2026 POWER ACTION RESILIENCE JOY

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



CONSERVATION LANDS FOUNDATION



Moving with purpose

Over the last year, I've had opportunities to spend time on some of the spectacular landscapes we love with the local stewards who care for them, and alongside many of you! Whether rafting in Alaska, hiking in the California desert, or sharing wildlife photos over dinner in your homes, your dedication to our shared mission inspires me daily.

As we live through a time marked by extremes and ongoing threats, taking moments to breathe and connect with others in nature may seem like a luxury. "We can rest when there's less at stake" is a natural mindset for those of us who care deeply about this work. But in the face of relentless attacks on the public lands and waters we love and need, resilience is not optional - it's essential. Sustaining that resilience means remembering why we do this work in the first place.

One of our core organizational values is **protecting and sharing the joy of the outdoors.** Throughout this year, we've held that joy close, letting it fuel our resolve and translate into concrete action. The Conservation Lands Foundation was built for year-over-year impact, pairing our ability for swift response with a strategy that outlasts political cycles.



"The Conservation Lands Foundation was built for year-over-year impact, pairing our ability for swift response with a strategy that outlasts political cycles."

Our commitment to protecting and expanding the National Conservation Lands through the unshakeable strength of our Friends Grassroots Network is as strong as ever. Thank you for walking this path with us through your advocacy, your financial generosity, and your deep love for our vast and glorious public lands and waters. Together, we remain steadfast in our power, action, resilience, and joy.



CHRIS HILL | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Headley
Chair
Executive Chairman
and Portfolio Manager
Matthews Asia

Alfredo González
Director
Resources Legacy Fund

Dr. Angelo Baca
Assistant Professor
Rhode Island School of Design

Camila Thorndike
Climate Action Program Officer
The Lemelson Foundation

Hilary Dessouky
General Counsel
Patagonia

Janea Scott
Partner
Caliber Strategies

Jason Baldes
Tribal Buffalo Program
Senior Manager
National Wildlife Federation

James (Jim) Kenna
Former California State Director
Bureau of Land Management

John Malooly
Portfolio Manager
Wasatch Global Investors

Laura Daniel Davis
Former Acting Deputy Secretary
of the Department of the Interior

Maria (Chiqui) Cartageña
Author of Latino Boom I and II
Executive Director of CUNY TV

Michael Scott
Vice President, Programs
Resources Legacy Fund

Dr. Natalie Dawson
Director of Strategic Partnerships
Alaska Venture Fund

Natasha Hale
Tribal Partnership Manager
Colorado River Sustainability Campaign

Jim Hellyer
Rancher, Western Wyoming

Rajdeep (Raj) Roy
Director of Transmission
Southern California Edison

Swep Davis
Conservationist

Tarn Udall
Senior Attorney
Western Resource Advocates



"Seven years of board service has solidified my confidence in the Conservation Lands Foundation as the most powerful change agent for public lands protection. Our approach is successful, our commitment is unmoving, and in this urgent time, our goal is simple - keeping greedy hands off public lands." —Mark Headley, Chair, Conservation Lands Foundation Board of Directors

Cover photos: Background image of wildflowers and sky (UT) - Brian Barnett BLM. Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (CA) - Bob Wick. Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (ID) - Bob Wick. Utah rally - Conservation Lands Foundation staff and supporters. Photos this page: Chris Hill fly fishing - Colin Arisman. Horseback riding at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (NV) - BLM NV. Water image: Lower Owyhee Canyon (OR) - BLM OR & WA. Wildflowers and sky (UT) - Brian Barnett. Black oystercatcher in CA - BLM.

