



Alaska
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

FISCAL YEAR 2022

ANNUAL REPORT





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 most significant legacies for generations to come.

Founded in 1980, 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

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.

BOARD

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alaska Conservation Foundation is proud to present our 2022 Annual Report. Your generous support enabled us to meet the threats posed by the last federal administration.

Today, your continued support enables our efforts to work with the new administration on the monitoring, stewardship, and planning that will guide Alaska's large and intact landscapes into the future. Our partnerships are stronger and represent stakeholders from the government, Alaska's private sector, and our local communities. The collective impact of these partnerships becomes more apparent each year. A deeper alignment of government and nonprofit sectors toward climate adaptation and preserving a functioning and biodiverse Arctic has begun to foster a new kind of local and regenerative economy in Alaska.

For over 40 years, Alaska Conservation Foundation has worked to build a powerful movement of people who recognize that Alaska's intact landscapes and diverse communities must remain healthy and protected. A decades-long focus on Indigenous partnerships, empowering youth, and uplifting local voices has positioned us with the expertise to award grants strategically, convene

partner organizations and Tribes around their shared goals, and engage federal agencies in potential durable solutions – all informed by these Alaska stakeholders.

This federal administration presents a profound opportunity to combat climate change and protect Alaska's intact landscapes and the communities sustained by these lands and waters. Our focused work to address the impacts of climate change as well as the impacts of industrial-scale hard rock mining could not be more timely. In this report, we aim to share how Alaska Conservation Foundation addresses the most difficult problems facing Alaska.

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 grant awards for grassroots advocacy, coordinating collaborative conservation initiatives, and strengthening the Alaska conservation movement. In 2022, we focused on three landscapes: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Bristol Bay, and the Tongass National Forest. In March 2022, Alaska Conservation Foundation hosted the *Alaska Conference on Mining Impacts and Prevention: A Gathering of Land and Water Guardians* to address the growing threat of industrial-scale mining and related infrastructure projects across the state.

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

At 17 million acres, the Tongass is the largest national forest in the country. Spanning over 80% of Southeast Alaska, the forest provides a home to the largest, densest concentrations of black bears and bald eagles found on the planet. In July 2021,

the Biden Administration's United States Department of Agriculture announced the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy. The strategy unveiled a plan to end large-scale old-growth timber sales in the Tongass with a new focus on restoration, recreation, and resilience. This included an investment of roughly \$25 million in financial and technical resources for sustainable opportunities for economic growth and community well-being.

In November 2021, the Biden Administration announced a 60-day public comment process to reinstate Roadless Rule protections on the Tongass. The comment period ended with over 175,000 comments submitted overwhelmingly in support of the Roadless Rule protections. On Earth Day, President Biden released an Executive Order to strengthen America's forests, noting forests are a key climate solution. Specifically, the Tongass stores approximately 44% of the carbon contained in U.S. National Forests and is recognized as a globally significant carbon storage reserve.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

At nearly 20 million acres, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is home to Indigenous communities who have relied on the Refuge's coastal plain since time immemorial and the 200,000-member Porcupine Caribou Herd depends on this critical habitat. In August 2021, the Biden Administration announced a review of the Trump Administration's mandate of oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by implementing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) process for the coastal plain oil and gas leasing program.

During the Fall, the U.S. House included in the budget reconciliation bill a repeal of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Oil and Gas Program. Unfortunately, this repeal was not included in the Senate-passed bill, and the oil and gas mandate for the Arctic Refuge remained. In November 2021, the State of Alaska's Industrial Development and Export Authority sued the Biden Administration over its freeze on oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This lawsuit is ongoing, and it's important to note that Alaska Conservation Foundation grantee, Trustees For Alaska, intervened in the lawsuit on behalf of their clients, the Gwich'in Steering Committee, and 12 other allies.

In December 2021, after receiving over 105,000 public comments, the Biden Administration released a scoping report with plans to publish a draft SEIS in the Summer of 2022, which will begin another public comment period. While awaiting the public comment period to open, in June 2022, news broke that Chevron and Hilcorp paid \$10 million to get out of their pre-existing oil leases within the Arctic Refuge bound-

aries, and Regenerate Alaska – a subsidiary of Australia-based 88 Energy – elected to cancel their newly purchased leases in the Refuge, signaling that major companies no longer view the Arctic Refuge as a worthwhile investment.

BRISTOL BAY/PEBBLE MINE

Pebble Mine, a proposed open-pit copper and gold mine in the Bristol Bay watershed, continued to threaten the largest wild salmon fishery remaining on the planet. The Bristol Bay fishery provides over 15,000 jobs while sustaining numerous Indigenous communities, their cultures, and their ways of life.

