



**Alaska
Conservation
Foundation**

**ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR**

2014

MISSION STATEMENT

The 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.

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A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

On the pages of this annual report you'll read about Alaska Conservation Foundation's efforts to protect Alaska's natural environment and the ways of life it sustains in fiscal year 2014. These efforts tie directly back to our vision, which recognizes the strong need for a thriving Alaska environment that is biologically and culturally diverse, rich in wild lands, bountiful in terrestrial and marine life, yet sustainable in its economic development. Our donors, our grantees, our board and our staff are all critical to helping us achieve this.

This past year, ACF's grantmaking continued to be focused on supporting Alaskans' efforts to protect the environment that they depend on for their economic and cultural survival. The stories we share in this report about the efforts of our grantees, such as Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and Sitka Conservation Society, illustrate the challenges our conservation partners are facing, but also what we are all working toward—a thoughtfully protected Alaska.

In this report we also highlight two of our amazing donors. Long-time supporters Dan Purnell and Nancy Lord represent hundreds of you across the country from Alaska to Florida, Maine to California and everywhere in between. Your support and partnership is critical to ACF's success and for this we continue to be inspired and humbled.

For Alaska,

Ann Rothe

LEFT: Shelikoff Straight & Katmai Mountain
©Stacy Studebaker

TOP: Ann Rothe
©Lucas Veldhuis

COVER: Cordova Shorebirds
©John Schoen

OUR GRANTMAKING IMPACT

Alaska Conservation Foundation serves as the only public foundation solely dedicated to protecting Alaska's natural environment and the ways of life it sustains. Since 1980, ACF has performed a vital role in preserving some of the last truly intact, wild and healthy ecosystems in our nation by providing strategic and financial support to our nonprofit partners working toward our shared goals. Through our grantmaking, we encourage broad-based support for and innovative solutions to Alaska's most pressing conservation issues in pursuit of a healthy environment, healthy communities and sustainable economies. **In fiscal year 2014, ACF awarded 89 grants totaling more than \$2.75 million to support conservation efforts statewide.**

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Alaska Natives have a profound reliance on the environment to maintain their traditional values and ways of life. Unfortunately, climate change and unsustainable development continue to threaten the resources they depend upon for their livelihood and food security. Despite their responsible stewardship of the land, Alaska Native communities have historically received just a fraction of philanthropic support for their conservation work. In fiscal year 2014, ACF continued to partner closely with an Alaska Native Steering Committee through the Alaska Native Fund grantmaking program to support projects that address the critical conservation issues affecting their cultures, communities and economic opportunities. **ACF awarded more than \$184,000 in grants to support this effort.**

BUILDING CONSERVATION CAPACITY

ACF's Community Capacity initiative is an effort to strengthen Alaska's conservation organizations and leaders to achieve even greater conservation impact. In fiscal year 2014, ACF continued to focus its strategic and financial support on efforts to ensure citizens have a voice in the democratic process as it relates to resource management decisions. Grants also included Organizational Capacity grants which build the capacity of grassroots conservation organizations, and Rapid Response grants designed to quickly address unforeseen threats to Alaska's wild lands, clean waters and wildlife of statewide or national significance. **ACF awarded over \$218,000 in grants to support these efforts.**

To see the complete list of FY2014 grants, please visit www.alaskaconservation.org/strategic-funding.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Preserving Alaska's future depends on developing the next generation of conservation leaders. ACF's popular Ted Smith Conservation Internship Program is a strategic investment in young adults who plan a career path in conservation and are eager to make a long-term commitment to preserving and protecting Alaska. In fiscal year 2014, ACF partnered with Alaska Center for the Environment to again offer students from Alaska and around the country valuable conservation work experience at partner organizations throughout the state. **ACF awarded over \$50,000 in grants to support 10 internships across Alaska.**

