



Alaska
Conservation
Foundation

Annual Report • Fiscal Year 2013



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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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



Ann Rothe

As we look back on all the efforts Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) supported in fiscal year 2013, there is one critical element that connects them all. Each successful effort was the result of dedicated individuals working together to bring about needed change. Citizen engagement has long been a part of ACF’s history with courage and passion for Alaska fueling the efforts and motivations of today’s citizen activists in Alaska and throughout the country.

In this report, we share a story about Judy Heilman, an Alaska homesteader and grandmother, who lives in Beluga, a tiny community on the west side of Alaska’s Cook Inlet. When Judy learned that an international mining corporation was planning to develop a massive coal strip mine in the watershed where she lives, she and her neighbors formed the Chuitna Citizens Coalition (CCC) to stop mine development. With grant support from ACF and thanks to their tireless efforts, the Chuitna watershed remains undeveloped, at least for now.

Since our beginning, ACF has awarded more than \$40 million in grants to more than 200 grassroots organizations. Our efforts would not have been possible without the support of citizens from throughout the country like you, who care deeply about Alaska. One of our longtime supporters is featured in this report. Marta Chase has helped guide Sierra Club expeditions to Katmai, Lake Clark and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Marta’s contributions to ACF have helped protect these extraordinary places.

ACF remains a strong, financially sound organization in great part because of the financial commitment and oversight of our volunteer board of trustees. In this report, we’ve included a feature on AJ Grant, a business woman and media consultant from Boulder, Colorado. AJ developed her love for Alaska early in her life traveling with her parents on adventures into the Alaska wilderness. Her childhood experiences helped fuel the passion for Alaska that she brings to her work as an ACF trustee.

Our donors, our board and staff, and our partners in conservation share a common bond in our dedication to fulfilling our mission to protect Alaska’s natural environment and the unique cultures and ways of life it sustains. And we all believe strongly that citizens of courage and conviction are essential to achieving this mission.

For Alaska,

Ann Rothe



OUR IMPACT

Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) is the only public foundation dedicated to conservation in Alaska. Since 1980, ACF has performed a vital role in protecting Alaska and 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 this same goal. Through grantmaking, ACF encourages broad-based support for, and innovative solutions to some of Alaska's most pressing conservation and environmental justice issues in pursuit of a healthy environment, healthy communities, and sustainable economies. **ACF awarded more than 99 grants totaling more than \$3.6 million to support conservation efforts statewide.**

SAVING WILD SALMON

In Bristol Bay, a massive proposed open-pit gold and copper mine threatens one of the largest wild salmon runs left on Earth. ACF is fiscal sponsor of the Bristol Bay Fisheries & Watershed Protection Campaign – a diverse coalition working to safeguard this unparalleled watershed, and support the local residents in their efforts to determine their own future, based on a strong and sustainable economy of fishing, tourism, and subsistence. **In fiscal year 2013, ACF awarded \$680,501 in grants.**

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Over five trillion tons of coal resources lie under Alaska's wild lands, and a dozen coal-related projects have been proposed to access and export it to foreign markets. The Alaskans for Energy Freedom Campaign – a diverse coalition of conservation, tribal, and citizen organizations fiscally sponsored by ACF - is working to prevent the impacts that developing this coal will have on the Earth's climate, as well as on Alaska's lands, waters, and people. **In fiscal year 2013, ACF awarded \$1,443,000 in grants.**

PROTECTING THE TONGASS RAINFOREST

More than half of the Tongass National Forest - the world's largest remaining old-growth coastal temperate rainforest - has been compromised from decades of clear-cutting. ACF provides 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. **In fiscal year 2013, ACF awarded \$986,320 in grants.**

SUPPORTING ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Alaska Natives maintain their rich culture and traditions in close connection with the land, and because of this, they are among the first to feel the negative impacts of changes in the environment. Through the Alaska Native Fund, ACF supports Alaska Native individuals and organizations working to address critical conservation issues affecting their cultures, communities, and economic opportunities. **In fiscal year 2013, ACF awarded \$173,000 in grants.**

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

ACF's Community Capacity initiative is an effort to strengthen Alaska's conservation organizations and leaders to achieve greater conservation impact. ACF facilitates and fiscally supports critical capacity building efforts such as the first environmental nonprofit merger in Alaska, the creation of a statewide conservation strategy, and support for enhanced communications and more data-driven organizing strategies. Grants include Organizational Capacity grants which build the capacity of grassroots conservation organizations, and Rapid Response grants designed to quickly address unforeseen threats to Alaska of statewide or national environmental significance. **In fiscal year 2013, ACF awarded \$289,147 of combined grants.**

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Preserving Alaska's future as a natural treasure rests on developing the next generation of leaders. ACF's popular Ted Smith Conservation Internship Program offers students from Alaska and around the country interested in conservation, valuable work experience at partner organizations throughout the state. **In fiscal year 2013, ACF awarded \$117,569 in grants.**

To see the complete list of FY2013 grants, go to www.alaskaconservation.org/strategic-funding.



