



CONSERVATION
LANDS
FOUNDATION



A VISION BUILT TO LAST

A Message from Our Chief Executive Officer



Dear Friends,

Twenty-five years ago, a new system of conserved lands, the National Conservation Lands, was established - one grounded in people, place, and possibility. As we commemorate this landmark anniversary, we honor a quarter-century of conservation and community-driven triumphs with deep gratitude for how far we've come - and acknowledge the critical work that still lies ahead.

Today, as our public lands and bedrock environmental laws face existential threats, our mission and the Friends

Grassroots Network remain essential. We defend progress, hold elected officials and federal agencies accountable, and mobilize broad public support for the protection of public lands and conservation policies. Inside this 2025 Impact Report, you will find inspiring stories of our successes, hard-won during the most challenging season yet for some of our nation's most cherished natural places.

"At the heart of our work is a simple truth: there is no future without nature."

The stakes have never been higher, and we are energized by the strength of national collaboration and the power of the public voice. Our priority remains to safeguard past victories, advance conservation values, and strengthen the policy and political levers essential for success. At the same time, we are laying the foundation for the next 25 years - a strategy for expanding the National Conservation Lands system, investing in tomorrow's leaders, and ensuring that conservation protections endure for generations to come.

At the heart of our work is a simple truth: there is no future without nature. We envision a world in which the National Conservation Lands are stewarded, protected, and celebrated for their natural, cultural, and historic values - with the Friends Grassroots Network at the forefront of this movement.

This is not a new beginning, but a continuation of a remarkable legacy shaped by visionaries, made tangible by champions in communities across the West, and sustained by people like you who recognize the irreplaceable value of protecting nature.

Thank you for being part of this journey,

CHRIS HILL | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Our 2025 financials will be published in 2026, following the end of this fiscal year. 2024 financials are available upon request.



ABOUT US



CONSERVATION LANDS FOUNDATION

managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - and powering a national movement of community-led land conservation organizations across the West to maintain protections.

We exist to

- Protect, restore, and expand the National Conservation Lands overseen by the BLM.

We succeed by

- Equipping our Friends Grassroots Network with the tools, skills, and resources to be transformative leaders who educate, advocate, and mobilize public land champions.

We are committed to

- Valuing public lands as a source, not a resource.
- Honoring local passion and wisdom.
- Furthering a fully inclusive movement.
- Finding and sharing joy in the work.



Chris Hill and Bruce Babbitt at our Fireside Chat in Washington DC, April 2025

About National Conservation Lands

National Conservation Lands are between and beyond national parks, and are essential to clean air and water, sustained biodiversity, intact wildlife corridors and habitat, cultural continuity of Tribal Nations, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational access, and strong local economies.

In 2000, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt saw that some of the West's last wild and culturally rich places were in need of care that would last. He helped establish the National Conservation Lands system (within the BLM) to preserve their natural values for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

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



Photos, above right: Handies Peak Wilderness Study Area (CO) - BLM | Gold Butte National Monument (NV) - Bob Wick | Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks National Monument (NM) - Bob Wick

GROWING COMMUNITY LEADERS AND BUILDING POWER FOR PUBLIC LANDS



Our Friends Grassroots Network, or “Friends Network,” is made up of **84 local organizations across 12 western states**. We use two primary strategies to strengthen the ability of our Friends Network to be on-the-ground advocates for their local public lands: **Strengthening Organizational Effectiveness** and **Mobilizing Community Action**.

Strengthening Organizational Effectiveness

In 2025, through our Grassroots Advocacy Program, we helped these nonprofits stay resilient, strategic, and effective in their missions to protect public lands.

Executive Director Cohort

A four-month summer training for 17 new Friends Network leaders, with virtual sessions focused on organizational mission, strengths assessment, and strategic visioning.

Communications Cohort

Two interactive virtual sessions attended by 30 Friends Network members focused on sharpening social media strategies, strengthening storytelling, and boosting organizational visibility and impact.

Foundations of Conservation Leadership

This three-day in-person workshop brought together 11 new Friends Network employees for a crash course on fundraising, policy, advocacy, and justice, helping them build a solid foundation for their developing careers in conservation.



Foundations of Conservation Leadership, Las Vegas, NV, June 2025

“The Grassroots Advocacy Program is designed to be a full embrace of support to meet the needs of our Friends Network at every stage of their life cycle.”

— Shi-Lynn Campbell, CLF’s Associate Director of Grassroots Engagement



Nevada and Utah partners with Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (DC) | Project tour with California partners and Congressman Kevin Kiley | Caja del Rio clean up with Santa Fe partners (NM)

Thank you to our sponsors, Osprey and Haglöfs!



