OUR MISSION
We protect Alaska’s unique landscapes and ways of life by supporting conservation leaders, organizations, and initiatives.

OUR VISION
We envision a future where Alaska’s lands, waters, wildlife, and ways of life are sustained by and for countless generations.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

Alaska Conservation Foundation is proud to present our 2021 Annual Report. It is with gratitude to our donors that we can report progress toward the long-term protection of Bristol Bay, the Tongass National Forest, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and four years of a federal administration unlike any before, your support enabled us to adapt and respond amidst vast uncertainties. Our partnerships have grown stronger and their collective impact is even more apparent.

For over forty years, Alaska Conservation Foundation and our grantee partners have worked to build a powerful movement of people who recognize that Alaska’s intact landscapes and diverse communities must remain healthy and protected. With a persistent focus on Indigenous partnerships, empowering youth, and uplifting local voices, advocates in Alaska were ready to rise to the occasion. The many seeds planted over these decades continue to germinate beyond the boundaries of our work alone.

The new federal administration presents a profound opportunity to combat climate change and protect Alaska’s iconic flora and fauna. It’s perhaps the final hope for a just transition from fossil fuels. With your help, Alaska Conservation Foundation is ready to continue our legacy.

Sincerely,

Michael Barber
Executive Director
LANDSCAPE UPDATES

ALASKA PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS

Alaska Conservation Foundation works to protect Alaska's public lands and waters by providing grants for grassroots advocacy, coordinating collaborative conservation initiatives, and strengthening the Alaska conservation movement. In 2021, we focused efforts on three landscapes: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Bristol Bay, and the Tongass National Forest. The following are updates on recent developments in these areas.

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

At 17 million acres, the Tongass is the largest National Forest, representing 8% of the carbon stored in all forests in the Lower 48 and providing a home to the largest, densest concentrations of black bears and bald eagles found on the planet. In October 2020, ignoring the overwhelming majority of Alaskans, the Trump administration eliminated national Roadless Rule protections from the Tongass National Forest. In December 2020, a coalition of environmental groups, Tribes, and fisherpeople responded by filing a lawsuit against the Trump Administration to restore those protections. In June 2021, the Biden Administration announced it would “repeal or replace” the previous administration’s decision. In late 2021, the Biden Administration is expected to initiate a public process that would restore Roadless Rule protections on the Tongass National Forest.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, at nearly 20 million acres, is home to Indigenous communities who rely on the Refuge’s Coastal Plain habitat, home to the prolific 200,000-member Porcupine Caribou Herd. During 2020, the Trump Administration began preparations to auction off oil drilling leases in the Refuge, specifically the Coastal Plain. By early January 2021, only 11 tracts of 22 were sold. The vast majority of winning bids went to the State of Alaska - Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority. Part of the reason for the lease sale’s poor performance was that during 2020, the largest banks in the U.S. and many of the banks around the world announced commitments not to finance oil and gas projects in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In June 2021, The Biden Administration’s Interior Department suspended all oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge so the agency could conduct its own comprehensive analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act. Alaska Indigenous and conservation organizations will participate in that process, while looking to Congress to reverse the language mandating oil and gas leasing in the Arctic Refuge that was put in place by a 2017 law.

BRISTOL BAY/PEBBLE MINE

The Pebble Mine, a proposed open-pit copper and gold mine in Bristol Bay, has threatened the region that is home to the largest wild salmon fishery on the planet for nearly two decades. The fishery provides over 15,000 jobs while sustaining numerous Indigenous communities, their culture, and their ways of life. In September 2020, the Environmental Investigation Agency released video and audio recordings of executives from Northern Dynasty Minerals and their US-based subsidiary Pebble Limited Partnership discussing political influence on Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska delegation. The leaked videos resulted in the resignation of Pebble Limited Partnership CEO Tom Collier. In November 2020, the Trump Administration’s Army Corps denied an essential water permit saying the project failed to comply with Clean Water Act guidelines and was “contrary to the public interest.” As the Biden Administration took office, calls for permanent protections came quickly. Alaskans are currently asking the EPA to utilize its authority under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) to prohibit mining in Bristol Bay. These calls were echoed in April 2021 by 50 investment firms (representing over $105 billion). In June 2021, The Conservation Fund agreed to buy land easements on more than 44,000 acres from the Pedro Bay Alaska Native village corporation for $18.3 million - protected acreage that will block a gas pipeline and road essential to building a Pebble mine.
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

