



Alaska
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

**Annual Report
Fiscal Year**

2018



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friend,

In this time of rapid climate change, Alaska's lands, wildlife, and communities are experiencing conditions never seen before. Storms are intensifying, healthy ecosystems are deteriorating, and indigenous ways of fishing, hunting, and transportation are threatened by changing landscapes. Recognizing the acceleration of these changes, the federal government responded in 2010 with a strategy for nationwide landscape-scale conservation and climate change adaptation. In Alaska, this created unique collaborative groups that included communities, industry, non-profit organizations, tribes, universities, and government agencies. Collaborators earned each other's trust through conservation projects that empowered communities to respond to our rapidly changing climate.

Despite their accomplishments, in 2017 the federal government defunded these crucial networks—jeopardizing the strong relationships formed to address conservation and climate change throughout the state. We are reinvigorating these networks to continue finding community-inspired solutions to the issues imposed by rapid climate change. Within this report you will find a full feature on this new program.

Through partnership with these climate networks, we can better protect Alaska and its diverse landscapes—as we have done since 1980. Support from our generous donors enables us to collaborate with these networks and communities to protect Alaska's lands and waters for future generations. Thank you for making this work possible.

Sincerely,

Michael Barber

ABOUT ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Through supporting grassroots advocacy, facilitating collaborative conservation, and strengthening Alaska's conservation movement, Alaska Conservation Foundation works to ensure Alaska's unparalleled natural heritage will remain one of America's greatest legacies for generations to come. Founded in 1980, the Alaska Conservation Foundation is the only public 501(c)(3) foundation solely dedicated to conservation in Alaska, connecting thousands of committed donors and businesses worldwide with more than a hundred grassroots conservation organizations in Alaska. You can join us in protecting Alaska by becoming a supporter today.

Our Mission

Alaska Conservation Foundation protects Alaska's natural environment and the diverse cultures and ways of life it sustains. We do this by promoting conservation philanthropy and by strategically directing resources to conservation leaders, organizations, and initiatives.

Our Vision

Alaska Conservation Foundation envisions an inspiring Alaska that is naturally thriving, biologically and culturally diverse, rich in wildlands, bountiful in terrestrial and marine life, sustainable in its economic development and thoughtfully protected—forever.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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& Operations
Anna Dalton, Director of Grants
& Programs
Aaron Poe, Network Officer
Camille Davis, Development
Associate
Carley O'Connell, Communications
& Development Associate

PROTECTING ALASKA'S PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS

Alaska Conservation Foundation works tirelessly to ensure Alaska's magnificent lands and waters remain wild and pristine for generations to come. Three areas in particular—the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Bristol Bay, and the Tongass National Forest—face immediate threats. In each of these regions, the Foundation strategically engages with community partners to ensure Alaska persists as a biologically and culturally thriving landscape.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

In late 2017, the federal government passed a bill that, if carried out, will damage the biological heart of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by opening the Coastal Plain to oil and gas drilling. In addition to the inherent ecological value of the Coastal Plain, the Native Gwich'in people of Alaska and Canada innately depend upon it as the birthing ground of the Porcupine caribou herd that sustains their traditional way of life. In Gwich'in culture, the Coastal Plain is known as the Sacred Place Where Life Begins. Alaska Conservation Foundation actively supports efforts to protect this delicate wild ecosystem and works to elevate the voices of our Native allies. The Foundation focuses on organizing conservation leaders to ensure decision makers in Alaska and Washington DC understand what is at stake, mobilizing Arctic Refuge supporters, and boosting legal efforts to protect the Refuge. As articulated by our partner Bernadette Demientieff, Director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee: "We made a pact that we would always take care of the Porcupine caribou herd if they always took care of us. Now, it's our turn."

BRISTOL BAY

Bristol Bay, home to the world's largest sockeye salmon run, is again under threat from Pebble Mine, a proposed gigantic open pit mine that would span over 3,000 acres in the headwaters of this pristine watershed. In addition to being one of the largest intact healthy salmon habitats in the world, the Bristol Bay fishery annually provides over 14,000 jobs, is valued at over \$1.5 billion, and sustains the indigenous people of the region, including over 30 Alaska Native tribes. With the ultimate goal to permanently halt Pebble Mine exploration and development, Alaska Conservation Foundation is standing up for the region by supporting the legal effort to challenge the mine and ensuring the voices of Alaskans opposed to the mine are heard, making it clear that this will always be the wrong mine in the wrong place.

