



Alaska
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

Alaska Conservation Foundation

FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Alaska

CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Through supporting grassroots advocacy, facilitating collaborative conservation, and strengthening Alaska's conservation movement, Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) 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. We are very thankful for our generous supporters who make our work possible. If you haven't made your donation to Alaska Conservation Foundation, now is the time to join us in protecting Alaska by becoming a supporter!

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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Dear Friends and Supporters,

We won some important battles in 2024. Millions of acres protected from industrial mining. Coalitions strengthened. Communities empowered to defend their lands and waters. These weren't symbolic victories. They were acres you can stand on, waters that still run clean, families that still control their own future.

Then the ground shifted beneath us.

The Trump administration is dismantling protections that have safeguarded Alaska for decades. They're attacking the Roadless Rule that protects the Tongass rainforest from industrial logging. Mining companies are flooding in, threatening the watersheds and salmon that communities depend on for food security. The administration is pushing Arctic drilling forward. Extreme weather events like Typhoon Halong batter coastal communities. And they've slashed federal funding, forcing Tribes and grassroots groups to fight harder with less.

But here's what else I see when I look past the headlines: communities that aren't waiting for permission to protect what's theirs.

For 45 years, Alaska Conservation Foundation operated on a principle that matters now more than ever: trust the people closest to the land. As a funding intermediary that can move nearly every form of money and bring the right people together, we can start work that others can't. In 2025, even as threats accelerated and federal support vanished, we moved more resources than we have since 2004, strengthening partnerships with Tribes and grassroots organizations across the state. We brought communities together to share strategies at a scale Alaska has never seen. We launched an impact investing cohort, building pathways for more local economies that don't depend on large scale extraction. We hired from the regions that we serve. We supported young Indigenous leaders already shaping Arctic policy.

That's where I find hope. Not in ignoring the threats, but in watching communities meet them with capacity and resolve. The Alaska that filled you with wonder, the one that made you feel small in the best possible way, still exists. But only because people are fighting for it every single day.

What happens here over the next few years will determine whether communities have the strength to hold the line. The land still needs defending, and the communities rooted to it know how to do it. Our job is to make sure they have what they need to win.

Stand with us through your donations, your attention, and your support. You enable us to act with the urgency Alaska requires.

With determination,



Michael Barber

President and Chief Executive Officer
Alaska Conservation Foundation

Investing in the Future

In 2025, Alaska Conservation Foundation awarded 89 grants to 53 organizations for a total of \$1,086,726.31.

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 more than \$62 million.

Grantmaking Programs

Alaska Defense Fund

Supports advocacy efforts to protect public lands and waters.

Rapid Response

Responds quickly to urgent and/or unforeseen environmental threats or opportunities with statewide significance.

Donor Advised & Agency Funds

Grants based on donor recommendations to specific organizations that are aligned with our mission and values.

Discovery Grants

Focuses on strategic opportunities for grassroots organizations.

Indigenous Voices Fund

Awards support Indigenous voices in the fight to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Bristol Bay, the Tongass National Forest, and mining impacts across Alaska.

Watchable Wildlife Conservation Trust

Grants to support wildlife viewing, promote wildlife education, and conserve biological diversity.

Northern Latitudes Partnerships

Develops solutions to problems caused by climate change through collaborative efforts with Tribes, Indigenous organizations, and government agencies.

FY25 ACF Grant Recipients

350Juneau
Alaska Center Education Fund
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alaska Fellows Program
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Alaska Pacific University
Alaska Wildlife Alliance
Alaska Wilderness League
Anchorage Park Foundation
Audubon Alaska
Beaver Village Council
Bird Treatment & Learning Center
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
Center for Biological Diversity
Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Chilkat Indian Village
Cook Inletkeeper
Defenders of Wildlife
Discovery Southeast
Earthjustice
Environmental Investigation Agency
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Friends of Creamer's Field
Gwich'in Steering Committee
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust
Kenai Watershed Forum
Mother Kuskokwim Tribal Coalition
Native Movement
Native Village of Solomon
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Norton Bay Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
Organized Village of Kake
Protect the Kobuk
Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Rivers Without Borders
SalmonState

