

FISCAL YEAR 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE

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Cover Photo: Dave Shreffler
Background Photo: Erin McKittrick

ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE

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2025

AT A GLANCE

124,000 Total Supporter Actions

89,000 Arctic-focused Actions

55 Congressional Meetings Through Fly-ins

30+ Fly-in Participants

4.9 MILLION Digital Impressions

647,000 Video Views

814 Media Mentions

1.6 MILLION Raised for Arctic Defense Campaign Coalition Efforts

Background Photo: Aundre Larrow • www.aundrelarrow.com



Photo Credit: Dave Shreffler

ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KRISTEN MILLER

Dear Friend,

In 2025, Alaska became a major national target. The second Trump administration arrived with new determination to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Western Arctic to drilling, fast-track Ambler Road, and dismantle protections we spent decades building. There were weeks when the attacks came so fast, it was hard to imagine how we could hold the line.

But you helped us do it.

When harmful Arctic provisions threatened to pass through the Senate budget reconciliation bill, our community rose up to get the worst parts removed. When the Roadless Rule came under fire, with partners, we helped more than 600,000 people speak up. When Ambler Road resurfaced in Congress, grassroots opposition helped push back. And when Alaska's voices needed to be heard in Washington, dozens of advocates—including Gwich'in and Iñupiaq leaders—held more than 55 meetings on Capitol Hill, bringing the truth about what is at stake directly to those making decisions about Alaska's future.

None of this happened by accident. It all happened because people like you showed up for Alaska.

Alaska Wilderness League inspired more than 124,000 actions in 2025. Our partnership with the Gwich'in Steering Committee grew deeper and stronger. And donors and coalition partners came together to raise more than $1.6 million for the Arctic Defense Campaign when it mattered most.

However, the threats are not behind us, and this administration has made its priorities clear: The pressure on Alaska's wild places will not let up.

But neither will we.

Alaska Wilderness League has never been stronger, more connected to the people and places we fight alongside, or more certain of what is at stake. **We are not here for one administration, one budget cycle, or one news cycle. We are here for the long haul.**

Every person who took action, gave, showed up, spoke out, or simply paid attention in 2025 helped prove that this movement is bigger than any single threat against it.

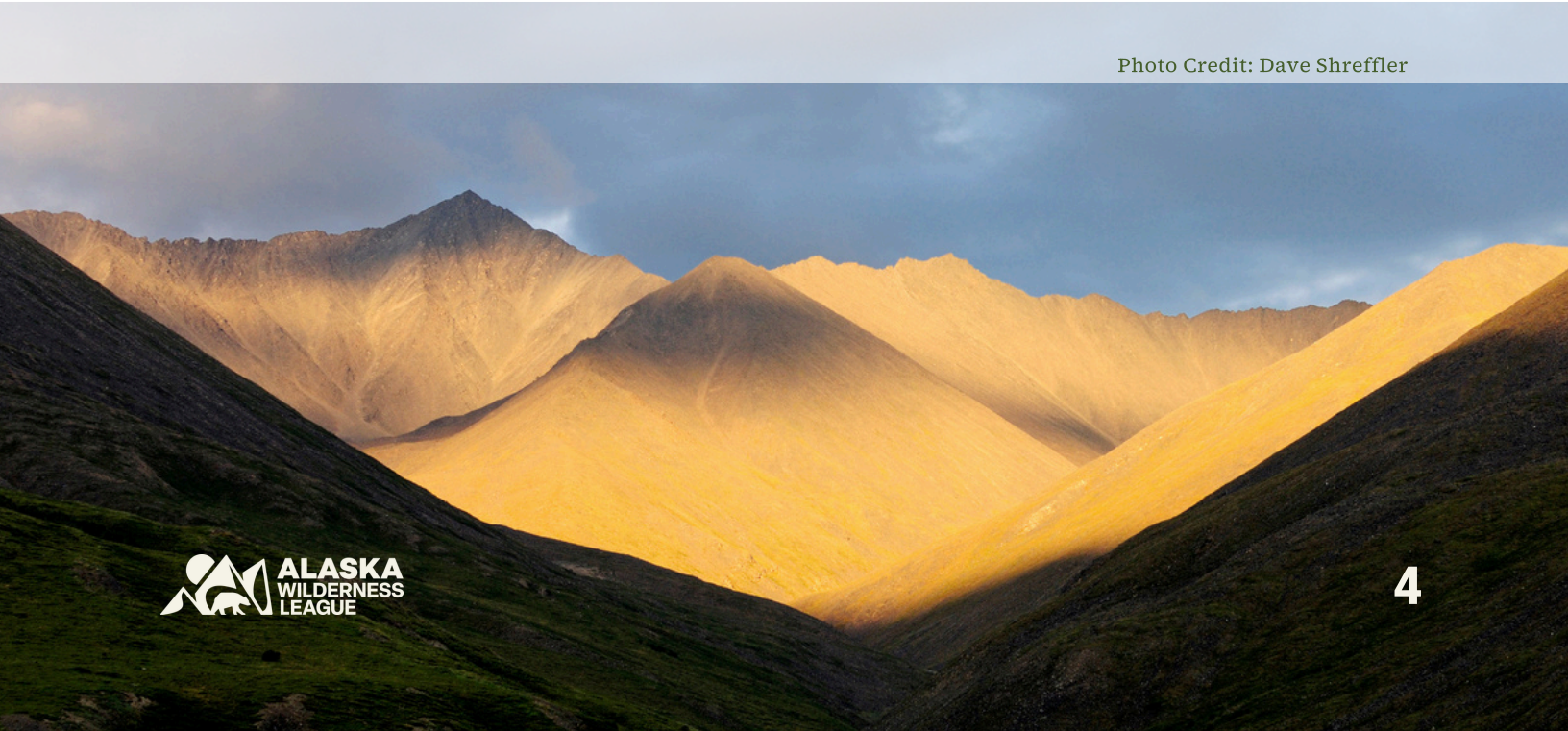
Thank you for standing with wild Alaska.