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

Southeast Alaska, home of the Tongass National Forest, the largest temperate rainforest on the planet, continues to be threatened by logging and mining. Attacks include exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule—which protects forest lands essential for fish and wildlife habitat, drinking water, and recreational opportunities from large-scale timber harvest, and overturning the locally-supported Tongass Land Management Plan that guides protection of sensitive regions within the National Forest. In addition, there are serious regional threats to fish and wildlife from current and proposed mines around Southeast Alaska and upstream in Canada. Through the Sustainable Southeast Partnership, Alaska Conservation Foundation is helping communities proactively build healthy, resilient futures that are not dependent upon industrial-scale resource extraction.

GRANTMAKING FOR RESULTS

Our grantmaking seeks to strengthen the influence of Alaska's conservation movement, focusing on long-term solutions that create the enduring conservation protection warranted by the magnificence of Alaska. We accomplish this through a variety of grantmaking programs:

Rapid Response Grants

Responds quickly to fast-breaking, unforeseen environmental threats of statewide or national significance. The only program of its kind in Alaska.

Alaska Defense Fund

Combats threats to Alaska's natural environment. Our newest fund.

Watchable Wildlife Conservation Trust

Broadens support for conserving Alaska's wildlife. A trust in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Discovery Grants

Supports small grassroots organizations.

Sustainable Southeast Partnership

Catalyzes collaboration to reach cultural, ecological and economic prosperity for Southeast Alaska communities and the region.

Alaska Native Fund

Provides an Indigenous framework for impacting critical environmental issues while promoting innovative strategies to strengthen the capacity of Alaska Native organizations and communities.

Donor Advised & Restricted Grants

Alaska Conservation Foundation offers donors a way to advise distribution of their donation to a particular issue or organization, provided it aligns with our mission and vision.

This year, our supporters enabled us to grant \$1.4 million through 79 grants to the organizations listed here.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics	Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association	Northern Research Technical Assistance Center
Alaska Marine Conservation Council	Organized Village of Kake
Alaska Songbird Institute	Organized Village of Kasaan
Alaska Wilderness League	Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Alaska Wildlife Alliance	Renewable Juneau SEAWEAD
Alaskans for Wildlife	Sitka Conservation Society
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies	Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Cook Inletkeeper	Southeast Alaska Land Trust
Discovery Southeast	Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition
Earthjustice	Spruce Root, Inc.
Eyak Preservation Council	Stand for Salmon
Friends of Creamer's Field	The Alaska Center
Hoonah Indian Association	The Alaska Center Education Fund
Hydaburg Cooperative Association	The Conservation Fund
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society	The Nature Conservancy
Kenai Watershed Forum	Trout Unlimited
Klawock Cooperative Association	Trustees for Alaska
National Wildlife Refuge Association	Wrangell Institute for Science and Education
Native American Rights Fund	Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
New Venture Fund	Yukon Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