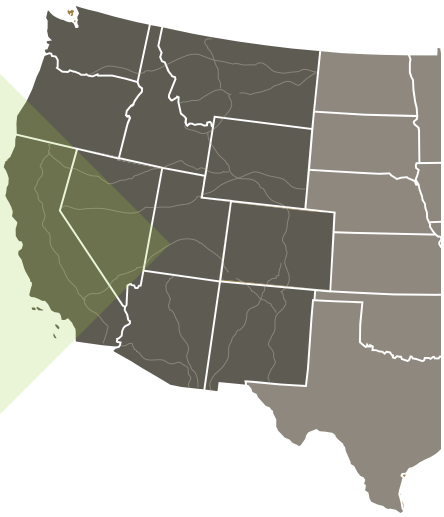
Our mission

We are the only organization solely focused on harnessing the power of community-led advocacy and the Friends Grassroots Network to protect, restore, and expand the National Conservation Lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) through education, advocacy, and partnerships.

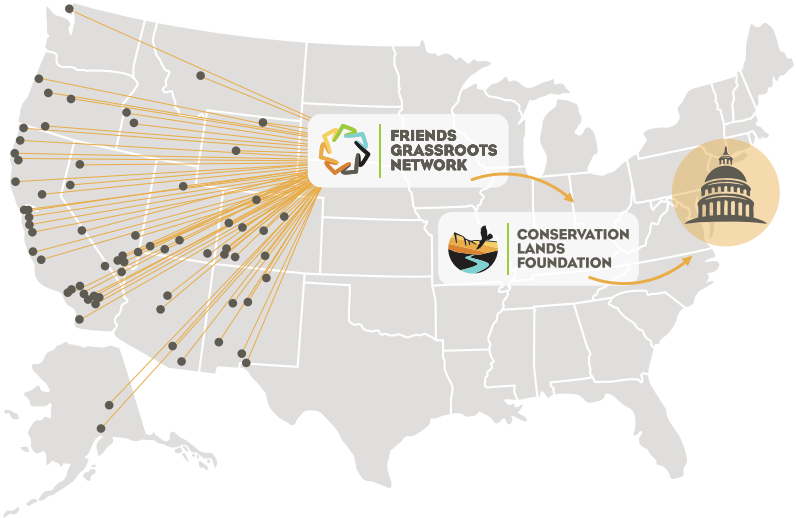
CONSERVATION LANDS FOUNDATION

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS at-a-Glance

- **31 NATIONAL MONUMENTS**
- **25 NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS** and similar designations
- **21 MILLION ACRES** of Wilderness & Wilderness Study Areas
- **38 MILLION ACRES**
- **2,700 MILES** of Wild & Scenic Rivers
- **6,000 MILES** of National Scenic & Historic Trails
- **900+ LOCATIONS**



Our strategy for success





Part 1: We focus on the BLM's National Conservation Lands, 38 million acres specially protected for their benefit to clean air and water, Indigenous culture and peoples, outdoor recreation, and the preservation of nature's values.

Part 2: We were founded on the belief that public lands are best protected through the enduring dedication and advocacy of local communities – our Friends Grassroots Network.

Part 3: We harness the power of this movement to impact the administration, federal agencies, and Congress to secure and defend protections for the 85% of BLM landscapes without a National Conservation Lands designation.

See us in action!

Follow along online by scanning QR codes throughout this report. Open your phone camera, hover over the code (don't take a picture, hovering is enough!), click the link that pops up - it's that simple!

Photos: Gold Butte National Monument (NV) - BLM. Conservation Lands Foundation's Shi-Lynn Campbell and partners at the Friends Summit. Monumental Call-to-Action with Archaeology Southwest calling for protections at the U.S. Capitol.

Holding the line for the places we love and need

In 2026, the administration ramped up its push to dismantle the laws, regulations, and safeguards that protect public lands and waters. We launched swift, coordinated defenses each time, mobilizing national opposition through calls-to-action, joining community events and rallies across the West, generating media attention, and taking legal action.



"Every day we're increasing the number of community voices we're bringing to national policy makers. This year included more than 140,000 petitions, emails, phone calls, and public comments to federal agencies, members of Congress, and the administration, all sending one clear message: hands off public lands."

—Kris Deutschman, Chief Communications Officer

Defending National Monuments

82,000+ opposed the administration's illegal boundary cuts to Utah's national monuments.