By monitoring complex economic, political, and cultural landscapes across Alaska, we identify opportunities and prioritize where to direct funding to achieve conservation outcomes. As the only foundation in Alaska that has a focus on conservation, we are proud of the many investments we make every year in the work of our grantee partners. Since 1980, that amount totals over $57 million.

In Fiscal Year 2021, Alaska Conservation Foundation awarded 84 grants to 55 organizations for a total of $727,469.75.

GRANTMAKING PROGRAMS

Alaska Defense Fund
Supports advocacy efforts to protect public lands and waters.

Discovery Grants
Focuses on strategic opportunities for small grassroots organizations.

Donor Advised & Agency Funds
Grants based on donor recommendations to specific organizations that are aligned with our mission and values.

Indigenous Voices Fund
Awards for travel that emphasize Indigenous voices in the fight to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Bristol Bay, and the Tongass National Forest from development.

Watchable Wildlife Conservation Trust
Grants to support wildlife viewing, promote wildlife education, and conserve biological diversity.

Sustainable Southeast Partnership
Catalyzes collaboration to achieve cultural, ecological and economic prosperity for Southeast Alaska.

Northern Latitudes Partnerships
Develops solutions to problems caused by climate change through collaborative efforts with Tribes, organizations, and agencies.

Rapid Response
Responds quickly to unforeseen environmental threats or opportunities with statewide significance.

Youth Mini-Grant
Supports youth leaders as they tackle issues in their communities related to climate change, community health, and sustainable economies.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Alaska Center Education Fund
Alaska Common Ground
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation
Alaska Huts
Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association
Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Alaska Native Heritage Center
Alaska Pacific University
Alaska Public Interest Research Group
Alaska Seafife Center
Alaska Wilderness League
Alaska Wildlife Alliance
Alaskans for Palmer Hayflats
Aleut Community of St. Paul
Aleut Village of St. Paul
Audubon Alaska
Brooks Range Council
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
Center for Native American Youth
Cook Inletkeeper
Discovery Southeast
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Fireweed Collective
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges
Friends of Creamer’s Field
Gwich’in Steering Committee
Institute for Civic Organizing
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust
Kenai Watershed Forum
Municipality of Anchorage
Native American Rights Fund
Native Movement
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Organized Village of Kasaan
Orutsararmiut Native Council
Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Sitka Conservation Society
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission
Spirit of Youth
Susitna River Coalition
Takshanuk Watershed Council
Tatitlek Community School
The Nature Conservancy
Traditional Council of Togiak
Trail Mix, Inc.
Tribal Government of St. Paul Island Youth Tribal Council
Trustees for Alaska
United Tribes of Bristol Bay
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Valley Mountain Bikers & Hikers
Wrangell Institute for Science and Education
Yaakoosge Daakahidi
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
NORTHERN LATITUDES PARTNERSHIPS

Alaska Conservation Foundation hosts the Northern Latitudes Partnerships which consists of three self-directed partnerships focused on conservation initiatives that are composed of agencies, Tribes, Canadian First Nations, as well as Indigenous, academic, and nonprofit organizations. The partnerships are currently focused on increasing the conservation capacity of Tribes and Indigenous organizations. In 2021, the Northern Latitudes Partnership helped secure funding to support nine new positions at eight different Tribes and Indigenous organizations in Alaska. Further, our efforts to strengthen a tribally-led environmental monitoring program known as the Indigenous Sentinels Network included securing support to help expand the program throughout Alaska in the coming years.