Kristen Miller
Alaska Wilderness League
Executive Director



Photo Credit: Dave Shreffler



FEATURE STORY

THE REINTRODUCTION:
ARCTIC REFUGE WILDERNESS BILL

Photo: Lincoln Else

Background Photo: Aundre Larrow/www.aundrelarrow.com

On April 29, 2025, a powerful coalition of congressional champions, Indigenous leaders, and public lands advocates gathered to announce the reintroduction of the Arctic Refuge Protection Act, a bill that would permanently protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as designated Wilderness—the highest level of conservation status under federal law.

This landmark, bipartisan legislation is led by Representatives Jared Huffman and Brian Fitzpatrick in the House, and Senators Ed Markey, Maria Cantwell, and Michael Bennet in the Senate, whose unwavering leadership and commitment to protecting America's wildest and most ecologically sensitive landscapes was on full display at the press conference.

"The Coastal Plain is the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge," said Kristen Miller, Executive Director at Alaska Wilderness League. "It's where caribou birth their calves, polar bears den, and millions of migratory birds return to nest each year. This is one of the last, most spectacular intact ecosystems on Earth and the cultural homeland of the Gwich'in Nation. It deserves the strongest possible protection."

Photo: Patrick Endres



THE REINTRODUCTION:
ARCTIC REFUGE WILDERNESS BILL

FEATURE STORY



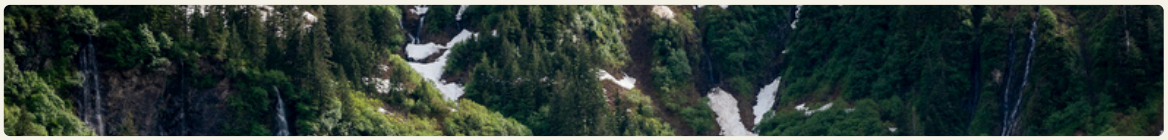
The press conference highlighted the legislation's importance for conservation, as well as for justice, cultural stewardship, and honoring the rights of the Gwich'in Nation, who call the Coastal Plain **"lizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit"—the sacred place where life begins.**

The press event took place against the backdrop of growing concern over efforts to fast-track industrial development in the Arctic Refuge. Proposed provisions in budget reconciliation and new Secretarial Orders under Interior Secretary Doug Burgum have prioritized oil and gas interests over Indigenous sovereignty and ecological integrity, despite a proven lack of industry interest in developing the Coastal Plain.

