At Alaska Wilderness League it’s our solemn responsibility to put the resources you invest in wild Alaska to their highest and best use, making sure every donation and grant — no matter the size — helps advance our collective vision to protect Alaska’s wild places for generations to come.

That’s why we ask several fundamental questions before deploying your donations for our public education, advocacy, communications, organizing and legal efforts including: how will they help us advance or defend strong Alaska conservation policies; how will they help us build deeper, more diverse and impactful partnerships; and how will they help us enhance our clout, power and effectiveness?

As you read this report on the impact of your donations in 2019, I hope you’ll be pleased with the payoff on your investment and all the ways you helped us advance policy, build power and strengthen partnerships. You not only ensured a vigorous defense of our shared Alaska conservation values at a time when the threats from drilling, mining and industrial scale clear-cutting couldn’t be more dire, but you helped set the stage for meaningful on-the-ground conservation progress in the medium and longer-term.

On the policy front, your investments made possible passage of bipartisan legislation through the House to restore protections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain and additional measures to limit taxpayer-subsidized old-growth logging in the Tongass National Forest and thwart the permitting of the Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay.

In the courts, you helped us defend a hard-fought victory that is protecting 98% of the Arctic Ocean from oil and gas leasing.

In the corporate boardrooms, you helped us put the squeeze on SAExploration and those seeking to invade the Arctic Refuge with massive seismic testing equipment in the heart of America’s most important onshore polar bear denning habitat. And you helped us secure opposition to leasing from more than $2.5 trillion worth of investors.

Your contributions also enabled us to catalyze broad-based national support for Alaska’s treasured landscapes, galvanizing millions to weigh in during public comments, speak out on social media and join in the fight. Because of you, we built stronger and more diverse coalitions, elevating the voices of outdoor adventurers, athletes, veterans, faith leaders and others working to protect these cherished natural wonders, while standing in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples of Alaska who are fighting to protect their way of life.

Thank you for being part of the Alaska Wilderness League family and for your unwavering commitment to the defense of our last great wilderness and the people and wildlife who depend on it!

In solidarity,
Adam Kolton
Executive Director
ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

With the support of our members, Alaska Wilderness League made great strides on its 2019 legislative goals. Our focus: garner wide support on Capitol Hill to ensure future proactive campaign wins, while engaging congressional champions in the effort to hold back current attacks on Alaska’s public lands and waters.

Across our campaigns, Alaska Wilderness League has remained diligent in striving to secure protections for wild Alaska.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our members that made this work possible. Read on for details related to each of our specific campaigns.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

In 2019, we saw significant success in our effort to defend — and ultimately restore — protections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We were proud to enter the new year having halted all proposed seismic activity and lease sales on the Arctic Refuge’s coastal plain. At the same time, we achieved a big legislative win with the passage of The Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act (H.R. 1146) in the U.S. House of Representatives, a bill that would restore protections to the Arctic Refuge by repealing the drilling mandate included in the 2017 Tax Act. These were important steps forward in our long-term fight to ensure that no oil and gas development ever occurs in the Arctic Refuge.

By the numbers

- **100+** members of Congress signed letters supporting Alaska public lands;
- **17** Republican members of Congress cast votes in support of Alaska protection legislation;
- **6** presidential candidates cosponsored legislation to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Democratic nominee and former Vice President, Joe Biden pledged to not allow drilling in the Refuge;
- **28** members of Congress took independent public actions on the Arctic Refuge;
- **12** members of Congress asked Arctic Refuge or Tongass related questions during legislative hearings;
- **100** percent of Democratic freshmen and 10% of Republican freshmen cast votes to protect either the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or Tongass National Forest;
- **75** percent of Democratic freshmen cosponsored a bill focused on protections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;
- **25** members of Congress used the League as a resource for speeches, press or media touches;
- **200** visits to Capitol Hill were conducted by League staff.