Working with our partners at the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, we released Build Back a Better National Landscape Conservation Framework in the Spring of 2021. This report outlined tangible steps to help the Biden administration and relevant congressional staff see an opportunity to unify government agencies around more inclusive conservation efforts that more completely engage states, Tribes, and nonprofits. We timed the release of this report to synchronize with the Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful initiative (or “30x30”, in reference to conserving 30% of U.S. land and waters by 2030) as a roadmap for how this initiative could be nationally coordinated.

Alaska Conservation Foundation and the Northern Latitudes Partnerships also initiated a new partnership with Alaska Pacific University that created a new staff position to help build scientific and technological capacity for Tribal Conservation Districts across Alaska. This partnership also launched the creation of a new college course for agency managers and scientists that helps them include more equitable and productive collaborations with Indigenous communities for their conservation projects.

ARCTIC YOUTH AMBASSADORS

The Arctic Youth Ambassadors program was started in 2015 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service under the US chairmanship of the Arctic Council to elevate young Alaskans as leaders in understanding, addressing, and raising awareness of the challenges of the changing Arctic. The program grows youth influence through training and mentoring opportunities and access to decision-making spaces. The current cohort includes 15 youth from across rural and urban Alaska, with a network of 35 alumni who remain involved. With travel disrupted by the pandemic, this year the program focused on advancing youth and Indigenous leadership opportunities and influence in conservation, as well as understanding and addressing challenges of the pandemic from food security and mental health to social justice and sustainable economic recovery. In 2020, Alaska Conservation Foundation joined Arctic Youth Ambassadors as the lead nonprofit partner, joining a partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the World Wildlife Fund. Alaska Conservation Foundation is excited to continue our legacy of uplifting youth voices with our participation in Arctic Youth Ambassadors much like we have for generations through our grantmaking, our Ted Smith Conservation Internship Program and through regional conservation partnerships.

“As Arctic Youth Ambassadors, we’re given an opportunity to get the stories and voices of our rural and Native communities out into the public. I think that there’s always an opportunity for more to be done, and for the voices of these communities to be amplified.”

Samuel Uuyavuk Schimmel, Saint Lawrence Island and Kenai, AK

2021/2022 COHORT

Solomon Himelbloom
Kodiak
Samuel Uuyavuk Schimmel
Saint Lawrence Island & Kenai
Muriel Reid
Stikine
Gabe Canfield
Ketchikan
Mercedes Kashatok
Anchorage
Andrea Wagner
Wasilla & Emmonak
Duncan Ray Oktikun
Kotlik
Eve M. Downing
Sterling
Cassidy Maya Rose Austin
McCarthy
Kyrstyn Marian Kelly
Palmer
Salim Theo Jesse Houck
Cordova & Juneau
Alicyn Bahnke
Norrie
Kalinhik Alexander
Fairbanks
Araya Stoffa
Utqiagvik & Fort Yukon
Jenna Stringer
Utqiagvik
TED SMITH CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Ted Smith Conservation Internship Program was founded twenty-one years ago in memory of Alaska conservation pioneer Celia Hunter and renamed in memory of former Alaska Conservation Foundation Trustee and major supporter of the internship program, Ted Smith. The Conservation Internship Program strives to inspire and empower the next generation of Alaska conservation leaders by working with host organizations to provide meaningful learning opportunities for successful candidates. In 2021, Alaska Conservation Foundation supported seventeen interns at fifteen organizations across the state of Alaska.