ADVANCING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

The Alaska Native Fund is an innovative grant program that supports projects integrating *indigenous knowledge* into issues of food security, sustainable economic development, alternative energy solutions, environmental health, and climate change. In partnership with ACF in FY2013, the all-indigenous Alaska Native Fund Steering Committee awarded \$173,000 from requests totaling more than \$1 million.

As a result of grant support from the Alaska Native Fund, the Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) has been successful in establishing and maintaining the Prince of Wales Tribal Sea Otter Commission. The four federally recognized Tribes on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska – comprised of Klawock Cooperative Association, Hydaburg Cooperative Association, Craig Tribal Association and OVK – have been utilizing the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and its amendments to ensure that Prince of Wales Island continues to manage and maintain a healthy sea otter stock, ecosystem sustainability, and preserve Alaska Native hunter and artisan rights.

“Without the Alaska Native Fund, we wouldn’t have been able to begin this project that is enabling us to bring our cultural ways back and providing income opportunities for families,” Said Dennis Nickerson, the environmental planner for OVK, a second year grant recipient. The POW Tribal Sea Otter Commission continues to strengthen its position in negotiating agreements with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



RAPID RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

ACF knows that citizen engagement is fundamental to supporting better environmental policy that leads to long-term environmental protections. One way we promote this is through our Rapid Response grantmaking program, through which we can deploy grants almost immediately, giving groups a way to respond quickly to Alaska environmental issues of statewide or national significance. Often, a controversy breaks into public view at the last minute, since the proponents of damaging initiatives know that restricting public attention improves their odds of success.

One of the best examples of the effectiveness of the Rapid Response grant program occurred in FY2013, when ACF provided a grant to Trout Unlimited (TU) to coordinate a campaign to stop House Bill 77 (HB77). This bill, designed to remove Alaskans from decisions regarding the state’s natural resources, was a top priority of Governor Sean Parnell. If HB77 were to pass, it would prevent Alaskans from obtaining water reservations in Alaska’s rivers and streams to protect fish and wildlife habitat. It would also give developers proposing massive mining projects in Alaska, including the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, unlimited access to the water they need for development.

With Rapid Response funding from ACF, TU, worked with a diverse coalition of conservation groups, commercial fishing organizations and Alaska Native tribes to mobilize key constituents and prevent the bill from passing, at least for the time being (the legislature will consider the bill when the legislative session reconvenes in January 2014). ACF is committed to ensuring that Alaskans have a voice in the democratic process. The Rapid Response grant program continues to provide a vehicle for ensuring this happens.



Judy Heilman, grandmother, and community activist, is working to preserve the Chuitna River watershed in Southcentral Alaska.

When I flew to Alaska for the first time in 1991, I took a breathtaking 45-minute flight across Cook Inlet for the final leg of my journey to Beluga. The landscape was painted gold and hundreds of emerald green ponds sparkled in the sunlight.

Beluga has been my home from that first day. There are no roads here connecting to the outside world. Instead, there are pristine rivers and lakes. A population of 17 stay here year-round that rely on fishing, moose hunting, and other subsistence activities to feed their families. Setnetters have been fishing here for ages, and a fish salting plant once existed at the mouth of the Chuitna River.

But in June 2006, things changed when a community meeting was announced. Those who came expected a small informal meeting, but were met instead by representatives from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as well as federal agencies and private corporations, who were attempting to convince us what a wonderful thing a coal mine would be in our neighborhood. They didn't like it one bit that we didn't just kick back and accept their plans for a large coal mine operation that could decimate salmon runs and change our way of life. With funding from ACF, we were able to form the Chuitna Citizens Coalition (CCC) to address coal mining in our region and let people know about this massive coal project.

Without ACF, a coal mine would already be a fact of life in the Chuitna River watershed.