TOGETHER WE:

- **1M** Opposed the Trump administration’s draft environmental review for leasing in the Arctic Refuge. The League supported the submission of more than one million comments from constituents and helped facilitate the attendance of hundreds at public meetings in Alaska and Washington, D.C.;
- **Supported legislative hearings including an all-Indigenous panel and a diverse constituency panel that both spoke in support of the passage of H.R. 1146;**
- **Facilitated the inclusion of pro-Arctic Refuge language in the annual funding bill in the U.S. House of Representatives;**
- **Successfully pressured more than a dozen major U.S. and international banks to refuse financing of Arctic Refuge development; and**
- **Partnered with and supported our Gwich’in, veteran, faith and outdoor adventurer allies by flying them to Washington, D.C., to speak directly with congressional offices and testify before congressional committees on protecting the Arctic Refuge.**

2019 Donation Impact Report 3
Arctic Ocean

2019 saw the continued successful blocking of the Trump administration in its many attempts to open the Arctic Ocean to oil and gas development. In early 2019, the U.S. District Court in Alaska ruled in our favor and restored protections for 98% of the America’s Arctic Ocean waters that were put in place by President Obama in 2015 and 2016. The Trump administration has appealed the decision, and we continue the fight on all fronts to defend those Arctic Ocean protections.

Tongass National Forest

Alaska Wilderness League contributed to a number of successful efforts throughout 2019 to elevate the strong local and national opposition to the Trump administration’s controversial attempt to increase logging in the Tongass National Forest by removing federal Roadless Rule protections. The Roadless Rule protects more than 58 million acres of roadless forests across America, including large areas of the Chugach National Forest in Southcentral Alaska and the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska. The U.S. Forest Service launched a new rulemaking process to exempt Alaska from this rule in 2018 and, together with the help of our partners, we’ve worked on the ground in both Alaska and Washington, D.C., to build widespread support for keeping Alaska’s national forests intact.

National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPRA)

The League worked with coalition partners to generate strong opposition in 2019 for the Trump administration’s environmental review process for a new management plan in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in America’s Western Arctic. This plan, aimed at opening protected Special Areas to oil and gas development, saw broad opposition throughout the review process. As ConocoPhillips moves forward with new development in the Reserve, the League continues to monitor how these new projects will impact the unique ecosystems of the Western Arctic while fighting to keep the current management plan in place.

Together We:

- Confronted the Trump administration’s attempt to remove Roadless Rule protections for the Tongass by supporting the submission of a quarter of a million comments in response to its proposal to gut the rule;
- Facilitated the holding of a congressional oversight hearing featuring diverse witnesses in the U.S. House of Representatives that highlighted the importance of Roadless Rule protections;
- Increased congressional support for the bicameral Roadless Area Conservation Act, which to date, has more than 100 cosponsors across the U.S. House of Representative and U.S. Senate;
- Facilitated the passage of a funding amendment in the U.S. House of Representatives that would end taxpayer subsidies for large-scale old-growth logging in the Tongass, with 13 Republicans voting in favor; and
- Filed litigation that ultimately succeeded in stopping what would have been the largest old-growth sale in the United States in decades on Prince of Wales Island.

Together We:

- Opposed removal of Special Area protections, along with hundreds of thousands of others submitting comments to the new management plans; and
- Increased support from members in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate for protecting Special Areas in the Reserve.
ON THE GROUND IN ALASKA

Alaska Wilderness League’s team in Anchorage works to bridge the gap between Alaska and Washington, D.C. by elevating the voices of Alaskans in our nation’s capital while educating those in D.C. about how Alaskans want to interact with and preserve their “backyard.”

We supported regional partners by hosting and supporting fly-ins that elevated a variety of perspectives about Alaska in Washington, D.C. A cornerstone of this work is centering the voice of the Gwich’in Nation through our partnership with the Gwich’in Steering Committee, which was amplified through four organized trips to D.C. where Gwich’in representatives shared their stories directly with lawmakers to advocate for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge protections.

The past year also focused on strengthening partnerships with athletes and adventurers from throughout the U.S., many of whom traveled to D.C. in May for a lobby week co-hosted with the American Packrafting Association and Protect Our Winters. That advocacy effort focused on Arctic Refuge protections and culminated in a solidarity float on D.C.’s Potomac River featuring two rafts — christened Olaus and Ms. Mardy — that have traveled across the Arctic Refuge six times, collecting stories and signatures from those passionate about conserving this invaluable landscape.

Within Alaska, we held several events in Anchorage focused on raising awareness of the Indigenous rights and climate impacts that would result from developing the Arctic Refuge. More than 100 attendees from Anchorage’s outdoor recreation community gathered for a night of conversation around Arctic Refuge activism and adventure, listening to advocates and renowned explorers including Luc Mehl and Roman Dial.