2021 INTERNS

Gabe Canfield - Ketchikan, AK
Indigenous Sentinels Network Intern at Aleut Community of St. Paul

Alexa Helm - Granville, OH
Peterson Bay Field Station Naturalist Intern at Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

Jaclyn Gary - Boulder, CO
Community Engagement Intern at Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Marlowe Scully - Wasilla, AK
Climate Justice Intern at Alaska Center Education Fund

Samantha Tracy - Cambridge, MA
Environmental & Community Health Advocate at Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Morgan Stonecipher - Las Vegas, NV
Development and Outreach Intern at Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

Grace Dietz - Phoenix, AZ
Anchorage Sustainability Intern at Municipality of Anchorage

Jarrod McCarthy - Norwell, MA
Summer Camp Outdoor Leader at Discovery Southeast

Nadine Fuller - Scarsdale, NY
Program and Outreach Assistant at Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association

Brandon Drzazgowski - Rochester, MI
Stream Watch Intern at Kenai Watershed Forum

Julia Johnston - Washington, DC
Public Lands and Climate Change Advocate at Audubon Alaska

Claudia Silver - Philadelphia, PA
Environmental Programs and GIS Intern at Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska

Abigail Steffen - Fairbanks, AK
Alaska Climate Change Policy Advocate at Sitka Conservation Society

Claire Babbott-Bryan - Northampton, MA
Climate and Wild Salmon Intern at Cook InletKeeper

Henry Westly - Corvallis, OR
Environmental Conservation Intern at Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

Sophie Burgess - Aspen, CO
Environmental Conservation Intern at Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

Jensen Hunting - Anchorage, AK
Alaska Outreach Intern at Defenders of Wildlife

INTERN HIGHLIGHT

HENRY (HANK) WESTLY AND SOPHIE BURGESS

Hank and Sophie were both interns for Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council and spent their summer applying science to real life issues affecting communities along the Yukon River. Sophie focused on GIS and water quality monitoring, and Hank focused on data management and water sampling in the field. Both were able to visit remote parts of Alaska far from their office in Anchorage. Hank collected samples to contribute to the Indigenous Observation Network in St. Mary’s and Pilot Station. He said that “the best part of my internship was doing field work. It was such an adventure! I learned more about Alaskan communities and got to see parts of Alaska few people ever will.” Sophie also visited the rural Alaska communities of Minto, Nenana, Huslia and Hughes and was a part of creating an interactive mining map showing areas of contamination concern. Both wrapped up their summer and returned to the lower 48 but feel that their intern experiences were once in a lifetime opportunity and hope to return to Alaska. They also benefited from the guidance of Eliza Perkins, last year’s Ted Smith Conservation Intern at Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, who continued her work with the organization for an additional year.
LEAVE YOUR LEGACY
PROTECT ALASKA FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Planned giving is an especially meaningful way that you can help Alaska for generations to come. Planned gifts, in addition to helping keep Alaska wild, may also qualify for a range of tax benefits. On our website, you can view our simple suggestions along with sample language that can be easily used to arrange your planned gift.

Our staff is here to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact us at (907) 276-1917 or info@AlaskaConservation.org.

We offer many options to meet both your financial and conservation goals:

- Outright Gift of Securities
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Donor Advised Funds
- Gifts of Retirement Assets
- Gifts of Real Estate
- Endowments
- Gifts of Life Insurance
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Charitable Remainder Unitrust
- Bequest in Will or Revocable Living Trust

Find more details at AlaskaConservation.org/Legacy-Giving

DENALI LEGACY SOCIETY

The 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.

- Alyson Pytte
- Amy Crook
- Andrew Rosenthal
- Anne Wieland
- April Crosby and Merritt Helfferich
- Beth Baker
- Betty Blumenkamp
- Cynthia and John Luther Adams
- David and Alexis Colker
- David and Susan Hardenbergh
- David and Susan Rockefeller
- Deborah and Jay Liggett
- Deborah Dixon
- Deborah Williams
- Dolores Van Leeuwen
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- Marti Spiegelman
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- Richard and Maryellen Oman
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- Roger and Judith Anderson
- Ruth Wood and John Strasenburgh
- Ruthanne Harstad
- Shirley McGrath
- Stacy Studebaker and Michael Sirofchuck
- Stephanie Barko
- Tim Bowman
- Valerie Delaune
- William and Jan Rutherford
- William Lazar
DONOR RECOGNITION

Alaska Conservation Foundation is grateful to the many individuals, families, foundations, and businesses from around the country who supported our efforts in fiscal year 2021 (July 2020 - June 2021). 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.