Sierra Club Foundation
Sitka Conservation Society
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission
Sovereign Iñupiaq for a Living Arctic
Spirit of Youth
Susitna River Coalition
Tanana Valley Watershed Association
The Alaska Center
Trustees for Alaska
Tyonek Tribal Conservation District
United Tribes of Bristol Bay
Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment
Young Alaskans Training Fund
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

FY25 Subaward Recipients

Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
Alaska Seeds of Change
Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
Bristol Bay Native Association
Calypso Farm and Ecology Center
Eklutna Native Village
Kodiak Area Native Association
Native Conservancy
Native Village of Venetie
Organized Village of Kasaan
Spruce Root, Inc.
Tanana Tribal Council
Tides Center
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Alaska Southeast
University of Colorado Boulder



The Alaska Defense Fund: Flexible Support for Frontline Defenders

As Alaska faces growing political and environmental pressures, the need to defend its lands and waters has never been greater. Federal rollbacks of environmental protections and renewed interest from extractive industries threaten some of the state's most ecologically rich and culturally important landscapes. Our Defense Fund was created for moments like this. This invite-only fund provides general operating support, one of the most powerful and underfunded tools in philanthropy, to Alaska-based grassroots organizations engaged in critical safeguarding. These unrestricted funds give grantees the flexibility to respond quickly, sustain long-

term efforts, and direct resources where they're needed most.

In FY25, we awarded more through the program than ever before, reflecting both the urgency of the challenges facing Alaska and the impact of this approach. The grantees supported are the on-the-ground experts guiding Alaska's response to its most pressing conservation challenges, ensuring that Alaskans set the course for the future of the state's lands and waters. Here is a look at several of the 2025 Alaska Defense Fund grant recipients and the strategies they are using to protect the state's lands, waters, and communities.

Susitna River Coalition

The Susitna River Coalition (SRC) is a grassroots nonprofit based in Talkeetna, Alaska, dedicated to protecting the 312-mile free-flowing Susitna River and the vibrant communities and ecosystems it sustains. Supported by a diverse network of individuals, businesses, and community groups, SRC works to ensure that development in the Susitna watershed is balanced, transparent, and responsive to local voices. Their efforts span from advocating for healthy fish and wildlife habitats to supporting renewable energy projects that align with local values and environmental stewardship. The Susitna River is currently threatened by the proposed West Susitna Access Project—an

industrial road that would open the region to large-scale mining and other development. Named one of American Rivers' 2025 Most Endangered Rivers, the Susitna faces significant challenges, but SRC is focused on ensuring that decisions about its future reflect broad community input. Through outreach, public education, and consistent engagement with local and state processes, SRC helps residents participate meaningfully in shaping the future of their watershed. As one of the few conservation organizations based between Anchorage and Fairbanks, SRC plays a vital role in representing the perspectives of rural Alaskans who live closest to the river and depend on its health for their way of life.



Incremental actions like winter trail expansions, recreational access projects, and pioneer forestry roads are increasingly being used to pre-build industrial corridors—paving the way for the proposed West Susitna industrial access road, a state-backed 100-mile haul route intended to open mining and energy development deep into the watershed—without transparent public oversight. Alaska Defense Fund support ensures SRC can monitor these tactics in real time and defend community voice before small decisions lock in large-scale impacts."

- Melis Coady, Executive Director, Susitna River Coalition.



Sitka Conservation Society

The Tongass is in the crosshairs of the Trump administration with unprecedented threats against our public land, against our public land, including orders for increased timber harvest, repeal of the Roadless Rule, and proposed land sales. These policy threats will have huge impacts for the landscapes and resources that communities depend on to provide for our livelihoods and fill our freezers.

Sitka Conservation Society has been standing hand-in-hand with our community and tribal partners to stand up for what we value about the Tongass and how we want to see it stewarded into the future. We have been shaping the policy of the Tongass Plan revision process and mobilizing partners and community voices to center these values and priorities.

“ There is a way to manage this forest for long-term community benefit and make investments that support existing industries and catalyze new ones. We won't get there with the old school clearcut and export model that doesn't build up capacity in the region. With the support of Alaska Conservation Foundation and partners across the region, Sitka Conservation Society will continue to craft policy and deploy projects that work within our ecological constraints, address the complex challenges of rural economic development, and meet the needs of communities on the ground.”