COLLABORATION: We recently announced a more robust collaboration with Together Rising As An Environmental Community (TREC), the nation’s leading environmental nonprofit capacity building advisors, through which we will expand organizational development offerings for the Friends Network and our own staff.



FUNDER IMPACT: We partnered with Edison International to distribute \$706,000 across five California Friends Network organizations as year one of a three-year project specifically for wildfire mitigation, education, and restoration. **The timing was especially important, providing partners impacted by federal funding cuts with the ability to continue essential stewardship projects.**



Mobilizing Community Action

"At its heart, advocacy is about being heard. We give local communities a megaphone that transforms their passion into action for protecting the public lands we all love and need."

— Shevawn Bell, CLF's Communications Director

The Conservation Lands Foundation harnesses the community power of the Friends Network into a potent force for securing and maintaining public land protections at the federal level.

In 2025, we applied our collective strength to fight against a new administration and anti-public lands Congress members who pursued an unrelenting onslaught of strategies to sell off and unravel protections for public lands overseen by the BLM.



CLF's VP of Conservation Field Programs Char Overby, former Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, and California Program Directors Maricela Rosales and Elyane Stefanick, January 2025 (left to right)

The Conservation Lands Foundation and our California partners were instrumental in the January **designation of the Chuckwalla National Monument, protecting more than 620,000 acres** in southern California.

This work was made possible by support from partners including Mosaic, a national collaborative funder and field catalyst that boosts the collective power of climate, conservation, and environmental health and justice movements in the United States to achieve durable, population-scale wins.



FUNDING THE FRONTLINE

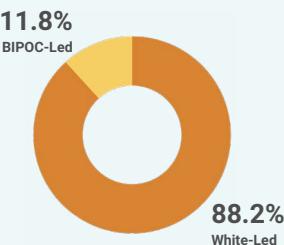
Our Friends Network groups are doing extraordinary work on multiple fronts in the face of consistent attacks. This year, we were able to provide*:

- **\$1,754,500** in one-year, multi-year, or rapid-response grants
- **\$706,000** in special restoration partnership grants through Edison International
- **\$119,500** to support direct costs including travel, lodging, and campaign materials

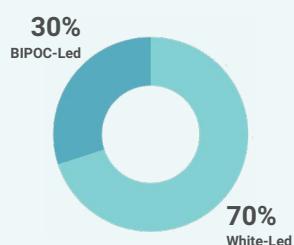
Funding to BIPOC**-Led Organizations

We seek to ensure there is a representative community of local supporters for National Conservation Lands, and are committed to centering justice and inclusion in our work.

2025 Multi-Year Grants



2025 One-Year Grants



*As of Oct. 2025 | **BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. CEP report had us averaging a little over 12% in 2020-2021. Industry standard is about 20%.



East Las Vegas OHV tour with consultant Ashley Lee (NV) | Arts & Advocacy event with artist Kim Garrison-Means (NV)

THE MOMENT WE FACE

This year, Friends Network groups lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in BLM grant funding. They are now working with less resources to fill critical gaps left by fired or furloughed BLM staff, including:

- Monitoring visitor safety, maintain public facilities, and manage campgrounds
- Providing protection for sensitive historic and cultural sites
- Mobilizing volunteer crews for stewardship projects

Our staff offered timely resources and connections to experts to help these groups navigate emerging risks in 2025.

Moving forward, increased financial resources are needed to empower our Friends Network to sustain their impact and resilience.

2025 WINS

JANUARY



VICTORY! Chuckwalla National Monument

OUR ROLE

Invested in community engagement alongside vital Friends Network partners for over 6 years



WIN: 620,000+ acres protected



FEBRUARY - MARCH



THREAT: National monuments under attack

OUR RESPONSE

Mobilized 51,000 advocates to contact Congress; generated 20 major media stories



WIN: Key Congress members expressed public support for monuments



MAY



THREAT: Provision to sell off Utah and Nevada public lands added to a House bill

OUR RESPONSE

Mobilized a digital campaign reaching 350,000 people and generating 2,000 letters to Congress