12,000+ opposed Congress's attempts to gut the monument management plan for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

7,000+ actively supported threatened national monuments nationwide.

Holding Agency Leadership Accountable

13,000+ strongly opposed the nomination of Steve Pearce as Director of the BLM.

Protecting Vulnerable and Valuable Places

7,500 opposed the Interior Department's proposal to rubber-stamp oil and gas projects in the Western Arctic.

5,900+ spoke out in support of wilderness during the Interior Department's sweeping review of its wilderness policies.



Conservation Lands Foundation's Jora Fogg joins partners Mojave Desert Land Trust, Friends of Amargosa Basin, and the Sierra Club to champion nature at the California State Capitol.

Conservation Lands Foundation staff join Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners in Washington, D.C. to defend the Utah monument.



Lower Owyhee Canyon (OR) - BLM OR & WA



In 2026, our team engaged in more than 300 direct interactions with congressional offices, championing public lands defense and conservation protections.



Legal defense

Alongside our Friends Grassroots Network partners and specialized legal counsel – including Advocates for the West – we initiated the following key legal actions to protect threatened National Conservation Lands:

- Challenging the administration's illegal reductions of **Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante** and **Bears Ears National Monuments**.
- Defending the designation of **California's Chuckwalla National Monument**.
- Opposing extractive leasing and industrialization in **Alaska's Western Arctic**.
- Defending **Utah's Red Cliffs National Conservation Area** from destructive development, halting construction of a four-lane highway.



Conservation Lands Foundation staff, founder Ed Norton, and Advocates for the West.

Public Lands Attack Tracker

Explore our new Public Lands Attack Tracker, which follows all active threats – and their impacts – to the public lands and waters managed by the BLM.

Photos: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument (NM) - BLM. Mojave desert tortoise in California - Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Chuckwalla National Monument (CA) - Bob Wick.

Moving the needle: progress under pressure



"Despite overwhelming threats, we have risen above the negative noise to further our mission and make meaningful progress for public lands and waters managed by the Bureau of Land Management."

—David Feinman, Vice President of Government Affairs



Expansion

We expanded **Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area in Nevada** by nearly **9,300 acres**.

Protection

We celebrated the introduction of the **Caja del Rio Protection Act** to protect **107,000 acres in New Mexico**.

Support

We are currently leading or supporting **nine proactive campaigns** to advance more than **5.4M additional acres** of protected public lands across the West.



Conservation Lands Foundation's Charlotte Overby and New Mexico partners.



Conservation Lands Foundation's Bertha Gutierrez and Nevada partners with Nevada Representative Dina Titus.



Photos: Tobin Crest Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Pershing County (NV) - Kurt Kuznicki. Pronghorn in Utah - Brian Barnett BLM. Eagletail Mountains Wilderness (AZ) - BLM.

We've won before, we'll win again

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was created in 1996 and was the **first national monument managed by the BLM**. Bears Ears National Monument followed in 2016, a historic designation led by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. Today, new executive orders threaten both, attempting to strip millions of acres from their boundaries and dismantle a groundbreaking Tribal collaborative management agreement for Bears Ears.





We mobilized 80,000+ emails and petitions opposing the boundary cuts, provided $50,000 in rapid-response grants to Utah partners facing this fight directly, and took legal action to reopen our 2017 lawsuits over the monument reductions.





"This illegal game has already been played once, and the administration lost. We proved with the 2021 restoration of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments that public lands are a winning issue – and we're building momentum today for the same outcome."

—Jocelyn Torres, Chief Conservation Officer

Patagonia is a co-litigant in our lawsuit to protect Bears Ears National Monument, and partnered with us year-round at store checkouts to raise national awareness of our efforts to defend public lands. **Thank you, Patagonia!**



Defending Utah monuments

See what environmentalist and athlete Caroline Gleich has to say about defending Utah monuments!