— Deputy Director Katie Riley, Sitka Conservation Society

Gwich'in Steering Committee

The Gwich'in Steering Committee (GSC) is a grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and the traditional way of life of the Gwich'in people. For generations, the Refuge has sustained the Gwich'in through its calving grounds for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, which provide food, cultural connection, and spiritual grounding. Known in the Gwich'in language as lizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit, 'The Sacred Place Where Life Begins,' this land is central to the community's identity and survival.

GSC works to ensure that decisions affecting ANWR reflect the voices of those who rely on it

most. The organization engages in advocacy, public education, and community organizing to protect the Refuge from oil and gas development, seismic activity, and other industrial threats. By combining traditional knowledge with strategic action, GSC guides local, state, and national responses to the most pressing threats facing the Arctic Refuge.

As a grassroots organization deeply connected to Northern Alaska, GSC is uniquely positioned to defend the Arctic Refuge and the Porcupine Caribou Herd while ensuring the Gwich'in can continue their ancestral practices for generations to come.

Trustees for Alaska

Founded and grounded in Alaska since 1974, Trustees for Alaska fills a vital role as a nonprofit public interest environmental law firm with a focus on Alaska issues. Using expertise in both federal statutes and Alaska’s unique constitutional framework (the only state with an entire constitutional article dedicated to safeguarding natural resources), Trustees uses the law to protect Alaska’s lands, waters, wildlife, and people from those who treat the state solely as a resource colony to fill corporate pockets.

Trustees provides free legal services to local and national conservation groups, Native villages, Alaska communities, citizen groups, statewide coalitions, hunting and fishing groups, and individual Alaskans who could not other-

wise access or afford representation. Working hand-in-hand with clients, Trustees builds legal strategies that integrate with grassroots organizing, education campaigns, and legislative initiatives.

A critical focus of Trustees’ work is stopping the proposed Ambler road, a private industrial corridor plan that aims to cross over 200 miles of the southern Brooks Range. The proposal is opposed by more than 85 Tribal governments and local communities. Trustees has worked to prevent the Ambler road by engaging in administrative processes, submitting comments, and litigation while working alongside Tribes and communities to protect community food and subsistence resources, caribou, and the wealth of life the region nourishes.



“Our work requires sustained legal pressure against powerful opponents determined to ignore Tribal sovereignty and bypass environmental law. The Alaska Defense Fund’s general operating support is transformative because it does what most grants don’t: It gives us nimbleness when we need it and we need it a lot these days. These funds allow us to bring in expert witnesses and scientific analysis to combat the profit motives of extractors and the state, and it gives us the ability to travel to communities and to maintain our organizational strength to fight this battle over years, not months. Unrestricted support means we can make strategic choices on our timeline—hiring the capacity we need, filing litigation when it matters most, and staying engaged through every administrative twist and turn. For an Alaska grown law firm going up against an administration intent on ignoring the law to benefit foreign mining interests, that flexibility is what helps us hold the line and ensures local voices aren’t silenced by political pressure and corporate agendas.”

— Vicki Clark, Executive Director, Trustees for Alaska



Alaska Mining Impacts Network (AKMIN)

Established in January 2023 by Alaska Conservation Foundation, the Alaska Mining Impacts Network (AKMIN) provides a convening space for conservation, tribal, and community leaders to share resources, build relationships, and strengthen advocacy efforts addressing hardrock mining impacts in Alaska. AKMIN envisions an Alaska where land stewardship is prioritized and local communities have the power to ensure that mining occurs only with their consent, under rigorous protective policies, enabling a future where land, air, and water continue to provide traditional and cultural livelihoods for generations to come.

AKMIN has 4 overarching goals:

- 1) Building power through information and collaboration
- 2) Championing stronger mining policies that protect Alaska's lands, communities, and subsistence resources
- 3) Prioritizing local communities' right to give or withhold free, prior, and informed consent for mining projects
- 4) Unifying diverse voices under a shared narrative that moves beyond an extractive economy.

2025 Alaska Conference on Mining Impacts and Prevention

From May 6-8, 2025, Alaska Conservation Foundation convened nearly 200 Indigenous leaders, community advocates, and environmental experts in Girdwood on behalf of the Alaska Mining Impacts Network (AKMIN). This gathering addressed one of Alaska's fastest-growing threats to lands, waters, wildlife, and ways of life, centering Indigenous knowledge and the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent as communities navigate complex hardrock mining proposals.