WIN: Provision struck from final bill



JUNE - AUGUST



THREAT: Proposed 75% funding cuts for BLM

OUR RESPONSE

Led a national public engagement campaign, reaching 100,000 people



WIN: Secured Congressional allies to reject cuts



THREAT: National public lands attacked on multiple fronts in Congress

OUR RESPONSE

Mobilized bipartisan opposition; generated 84,000 messages to decision makers



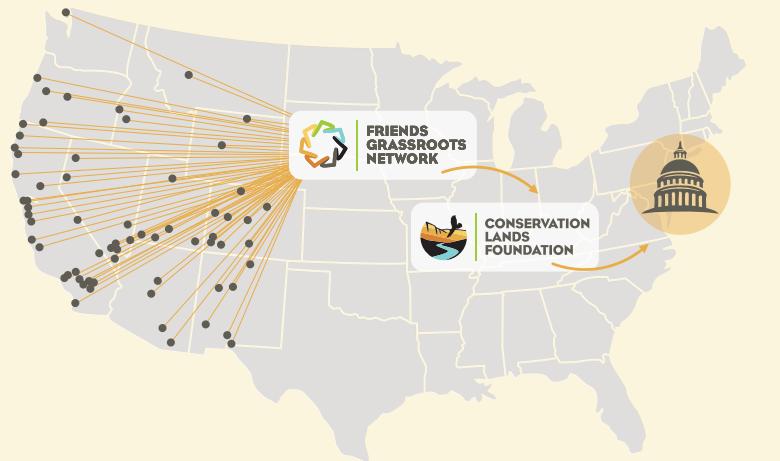
WIN: With national partners, blocked all four attempts at sell-offs inclusion

Avi Kwa Ame National Monument (NV) - West Cliff Creative
Arctic tern (AK) - Bob Wick
Gila River Wild and Scenic River (AZ) - Bob Wick

Local Voices, National Reach

Since 2007, we have secured **more than 11 million acres** of National Conservation Lands - a legacy achieved through direct presidential action, congressional legislation, and essential policy victories.

As our public lands now face existential threats, the **Friends Network remains the key driver of successful action**. Together, we will seek to uphold management standards, defend progress, and build the collective power needed for local to national conservation protections.



2025 FIGHTS



APRIL



THREAT: Congressional attempts to gut the Antiquities Act

OUR RESPONSE

Led 12 Friends Network leaders in over 40 congressional meetings to urge defense of law

ONGOING: Continuing pressure on Congress to stop the Bill



JUNE - AUGUST



ATTACK: Protections repealed for 13.3M acres of the Western Arctic

OUR RESPONSE

Mobilized more than 34,000 Friends Network and public comments in opposition

ONGOING: Building the public record of support and leveraging opportunities to reinstate protections



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER



ATTACK: Administration moved to rescind the Public Lands Rule

OUR RESPONSE

With national partners, activated broad support for the rule by generating public response, media attention, and political pressure.

ONGOING: Established a strong public record to defend the rule and the role of conservation

WHAT BROAD SUPPORT LOOKS LIKE

65 Friends Network members

61 House/Senate members

180 local electeds across the west

24 former/retired BLM staff

4800+ digital action takers

In 2025, We Responded To An Increased Need For Legal Defense of Public Lands

- Joined two Friends Network partners and six other organizations to intervene in a lawsuit to defend the Chuckwalla National Monument, following the lead of Ft. Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, and three other Tribal Nations.
- Offered and facilitated pro-bono legal advice through Advocates for the West law firm for the Friends Network organizations to defend threatened national monuments around their communities.
- Remain an intervenor in four separate cases against the Public Lands Rule, and litigants in the original cases challenging boundary reductions of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.



Chuckwalla National Monument (CA) - Bob Wick
Pygmy rabbit - BLM | Bears Ears (UT) - Cindy Gallo, BLM

MAKING PUBLIC LAND PROTECTION A POLITICAL PRIORITY

The Conservation Lands Foundation engages directly with federal decision makers to secure and defend public land protections, and make conservation a political priority.

This year, we:

- **Supported the formation of the Bipartisan Public Lands Caucus in the House of Representatives**, a forum for both Republicans and Democrats to find common ground on public lands.
- **Joined the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Public Lands Roundtable**, presenting alongside congressional allies on the importance of local input in decision making.
- **Led the effort to secure bipartisan congressional cosponsors** of the National Public Lands Day resolution.
- **Held our DC Fly-In, bringing 11 Friends Network leaders** to Washington, DC to meet with more than 40 Democratic and Republican decision makers urging them to defend the Antiquities Act, prevent public land sell-offs, and adequately fund public lands.

Sowing the Seeds For Future Protection

We lay the groundwork today for future opportunities to expand the National Conservation Lands. Legislation to protect the **Dolores River Canyon (CO)**, **Washoe County (NV)**, the **Gila Wild and Scenic River (NM)**, and the **Owyhee Canyonlands (OR)** represent just a few of the long-term paths we're pursuing to safeguard new public lands.