Photos: Bears Ears National Monument (UT) - Bob Wick. Jackie Grant, Executive Director of Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners. Salt Lake City, UT rally.



The movement meeting the moment:

Our Friends Grassroots Network

The key to our success is the Friends Grassroots Network, 92 community-based organizations across the West who steward and protect National Conservation Lands day in and day out. These advocates know the ecology, history, and culture of their local lands and waters better than anyone else, and serve as essential community voices for public lands protection.

92 organizations strong

Spanning 13 states

Representing more than 600 employees in conservation

Combined reach of nearly 350,000 people

Protected over 12 million acres and growing

FRIENDS GRASSROOTS NETWORK



Conservation Lands Foundation's Nick Mills with Executive Director Tim Davis of Friends of the Owyhee (OR) at a tabling event.



Conservation Lands Foundation's Shi-Lynn Campbell celebrated Black Conservation Week alongside the 40 Acre Conservation League and other California leaders and Black conservationists being honored at the State Capitol, including Charles Thomas, Executive Director of Outward Bound Adventures.



Vogue Robinson and Connie Ann, Arts and Advocacy program artists (NV).

Friends Summit attendees - Alex Hancook

Power and activation

When we power and activate the Friends Grassroots Network, we see results – defensive lines held, legislative progress made, and new voices joining the movement.

- We led more than 125 grassroots and national partners to block the White House's proposed 75% budget cut to National Conservation Lands, **ensuring Congress sustains BLM's funding levels**.
- We leveraged grassroots advocacy and government affairs expertise to **stop the Senate's attempt to undo the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument's management plan** by bringing our local partners to Washington, D.C.
- Since our 2025 Impact Report, we have **grown our Friends Grassroots Network by eight organizations**, including new partners in Alaska.

We support our Friends Grassroots Network with funding and wrap-around resources - timely webinars, leadership cohorts, in-person training, advocacy toolkits, and pro bono access to legal, communications, and policy experts – fueling collective and lasting impact.

Monthly webinar topics have included working with Tribal Nations, navigating AI, understanding technical BLM processes, growing fundraising capacity, and addressing burnout.



Conservation Lands Foundation's Baltazar Hernández with Arizona Representative Adelita Grijalva and New Mexico Representative Teresa Leger Fernández.



Conservation Lands Foundation's Shi-Lynn Campbell and Jocelyn Torres with Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director at Friends of Nevada Wilderness, as she accepts the Nevada Conservation League's Harry Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

"The Congressional Review Act communications toolkit has been incredibly helpful! We struggled to be clear and concise on such a complex issue, and your content and calls-to-action allowed us to confidently advocate to our online followers."

—Friends of the Nevada Wilderness



Photos: Conservation Lands Foundation staff at Conglomerate Mesa (CA). Cascade Siskiyou National Monument (OR) - Bob Wick.

Friends Summit 2026
May 11–13, Denver



3 days, 150+ leaders, 54 groups, 20 training sessions



"Our biennial Friends Summit brings together leaders from our entire Friends Grassroots Network. We design this event as a resource-rich experience for partners to connect, learn, and celebrate together."

—Shi-Lynn Campbell, Associate Grassroots Engagement Director



Our Arts and Advocacy panel at the Friends Summit led by Conservation Land Foundation's Bertha Gutierrez and featuring artists Vogue Robinson (NV), Jocelyn Catterson (CO), Sarah Berryman (CA), and Kim Garrison-Means (NV) (left to right).



Jordan Marbury from Friends of the Inyo presents with our communications team.



Our trivia night winners with their new swag, courtesy of our partner Osprey. Thank you, Osprey!

OSPREY

Friends Summit

Watch Friends Summit highlights here!

Friends Summit - Alex Hancook.

Celebrating conservation leaders

We recognized standout groups for leadership, advocacy, and overall impact through our Conservation Leadership Awards. Each winner received a $5,000 grant specifically to support team resilience.