The Arctic Refuge Protection Act offers a permanent path forward—ensuring future generations inherit a land still rich in wildlife, culture, and the possibility of true wildness.

Photo: Lincoln Else

DEFENDING ALASKA'S PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS



PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS MOST

As threats to Alaska's public lands and waters continued to emerge, Alaska Wilderness League worked across multiple fronts to defend the places that matter most. Through strategic advocacy, coalition engagement, grassroots mobilization, and public education, we pushed back against efforts to weaken protections and advanced a vision for a wilder, more resilient Alaska.



Photos: Dave Shreffler

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

We mobilized support for the Roadless Rule and contributed member comments to the more than 600,000 public comments that supported maintaining these critical protections. At the same time, we worked to build congressional support for Roadless protections, reinforcing the importance of safeguarding the Tongass for future generations.

AMBLER ROAD

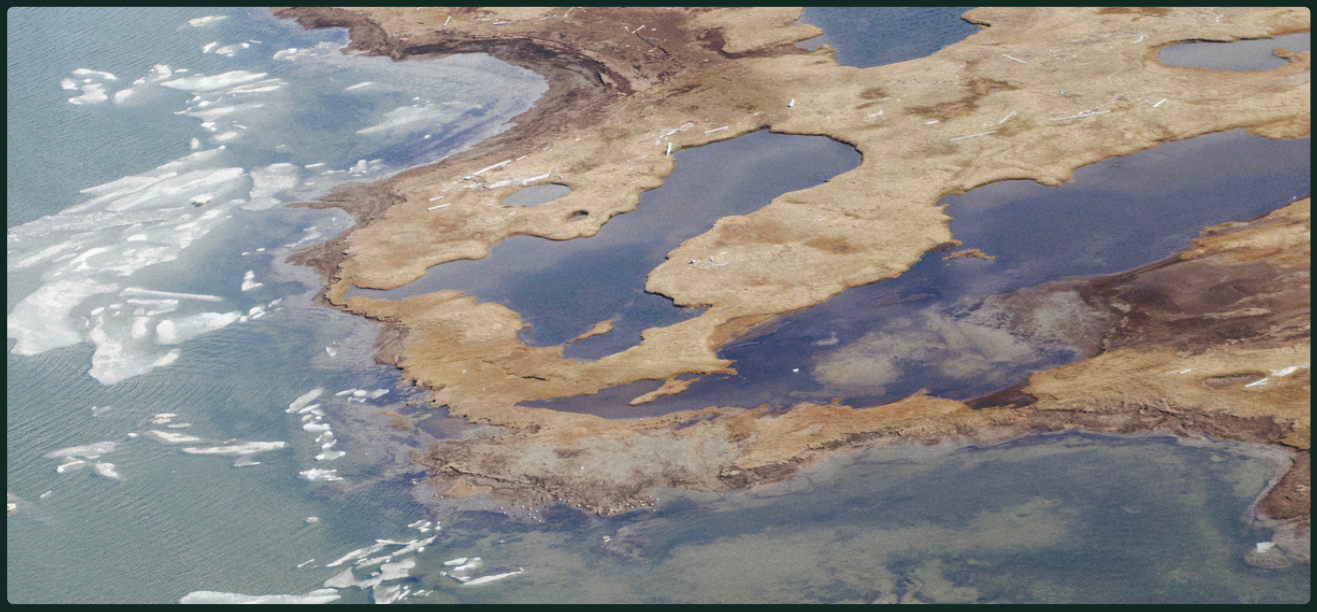
We helped stop legislative provisions that would have advanced the Ambler Road project and worked alongside partners to mobilize grassroots opposition. Through coordinated coalition action, we helped ensure strong resistance to renewed efforts to move the project forward.

ARCTIC OCEAN

We opposed new offshore leasing plans and coordinated public comments and national advocacy efforts to defend Arctic waters from expanded oil and gas development. Together with our partners and supporters, we elevated the importance of protecting one of the world's most vulnerable marine ecosystems.

Holding AIDEA Accountable

We advanced public education and legislative awareness around state-backed megaproject financing, helping shine a spotlight on AIDEA's role in supporting large-scale development proposals across Alaska.