The CCC sure doesn't have the background for this kind of work, but we keep going forward and meeting the wonderful people who support us in this most important fight. There are days when we think about throwing in the towel, but when we look out our windows to see eagles flying overhead, moose browsing on willows, free-flowing water for salmon, and clean air, we recommit to continue the fight to preserve this land we call home – Alaska, The Last Frontier.

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Marta Chase and husband, Kicab Castaneda-Mendez, support ACF's mission as members of the Great Land Giving Club and Denali Legacy Society.

One of the greatest influences on my belief in environmentalism came when I began visiting the far-flung places of Canada and Alaska. In 1995, my husband, Kicab Castaneda-Mendez, and I were drawn north to explore Alaska's Brooks Range above the Arctic Circle. That first fateful trip to Alaska sparked my love for the wild places of the Last Frontier state. I eventually became a co-leader on many Sierra Club expeditions that have taken us to the Katmai Peninsula, Wrangell-Saint Elias, Lake Clark, National Petroleum Reserve Alaska, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, as well as to Canada's Thelon River, Torngat Mountain National Park, and Ellesmere Island.

Alaska has inspired us to become staunch supporters of Alaska Conservation Foundation. There are so many threats to thwart off. We want to empower and support Alaska's people in their desire to preserve the wilderness, their culture and way of life.

I grew up in Southeast Ohio spending many memorable childhood summers at my great aunt and uncle's rural farm. But, times were also quickly changing in the region as coal companies began acquiring surrounding farms to eventually strip-mine the land. During the same time, my mother completed her Master's thesis on the economics of strip mine reclamation, and I remember going with her to visit the strip mines and seeing all the devastation. Those memories may have contributed to my early awakening to the importance of protecting the environment. We have an opportunity to ensure Alaska's wild places are thoughtfully protected forever.

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AJ Grant is a dedicated supporter and volunteer board member.

*M*y compass has always pointed North. Perhaps influenced by my mother's Canadian roots, or the formative years I spent canoeing and listening to the loons in the northern lakes of Minnesota. I worked during my early 20s for a homesteader and guide 100 miles north of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Little did I know how much that would shape my life and my enduring love of Alaska and the wilds of the Far North. Most of all, I have to thank my parents, who took us on many Alaska adventures and who consistently demonstrated their conservation ethics.

There is no substitute for experiencing Alaska and its massiveness first hand – the mountains, rain, cold, waves, bears – all bigger than life. It is humbling to say the least. However, this New Yorker somehow feels right at home in this remote and rugged place called Alaska. I have spent decades pursuing my outdoor interests, venturing time and again hiking in the Wrangells, Lake Clark, sea kayaking Glacier Bay, Prince William Sound and the Kenai Fiords. Alaska seems to embody all that I love – the outdoors, nature, wildlife, indigenous cultures, people and art. And it is this same intersection of people, place and nature that is at the heart of ACF's work.

The bottom line: there are many groups serving the conservation cause, but ACF offers substance, vision, action, and an unrivaled staff that takes on the tough issues and provides critical support to so many other organizations across Alaska.

ACF complements my own career in environmental policy and communications, which led me north to serve many clients including Ministry of Lands and Parks in British Columbia and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in the Northwest Territories among others. Alaska is our national treasure. And ACF is its mighty steward.