In September 2021, the Biden Administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invoked Clean Water Act authority, temporarily protecting Alaska's Bristol Bay. In November 2021, a U.S. District Court reversed a 2019 Trump Administration decision to withdraw the EPA's 2014 move to protect the region from the mine. This court decision allowed the EPA to restart the 404c Clean Water Act process, which could lead to permanent protections for Bristol Bay. In an effort to make approval of a mine easier, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy included \$4.9 million in his 2023 fiscal state budget proposal for the Department of Environmental Conservation to begin work towards taking over the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit process from the EPA.

Thankfully, the Legislature did not include the governor's proposal in the final budget. In May 2022, the EPA finally released its Proposed Determination to veto Pebble Mine and permanently protect Bristol Bay, setting the stage for future protections of the Bristol Bay region.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

In 2022, Alaska Conservation Foundation awarded 134 grants to 59 organizations for a total of \$1,064,860.

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 focuses on conservation, we are proud of the many investments we make in the work of our grantee partners. Since 1980, that amount totals over \$57 million.

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.

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

350 Juneau

Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Alaska Hummingbird Project, Inc.

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Alaska Pacific University

Alaska Public Interest Research Group

Alaska Seeds of Change

Alaska Teen Media Institute

Alaska Village Initiatives

Alaska Wilderness League

Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Aleut Community of St. Paul Island

Anchorage Waterways Council

Audubon Alaska

Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

Cook Inletkeeper

Defenders of Wildlife

Discovery Southeast

Earthjustice

Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges

Friends of Creamer's Field

Friends of the Stewart Public Trail

Girdwood Bear Aware

Great Bear Foundation

Great Land Trust

Gwich'in Steering Committee

Haines Science Center

Hoonah Indian Association

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust

Kenai Watershed Forum

Lynn Canal Conservation

Mat-Su Borough School District

National Wildlife Refuge Association

Native Movement

Native People's Action

Northern Alaska Environmental Center

Organized Village of Kasaan

Renewable Energy Alaska Project

SalmonState

Sitka Conservation Society

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

Southeast Alaska Land Trust

Spirit of Youth

Susitna River Coalition

Tebughna Foundation

The Alaska Center Education Fund

The Conservation Fund

The Wilderness Society

Traditional Council of Togiak

Trustees for Alaska

United Tribes of Bristol Bay

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Wilderness Watch

Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

ALASKA CONFERENCE ON MINING IMPACTS AND PREVENTION



The Alaska Conference on Mining Impacts and Prevention – A Gathering of Land and Water Guardians took place March 16 -18, 2022, on the land of the Dena’ina in Girdwood, Alaska.



The conference brought together 159 Indigenous leaders, community members, conservation advocates, and nine foundation representatives from around the country to learn about preventing the worst of industrial-scale mining.

Reforms to Alaska mining practices and modern methods for mitigating mining impacts were also explored. The conference offered an opportunity to share knowledge, uplift stories from community representatives that bear the brunt of these impacts, and create space for healing, growth, and relationship building.



TED SMITH CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Ted Smith Conservation Internship Program was founded 21 years ago in memory of Alaska conservation hero 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 2022, Alaska Conservation Foundation supported seventeen interns at 15 organizations across the state of Alaska.

2022 INTERNS

- Celia Darling**
Youth Leadership Intern at The Alaska Center Education Fund
- Leah Shaffer**
Environmental Conservation Intern at Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
- Jake Wade**
Alaska Climate Policy Communications Coordinator at Sitka Conservation Society
- Grady Welsh**
Peterson Bay Field Station Naturalist Intern at Center For Alaskan Coastal Studies
- Anna Mulhern**
Environmental Justice and Community Health Research/Advocacy at Alaska Community Action on Toxics

- Mark Black**
Intern at Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
- Gareth Miller**
Summer Camp Outdoor Leader at Discovery Southeast
- Kayla Walsh**
Climate and Wild Salmon Intern at Cook Inletkeeper
- Nathanael Harkrider**
Community Engagement Specialist at Alaska Marine Conservation Council
- Olivia Kemp**
Conservation Intern at Defenders of Wildlife
- Jenn Dera**
Program and Outreach Assistant at Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association
- Ian Blackwelder**
Public Lands and Climate Change Advocate at Audubon Alaska
- Sydney Ribera**
Development and Outreach Summer Intern at Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
- Kevin Duffie**
Stream Watch Intern at Kenai Watershed Forum

NORTHERN LATITUDES PARTNERSHIPS

Alaska Conservation Foundation hosts the Northern Latitudes Partnerships, which consist of three partnerships coordinating landscape-scale conservation efforts. These regional partnerships include agencies, Tribes, and Canadian First Nations, as well as Indigenous, academic, and nonprofit organizations.

