org
 Visit: wilderness.org/our-accountability
 Call: 1-800-THE-WILD

2022 Total Program Expenses: \$33,098,991

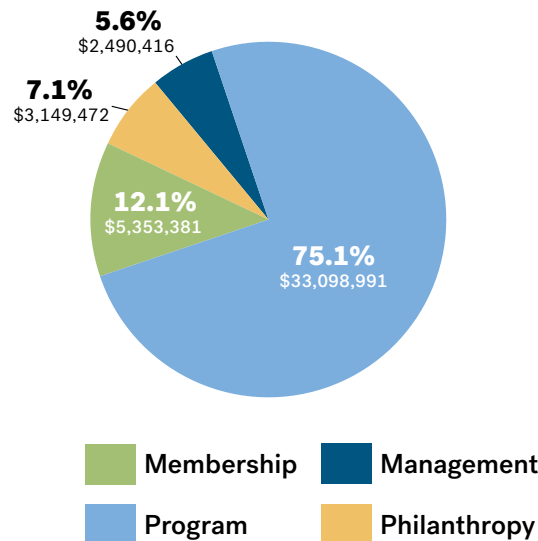
Net Zero	\$6,756,711
30x30	\$14,813,988
Community Led Conservation	\$7,253,324
Critical Mass	\$3,153,616
Action Fund	\$1,121,352

Organizational Growth²

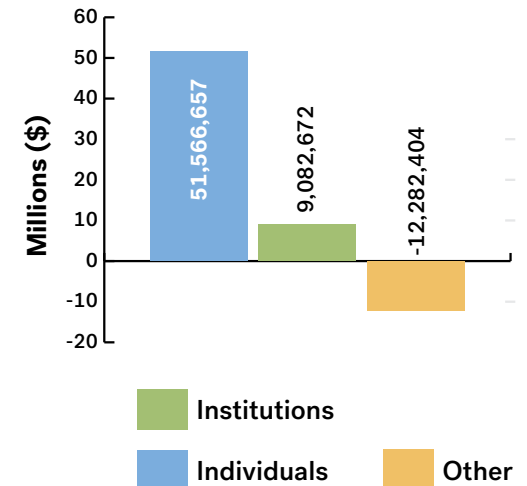


2. Taken from the consolidated audited financial statements

Efficiency



Revenue Sources



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Leadership Transitions



August M. Ball
Elected to Governing Council

August is founder and CEO of Cream City Conservation, a consultancy working with environmental and community service organizations to create equitable pipelines and policies that promote diversity, inclusion and retention of people of color in the environmental field. The affiliated Cream City Conservation Corps provides paid training to youth and young adults (ages 15-24) for careers in green infrastructure and conservation.

August and the organization were awarded the 2022 Parker/Gentry Award by the Field Museum in Chicago, to honor their outstanding work in the field of conservation, their impact on preserving the world's natural heritage and service as a model to others.



Crandall Bowles
Joined Honorary Council

As Chair of our Governing Council in 2020-21, Crandall offered extraordinary strength, support and leadership during the immensely challenging first two years of the global pandemic.

No stranger to leadership, Crandall is past Chairman of The Springs Company, a private investment firm, and was CEO of Springs Industries, a textile company. She also served on the boards of JPMorgan Chase, Deere & Company, The Brookings Institution and the Packard Center at Johns Hopkins University. She earned a BA in economics from Wellesley College and an MBA from Columbia University.



Faith E. Briggs
Elected to Governing Council

Faith is a documentary director, creative producer and podcast host passionate about sharing contemporary stories that widen the spectrum of representation and help us all see our own possibilities. Her acclaimed documentaries include *Ascend: Reframing Disability in the Outdoors* (The North Face, 2021) and the 4-part series *Who Is A Runner* (Brooks, 2021.) She co-hosts *The Trail Ahead* podcast, exploring the intersection of race, environment, history, culture and the outdoors.

She is a 2021 Grist 50! Fixer, a Jackson Wild Media Lab Fellow, and a Western Conservation Hub William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Grant Recipient.



Marcia Kunstel
Joined Honorary Council

Marcia has operated a remote mountain dude ranch as an ecotourist destination in Jackson Hole, WY, with her husband Joe Albright since 2001. She is active in community, political and conservation organizations and serves on the board of Earthjustice and chaired the boards of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance.

In her first career, she was a foreign correspondent and then bureau chief in Moscow and Beijing for the Cox Newspapers chain. Marcia and her husband co-authored a book documenting Soviet espionage at Los Alamos during World War II and a history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University.



Bridger Wilderness, Wyoming
Mason Cummings



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Eagles Nest Wilderness, Colorado
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