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$100,000 and above
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
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The Volgenau Foundation
True North Foundation
Don and Pam Lichty

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Gail Bates

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CCMK Foundation
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Lorne Stoops

STEWARD CIRCLE
$2,500-$4,999
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Cliff Eames
The Lehighy Foundation
Anne and John Donaghy

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$2,500-$4,999
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Christian Allen
Stacy Studebaker and Michael Siropchuck
Mary Kancewick
Patricia Polentz
Martha Raynolds
Ruth and Bill Botzow
Rhonda Bennon and Martin Brown
William Wolf
Seamons Charitable Fund

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Laurance and Wendy Rockefeller
Karl Gurcke
Peter Van Tuyn and Ilona Besseney
Rachael and Zack Posey
Richard Cauffman
Ulrich and Ethel Ganz
Molly and Peter Ross
The Armand G. Erpf Fund
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Kelly White
Dr. Michael Stekoll and Deborah Hansen
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Ranjit and Ariane Arpels-Josiah
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Aspen Business Center Foundation
Barbara Cohn
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Andrew Rosenthal
Bert Fingerhut and Caroline Hicks
Stephen McKeever
Alaska Wildland Adventures
Mr. and Mrs. Tod Peyton
Jerome Facey
Mr. Robert Mason and Mrs. Heather Mason
2020 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each year, Alaska Conservation Foundation recognizes the remarkable achievements of individuals and organizations committed to protecting Alaska. The 2020 Conservation Achievement Awards Celebration was held virtually on October 27, 2020. The event celebrated seven individuals and one organization doing exceptional conservation work across the state of Alaska.

2020 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Lowell Thomas Jr. Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Conservation Organization
BIRD TREATMENT AND LEARNING CENTER
Anchorage, AK

Jerry S. Dixon Award for Excellence in Environmental Education
KENDRA BUSH
Homer, AK

Daniel Housberg Wilderness Image Award for Excellence in Still Photography, Film, or Video
JEFF JONES
Bend, OR

Caleb Pungowiyi Award for Outstanding Achievements by an Alaska Native Organization or Individual
WANDA “KASHUDOHA” LOESCHER CULP
Hoonah, AK

2020 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Lifetime Achievement Award
JIM KOWALSKY
Fairbanks, AK

Olaus Murie Award for Outstanding Professional Contributions
TOM WALDO
Juneau, AK

Celia Hunter Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contributions
OWEN GUTHRIE
Anchorage, AK

Denny Wilcher Award for Young Environmental Activists
CASSIDY AUSTIN-MERLINO
Glennallen, AK

GREAT LAND GIVING CLUB

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.

GREAT LAND GIVING CLUB MEMBERS

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Ivey Ao
Frankie Barker
Nancy Bird
Nathan Borson
Marsha Buck
Barbara Bundy
Stephen Charles
Lisa Climo
Michael Coumbe and Kevin Harun
Sydney Devine
Jocelyn Galdamez
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Peg and Janice Jenner
William and Heidi Waidland
Richard Waldmann
Jonas Walker
Peter Washington
Emily Weiser
Chance Wilcox
Ruth Wood and John Strasenburgh
Levi and Janet Wood
ACTIVITY SUMMARY

REVENUE
Total $4,783,416

- Investment Income (60%) $2,867,724
- Public Support (25%) $1,196,158
- Grants to ACF (15%) $703,737
- Other Income (<1%) $15,797

EXPENSES
Total $2,549,863

- Grantmaking and Other Strategic Support (71%) $1,820,809
- Administrative (18%) $460,729
- Fundraising (11%) $268,325

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June, 2021

ASSETS

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<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

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<td>With donor restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$14,955,652</td>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</td>
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