In order to ensure that pro-conservation Alaskan voices were represented in D.C. to the fullest extent, we made efforts to collect feedback and help deliver messages advocating for public land protections to members of Congress. We hosted a variety of informal “living room” conversations with influential Alaskans, seeking their insight to aid in our framing and discussion of conservation issues in Alaska and Washington, D.C., alike. And we helped thousands of Alaskans raise their voice to Congress, including 972 Alaskans who signed a single letter asking Congress to restore Arctic Refuge protections.

By the numbers

- **4** Number of trips where Gwich’in representatives shared stories directly with lawmakers to advocate for Arctic Refuge protections;
- **2** Number of packrafts that have traveled throughout the Arctic Refuge and floated down the Potomac river during a week of federal advocacy;
- **972** Number of Alaskans who signed a letter asking Congress to restore Arctic Refuge protections; and
- **2X** Our Instagram following has nearly doubled since switching the focus to an authentic Alaskan perspective. You can follow us at: @keepalaskawild
Alaska Wilderness League is committed to educating and empowering all people to advocate for protection of Alaska’s public lands. With this goal in mind, in 2019 the League hosted dozens of events including presentations and congressional office meetings; as well as placement of earned media pieces, all demonstrating the widespread and diverse support Alaska’s special areas have in communities across the country.

Our work with diverse partners from all around the U.S. amplifies and demonstrates significant public support for Alaska’s public lands. From veterans to athletes, outdoor industry brands to faith organizations, our partners are key to our continuing success. We organized opportunities throughout the year to highlight our partners, their unique voices and experiences with Alaska’s public lands, as well as tools for them to engage their broad networks.

Collected more than a million comments calling for protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In February, the League organized the conservation community to turn out at the one formal Bureau of Land Management hearing in Washington, D.C., and hosted two additional community hearings in Albuquerque, NM, and Denver, CO, allowing hundreds more citizens to testify in opposition to opening the coastal plain for oil and gas development. The community hearings featured Gwich’in representatives and numerous partner voices including additional Indigenous representatives, athletes, veterans, small business owners and members of the conservation community.

Worked with our partners at Protect Our Winters and the American Packrafting Association to bring professional athletes, packrafting enthusiasts and Alaskan adventurers to Washington, D.C., to advocate for Arctic Refuge protections in May 2019.

Supported The North Face with planning and logistics for a delegation of young artists and influencers to visit the Arctic Refuge coastal plain in June 2019, leading to a prominent feature in Teen Vogue, a video on YouTube with more than 73,000 views, a photo exhibit (with supporting book) and additional email and social media content that garnered 20 million impressions, a reach of 60 million and 340,000 email opens. These young leaders also drove 5,000 actions in opposition of Arctic Refuge drilling, with most activists under 30 years old.

The week of the successful vote on H.R. 1146, the Alaska Wilderness League office was busy with a variety of constituencies all coming together to advocate for the Arctic Refuge. Among these groups were veterans and youth, representatives of the Gwich’in Nation, a group of young explorers and a collection of athletes, all of whom shared their personal experiences to congressional lawmakers in a collective effort to garner support for the bill. The fly-ins utilized strong partnerships with groups including Veterans for Peace, Soul River Inc., Gwich’in Steering Committee, The North Face and Protect our Winters to ensure the right voices were heard, ultimately leading to successful passage of the bill. These groups all met with congressional offices ahead of the vote, participated in a press conference with Gwich’in leaders, congressional champions and other partners, and joined the community to celebrate when the bill was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In addition, we hosted our first “grasstops” fly-in in October, with participants from our Leadership Council as well as other influential Alaska Wilderness League donors and board members. Furthermore, we channeled your actions, donations and support on the darkest day of the year in December — the Winter Solstice — and projected a massive video onto the side of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) building in Washington, D.C., to show officials they can’t hide their destructive plans to get more dirty oil in the shadows (photo at left).
DIGITAL & MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Our communications work serves to build the profile and brand of the organization through educating and inspiring people to protect wild Alaska, while also supporting and elevating the voices of our national and Alaska-based partners. In 2019, this effort focused on regular outreach to national and local media, results-oriented communications to our membership, showing strong leadership within our coalitions, and focusing on efficient but powerful use of social media. In all our digital outreach and communications, we aim to illustrate the value of our public lands and waters in Alaska and highlight how leaders, members like you and the broader American public can help keep them wild.