DEFENDING BRISTOL BAY

The Bristol Bay region in Southwest Alaska is defined by salmon; its half-million square miles of rivers and streams sustain the largest remaining wild salmon populations on Earth. Meanwhile, the proposed Pebble Mine—slated to be the largest open-pit mine in North America—threatens the health of the entire ecosystem. In fiscal year 2014, ACF continued to provide leadership and financial support to the Bristol Bay Protection Campaign—a diverse coalition working to safeguard this unparalleled watershed and the sustainable economy of fishing, tourism and subsistence it supports. **ACF awarded \$75,000 in grants to support this effort.**

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Alaska is experiencing the effects of rapid climate change more than any other state. Meanwhile, over five trillion tons of coal resources (1/8 of the world's total) lie under Alaska's wild lands, and many coal-related projects have been proposed to mine it. In fiscal year 2014, ACF continued to support the Alaskans for Energy Freedom Campaign—a diverse coalition working to keep this coal in the ground and prevent the impacts that developing it will have on the Earth's climate, as well as on Alaska's lands, waters and people. **ACF awarded over \$1.5 million in grants to support this effort.**

PROTECTING THE TONGASS

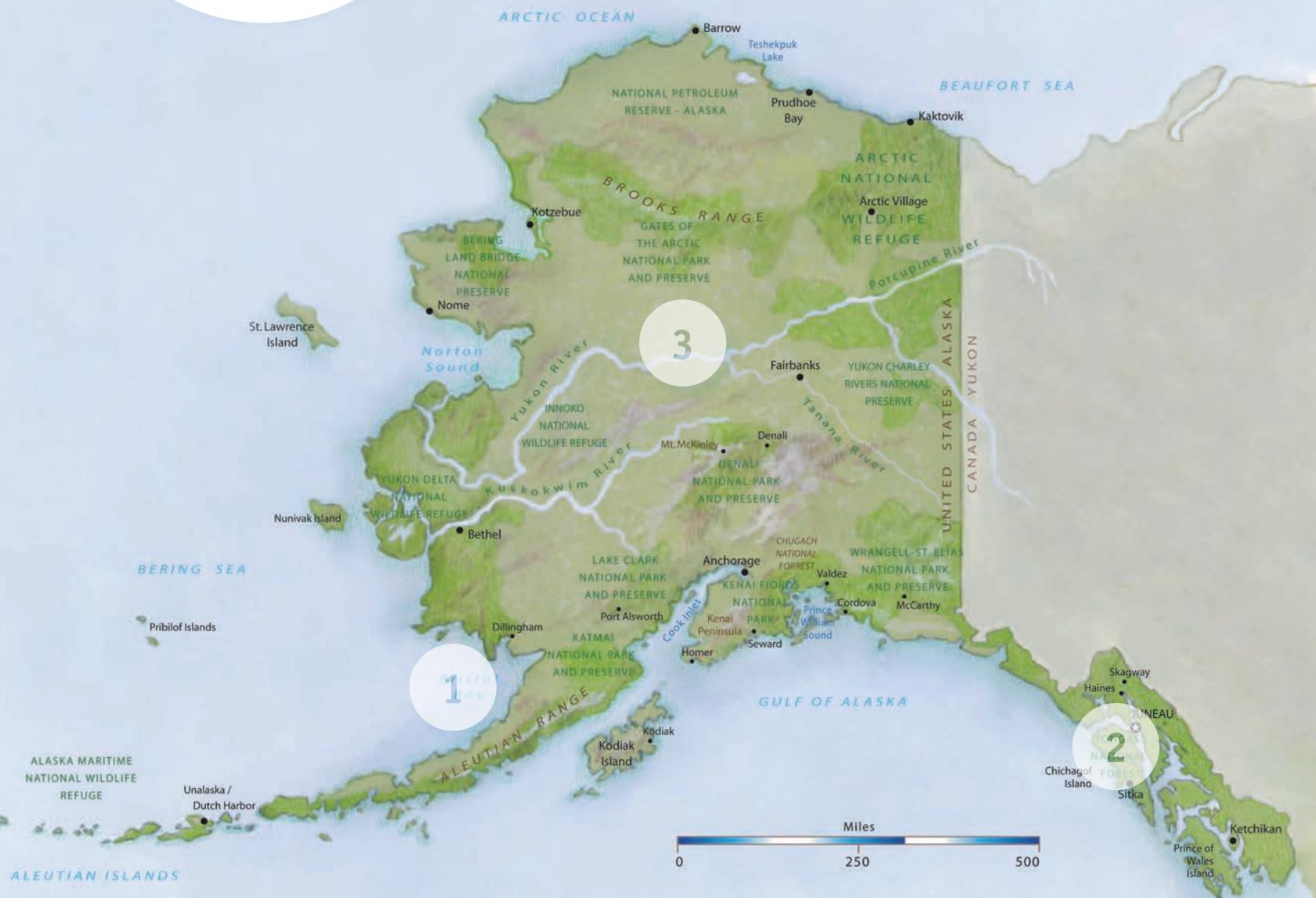
The Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska is the world's largest remaining coastal temperate rainforest. More than half of it has been compromised from decades of clear-cutting. In fiscal year 2014, ACF continued to provide leadership and financial support to the Tongass Fish People & Place Campaign—a diverse alliance working to protect critical watersheds, promote forest management policies that engage local communities in forest planning and support sustainable economic activities that depend on living resources. **ACF awarded more than \$600,000 in grants to support this effort.**