Kenneth Leghorn • Deborah and Jay Liggett • Michael and Marilyn Miller • Richard Monkman and Tina Kobayashi • Eric Myers • Richard and Maryellen Oman • Kimberley Pittman-Schulz and Terry Schulz • Alyson Pytte • David and Susan Rockefeller • Hugh Rose • William and Jan Rutherford • Harold Schessler • Eleanor Stoddard • Jim Stratton and Colleen Burgh • John Studebaker • Stacy Studebaker and Michael Sirofchuck • Jean Tam • Lowell Thomas, Jr. and Tay Thomas • Margaret and Jules Tileston • Donald Turner • Nancy Wallace • Anne Wieland • Deborah Williams • Ruth Wood and John Strassenburgh • Deborah Dixon • Linda Hulbert • William Laza • Nathaniel Reed • **Great Land Giving Club** • Anonymous (2) • Kris Abshire • Sarah Bierschwale • Jane Blackwell • Stephen and Carmen Blakely • Elaine Bontempi • Nathan Borson • Gerald Brookman • Joyce and Roland Bryan • Marsha Buck • Stephen Charles • Marta Chase and Kicab Castaneda-Mendez • Lyssa Daneh • Gilbert English • John Erickson • Michael Fischer, MD and Marsha Brown • Michael and Diane Fisher • Scott and Nadine Goetz • Martha Hanns • Scott Hed • William and Arlene James • David Johnston and Carl Sayre • Brendan and Karen Kelly • Maureen Knutsen • R. L. Latterell • Maynard Lobell • Patrick Lynch • Steven Lynch • Drew McCalley • George and Laurel McLaughlin • Mary Nefedov • Gayle and Helen Nienhueser • Michael O'Leary • Catherine and Nathaniel Peimann • Patricia Polentz • Margie Pulliam • Dan Purnell • Eliot and Janet Putnam • Dan Rase • Stella Sargent • Carl and Martha Siebe • Ruth Wood and John Strassenburgh • Jean Tam • John and Janet Tangney • Margaret and Jules Tileston • Steven Ungar • Richard Waldmann • Robin Weber • Anne Wilkas • Elizabeth Wingate • Scott Zehner



Ways of Giving

ACF’s work is made possible by caring, dedicated people—like you. Each gift is critical to carrying out our mission and very much appreciated.

ACF offers a range of giving opportunities through which you can invest in protecting Alaska including our Great Land Monthly Giving Club, workplace giving through EarthShare, matching gifts, gifts of stock and a variety of planned gifts.



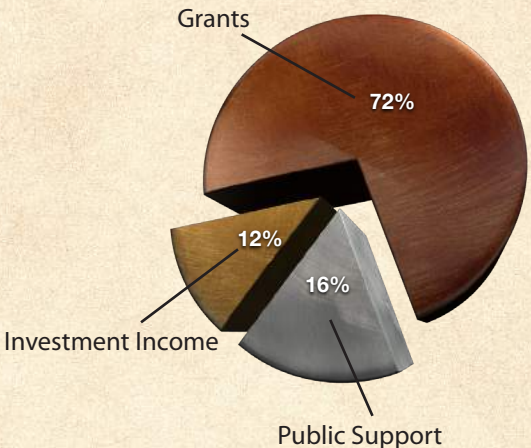
ACF is an EarthShare partner
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Find out more by visiting our website at www.alaskaconservation.org/giving, emailing us at development@alaskaconservation.org or calling 907-276-1917.

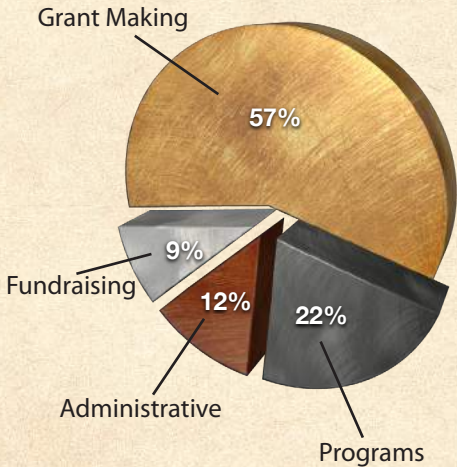
Alaska Conservation Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contribution to ACF may qualify for a tax deduction based on your individual circumstance. ACF’s tax identification number is 92-0061466.



Revenue Sources



Expenses



Alaska Conservation Foundation

Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2013	2013	2012
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,351,739	\$ 2,388,216
Grants and public support receivable	314,371	760,000
Other receivables	104,004	12,162
Prepaid expenses and other assets	12,284	32,714
Investments at fair value	6,493,867	5,783,735
Investments not at fair value	91,218	91,218
Cash surrender value of life insurance policies	78,185	119,036
Furniture and equipment	36,423	50,377

Total Assets	\$ 9,482,091	\$ 9,237,456
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 237,063	\$ 76,528
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	71,268	67,698
Grants and awards payable	46,000	132,000
Deferred revenue	-	66,550
Gift annuity liability	70,836	74,583
Total liabilities	425,167	417,359

Net assets:

Unrestricted:		
Board designated for endowment	854,844	549,399
Undesignated	792,453	962,529
Total unrestricted net assets	1,647,297	1,511,928
Temporarily restricted	2,368,823	2,418,467
Permanently restricted	5,040,804	4,889,702
Total net assets	9,056,924	8,820,097

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 9,482,091	\$ 9,237,456
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