



2016



Alaska
Conservation
Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT | 2016

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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.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present you with Alaska Conservation Foundation's FY2016 annual report.

By supporting ACF—the only foundation in the country focused solely on Alaska conservation—you are helping to protect some of the last remaining globally significant habitats left in the world. Thank you for protecting our home and remaining an advocate for Alaska's resilient future.

ACF reached a major milestone this year thanks to you: We have now awarded more than \$50 million in grants since we opened our doors in 1980. With the help of these investments across Alaska, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has not been opened to oil and gas development, the Pebble Mine has not been built in the Bristol Bay watershed, the Tongass National Forest has seen a significant decrease in industrial-scale logging of old-growth forests and not one new coal mine has been built in Alaska.

ACF takes a long-term and statewide view on protecting what we value in Alaska. We know that what we value here can be taken away at any moment—or slowly over time—if we are not vigilant to the threats from climate change and industrial-scale development.

Your engagement and support of ACF has protected the Great Land and its great waters for over 35 years. And with your ongoing partnership, we will continue to drive long-term conservation impact through our initiatives, our grantmaking and by ensuring the world knows that Alaska remains the greatest conservation opportunity in the world.

Thank you again for being our ally in protecting Alaska for today, and forever.

Sincerely,

Michael Barber



Grantmaking for Results

In FY2016, ACF awarded 93 grants totaling over \$2.1 million to the following 58 non-profit and tribal partners working in regions throughout Alaska. Grants supported efforts to defend Alaska's unparalleled lands, waters and wildlife and the ways of life they sustain from threats posed by climate change and industrial-scale development.

Alaska Common Ground • Alaska Community Action on Toxics • **ALASKA LONGLINE FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION** (*see impact story on the next page*) • Alaska Marine Conservation Council • Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium • Alaska Native Village Corporation Association • Alaska Natural Resource and Outdoor Education Association • Alaska Songbird Institute • Alaska Trails • Alaska Wilderness League • Alaska Wildlife Alliance • Aleut International Association • Audubon Alaska • Bering Sea Elders Group • Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies • Chickaloon Native Village • Chuitna Citizens Coalition • City and Borough of Yakutat • Cook Inletkeeper • Copper Country Alliance • Discovery Southeast • Earthjustice • Eyak Preservation Council • Friends of Creamer's Field • Great Land Trust • Gwich'in Steering Committee • Haa Aani' Community Development Fund, Inc. • Hoonah Indian Association • Hydaburg Cooperative Association • Islands Institute, Inc. • Kachemak Heritage Land Trust • Kenai Watershed Forum • Klawock Cooperative Association • National Parks Conservation Association • Native American Rights Fund • Native Village of Chuathbaluk • Native Village of Port Heiden • Nondalton Tribal Council • Northern Alaska Environmental Center • Organized Village of Kake • Organized Village of Kasaan • Renewable Energy Alaska Project • Sitka Conservation Society • Southeast Alaska Conservation Council • Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition • Tanana Chiefs Conference • The Alaska Center • The Nature Conservancy • Tides Canada Foundation • Tribe of Nulato • Trout Unlimited • **TRUSTEES FOR ALASKA** (*see impact story on the next page*) • United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group • United Tribes of Bristol Bay • Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment • Yakutat Tlingit Tribe • Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council

To see the projects funded, visit:

www.alaskaconservation.org/strategic-funding

OUR STRATEGIC IMPACT

ALASKA'S RENOWNED HALIBUT FISHERY IN THE BALANCE

Each year thousands of Alaskans fish for halibut for subsistence, sport and commercial purposes. But today, Alaska's once abundant halibut population is at concerning low levels.

Halibut are caught commercially with longlines, a method that has been used to harvest them sustainably since the early 1900s. Catch limits are based on annual estimates of abundance—when abundance increases, catch limits increase and when it decreases, limits are decreased to conserve stocks for the future.