Drying Salmon @Nick Hall

Crab Bay, Tenakee Inlet @John Schoen

OUR GRANTMAKING IMPACT



1 MOBILIZING ALASKANS TO PROTECT OUR CLEAN WATERS

Last fiscal year, during the second session of Alaska’s 28th Legislature, Alaska Governor Sean Parnell aggressively sought passage of House Bill 77—a bill that would have been devastating for Alaska’s clean waters and wild salmon. It would have removed Alaskans from the public comment process on many resource extraction permitting decisions and given developers proposing massive mining projects—like the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay—unlimited access to the water they need for development.

In response, ACF deployed Rapid Response grants to long-time, trusted grantees Alaska Center for the Environment and Alaska Conservation Voters to support their efforts to organize Alaskans around this issue. The investment paid big returns for Alaska’s clean waters and wild salmon as citizens turned out in force to voice their concerns. As the Legislature wound to a close in April 2014, in spite of Governor Parnell’s aggressive attempts to seek passage of HB77—it failed. To learn more about Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Conservation Voters and their efforts, visit www.akcenter.org and www.acvoters.org.

2 BUILDING CAPACITY TO BETTER PROTECT THE TONGASS

The Tongass rainforest in Southeast Alaska is home to the largest remaining stands of coastal temperate rainforest in the world, yet timber corporations have logged almost 1,000,000 acres of these ecologically rich forests. Now, less than half of the biggest and best old-growth trees are left. Communities in the Tongass have evolved around the rich marine resources, salmon, minerals and timber that make this area iconic and at times in its history, very prosperous. More recently the region has experienced protracted economic and social decline as a result of having an economy built primarily on boom and bust cycles related to logging and mining.

Long-time grantee Sitka Conservation Society is working in earnest to turn this tide in an effort to fulfill their mission to protect the Tongass and simultaneously develop economically, socially and environmentally sustainable communities within it. This is why in fiscal year 2014, ACF awarded SCS an Organizational Capacity grant to help them achieve their goals to become even more effective at what they do, which will ultimately translate to greater efforts to protect the Tongass. To learn more about the work of SCS, visit www.sitkawild.org.

3 INCREASING FOOD SECURITY BY REDUCING SALMON BYCATCH

As the mighty Yukon River flows from Canada through the heart of Alaska to the Bering Sea, it supports the longest wild Chinook salmon migration in the world. These Chinook salmon have sustained the cultural and nutritional needs of the 42 predominantly Alaska Native communities along the river for millennia—however this critical resource is in great decline, and in recent years even subsistence fisheries have been closed. One of the contributors to mortality is the destructive industrial-scale Bering Sea pollock fishery which catches and discards significant amounts of salmon, preventing them from returning to their spawning grounds along the Yukon River.