The Northern Latitudes Partnerships team expanded with two additional staff members and an Alaska Sea Grant Fellow. We piloted a new 'direct pay platform' to enhance data collection to address harmful algal blooms across Alaska. This tool allowed us to compensate sample collectors in Nome, Diomedes, Shishmaref, Larson Bay, and Kodiak. This effort expanded into new data collection partnerships with the Qawlangin Tribe of Unalaska and Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, as well as financial support for a new regional harmful algal blooms monitoring effort in the Bering Strait by Norton Sound Health Corporation.

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Working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and two universities, we piloted two courses that help federal managers incorporate Indigenous perspectives into land and resource management. The Indigenous Land Stewardship course at Alaska Pacific University completed its first pilot in December.

The 11-week course was team-taught by several Indigenous instructors, as well as Alaska Conservation Foundation staff member Dr. Leanna Heffner, and included over a dozen guest speakers from Indigenous communities and professional organizations. The course was a huge success and was offered again in the fall of 2022.

In the spring of 2022, we also hosted a six-part virtual course with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Tribal Governance Program and US Fish and Wildlife Service on "Indigenous-Led Land Planning." The course drew an audience of over 250 participants and featured distinguished speakers from Alaska and western Canada on ways

to effectively collaborate with Indigenous groups on land stewardship "in a good way."

Alaska Conservation Foundation and the Northern Latitudes Partnerships also helped organize four international dialogues around strengthening transboundary conservation in the US and Canada, with hundreds of participants in attendance. These dialogues explored common opportunities, challenges, success stories, and future needs ensuring habitat and communities are connected across the border.

Alaska Conservation Foundation staff co-lead a US/Canadian task force that worked together to distill common themes and key ideas into a summary report. The report's recommendations are being shared at the highest level of government in both countries and offer a starting point for launching further conversation to benefit the peoples and ecosystems of Alaska and northwest Canada.

ARCTIC YOUTH AMBASSADORS

2022 marked the culmination of a third cohort of Arctic Youth Ambassadors and the launch of an Alumni Advisory Council, conceived of and led by and for past Arctic Youth Ambassadors.

In its seventh year, the Arctic Youth Ambassadors program now has 50 alumni from 30 communities across Alaska, many of whom remain active in Arctic issues and are eager to mentor other youth.

Over the past year, a dedicated group of alumni has been helping to refresh the Arctic Youth Ambassadors program to have stronger cultural connections, overcome uncertainties of safe travel and geopolitical tensions, and take advantage of greater virtual connectivity across the Arctic. They have also continued elevating critical environmental and social issues from Alaska and their communities, meeting with senators, ambassadors, Indigenous leaders, public land managers, scientists, and other Arctic decision-makers.

A group of 12 attended and presented at Arctic Encounter Symposium, the US’s largest international Arctic conference. Others were invited to present at COP 21 in Scotland and to assist with youth engagement in the work of the Arctic Council. Alaskan youth, with their unique life experiences

and passions, are incredibly effective at increasing awareness and understanding of the tangible impacts of climate change, mining, community wellness, mental health, and other challenges Alaska faces due to a rapidly changing Arctic.

Their involvement in addressing these issues is critical, and the Alaska Conservation Foundation is proud to be a core partner in this program, working in close collaboration with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, World Wildlife Fund, and the Arctic Youth Ambassadors Alumni Advisory Council.

“Arctic Youth Ambassadors truly care deeply about the place that they come from and keeping it healthy and safe from destruction or change. This type of deep love and care is what inspires action, and Arctic Youth Ambassadors are acting on this deep love and care. Stewardship at its core comes from care, love, and support, and this is why I think Arctic Youth Ambassadors are defined by this stewardship.”

Gabe Canfield, Ketchikan

2021/2022 COHORT

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

THE ARCTIC YOUTH AMBASSADORS ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Alejandro Soto, Anchorage & Dominican Republic
- Brian Conwell, Unalaska & Anchorage
- Cade Terada, Aleutian Islands & Brooklyn, NY
- Carter Price, Unalaska & Anchorage
- Gabe Canfield, Ketchikan & Anchorage
- Griffin Plush, Seward & Juneau
- Jannelle Trowbridge, Nome & Dillingham
- Kyrstyn Kelly, Palmer
- Mercedes Kashatok, Aleutian Islands, Kipnuk, & Anchorage

“I get to see...Arctic Youth Ambassadors at these events and I get comments all the time about people meeting you. You make an impression. You are making a difference. You are valuable.”

US Senator Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), Arctic Encounter Symposium, April 2022



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 2022 (July 2021 - June 2022).