BUILDING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

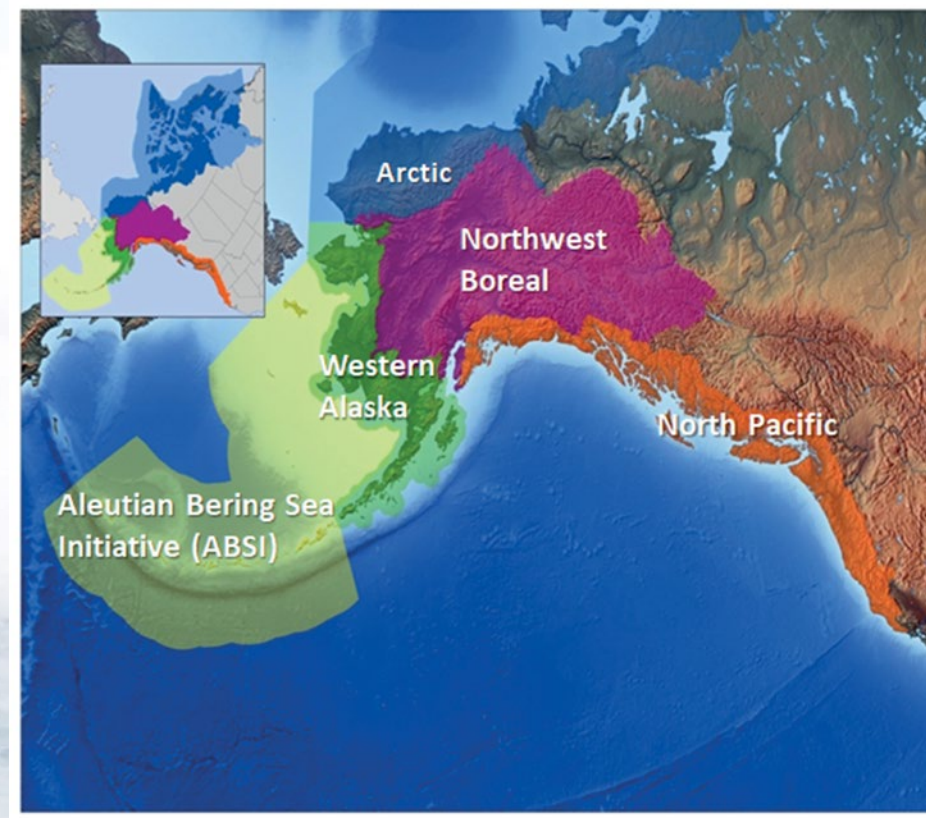
THROUGH COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

INNOVATION THROUGH STATEWIDE COLLABORATION

From our most rural to our most populated communities, Alaska is experiencing the impacts of Earth's rapidly changing climate at more than twice the rate of the rest of the globe. One of Alaska Conservation Foundation's core priorities is helping Alaska's communities build long-term resilience to the impacts of our changing climate. Key to this objective is helping communities work with managers and scientists to better understand and address the changes happening to the public lands and waters upon which they depend. In 2017, the Foundation expanded its collaborative conservation efforts by starting to support Alaska's network of regional conservation partnerships—officially called Alaska's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs).

These unique partnerships consist of federal, state, tribal, First Nations, academic, industry, non-profit and other regional players throughout Alaska and Northwest Canada. Beginning in 2010, the U.S. Department of the Interior established these regional partnerships to develop collaborative community-supported solutions to issues brought about by our changing climate. Their work was threatened in 2017 when the federal government defunded all of the staff positions that supported these critical networks. Fearing the loss of these important, hard-earned collaborative relationships, Alaska Conservation Foundation stepped in to help ensure the partnerships continued.

Alaska Conservation Foundation now hosts coordinator positions for two of the partnerships: the Aleutian Bering Sea Initiative and the Western Alaska LCC. We also collaborate closely with the contracted staff of the Northwest Boreal and North Pacific LCCs and beginning in 2019 will be supporting these partnerships with funding as well. Alaska Conservation Foundation will continue to bolster the work of this dynamic network of partnerships, empowering Alaska's communities to adapt to our rapidly changing climate. To learn more about successes and efforts of these partnerships, we encourage you to visit a site jointly managed by Alaska's four active LCCs: NorthernLatitudes.org.



COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT:

ARCTIC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION THROUGH INNOVATIVE NEW TECHNOLOGY

The impacts of climate change in Alaska's Arctic are widespread. Among the issues at the top of the list are the impacts to marine mammals. Decreasing sea ice is allowing more and new types of vessel traffic in the form of very large industrial ships—to pass through Arctic waters. Additional ship traffic has led to an increase in potentially dangerous interactions between ships and marine mammals, like Pacific walrus, northern fur seals, and Steller sea lions. There is cause for additional concern because Alaska Native Tribes routinely harvest marine mammals for food and to sustain their cultural way of life in remote communities. Increased vessel traffic also endangers the hunters in their small watercraft.