Photos: Aundre Larrow/www.aundrelarrow.com

DEFENDING AMERICA'S ARCTIC



Photo: Dave Scheffler

The Arctic quickly became a primary target of the new administration. In response, Alaska Wilderness League led advocacy efforts in Congress, the media, coalition spaces, and public engagement campaigns to defend the Arctic Refuge and Western Arctic from expanded oil and gas development. Working alongside partners, Indigenous leaders, and supporters across the country, we helped build strong opposition to efforts that would weaken protections for these globally significant landscapes.

Our work delivered meaningful results.

We helped remove harmful Arctic Refuge and Western Arctic provisions from the final Senate budget reconciliation bill, expanded support for the Arctic Refuge Protection Act, and supported multiple fly-ins and advocacy events that connected decision-makers with Arctic advocates. We also strengthened partnerships with Gwich'in and Iñupiaq leaders and maintained active litigation challenging harmful decisions affecting the region. Together, these efforts helped defend America's Arctic during a critical moment and reinforced the growing movement for lasting protections.

PEOPLE POWER IN ACTION

Protecting Alaska's wild places requires more than policy expertise. It takes people speaking up, taking action, and making their voices heard.

Throughout the year, supporters across the country demonstrated the power of grassroots advocacy, helping build momentum for conservation and strengthen our collective impact.

Photo: Lincoln Else



A virtual advocay meeting.

Together, our supporters took more than 124,000 actions in defense of Alaska's public lands and waters. We facilitated 10 in-district advocacy meetings that helped connect constituents directly with their elected officials. We also organized letters-to-the-editor campaigns that elevated conservation voices in communities across the country.

Growing engagement from supporters nationwide greatly advanced our work, while new regional organizing efforts expanded our reach and strengthened our movement for the challenges ahead.

CENTERING ALASKA NATIVE VOICES

Photo: Richard Spener / richardspenerphotography.com



Strong partnerships with Indigenous leaders and communities remain central to our work. Throughout the year, we continued collaborating with the Gwich'in Steering Committee and partners through the Arctic Defense Campaign. Joining together with these groups allowed us to work together to advance shared conservation goals and elevate Alaska Native voices in key policy discussions.

We also supported community gatherings and leadership development opportunities that strengthened relationships and helped cultivate the next generation of advocates. By bringing Indigenous perspectives directly to policymakers, we ensured that those most connected to Alaska's lands and waters had a voice in the decisions shaping their future.









Photos: by Ben Block of the 2025 DC Gwich'in Fly-in

STORYTELLING THAT INSPIRES ACTION

REACHING MILLIONS

4.9 MILLION
IMPRESSIONS

204,597
ENGAGEMENTS

27,939
LINK CLICKS

647,000
VIDEO VIEWS

SIGNIFICANT TIKTOK **AUDIENCE GROWTH**

814
MEDIA MENTIONS

VIRAL AMBLER ROAD ADVOCACY MOMENT
REACHING OVER 1 MILLION PEOPLE

COVERAGE IN:

NEW YORK TIMES, AP, REUTERS, POLITICO, ROLLING STONE, THE GUARDIAN, AND OTHERS.

TikTok: @alaskawild Instagram: @keepalaskawild

Background Photo: Aundre Larrow / www.aundrelarrow.com

WHO WE ARE



Staff Retreat 2026

STAFF

KRISTEN MILLER
Executive Director

AMIRA ABUJBARA
Arctic Defense Campaign Coordinator

ANDREA BLOCK
Executive & Operations Coordinator

ALEX COHEN
Government Affairs Director

ASHLEY DAVIS
National Outreach Manager

MADDIE HALLORAN
Alaska State Director

ANGELA JOHNSON
Development Coordinator

MLADEN MATES
Senior Director of Finance & Operations

ANDY MODEROW
Senior Director of Policy

LOIS NORRGARD
National Field Organizer & JEDI Manager

Background Photo: Erin McKittrick

ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE

STAFF CONT.