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

- Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
- Common Stream, Inc.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Volgenau Foundation
- True North Foundation
- US Fish & Wildlife Service

CHAMPION’S CIRCLE

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- Michael Christy
- Mr. William Seydlitz

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- National Science Foundation
- NorthLight Foundation
- Padosi Foundation
- Putnam Foundation
- Sitka Conservation Society
- The Harder Foundation
- Trust for Mutual Understanding
- Wiancko Charitable Foundation
- World Wildlife Fund

DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE

\$10,000-\$24,999

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- Alaska Sea Grant
- Conservation Lands Foundation
- Edgerton Foundation
- Eric Troyer and Corrine Leistikow
- Gail Bates
- Jean Schiro-Zavela and Vance Zavela
- Luxor Capital Group
- Peter and Michalina Bickford
- Peter Van Tuyn and Ilona Besseney
- Roslyn Mandel
- Seward Association for Advancement of Marine Science
- The Monarch Foundation
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- Wilburforce Foundation

GUARDIAN’S CIRCLE

\$5,000-\$9,999

- Arctic Council CAFF Working Group
- Bear Gulch Foundation
- CGMK Foundation
- Kayak Adventures Worldwide
- Marilyn Johnson
- Melissa Cole
- Michael and Mary Ann Hasenstab
- Nathaniel and Catherine Peimann
- Nina Faust
- Paul and Antje Newhagen Foundation
- Robert and Denise Hartmann
- The Leighty Foundation
- The Suwinski Family Foundation, Inc.
- The William B. Wiener Jr. Foundation
- Wildlife Management Institute

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\$2,500-\$4,999

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- Terry and Paul Reichardt
- The Nell Newman Foundation
- The U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
- Wild Woods Foundation
- Zoline Foundation

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\$1,000-\$2,499

- Alaska Wildland Adventures
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- David and Patricia Davidson
- Dianne and James Mahaffey
- Dr. Michael Egans
- Edward and Penny Thomas
- Elizabeth Cumming
- Ellen Webster and Shirlee Bromley >>

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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William Cotton
William H. Hazen Foundation
William Lazar



2021 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each year, Alaska Conservation Foundation recognizes the remarkable achievements of individuals and organizations committed to protecting Alaska.

The 2021 Conservation Achievement Awards Celebration was held virtually on October 7, 2021. The event celebrated seven individuals and one organization doing exceptional conservation work across the state of Alaska.

2021 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Lifetime Achievement Award

MARILYN SIGMAN

Homer, AK

Olaus Murie Award for Outstanding Professional Contributions

CHRIS ROSE

Anchorage, AK

Celia Hunter Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contributions

DAVID RASKIN

Homer, AK

Denny Wilcher Award for Young Environmental Activists

EMILY TAYLOR

Anchorage, AK

Lowell Thomas Jr. Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Conservation Organization

HOONAH INDIAN ASSOCIATION

Hoonah, AK

Jerry S. Dixon Award for Excellence in Environmental Education

KATE MORSE

Cordova, AK

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

MARK TITUS

Seattle, WA

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

LOUISE BRADY

Sitka, 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.

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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. We offer many options to meet both your financial and conservation goals. Please feel free to contact us.

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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.

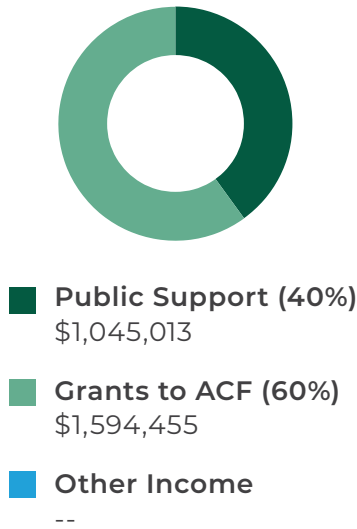
Alyson Pytte
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ACTIVITY SUMMARY

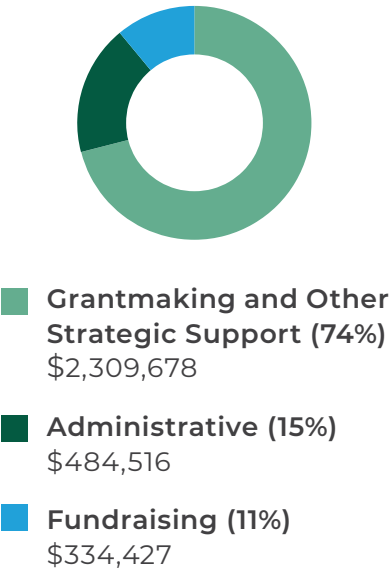
REVENUE

Total \$1,580,561



EXPENSES

Total \$3,128,621



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

November, 2022

ASSETS	
Current assets	\$1,416,683
Investments and other long-term assets	\$12,279,548
Furniture and equipment	---
TOTAL ASSETS	
\$13,696,231	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Grants and accounts payable	\$152,916
Other Liabilities	\$135,723
TOTAL LIABILITIES	
\$288,639	
Net Assets	
Without donor restrictions	\$3,017,5624
With donor restrictions	\$10,390,030
TOTAL NET ASSETS	
\$13,407,592	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
\$13,696,231	



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Alaska
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

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