Indigenous-led programming

All 3 plenaries and 17 of 24 breakout sessions featured Indigenous speakers

60%

of participants received financial assistance to attend

200

attendees from across Alaska and beyond. Representing 53 Alaskan communities

43%

of attendees self-identified as Indigenous



Centering Indigenous Leadership and Consent

Keynote speaker Kate Finn, founder of the Tallgrass Institute, delivered a powerful message about Free, Prior, and Informed Consent: "FPIC is not a buffet. You don't get to pick one. It's all of it together." Finn emphasized that FPIC is a fundamental human right requiring full information, early engagement, and—most importantly—honoring Indigenous communities' right to say no.

Esther Reese, President of the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission, shared how 14 Tribes are protecting trans-boundary rivers from upstream mining threats, demonstrating how Indigenous communities are setting the terms of engagement rather than waiting to be invited into conversations. The closing plenary featured voices spanning generations, including Chilkat Indian Village President Jones Hotch Jr. on protecting his community from the proposed Palmer project near Klukwan and Haines, Jazmyn Vent from Huslia on efforts to stop the proposed Ambler Road, and elder Emily Murray from Elim addressing the (now-abandoned) proposed Panther Minerals uranium mine near Elim.

Building Knowledge & Community Power

The conference provided practical knowledge and tools for communities facing hardrock mining proposals. Sessions covered permitting processes and public engagement opportunities, federal lobbying strategies, and how mining companies shift financial and environmental risks to communities. Participants also explored direct shipping of ore transport impacts, strategies for reshaping gold extraction narratives, and how state financing through AIDEA benefits the hardrock mining industry.

A Growing Movement

Building on ACF's 2022 mining conference that helped launch AKMIN, this gathering demonstrated how sustained investment in relationship-building creates lasting change. AKMIN centers community needs: rigorous policy analysis, practical advocacy tools, financial support, and solidarity with others facing similar threats.



Northern Latitudes Partnerships

Alaska Conservation Foundation hosts the Northern Latitudes Partnerships (NLP). NLP operates as three regional resilience partnerships: Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Initiative (ABSI), the Western Alaska Landscape Initiative (WALI), and the Northwest Boreal Partnership. These partnerships cover ~70% of Alaska and extend well into Canada. They work on diverse projects addressing climate change adaptation, food security, and ecosystem stewardship, with a strong emphasis on Indigenous leadership and combining Indigenous Knowledge with scientific research for better solutions supported by communities. Since 2019 the NLP partnerships have brought in over \$32M dollars to support 87 projects and programs focused on conservation, climate adaptation and Indigenous-led stewardship.

Indigenous Guardians Programing

Indigenous Guardians programs empower Tribe to monitor and protect their lands, waters, and cultural resources through approaches that combine Indigenous Knowledge with scientific methods.

This year, ACF supported the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island in assembling a coalition of 33 partner organizations, including consortia representing 117 Tribes, for a \$14 million Guardians accelerator proposal focused in Western Alaska. Though the National Science Foundation did not fund the initial submission, the collaborative process strengthened inter-Tribal networks and built shared capacity across a vast geography. ACF and

partners are now repositioning the proposal for philanthropic funders.

Through collective outreach efforts, the model for an Indigenous Guardians Network gained significant momentum. In May, NLP hosted a featured panel at the Alaska Conference on Mining Impacts and Prevention, with approximately 200 participants, where leaders shared how Guardians programs provide regenerative economic models while offering monitoring and accountability for resource extraction. ACF and NLP also helped to convene the Aleutian Pribilof Guardians Network in the Aleut region and is actively pursuing funding to sustain



momentum through additional in-person gatherings and workshop follow-up. During their October 2025 gathering, the Alaska Federation of Natives approved a resolution proposed by the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island to formalize state-wide support for Guardians programs. St. Paul has been leading Guardians type programming for decades and has worked closely with the NLP and ACF on this for several years now. Together, we are celebrating this landmark achievement demonstrating Indigenous leadership recognition of this conservation model.

These initiatives create local jobs, generate critical ecological data in under-monitored regions, and build climate resilience from the ground up. As traditional food sources are threatened and communities face unprecedented risks from storms and warming temperatures, Guardians serve as early warning systems—roles that distant agencies cannot fulfill alone.