But in recent years, longline halibut fishermen have been displaced in the Bering Sea by industrial-scale trawlers targeting flatfish, such as sole or flounder, and incidentally catching and killing millions of pounds of halibut in the process (this is known as "bycatch"). *"Halibut killed are mostly small, juvenile fish and because these fish have not yet reached maturity, their loss threatens the stock's future,"* says Linda Behnken, Executive Director of Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association. *"Meanwhile, halibut bycatch limits currently do not fluctuate with abundance, adding additional pressure."*

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA)—an alliance of small boat, commercial fishermen committed to sustainable fisheries and thriving coastal communities—is working to change this management disconnect between halibut abundance and bycatch limits. **In FY2016, ACF awarded ALFA a grant to help them build the scientific and political will to address this issue and protect this renowned fishery that we all value.**

Since the grant was awarded, ALFA has helped prompt important actions to reduce this waste, including a critical policy amendment that, if advanced at the upcoming North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in October 2017, will mandate halibut bycatch reductions when halibut abundance is low. Rest assured ALFA will be there to advocate for the future health of our halibut resource.

To learn more about ALFA's efforts, visit www.alfafish.org.



DEFENDING ALASKA'S LANDS AND COMMUNITIES FROM COAL DEVELOPMENT

Chickaloon Native Village is a vibrant Ahtna Athabascan community 90 minutes North of Anchorage. Surrounded by stunning mountains, glaciers and forests, the community has occupied this area for 10,000 years. But for years, a coal company had been building an industrial coal operation in their ancestral homelands—an area called Wishbone Hill. Chief Gary Harrison shares what was at stake: *"For us hunting, fishing and picking berries are not just for recreation but a cultural and spiritual relationship that defines our traditional indigenous way of life."*

The only solution to this issue was for those who opposed the mine to work together and leverage their complementary skills and strengths. Local and national conservation and legal organizations worked alongside the tribal and citizens groups that would be directly impacted. The effort required significant coordination, cooperation and funding...and it worked.

On July 7, 2016, after years of hard work by the coalition and a successful argument by Trustees for Alaska, the U.S. District Court ruled that a decades-old coal mining permit for the mine was invalid! **And all the while, ACF supported the partners from behind the scenes, providing the strategic administrative and financial support that contributed to this outcome.**

"It took nearly five years and multiple court proceedings to get the right decision on this issue," said Vicki Clark, Executive Director of Trustees for Alaska. *"As a result, any future coal mining will require a new permit and public process that fully protects the surrounding community. We're grateful that ACF was a partner in this effort and supported us through the years it took to get the community a good decision."*



To learn more about this effort, visit www.trustees.org.

WITH GRATITUDE

Alaska Conservation Foundation is grateful to the many individuals, foundations and businesses from around the country who supported our efforts in FY2016 (July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016). 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 & above**

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Estate of John Van de Graaff Shipp III
Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation
Kalliopeia Foundation
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation

CHAMPION'S CIRCLE **\$50,000-\$99,999**

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Harder Foundation
Oak Foundation
The Vanguard Endurance Fund
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In Memory of Kanelm Winslow Philip
Michael & Mary Ann Hasenstab
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The Gryphon Fund

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Carl W. Kohls
Catherine Smith, In Memory of
Martha Levensaler
Christine Golnick & Thomas
Hennessy
Christopher du Pont Roosevelt
& Rosalind Roosevelt
Cooke Bay Adventures, LLC
Dan Johnson

(List continues on Page 8)



At Alaska Wildland Adventures, we've always known that Alaska's wildness is what sets us apart from other destinations. That's why AWA supports conservation efforts, and Alaska Conservation Foundation. ACF has a long history of funding many worthy projects statewide, including in areas where we operate.

KIRK HOESSLE
Alaska Wildland Adventures

David & Susan Hardenbergh
Diane & Michael Moxness
Don & Lin May
Emily Newmann
Eric Hedstrand
Estate of Mildred Lillis
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Michael Sirofchuck
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The Armand G. Erpf Fund
The Charles & Charlotte Bird Fund
at the San Diego Foundation
The Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
The Suwinski Family Foundation, Inc.
Thomas & Dee Stegman
Torre & Janet Jorgenson
Victoria Olson
Wild Woods Foundation



DENALI LEGACY SOCIETY

ACF's **Denali Legacy Society** is a very special group of donors who have included ACF in their wills, trusts or other planned giving arrangements. We are grateful to these individuals for their inspiring commitment to protecting Alaska's wildlands, waters and wildlife, and the ways of life they sustain. If you would like to learn how you too can leave a legacy for Alaska conservation, please contact us at development@alaskaconservation.org or 907-276-1917.