Online Advocacy Toolkit

In addition to the above achievements, the League made significant website upgrades in 2019, including wide-ranging improvements such as the addition of an enhanced digital annual report, and elevation of the League’s Wild Alaska Blog throughout the site. To increase our capacity to support our members and activists like you, we also launched an online Activist Resources Toolkit (AlaskaWild.org/Grassroots-Toolkit), bringing all the tools and information you need to amplify your voice and build support in your own community. With this new toolkit, you can further help our work by contacting your representatives and elected officials, signing petitions, educating communities and engaging with us online. We hope you will use these new tools and make a change in your community today!

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our Mission

Alaska Wilderness League galvanizes support to secure vital policies that protect and defend America’s last great wild public lands and waters.

Alaska Wilderness League Action

Alaska Wilderness League Action (AWLA) was founded in 2004 as a 501(c)4 affiliate organization to the 501(c)3 Alaska Wilderness League. AWLA’s mission is to galvanize support to build political power necessary to protect and defend America’s last great wild lands and waters. AWLA focuses all efforts toward meeting that mission by elevating Alaska conservation issues and developing strong reciprocal relationships with congressional leaders and their staff through the election cycle as well as after candidates are elected. It also holds lawmakers accountable for their votes and actions through grassroots and communication strategies. For more information about AWLA’s current efforts or to sign up for email alerts, visit AlaskaWildAction.org.
New Board Members and Staff

In 2019, we welcomed Kaden McArthur, Legislative Coordinator and Anna Robinson, Development Coordinator to our team in Washington, D.C.

The League also added an important group of new and diverse voices to help guide the organization, welcoming to its board: world-class skier and The North Face athlete Kit DesLauriers; former Obama administration official Pat Pourchot; Associate Campaign Director with the Sierra Club Chris Hill; and, seasoned communications professional with Spitfire Strategies Midy Aponte.

Learn more about the talented and passionate staff working at Alaska Wilderness League at alaskawild.org/who-we-are/about-us/staff-full/ and read about the dedicated and supportive volunteers on our board at alaskawild.org/who-we-are/board-of-directors/

Our Commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

At Alaska Wilderness League, we recognize the need to expand our understanding of the systems of power and oppression at play in today’s world. A commitment to centering our work in justice, equity, diversity and inclusion is critical to our mission and effectiveness. It is imperative to build and maintain transformational relationships with our partners, broaden our base of support and make our organization an even better home for its employees.

In 2019, we dove deeper into our journey towards a more just and equitable organization by creating justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) working groups for both our staff and board. Both groups partnered with the Avarna Group to serve as consultants during these early stages.

We implemented a variety of programs to develop our cultural competency and reimagine how our organization can play a role in creating a more just world through our conservation values.

Ultimately, we believe a commitment to this journey will transform Alaska Wilderness League into an organization that better inspires, engages and supports the true breadth of advocates for Alaska’s wild places as well as the people and communities who depend on them.

Board of Directors*

Former President Jimmy Carter, Honorary Co-Chair
The Honorable Robert Mrazek, Honorary Co-Chair
Tom Campion, Chair Emeritus
Betsy Loyless, President of the Board
Pat Pourchot, Vice President of the Board
Ellen Ferguson, Secretary
Gareth Martins, Treasurer

Midy Aponte	Debbie S. Miller
Toni Armstrong	Lorraine Netro
Steve Barker	Brian O’Donnell
Kit DesLauriers	Jody Juneby Potts
Chris Hill	Richard Spener

*Board listing as of July 2020.
**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS Fiscal Year 2019**

**Expenses**
- Total Revenue—$2,458,772
- Total Program Expenses—$1,562,606 (76%)
- Change in Net Assets—$391,808
- Net Assets, Beginning of Year—$2,826,553
- Net Assets, End of Year—$3,218,361

*In 2019 Alaska Wilderness League shifted from a calendar year to a fiscal year. Revenue and expenses reflected in this report occurred between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019.*

### 2019 Foundation Support
- Anonymous • 444S Foundation • Alaska Conservation Foundation • Andrew Sabin Family Foundation • Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation • Ira and Edgra Ringler Family Foundation • Cameron Foundation • Martin-Fabert Foundation • Northlight Foundation • Overbrook Foundation • The Campion Foundation • The Conservation Alliance • Tortuga Foundation • True North Foundation • Wilburforce Foundation • The Volgenau Foundation

### 2019 Corporate Support
- Alaska Guide Collective • Avocado Mattress • DSquared Hospitality Company • Oars Companies, Inc. • Osprey Packs, Inc. • Patagonia, Inc • The North Face

### Leadership Council
Established in 2019, the Alaska Wilderness League Leadership Council is a group of Alaska lands advocates who meet as thought leaders to advise and assist in the planning and execution of League goals. For more information including how to get involved in the Council, please contact Chris@AlaskaWild.org.