CLF's Chief Conservation Officer Jocelyn Torres representing us at the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Public Lands Roundtable, June 2025



Bipartisan Public Lands Caucus Launch, May 2025



Friends Network DC Fly-In, April 2025

Celebrating 25 Years of National Conservation Lands

HONORING AND PROTECTING AMERICA'S TREASURED PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERWAYS

The Conservation Lands Foundation and our Friends Network hosted more than 30 events, stewardship projects, hikes, and educational programs to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the National Conservation Lands system this year.



CLF and Friends of Rio Grande Del Norte (NM) celebrating with a service project. | CLF and partners celebrating with an event on the California Coast. | Senator Martin Heinrich speaks at a celebration with CLF and Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks (NM) - LuRay Lerdal

SUCCESS ON THE GROUND

This year, we joined our partners to celebrate multiple wins resulting from years of CLF's dedicated funding to and support of our Friends Network.



In June, CLF and our Friends Network groups in New Mexico led **one of the largest rallies in the state's history**, with 2,000 attendees gathering in Santa Fe during Interior Secretary Burgum's visit.

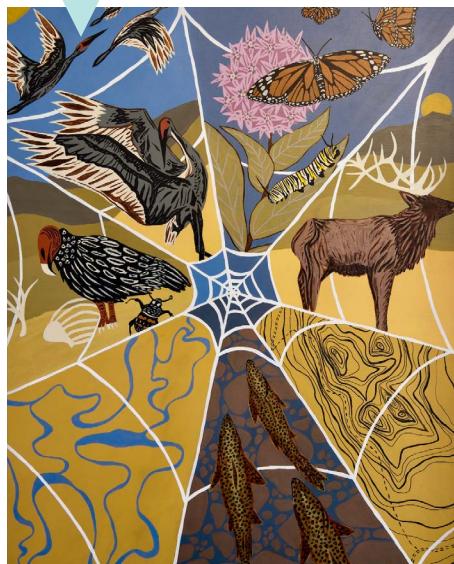


We joined the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, the BLM, and other local partners to celebrate the **opening of the Cotooni-Coast Dairies National Monument** (CA) to the public, previously accessible only through guided tours.



Trail Access Project, Friends of Red Rock Canyon, and the BLM installed **three adaptive trailhead gates** at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (NV).

Through a grant from the Honey Hive Fund of the Tides Foundation, we led our **Arts & Advocacy Program**, designed to support women artists who want to become advocates for land protection and defense.



CONNECTIVITY: Keep It Whole | Jocelyn Catterson

The Conservation Lands Foundation funded five artist projects across Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada, each centering local voices and public lands in need of protection.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Jocelyn Catterson designed a project to introduce new viewpoints, explore values, and build community support for the protection of landscapes in the San Luis Valley (CO). Through intentional connections, she identified stories, visuals, and themes relating to the region. Those insights were transformed into seven poster-sized multimedia works that celebrate common ground, highlight shared values and honor the land.



SACRED GEOGRAPHY: Honor the Places | Jocelyn Catterson

"Through art, we can uncover the common threads that tie people together and inspire future stewardship." — Jocelyn Catterson

GROWING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

NYC Climate Week Event

Public Land Protection IS Climate Action

We partnered with Patagonia to host a widely attended public forum featuring a curated panel that highlighted the breadth and depth of support for public lands protection. Moderated by Chris Hill, speakers were Representative Melanie Stansbury (NM), Caroline Gleich (professional ski mountaineer and activist), Ryan Callaghan (President and CEO of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers), and Carleton Bowekaty (Zuni Tribe and Policy Director at Bears Ear Partnership). Together, they explored how everyone has a role to play in safeguarding our nation's natural resources, inspiring attendees to take action in their communities.



Where Story Meets Stewardship

The Parks Stewardship Forum is a peer-reviewed journal co-published by UC Berkeley and the George Wright Society that connects science, policy, and practice by featuring professional and community leaders in the stewardship space. We partnered with the Forum to publish an issue commemorating the 25th anniversary of National Conservation Lands. Authors include current and former BLM employees, members of our Friends Network, legal and policy experts, and CLF Board and Emeritus Board Members.



Left to right: Rep. Stansbury, Chris Hill, Caroline Gleich, Ryan Callaghan, and Carleton Bowekaty, September 2025 - L Molina

Experience The Land. Protect Its Future.