CEO Chris Hill (center right) with award winners (left to right):

Friends Group of the Year Award - **Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners** *(UT), Jackie Grant and Jason Pullver*

Innovation Award - ***The King Range Alliance*** *(CA), Justin Crellin*

Betsy Buffington Advocate of the Year Award - ***Kim Garrison-Means*** *(NV)*

Brian O'Donnell Excellence in Conservation Leadership Award - ***Friends of Nevada Wilderness*** *(NV), Julien Pellegrini and Tyler Morris*



"From mountaineering to running for public office, I've spent plenty of time with struggle. I've learned the lesson that resilience is not about suffering through challenges, but nurturing your joy to rise above them."

—Keynote speaker Caroline Gleich, environmentalist, professional athlete, former candidate for US Senate, pictured right



Brandon Fuller, Clarissa Prieto, and Melissa Salinas of Outward Bound Adventures present on outdoor leadership.

Celebrating theme night with branded tumblers for all attendees, courtesy of our partner MiiR. Thank you, MiiR!



MiiR®



adyen

A co-funded contribution from Adyen and Patagonia's shareholder, Holdfast Collective, made this dynamic event possible.

Red-necked phalaropes, Mono Lake (CA) - Scott Page.

Public Lands Protectors

Our weekly Public Lands Protectors video series highlights Friends Grassroots Network leaders and their incredible work. Meet Karin Jaffie of Friends of the Desert Mountains!

Equipping leaders, fueling impact



"The Conservation Lands Foundation has grown our annual grantmaking from $200,000 to over $2 million today. At a time when BLM resources are uncertain, the generous support of our donors ensures we remain a reliable source of flexible funding for our Friends Grassroots Network."

—Charlotte Overby, Vice President of Conservation Field Programs



Birdwatching as part of youth education programs by Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve (CA).

Grantmaking by the numbers

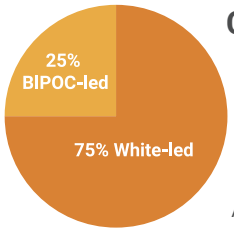
$2,239,000 in total grantmaking

$392,000 through year two of our three-year wildfire mitigation project

$152,000 through our Arts & Advocacy Program

$347,000 in rapid-response mini grants

Our mini grants are given in response to urgent or new needs within organizations, their communities, or campaigns.



Community Giving

We track our giving to BIPOC-led and -serving organizations year after year to ensure our grantmaking is representative of the communities we partner with to protect local landscapes.

As of 11/19/2026



Artists Vogue Robinson and Connie Ann lead a field trip to Avi Kwa Ame National Monument (NV) as part of their Arts & Advocacy project.

Transition Habitat Conservancy's wildfire mitigation project includes targeted grazing of underbrush and invasive plants in Joshua tree woodland, an innovative and successful approach.



EDISON INTERNATIONAL®

Grantmaking Partner: Edison International

Through a three-year partnership with Edison International, we're funding five wildfire mitigation projects in southern California. We also continue to fund youth education programs and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics internships for women through their annual support! **Thank you, Edison International!**

Transition Habitat Conservancy wildfire mitigation - Sarah Berryman. Pine Forest Range Wilderness (NV) - Bob Wick.



Grantmaking spotlights

Celebrating Local Impact

Our Friends Grassroots Network group Friends of Basin and Range and local partners earned the Nevada State Director's Partnership Award for their collaborative program bringing over 200 students to Basin and Range National Monument. Conservation Lands Foundation helped to support these trips, which were guided by BLM staff and led students in exploration, learning, and building lasting connections to their public lands (pictured right).





"We feel many demands on us for more work, but our volunteer team is stretched thin. Your grant, along with others, will enable us to hire a coordinator this year that will keep us on track and growing."

—Friends of the Red Desert, WY



Arts & Advocacy

Launched in 2024 through special support from the Honey Hive Fund, our **Arts & Advocacy program has given 11 grants (and counting!) to women artists** using creativity and storytelling to deepen community connection to public lands and inspire action. These investments bring new voices and audiences into conservation, expanding the tent and creating powerful new pathways for community-led advocacy and stewardship.