Anonymous (7)	Agnes Hughes	Nancy Wallace
Alyson Pytte	Harold Schessler	Nathaniel Reed
Amy Crook	Hugh Rose	Peg & Jules Tileston
Anne Wieland	Jean Bradshaw	Richard & Maryellen
April Crosby & Merritt Helfferich	Jean Tam	Oman
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Betty Blumenkamp	JoAnne Heron	Robert Bundy & Bonnie Lembo
Cynthia & John Adams	John & Jane Aspnes	Roger & Judith Anderson
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Deborah Dixon	Linda Hulbert	Tim Bowman
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Eric Myers	Marti Spiegelman	
Gerald & Janet Brookman	Matthew & Patricia Kirchhoff	
Grace Kirchner	Michael & Marilyn Miller	
Gunther Fonken &	Michael Ashworth	
	Mitchell & Hope Cline	



A Legacy for Alaska's Wildlands

Beloved father and grandfather, farmer and lifelong conservationist, John Van de Graaff Shipp III hailed from rural Kentucky—but somewhere along the line Alaska captured his heart. When he passed away in 2011 at the age of 85, he made a remarkable gift to the Edgar and Peggy Wayburn Endowment Fund at ACF, which is dedicated to protecting public lands in Alaska. *"We are grateful to John for his thoughtful gesture,"* says Michael Barber. *"And for placing his trust in us to honor his legacy with this special gift, which will forever be used to help defend our national treasures in Alaska like the Tongass National Forest and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."*

GREAT LAND GIVING CLUB

ACF's **Great Land Giving Club** is a convenient way to become a sustaining monthly supporter of our efforts to protect our unparalleled public lands and waters in Alaska and build resilience to climate change, at whatever level works for you. It's simple to sign up, just visit www.alaskaconservation.org/donate-monthly. We thank our GLGC members for their commitment to Alaska.



Photo Credits

Thank you to the photographers who generously contributed to this annual report!

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Inside Cover and Page 5
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Page 4 Courtesy of **Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association**

Page 6 © **Stacy Studebaker**

Page 7 Courtesy of **Alaska Wildland Adventures**

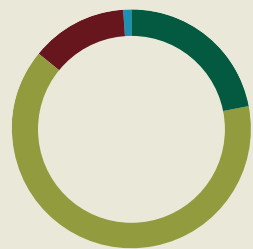
Page 10 Courtesy of the **John Van de Graaff Shipp III Family**

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Brynn Stoll
Cari Sayre & David Johnston
Catherine & Nathaniel Peimann
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Stephanie Clark
Danielle & Steve Williams
Stephen Charles
Steven Lynch
Steven Ungar
Susan Tilly
William J. James
William L. & Loretta E. Snyder

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

REVENUE

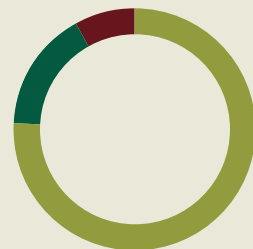
Total \$4,280,305



- Grants to ACF (64%)**
\$2,729,243
- Public Support (22%)**
\$941,649
- Investment Income (13%)**
\$551,200
- Other Income (1%)**
\$58,213

EXPENSES

Total \$3,779,004



- Grantmaking and Other Strategic Support (76%)**
\$2,866,792
- Administrative (16%)**
\$600,832
- Fundraising (8%)**
\$311,380

FINANCIAL REPORTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2016

ASSETS

Current assets	\$	1,449,316
Investments and other long-term assets		8,635,927
Furniture and equipment		11,049

TOTAL ASSETS		10,096,292
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Grants and accounts payable	\$	229,140
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TOTAL LIABILITIES		229,140
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Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets	\$	221,762
Temporarily restricted		3,929,836
Permanently restricted		5,715,554

TOTAL NET ASSETS		9,867,152
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		10,096,292
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To review the entire FY2016 financial audit as well as prior years' audits, 990s and annual reports, please visit www.alaskaconservation.org/foundation.



WAYS OF GIVING

ACF offers a variety of giving vehicles through which you can help protect Alaska. To learn more, visit our website at www.alaskaconservation.org/giving, email development@alaskaconservation.org or call 907-276-1917. ACF will not share your name or personal information with other organizations.

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



**Alaska
Conservation
Foundation**

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