33

partner organizations mobilized

\$10M

proposal developed for National Science Foundation



Statewide recognition:
Alaska Federation of Natives resolution approved*

~200



participants at Alaska Conference on Mining Impacts and Prevention where NLP hosted a panel

117

Tribes represented through consortia



Geographic focus:
Statewide + adjacent Canada



*Events occurring after FY25 end date (June 30, 2025)

Adapt Alaska Coasts (AAC) Coastal Resilience Workshops

Climate change is accelerating dramatically in Alaska—warming at over four times the U.S. average—with coastal communities facing erosion, infrastructure damage, and ecosystem disruption that threaten both human safety and economic viability. The Aleutian Bering Sea Initiative (ABSI) and Western Alaska Landscape Initiative (WALI) responded with an innovative workshop series that moved 277 participants from climate concern to climate action.

Between November 2024 and October 2025, four regionally tailored workshops brought together Alaska Native Tribal consortia, government agencies, and technical experts to co-develop nature-based solutions. The “Project Accelerator” format—praised by participants for its focus on progress over barriers—efficiently moved 26 community-identified projects from concept to actionable plans. This wasn’t theoretical planning: real communities are already implementing real solutions.

The return on investment is evident. In Ahkhiok, the community is now collecting the data needed to address coastal erosion threatening homes and infrastructure. The Organized

Village of Kasaan has already applied for federal planning funds for a breakwater protecting their small boat harbor—a critical economic asset. The Native Village of Atka applied for grant funds to advance their dock expansion. These aren’t just environmental wins; they’re local, economic development and public safety investments that protect millions in existing infrastructure.

Critically, this workshop series educated funders themselves. By developing a common understanding of nature-based solutions across Alaska’s diverse regions, ACF improved the likelihood that major funders like the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will direct climate adaptation dollars to Alaska communities. The workshops also forged new partnerships, including with Alaska’s Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, creating pathways for coordinated emergency response planning.

The 158 organizations that participated represent a ready network for future collaboration and scaled climate adaptation efforts.

4



workshops held from Southeast through Bristol Bay

New partnerships with state emergency management

277

participants from diverse sectors

26

resilience projects developed



Alaska South Coast Partnership: A \$3M Catalyst for Regional Resilience



ACF Role:
Steering Committee member, ongoing partner recruitment

17

tribes supported across the region. With 3 Alaska Native Organizations leading implementation

\$3M

secured from NOAA

100%

of funding flows to Alaska Native Organizations

10

new professional positions created



Geographic Coverage:

Cordova through Kodiak Archipelago (critical marine ecosystems)



ACF helped secure \$3 million from NOAA to launch the Alaska South Coast Partnership, extending from Cordova through the Kodiak Archipelago—a geography encompassing 17 Tribes and some of Alaska's most productive marine ecosystems and fisheries.

The partnership is modeled after the Sustainable Southeast Partnership, which ACF funded for its first nine years beginning in 2011. SSP's success as a self-sustaining regional collaborative provided the proof of concept that helped convince NOAA to invest.

The funding structure reflects best practices: 100% of the \$3 million flows directly to three

Alaska Native Organizations—the Chugach Regional Resources Commission, Kodiak Area Native Association, and Native Conservancy. This creates 10 new professional positions hosted within Tribal organizations, building permanent capacity within communities.

The partnership emerged in part from ACF's Kelp Values project, which examined how kelp mariculture could align with Tribal conservation values from the South Coast region. This new partnership officially launched in 2025 with ACF serving as a Steering Committee member, positioned to bring additional funders and partners to amplify the initial investment by NOAA.

Alaska Resilience Farms: Four Years of Building Food Security Infrastructure

Alaska Resilience Farms (ARF) demonstrates the power of strategic investment in addressing climate change, food insecurity, and rural economic development. What began in 2022 has grown into a statewide network serving Tribes from Ketchikan through Kodiak and from Bristol Bay to the Yukon River as well as community members from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and beyond.

As climate change disrupts traditional subsistence foods, communities need new capacity for cold-climate agriculture. ARF provides hands-on training, knowledge exchange, and technical assistance, with emphasis on rural communities facing the greatest food insecurity.

The financial model demonstrates ACF's effectiveness as a catalyst. An initial \$750,000 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service leveraged an additional \$1.5 million over

three years—a 3:1 return bringing in funders from the NoVo Foundation to the U.S. Forest Service.