**July 2020 roster:**
- Marta Chase • Ken Fabert • Bruce Gitlin • Karyn and Jon Hartland • Dan Johnson • Cory Jones • Susan Lubetkin • William Meadows • Judy and Jim Wagonfeld • Erin Younger and Ed Liebow
The Wild Giving Society is a group of donors who lead the effort to preserve the Alaska wilderness. The support from this group of incredible allies in 2019 allowed the League to be courageous and constant in our endeavor to protect Alaska’s wildest places. To join this group of our most dedicated partners, call our development department at 202-544-5205.

Anonymous (3)
Cynthia Adams
Louise Adler*
Ms. Rachel Anderson and Ms. Sally G. McCoy
Valerie M. Anton
Midy Aponte
Dwight and Tammy Baker
Paul and Susan Ballinger
Steve and Nona Barker
Thomas A. Barron
Paul Beaudet
Dr. Gloria M. Bertucci
Steve Black
Loren Blackford and Michael Dubno
Betty Blumenkamp
David Bock
Richard and Ann Boelter
Erika Boka*
Teddi Bozych*
Peter P. Bradley*
Sandra L. Bragg
Barbara Brock
Deborah Brower*
Jim Campbell and Carol Kasza
Amy Campion
Kevin Campion
Tom and Sonya Campion
Mrs. and Mr. Meta Carr
Sidney Cathey
Douglas and Sherry Caves
John and Theresa Cederholm
Marta Chase and Kicab Castaneda-Mendez
Helen and Arnold Cherullo*
Dorothy and Bob Childers
Jeffrey Christianson
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Susan N. Clark
Andrew Conru
Shirley W. Cooper
Lynne Corn
David and Linda Cornfield
Keith Cowan
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William Donnelly
The Douglass Foundation
Kenny Down
H. Clifton Eames, Jr.
Andrew Eberhard
Ms. Ann Eggebrecht
Thomas Ely
Patrick Endres
Mark and Karen Endresen
Jacob and Margo Engelstein
Ms. Dianne Engleke
Becky Erickson*
Roy Farrell
Ellen Ferguson
Scott Ferguson
Richard and Marjorie Fiddler
Louisa Fleischmann
Mark and Willow Follett
Anne and Jonathan Fox
Anissa Berry-Frick
Justine Frischmann
Laura And Ron Fritz
Andrew and Diana Frost
Kristi Meyers Gallup
Catherine Garner
Bruce Gitlin
Kristen Grimm and David Dreher
Amy and Chris Gulick
Jocelyn Guyer and Joshua Selldman
Maureen Hackett
Judith Hance
Jim Hanig
Rebecca Hanrahan
Marilyn Harlan
Steven Harmer
Jessie M. Harris
Peter and Sheri Harris
Ms. Sally Harris
Karyn and Jonathan Hartland
Lauren Heinz
Brian Henning
Kay Henry and Rob Center
Kirk Hoessle
Melissa Hoffer and Robert Plotkin
Bob Hoffman
Thomas and Kathryn Hornben
Loren and Isabel Hostek
Meredith James
Don Janes
Christine and Steve Janney
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Ms. Lauris Jensen
Darcy and Daniel Johnson*
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Ron and Eva Sher
Dave Shreffler and Ann Soule
Greg Singleton
Judy Sorrel
Patty and Stu Spencer

*Indicates that the attached Wild Giving Society member is also a monthly donor.
2019 Wild Stars Club

The Wild Stars Monthly Giving Program is a group of dedicated supporters of wild Alaska who make monthly donations to the League. Thanks to their ongoing support, we are able to continue our fights to protect the most pristine places in Alaska every day of the year. To join this special group of wilderness advocates, please call our development department at 202-544-5205.
We recognize that our offices are located on the traditional territories of the Dena’ina, Anacostan and Piscataway peoples. We acknowledge the land stewardship and place-based knowledge of the peoples of these territories.