Artist Cindy Ritzman's Gila River (NM) painting "What The River Keeps," one of four in her Arts & Advocacy project.

Arts and Advocacy

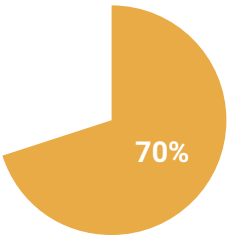
Explore our projects here through a visual Storymap!

Photos: Headwaters Forest Reserve (CA) - Bob Wick. Burrowing owl - BLM.

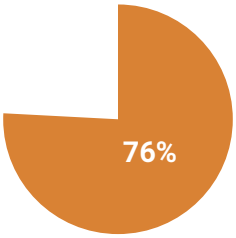
The results are in!

The polls keep proving what we've always known – public lands are a popular, patriotic, and bipartisan issue.

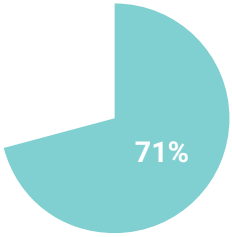
Colorado College's 2026 Conservation in the West poll recorded the highest level of public lands support in its 15-year history.



70% of Western voters across party lines **oppose fast-tracking oil, gas, and mining projects on national public lands** by reducing environmental reviews and local public input.



76% of Western voters - more Western voters than ever before - **want their Congress members to prioritize conservation and recreation on public lands** over maximizing energy production.



71% of Americans polled **oppose the sale of federal public lands** that support hunting, fishing, hiking, and other recreational uses.

Ready for what's next



"Our swift and nimble approach prepares us to meet our mission no matter what comes next. We are fully prepared for 2027 and ready to face anti-public lands agendas head-on while advancing key opportunities with our new allies in Congress. Resolute in our commitment to the Friends Grassroots Network, together we will hold the line on protections for as long as it takes, while simultaneously casting a vision for a resilient, lasting future for National Conservation Lands."

—Chris Hill, Chief Executive Officer



Conservation Lands Foundation's Margarita Lopez-Pelayo with a tarantula, Carrizo Plain National Monument (CA).

Photography trip for supporters, led by Joshua Jackson, Bodie State Historic Park (CA).

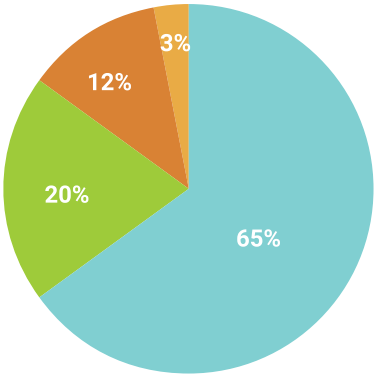


Percentages cited from 2026 Conservation in the West and 2025 Trust for Public Land polls. Carrizo Plain National Monument (CA) - BLM.

2025 Financials

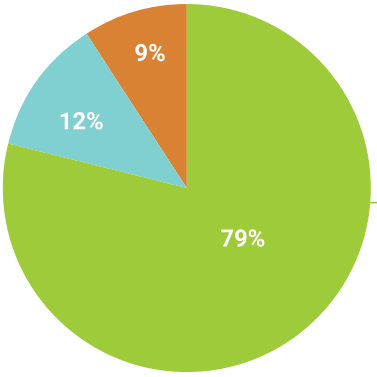
Statement of financial position as of December 31, 2025. Copies of the complete audited financial statements are available by request at accounting@conservationlands.org.