ARF reached 1,187 participants through 51 training events across more than 20 communities during its first three years. The Native Village of Eklutna now operates a community garden feeding residents; families across Bristol Bay and the Yukon River drainage have established home food production; and schools have integrated growing programs.

In 2025, ARF expanded by adding three Tribal organizations: the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Chugach Regional Resources Commission, and Alutiiq Grown who serve 31 Tribes. The program is transitioning to Alaska Pacific University leadership while ACF remains engaged to bring additional funding partners.

Program transition to APU demonstrates maturity and sustainability



Geographic expansion: Bristol Bay and Yukon River to Southeast Alaska, Kodiak, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet

51

Training events and workshops delivered



20+

rural and urban communities served

\$2.25M

total investment leveraged over 3 years (3:1 return on initial investment)

31

Tribes now connected to the program (2025 expansion)





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Ted Smith Conservation Internship Program

The Ted Smith Conservation Internship Program was founded more than twenty years ago in memory of Alaska conservation pioneer Celia Hunter and re-named 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 2025, the program received 263 applications for 13 positions across the state at 13 unique host organizations. Over this last summer, interns worked on a variety of projects, tackling key conservation issues and building strong connections with local communities, professionals, and peers who are equally passionate about preserving Alaska's environment and ways of life.

2025 Interns

Henry Aspinwall - *Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association*

Iris Brondz - *Yukon Inter-Tribal Watershed Council*

Cosley Bruno - *Sitka Conservation Society*

Anna Clauer - *Alaska Community Action on Toxics*

Sebastien Comtois - *Defenders of Wildlife*

Rylee Cunningham - *Anchorage Parks Foundation*

Ella Hubbard - *Cook Inletkeeper*

Rylee Jensen - *Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC)*

Grace Miller - *Audubon Alaska*

Camas Oxford - *The Alaska Center*

Peter Sukstorf - *Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies*

Sam Trussell - *Kenai Watershed Forum*

Sonia Wold - *Discovery Southeast*



Photo courtesy of Ella Hubbard (top) and Cosley Bruno (bottom)

In their own words

Q: What specific conservation projects are you currently working on, and what impact do you hope to achieve through these projects?

A: “Every year, the ACF interns at SEACC help create the Tide Book – a collection of daily tide reports around Southeast Alaska, but SEACC inserts a storytelling section from people in the community to infuse some life into the book as well. This year, the theme I chose was “sustainable industries”, so I interviewed people with different backgrounds to highlight how these industries (e.g., fishing, baking, recreation, ecotourism) rely on clean waters and an intact forest to survive. Further, I have helped run SEACC’s social platforms, create fact sheets to use at in-person events, and set up for tabling events such as a sign-making party in Juneau, Blueberry Festival in Ketchikan, and Arts by the Cove in Coffman Cove. Each of these events allowed me to connect with SEACC’s followers and community members about our ongoing campaigns, particularly related to cleaner fuels for cruise ships and keeping the Roadless Rule intact in the Tongass National Forest. I hope that through these projects, I was able to spread awareness for those who may not be familiar with our mission and get people to think more deeply about the community and ecosystem they live in.”

-Rylee Jensen, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) Intern

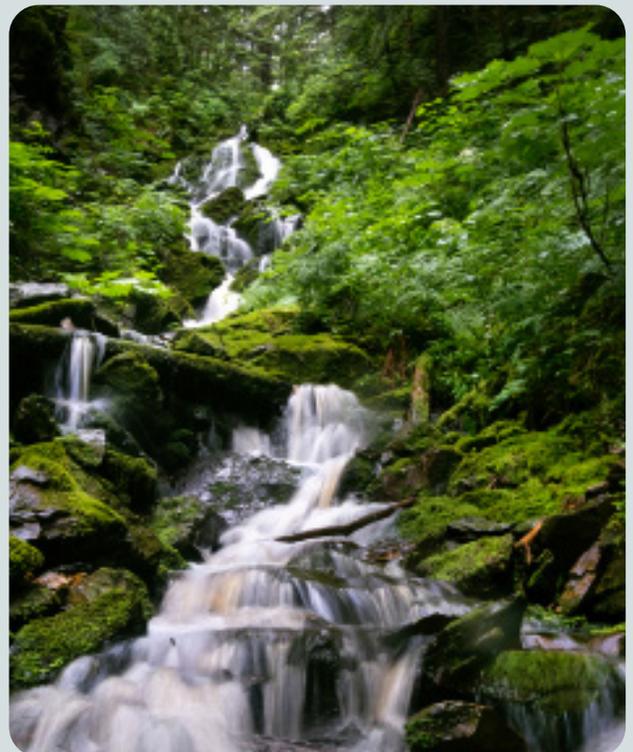


Photo courtesy of Rylee Jensen (top) and Schuyler Alig (bottom)