The best way to care for our public lands is to truly experience them. Through our trips this year, **we connected 36 people to nature**, inspiring deeper engagement and advocacy.

Join one of our trips for an immersive journey - meet the dedicated people who care for these special places and witness firsthand the beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of our National Conservation Lands.

Learn from local partners, see the challenges and victories up close, and leave inspired to take action to protect these irreplaceable landscapes.

Bring a group, and **we'll design a custom itinerary** that turns exploration into connection, understanding, and lasting advocacy.

Reach out to Asa Bjorklund (asa@conservationlands.org) to start planning your experience.



San Juan Islands National Monument, WA - Asa Björklund | Western Arctic, AK - Chris Hill | Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT - Anna Zawisza

WHERE WE'RE HEADED

Our vision is an expanded and durable National Conservation Lands system, a high-functioning Bureau of Land Management, and community partners who are leading local conservation of these cherished landscapes.

How We'll Get There:



DEEPLY INVESTING IN THE FRIENDS GRASSROOTS NETWORK



PURSUING BOLD POLICY INITIATIVES AND CHAMPIONS



DEFENDING AND ELEVATING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS



Carrizo Plain (CA) - Bob Wick



ADVOCATING FOR TRIBAL COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT TOOLS TO BE EMBRACED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES



GROWING PUBLIC AND POLITICAL POWER FOR PUBLIC LANDS

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Department of the Interior

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Secretary of the Interior (1993-2001)

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Writer and Documentary Filmmaker

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Edward Norton

Actor, Conservationist,
Writer, and Producer

Edward (Ed) M. Norton

Chair Emeritus & Founder
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Elaine Brong

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

Elaine Zielski

Retired, Bureau of Land Management

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Robert Abbey

Former National Director
Bureau of Land Management
(2009-2012)

William (Bill) Meadows

Counselor
The Wilderness Society



In Memory of Our Founding Visionary

RICHARD "DICK" MOE (1936 - 2025)

Richard Moe had a distinguished career in government, law, and historic preservation, and was a founding board member of the Conservation Lands Foundation. He served as Chief of Staff to Vice President Walter Mondale and as a senior advisor to President Carter.

Richard led the National Trust for Historic Preservation from 1993-2009, where he is credited with saving some of America's leading historical sites. He is the author of *The Last Full Measure: The Life and Death of the First Minnesota Volunteers* and *Roosevelt's Second Act: The Election of 1940 and the Politics of War*.

He was awarded the Vincent Scully Prize by the National Building Museum and Theodore Roosevelt-Woodrow Wilson Award from the American Historical Association.

"Today Dick would want us to remember that there are times in our history when **ordinary people can and must do extraordinary things.**"

— Ed Norton, Sr.



**CONSERVATION
LANDS
FOUNDATION**

conservationlands.org
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Durango, CO 81301



"The Conservation Lands Foundation brings the power of expertise and local passion to the protection and conservation of public lands. I'm proud to be a new Board member for an organization that can deliver large-scale impact in this critical moment."

—Laura Daniel Davis, Former Senior Interior Department Official

Public Lands Need Your Support More Than Ever

This year has shown that we will need more financial resources for what will be a years-long fight. It's also proven that our model of strengthening and harnessing the power of community leaders and voices for public land protection works!

Your commitment to the Conservation Lands Foundation fuels our ability to increase momentum over the long haul and prepare for the fights ahead. Your financial support is

a form of stewardship for National Conservation Lands, and we invite you to join us in this movement with a financial gift today.



 SCAN ME

Make a one time or recurring donation today at conservationlands.org/donate

Other ways to give such as appreciated stock, bequests, and monthly giving can be found on our website. EIN/Tax ID Number: 20-8924520

"I love being part of the Conservation Lands Foundation community. It feels good to stand with so many people who believe that public lands should be protected for everyone forever."

— CLF supporter Milton Chen

Pictured right with Ruth Cox at the California Coastal National Monument



Photos, this page: (Top) Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (OR) - Bob Wick | (Bottom) Armagosa Wild and Scenic River (CA) - Bob Wick
Cover photos: Snake River (ID) - BLM | Public lands rally (UT) | CLF staff at press conference (CO) | Day of Action for National Monuments (Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners, UT) | Conglomerate Mesa rally (CA) | Bodie Hills (CA) - Bob Wick | Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks (NM) - LuRay Lerdal | Blanca Wetlands Recreation Area (CO) - Bob Wick | Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River (AK) - Bob Wick | CLF and New Mexico partners (DC) | Public lands rally (NM)

Report design: gaiacreative

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