JACKIE PASEK
Senior Development Director

EMMA POWELL
Federal Advocacy Manager

ANNA ROBINSON
Development Operations Manager

LIZA SARACINA
Annual Giving Manager

MONICA SCHERER
Senior Director of Campaigns

ANJA SEMANCO
Communications Director

KATIE UMPHLETT
Arctic Campaign Manager

CLAIRE WARNCKE
Alaska State Policy Fellow

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Vice President

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DEBBIE S. MILLER
Secretary

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Chad Brown
Nikki Buffa
Lisa Collins
Kit DesLauriers
Steve Feldgus
Ellen Ferguson
Tonya Garnett
Gareth Martins
James Edward Mills
Greg Moga
Jody Juneby Potts-Joseph
Melissa Schwartz
Leonard Steinberg

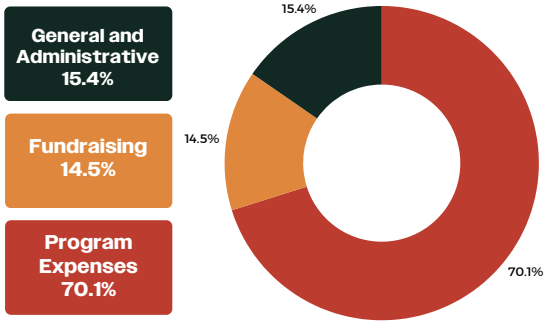
Board and staff Rosters as of September 2026

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

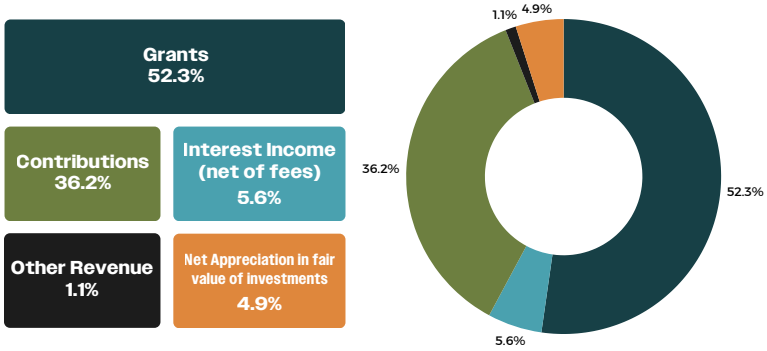
Revenue and Expenses (Audited)

FY 2025 • September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025

EXPENSES



REVENUE



Revenues, Support, Gains and Losses	
Grants	2,190,592
Contributions	1,515,412
Interest income, net of fees	233,956
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	206,427
Other Revenue	45,411
Total Revenue	**$4,191,798**
Expenses	
Program Expenses	
Arctic Refuge	1,373,806
NPRA	550,859
Tongass	69,392
Rapid Defense	109,661
Arctic Defense Campaign	389,622
Total Program Expenses	$2,493,340
Fundraising	514,327
General and Administrative	546,674
Total Expenses	**$3,554,341**
Change in Net Assets	**$637,457**
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	**$8,876,477**
Net Assets, End of Year	**$9,513,934**

ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE



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Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 202-544-5205

ANCHORAGE OFFICE

121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite #105
Anchorage, AK 99503
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ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE ACTION

Alaska Wilderness League Action is a 501(c)4 affiliate organization to the 501(c)3 Alaska Wilderness League. The organization deploys citizen support to realize political change, legislative gains and accountability of Congress and the administration to protect Alaska's wild landscapes. Find out more at AlaskaWildAction.org.

Photos: Dave Scheffler

Thank you to all our donors.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

We are so grateful for the thousands of you who gave individual donations or monthly contributions to preserve public lands and waters in Alaska. **Every dollar made a difference for these iconic wild places, and the countless lives that depend on them.**

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

Thank you to the generous foundations and companies that provided financial support to us in 2025, including those who wish to remain anonymous.

444S Foundation
Alaska Conservation Foundation
Campion Advocacy Fund
Holdfast Collective
Josephine and Louise Crane Foundation, Inc.
Konzen Family Foundation
Martin Fabert Foundation
New-Land Foundation, Inc.
Northlight Foundation
Patagonia
The Campion Foundation
The Conservation Alliance
The Volgenau Foundation
Tortuga Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation

Photo: Dave Shreffler

THANK YOU

All our work to protect wild Alaska is made possible by the generosity of supporters like you. Thank you for standing with us, staying committed to the long fight, and helping safeguard Alaska's wild lands and waters for generations to come.

Background Photo: Dave Shreffler
Back Cover Photo: Kim Elton


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WILDERNESS
LEAGUE