In FY2014, ACF awarded Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association an Alaska Native Fund grant. YRDFFA is a non-profit association of subsistence and commercial Alaska Native fishermen who work tirelessly to protect and maintain healthy fisheries and cultures along the Yukon River. This grant allowed YRDFFA to continue their advocacy in reducing wild salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea in an effort to enhance food security for the people on the Yukon. While YRDFFA has made significant progress, there is much to be done to advocate for further meaningful reductions. Learn more about YRDFFA and their efforts at www.yukonsalmon.org.

Map illustration by Penny Panlener and Simon Goldstein

THANK YOU DONORS

Alaska Conservation Foundation's work is made possible by the generosity of our donors from Alaska and around the country—our partners in Alaska conservation. Each gift we receive is an investment in our mission and Alaska's future. **Thank you.**

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Gates of the Arctic National Park @John Schoen



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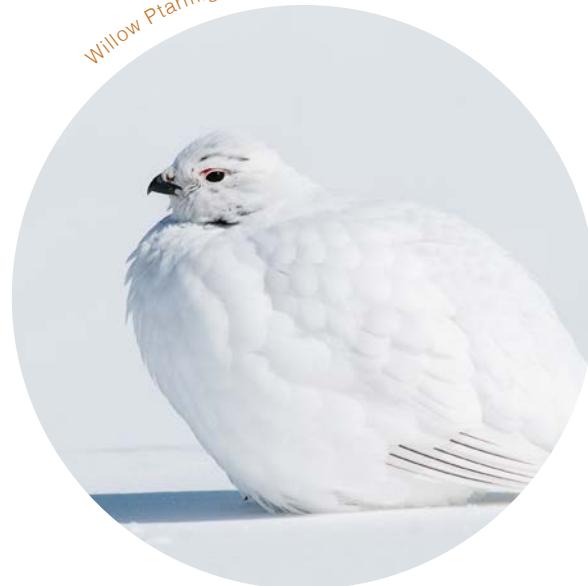
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ACF is grateful to the photographers who donated their images for use in this annual report:

Nick Hall
Tim Leach
Irene Owsley
John Schoen
Stacy Studebaker
Lucas Veldhuis

Subsistence Fishing @Nick Hall



DAN PURNELL

Donor Spotlight

Alaska is like an old friend to me—it is my home away from home. Since 1983, my travels across Alaska have filled me with inspiration, renewal and hope for the future. I have met some of my best lifetime friends trekking in Denali and Katmai National Parks. I feel most energized when left to explore a remote arctic valley. I am filled with wonder, as I watch a grizzly bear slowly make its way across a wide river drainage, and am grateful that these magnificent creatures still have places to roam freely and call home.

Alaska is truly the “Great Land”! It is home to some of the world’s most pristine and intact marine and

land ecosystems. These areas need our protection to ensure that future generations may enjoy and benefit from the rich Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs and the timeless Arctic caribou migrations. Alaska’s unparalleled ecosystems have provided a rich bounty to both the people and wildlife of Alaska. Its beauty and vastness also bring inspiration and wonder to so many around the world.

I support ACF because I trust them to fund those organizations and initiatives that will have the greatest impact for protecting Alaska. The people at ACF are passionate and committed to Alaska’s preservation and sustainable economic growth.

Dan Purnell has been a generous supporter for 20 years. He lives in Vancouver, Washington but since retiring from a corporate career, he is now fulfilling his dream of volunteering to protect the lands and wilderness he loves around the world.

Dan Purnell in Denali National Park

NANCY LORD

Donor Spotlight

Alaska has been my home for all my adult life. When I first visited I was captured by the grandeur of the landscape and the wealth of living resources. I later became a student of Alaska’s history and Native cultures and came to understand more of the relationship between people and the land and sea. For years I made a living from commercial salmon fishing. I’m incredibly fortunate to have found my heart’s home in Alaska, and I’m committed to protecting it for its intrinsic ecosystem values as well as for the enjoyment and learning of future generations.