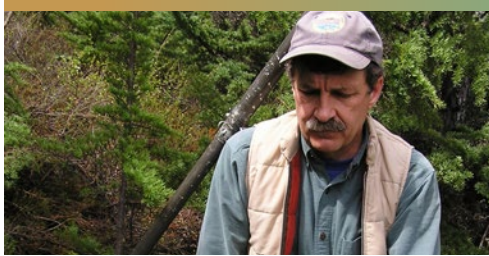
Arctic communities and environmental managers have collaborated through the Aleutian Bering Sea Initiative, one of Alaska's Landscape Conservation Cooperative partnerships, housed at Alaska Conservation Foundation, to develop a new "geofencing" tool to protect marine mammals and subsistence hunters from shipping traffic. This "geofencing" tool will allow managers and tribes to establish virtual fences around marine mammal habitat, subsistence harvest areas and other sensitive areas. When ships cross into these areas, alerts will be automatically sent to the interested agencies or tribes. These alerts will go to appropriate authorities who will then be able to contact vessel owners and operators to notify them to avoid the sensitive areas they are approaching.

This technology is being co-developed in collaboration with two vessel industry non-profits and the University of Alaska Anchorage, in close coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and coastal Alaska Native communities. This coordination will ensure that this tool will serve the needs of each of these key stakeholders. Coupled with other active monitoring and protection efforts, this tool will help ensure wildlife and communities in Alaska's Arctic can safely adapt to our rapidly changing climate.



CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

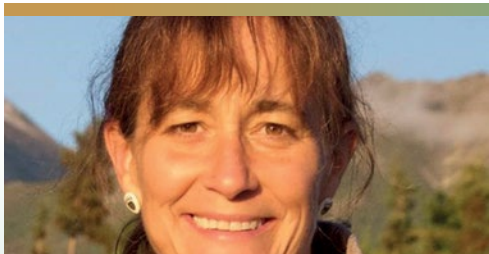
Alaska Conservation Foundation annually presents Conservation Achievement Awards to recognize the remarkable achievements of individuals and organizations committed to protecting Alaska. The award winners are honored at a reception each fall. Full bios of the current award recipients can be found on our website.



Rick Sinnott
Lifetime Achievement Award



Frank Keim
Celia Hunter Award for
Outstanding Volunteer
Contributions



Nicole Whittington-Evans
Olaus Murie Award for
Outstanding Professional
Contributions



**Bristol Bay Heritage
Land Trust**
Lowell Thomas, Jr. Award for
Outstanding Achievements by
a Conservation Organization



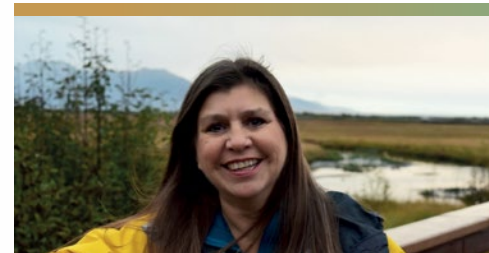
Richard Carstensen
Jerry S. Dixon Award
for Excellence in
Environmental Education



Tyroan (Roan) Rediske
Denny Wilcher Award for
Young Environmental Activists



Carl Johnson
Daniel Housberg Wilderness
Image Award for Excellence in
Still Photography, Film or Video



Patty Schwalenberg
Caleb Pungowiyi Award for
Outstanding Achievements by
an Alaska Native Organization
or Individual



TED SMITH CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Ted Smith Conservation Internship Program is a strategic investment in young adults. The program is specifically targeted toward students who plan a career path in conservation and are willing to make a long-term commitment to protecting the pristine environment and diverse cultures of Alaska. Students selected from around the country have the chance to work with conservation organizations around the state for a 12-week internship.

2018 Interns

| **Adriana Long from San Luis Obispo, CA**

Organizer Intern at The Alaska Center
in Anchorage

| **Jing Si from Atlanta, GA**

Environmental & Community Health
Researcher/Advocate at Alaska Community
Action on Toxics in Anchorage

| **Jessica Menges from Laconia, NH**

Conservation Advocacy & Outreach Specialist
at Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
in Sitka

| **Erika Stroh from West Chester, OH**

Fisheries Conservation Intern at The Alaska
Center in Anchorage

| **Brittni Teresi from Las Vegas, NV**

Naturalist Intern at the Center for Alaskan
Coastal Studies in Homer

| **Corinne Fischer from White Plains, NY**

Wild Salmon and Climate Change Intern at
Cook Inletkeeper in Homer

| **Adam Spaulding-Astudillo from Roscoe, IL**

Youth Outdoor Educator at Discovery
Southeast in Juneau

| **Terese Schomogyi from Notre Dame, IN**

Stream Watch Intern at Kenai Watershed
Forum in Soldotna

| **Carly Dennis from Eagle River, AK**

Environmental Communications & Eco
Advocacy Intern at Sitka Conservation Society
in Sitka