Cohort of Arctic Youth Ambassadors

2025-2026

Started in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2015 and sustained with World Wildlife Fund as a core partner, the program hosted at Alaska Conservation Foundation helps youth overcome barriers to joining critical dialogues and decision-making that will directly impact their communities and futures. Fourteen Arctic Youth Ambassadors from across Alaska are serving in the 18-month program starting in January 2025.

Learn more about Arctic Youth Ambassadors at www.arcticyouthambassadors.org



2025 Ambassadors

Alexis Rexford - Gambell, AK

Audrey Leonetti - Anchorage, AK

Averon Katcheak - Stebbins, AK

Charlee Korthuis - Bethel, AK

Deja Jackson - Bethel, AK

Hope Uele - Anchorage, AK

Kellie Miller - Nome, AK

Felicia Johnson - Nelson Lagoon, AK

Mary Simeon - Bethel, AK

Miaja Coombs - Wasilla, AK

Nyché Andrew - Anchorage, AK

Peter Olanna - Brevig Mission, AK

Wynter Fournier - Fairbanks, AK

Zach Hingsbergen - Selawik, AK

FY25 Highlights

- Recruited and launched the 5th Cohort, Orientation Summit hosted by ACF staff for new cohort (all AYAs attended)
- Continued **progress on media projects** to raise awareness of Arctic issues and community-based storytelling
- Continued **Alumni engagement and involvement** from each previous cohort. (the network is now 64 alumni from 40 communities across Alaska)
- Approximately **\$34k paid directly to youth for their work** and expertise
- **Meetings with policy-makers and Arctic leaders** (e.g. Sen. Murkowski, Arctic Council Permanent Participant Organizations, Tribal Council Members)
- Focus topics of cohort 5 as a group: **elevating youth voices** in Arctic and Alaskan issues, food security, climate impacts, elevating Indigenous Knowledge

High-Profile Events Ambassadors and Alumni have engaged at in FY25

Anchorage

Rural Impact Summit
Alaska Conference on Mining Impacts & Prevention

Washington, D.C.

World Wildlife Fund Lobby Days

Iceland

Arctic Circle Assembly
Arctic Energy Forum

Norway

Arctic Youth Conference
Arctic Frontiers

“



[Traditional Chief Edward Adams] believed deeply in the future of our people, and in our ability as youth to carry that forward. From him, I learned what perseverance and fortitude looks like: to walk with humility, to listen carefully, and to honor those who have come before us. Elders often tell stories with lessons, and sometimes we don't understand the meaning right away, but we know we must sit down, listen, and remember."

- Charlee Korthuis, Keynote Speech at Elders and Youth Conference

”

“Being a part of the AYA program has given me the opportunity to learn from amazing youth leaders across Alaska and the Arctic as a whole. This experience has made me a better scientist and has enabled me to make a more significant difference than I could on my own.”

- Miaja Coombs



2024 Conservation Achievement Awards

Each year, Alaska Conservation Foundation recognizes the remarkable achievements of individuals and organizations committed to protecting Alaska. The 2024 Conservation Achievement Awards Celebration was held on Thursday, October 3, 2024. The event celebrated 8 individuals and 1 organization doing exceptional conservation work across the state of Alaska.



2024 Conservation Achievement Awards Recipients

Lifetime Achievement Awards
Kay Brown & Art Sowls

Celia Hunter Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contributions
Ben Kirkpatrick

Olaus Murie Award for Outstanding Professional Contributions
John Morton

Denny Wilcher Award for Young Environmental Activists
Haven Marban

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

Lowell Thomas Jr. Award for Outstanding Contributions by an Organization Doing Conservation Work
Susitna River Coalition

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

Jerry S. Dixon Award for Excellence in Environmental Education
Robin Mayo

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 2025 (July 2024 - June 2025).