ACF is Alaska’s only foundation dedicated to protecting the environment and communities that depend on its health. It’s here for the long-run. As the phil-

anthropic arm of Alaska’s conservation movement, ACF has a unique ability to match those with the financial ability and passion for protecting Alaska with the organizations and activists who can make the difference.

The threats from misguided economic development schemes and general degradation of the environment never stop, and so the work to protect Alaska never ends. Alaska really is the last place to still have healthy salmon runs, significant old-growth forests, megafauna like coastal brown bears, and cultures interwoven with the land. Those who come after us should have a chance to experience what will survive only if we’re ever-vigilant.

Nancy Lord has been a committed board member since 2005, a dedicated supporter long before that, and the 1994 recipient of ACF’s Celia Hunter Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contributions. Nancy resides in Homer, Alaska and is a former Alaska State Writer Laureate.

Nancy Lord ©Irene Owsley

WAYS OF GIVING

Alaska Conservation Foundation offers a variety of giving vehicles through which you can help protect Alaska, including:

Gifts of marketable stock

Planned gifts

Great Land Monthly Giving Club

Employer matching gifts

EarthShare & Combined Federal Campaign

(CFC) #: 12062



TO LEARN MORE

Visit our website at www.alaskaconservation.org/giving

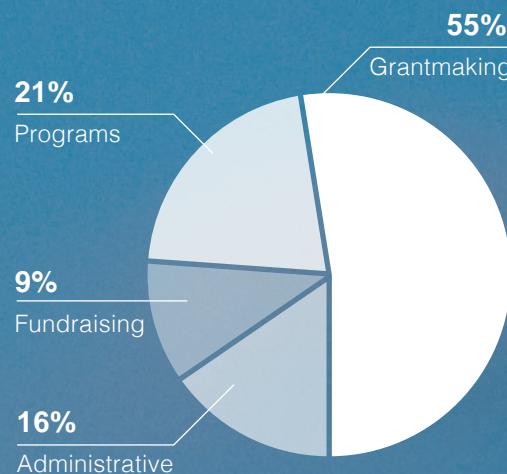
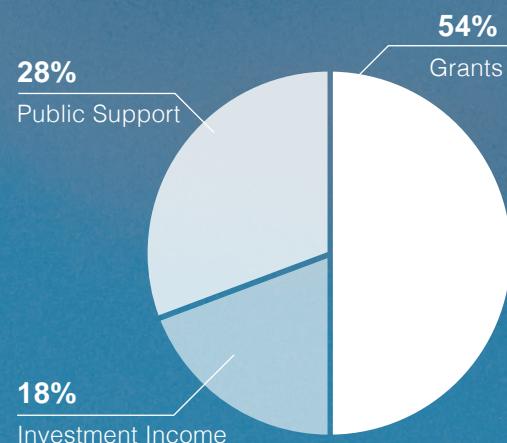
Email us at development@alaskaconservation.org

Or call 907-276-1917

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To review prior years' financial audits, 990s and annual reports, please visit www.alaskaconservation.org/foundation.
Snowy Owl ©Tim Leach

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30 th	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,824,928	\$ 2,351,739
Grants and public support receivable	150,562	314,371
Other receivables	-	104,004
Prepaid expenses and other assets	30,429	12,284
Investments at fair value	7,474,199	6,493,867
Investments not at fair value	94,674	91,218
Land held for resale	122,00	-
Cash surrender value of life insurance policies	76,290	78,185
Furniture and equipment	22,718	36,423
TOTAL ASSETS	9,797,800	9,482,091
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 115,893	\$ 237,063
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	58,053	71,268
Grants and awards payable	27,500	46,000
Gift annuity liability	67,234	70,836
TOTAL LIABILITIES	268,680	425,167
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
Board designated for endowment	1,149,084	854,844
Undesignated	937,824	792,453
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	2,086,908	1,647,297
Temporarily restricted	\$ 2,094,538	\$ 2,368,823
Permanently restricted	5,347,674	5,040,804
TOTAL NET ASSETS	9,529,120	9,056,924
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	9,797,800	9,482,901





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911 W. 8th Avenue, Suite 300

Anchorage, AK 99501

907-276-1917

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