| **Haley Kardek from Danville, CA**

Outreach & Online Engagement Intern
at Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
in Juneau

| **Daniel Ahrens from Los Alamos, NM**

Science Intern at Yukon River Inter-Tribal
Watershed Council in Anchorage



WITH GRATITUDE

Alaska Conservation Foundation is grateful to the many individuals, foundations and businesses from around the country who supported our efforts in fiscal year 2018 (July 2017 - June 2018). While we cannot acknowledge everyone individually in this report, please know we are thankful for your generosity, which enables our work and that of our partners around the state.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$100,000 and above

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Memorial Fund
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation

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David Bonderman
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Dr. Elizabeth S. Saltonstall
Ecesis Foundation
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Kayak Adventures Worldwide
Linda Aarness
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Norman Anderson
Terry and Paul Reichardt

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Nancy Weintraub
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Patrick and Mary Dunleavy
Paul and Juliana Hansen
Peg and Jules Tileston

(List continues on page 19)



Ranjit and Ariane Arpels-Josiah
Richard Gordon
Richard Monkman and
Tina Kobayashi
Robert Keith, Jr. and Margot Keith
Ruth and Bill Botzow
Shirley Langlois
Stacy Studebaker and
Michael Sirofchuck
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The Armand G. Erpf Fund
The Endurance Fund
The Tetra Fund
Torre and Janet Jorgenson
Ulrich and Ethel E. Ganz
Wild Woods Foundation
William and Heidi Wailand
William and Mary Sue Morrill
William Wiener Jr

DENALI LEGACY SOCIETY

Our Denali Legacy Society is a very special group of donors who have included Alaska Conservation Foundation in their wills, trusts or other planned giving arrangements. We are grateful to these individuals for their inspiring commitment to protecting Alaska. If you would like to learn how you too can leave a legacy for Alaska conservation, please contact us.

Anonymous (7)
Alyson Pytte
Amy Crook
Anne Wieland
April Crosby and
Merritt Helfferich
Beth Baker, MD
Betty Blumenkamp
Cynthia and John Adams
David and Alexis Colker
David and Susan
Hardenbergh
David and Susan
Rockefeller
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Our Great Land Giving Club consists of our committed monthly donors. Monthly donations of all sizes are welcome. Visit AlaskaConservation.org to join the club.

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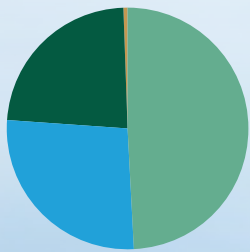
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Wailand
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Snyder
Wyatt Abernethy

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

REVENUE

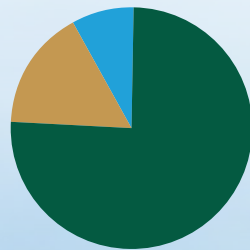
Total \$2,895,261



- Grants to ACF
\$1,434,000
- Public Support
\$781,137
- Investment Income
\$676,491
- Other Income
\$3,633

EXPENSES

Total \$2,560,905



- Grantmaking and Other Strategic Support
\$1,936,844
- Administrative
\$415,589
- Fundraising
\$208,472

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2018

ASSETS

Current assets	\$	1,230,948
Investments and other long-term assets		9,561,504
Furniture and equipment		5,332

TOTAL ASSETS **10,797,784**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Grants and accounts payable	\$	138,900
Other Liabilities		107,580

TOTAL LIABILITIES **246,480**

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$	2,123,773
With donor restrictions		8,427,531

TOTAL NET ASSETS **10,551,304**

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **10,797,784**

To review the full 2018 audited financial statements as well as prior years' audited financial statements, 990s, and annual reports, please visit AlaskaConservation.org.



WAYS OF GIVING

There are many ways you can help protect Alaska, including one-time, monthly, or legacy gifts in your will to Alaska Conservation Foundation. Please visit our website at AlaskaConservation.org or contact us at (907) 276-1917 or info@alaskaconservation.org for details or to make a gift.

Alaska Conservation Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contribution to Alaska Conservation Foundation may qualify for a tax deduction based on your individual tax circumstance. Our federal tax identification number is 92-0061466



Alaska
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION


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