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

Edgerton Foundation
Energy Policy Institute at Boise State University
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Active Summary

Revenue

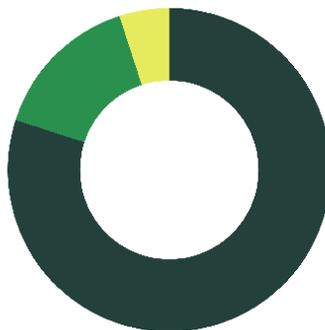
Total \$7,803,902



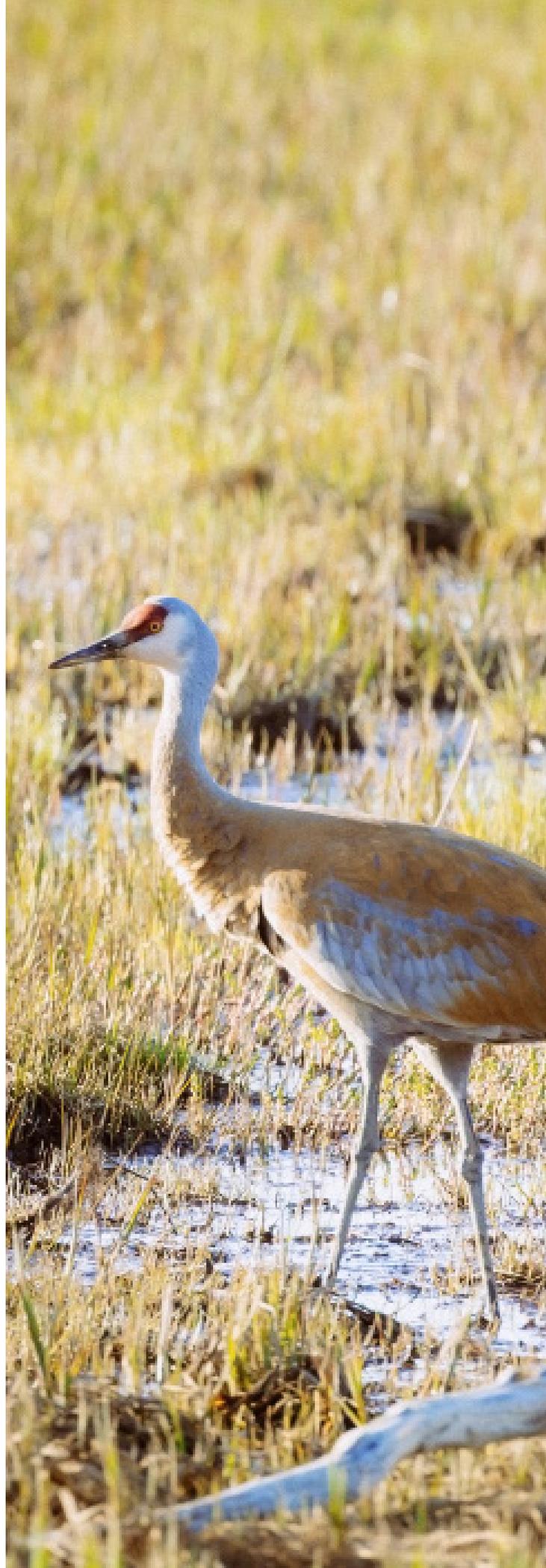
■ Grants to ACF (60%)	\$4,671,776
■ Public Support (29%)	\$2,281,060
■ Investment gain (11%)	\$836,365
■ Other Income (0.2%)	\$14,700

Expenses

Total \$5,959,589



■ Grantmaking & Other Strategic Support (80%)	\$4,745,373
■ Administrative (15%)	\$895,234
■ Fundraising (5%)	\$318,983



Statement of Financial Position

June, 2025

Assets

Current assets	\$2,866,104
Investments and other long-term assets	\$14,291,546
Operating lease assets	\$40,756

Total Assets	\$17,198,406
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Grants and accounts payable	\$137,830
Other liabilities	\$549,544

Total Liabilities	\$687,375
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Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$3,520,330
With donor restrictions	\$12,990,701

Total net assets	\$16,511,031
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Total liabilities and net assets	\$17,198,406
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