REVENUE



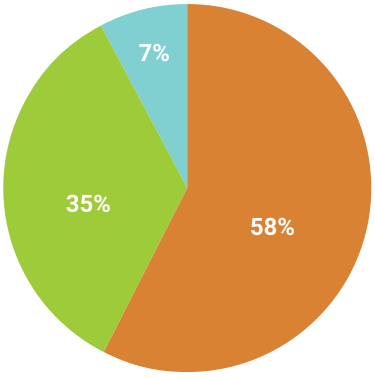
Foundation & Corporation Grants	$7,525,782
Direct Public Support	2,385,832
Donated Services	1,370,801
Other Income	360,373
TOTAL REVENUE	$11,642,788

EXPENSES



Program Services	$7,137,039
General & Admin	1,061,541
Fundraising	858,006
TOTAL EXPENSES	$9,056,586

PROGRAM SERVICES



Friends Grassroots Network	$4,111,981
Policy & Legal/Conservation	2,483,954
Communications & Branding	541,104
PROGRAM EXPENSES	$7,137,039

In-kind contributions: Defending our national monuments in court takes substantial legal resources and in 2025, our legal partners Advocates for the West, Covington and Burling, LLP, and Hogan Lovells, LLP donated $1,367,444 in pro-bono legal counsel. **We are grateful for their support and honored to stand with them in the historic battle to protect America's National Conservation Lands.**

BALANCE SHEET

TOTAL ASSETS	$11,248,294
TOTAL LIABILITIES	333,474
NET ASSETS	
General Operating Funds	2,628,572
Temporarily Restricted Funds	4,036,248
Board-designated Reserve Funds	4,250,000
	10,914,820
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	$11,248,294

BOARD EMERITUS

Anne Shields
Former Chief of Staff
Department of the Interior

Bruce Babbitt
Governor of Arizona (1978-1987)
Secretary of the Department of the Interior (1993-2001)

Chris Killingsworth
Executive Vice President
The Wyss Foundation

Dayton Duncan
Writer and Documentary Filmmaker

Douglas (Doug) P. Wheeler
Senior Counsel Emeritus
Hogan Lovells LLP

Edward Norton
Actor, Conservationist, Writer, and Producer

Edward (Ed) M. Norton
Chair Emeritus & Founder
Conservation Lands Foundation

Elaine Brong
Founding Director
National Conservation Lands
Oregon State Director
Bureau of Land Management (2002-2006)

Elaine Zielinski
Retired, Bureau of Land Management

Greg Moore
CEO Emeritus & Special Advisor
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Hansjörg Wyss
Chairman
The Wyss Foundation & HJW Foundation

Heath Nero
Senior Conservation Program Officer
The Wyss Foundation

Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator, New Mexico (1983-2013)

Jennifer Speers
Chair
The Nature Conservancy, Utah Chapter

Kai Anderson
CEO
Cassidy and Associates

Marcus Jimenez
CEO
Breefly, Inc.

Mike Kowalski
Former President
Tiffany & Co.

Molly McUsic
President
The Wyss Foundation

Peter Metcalf
Founder & CEO Emeritus
Brand Advocate
Black Diamond Equipment

Rob White
Founding Chair
National Trust Community Investment Corp (2000-2012)

Robert Abbey
Former National Director BLM (2009-2012)

William (Bill) Meadows
Counselor
The Wilderness Society

Board titles and affiliations reflect those held at time of service.

Gold Butte NM (NV) - Bob Wick.

CONSERVATION LANDS FOUNDATION

conservationlands.org
835 E. 2nd Ave. Suite 305
Durango, CO 81301

"I spent my career at the BLM because I believed public lands belong to everyone and deserve real protection. That belief didn't retire when I did. Joining the Legacy Circle was our way of saying 'This matters to us beyond our own lifetime.'"

— Long-time supporter Carolyn and husband Jim



Be a public lands champion

To join our Legacy Circle and champion public lands into the future, contact Åsa Björklund at **asa@conservationlands.org**. Our Other Ways to Give page has more on **gifts of stock, donor-advised funds, and IRA distributions**.



Photos: Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (ID) - Bob Wick. Conservation Lands Foundation staff at San Juan Islands National Monument in Washington.
Report design: gaiacreative.

Stay connected! conservationlands.org

@conservationlands @conservationlands @conservation-lands-foundation @conservationLF @conservationlands