



# A PATH TO WILDERNESS

THE WILDERNESS LAND TRUST  
—  
2020 ANNUAL REPORT





#### MISSION

We Keep the Promise of Wilderness — by acquiring and transferring private lands (inholdings) to public ownership that complete designated and proposed wilderness areas, or directly protect wilderness values.

#### VALUES

We revere our remaining wild places, a legacy to pass on to future generations, the tenacity to work until the job is done and treating everyone with fairness.

#### VISION

We envision a National Wilderness Preservation System that is complete, secure and accessible.



On the cover: Anderson Lake in the **Collegiate Peaks Wilderness** in Colorado.  
*John Fielder photo. [www.johnfielder.com](http://www.johnfielder.com)*

## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT



**S**ince our founding in 1992, The Wilderness Land Trust has permanently protected nearly 53,000 acres and added 493 parcels of land to 108 different wilderness areas across the Western U.S. Your support during the past year provided us an opportunity to purchase another 10 parcels totaling 1,495 acres and transfer just over 354 acres to public ownership. Thank You!

Every completed project is an opportunity to pause and celebrate as we take another step towards the fulfillment of our mission. Each land acquisition, large or small, also requires a significant investment of time, travel and money to ensure its success. Here's why:

We utilize an extensive state lands inventory that prioritizes all designated wilderness inholdings to guide our outreach to landowners. When we do meet with someone, we discuss their needs as they contemplate the sale of a parcel that has often been in the family for generations. This includes more than a dozen questions to determine whether or not acquisition of the land is possible and identify potential challenges to transferring it to the surrounding wilderness.

We then initiate a nine-step process that guides the development of a legal contract between the Trust and the landowner. This activity includes often difficult travel to get to a project site to review the property, determine whether an environmental assessment is needed and conduct an appraisal to establish fair market

value. Next, we develop a legal contract, conduct a title review, secure liability insurance and embark on the most challenging step of all – raising financial resources to purchase the land.

The excitement builds in the days leading up to the closing and can be felt throughout the organization when we take further steps to process all the paperwork and legally record the purchase. All told, there are nearly 40 different actions or steps we must consider to remove a private inholding from the existing wilderness. Time to celebrate before we quickly turn our attention to the multi-step process of transferring the property to the federal government for permanent protection.

***The Wilderness Land Trust has permanently protected nearly 53,000 acres and added 493 parcels of land to 108 different designated wilderness areas.***

On behalf of the entire staff and board, thank you again for your generous support as we work through the lengthy and often complex stages of each project. We take pride in our professional approach and embrace the opportunity to put our expertise to work to protect wilderness near you.

Denise Schlener,  
Board Chair

Brad Borst,  
President



# WILDERNESS PROTECTED

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

	PROPERTY	WILDERNESS AREA	STATE	PARCELS	ACRES	AGENCY
PURCHASED	Silver Creek	Wild Sky	WA	1	30.7	USFS
	Lagartija Creek	Sabinoso	NW	1	320	BLM
	Lucy Lode	Holy Cross	CO	1	17.4	USFS
	Little Sur	Ventana	CA	1	87.4	USFS
	Mormon Meadows	Bodie WSA	CA	3	960	BLM
	Mohave 2	Mt. Tipton	AZ	2	80	BLM
	<b>Total</b>	–	–	<b>9</b>	<b>1,495.5</b>	–
TRANSFERRED	Rex Montis Mine	John Muir	CA	3	21.7	USFS
	Trout Creek III	Santa Lucia	CA	3	324	USFS
	Grandview Lode	Collegiate Peaks	CO	1	8.7	USFS
	<b>Total</b>	–	–	<b>7</b>	<b>354.4</b>	–

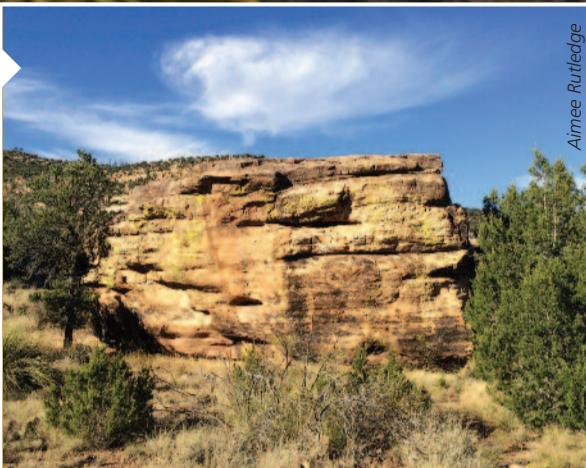
## PURCHASED

By purchasing 80 acres in the **Mt. Tipton Wilderness** in Arizona, we have removed the threat of private development on this property. The result of our work in Arizona has now protected 63 parcels and 2,488 acres in five designated wilderness areas, including 17 parcels totaling 550 acres in the Mt. Tipton Wilderness.

David Kirk

## PURCHASED

The Trust purchased Lagartija Creek, a 320-acre parcel of land that abuts the **Sabinoso Wilderness** boundary in New Mexico, removing the threat of private development. The Trust has now purchased nearly 4,800 acres adjacent to and within designated wilderness and national conservation lands in New Mexico.



Aimee Rutledge







## TRANSFERRED

*The transfer of a nine-acre parcel in the **Collegiate Peaks Wilderness** in Colorado to the USFS has protected this beautiful land near Independence Pass from development, road construction and the disruption of vital habitat for threatened and endangered plants. This property is located in the view plane of the preserved ghost town of Independence and State Highway 82, a Colorado Scenic Byway.*

## PURCHASED

*We purchased 30 acres in the **Wild Sky Wilderness** in the state of Washington as part of a multi-year effort to remove numerous mining claims that threaten old growth forest, critical forested watersheds and vital habitat for flora and fauna. By systematically acquiring these parcels, we are stitching together the wilderness, one project at a time.*

Brad Borst



## VITAL PARTNERSHIPS

Atascadero Horseman's Association  
Backcountry Horseman of California  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern Sierra Land Trust  
Friends of Nevada Wilderness  
Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness  
Independence Pass Foundation  
Mono Lake Committee  
National Park Service  
Pacific Coast Long Riders  
Resource Legacy Fund  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
San Luis Obispo Parks Open Space and Trails Foundation  
Siskiyou Land Trust  
Southeast Alaska Land Trust  
Trust for Public Land  
U.S. Forest Service  
Ventana Wilderness Alliance  
Whatcom Land Trust

## PURCHASED

*The Trust closed on two properties totaling 960 acres in California's Eastern Sierra. This land provides vital habitat for sage grouse and other species in the rare and diverse Sagebrush steppe that is vastly underrepresented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. It also contains a critical water source for all wildlife in the surrounding area. The properties are located in the Bodie Hills, adjacent and integral to three **Wilderness Study Areas** – **Bodie Mountain, Mount Beideman and Mormon Meadows**.*

## TRANSFERRED

*We successfully transferred the last of three Trout Creek properties to public ownership within the Los Padres National Forest in California. This 324-acre piece of land is located near Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach and San Luis Obispo. It includes a trail system that provides a key link to the planned California Condor Trail – a 400-mile route connecting the southern and northern parts of the forest. We have permanently protected more than 800 acres bordering the **Garcia and Santa Lucia Wilderness** areas.*

Aimee Rutledge



T. Gettelman





# FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2020

Fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020, UNAUDITED\*

**Beginning Net Assets** **\$2,859,244**

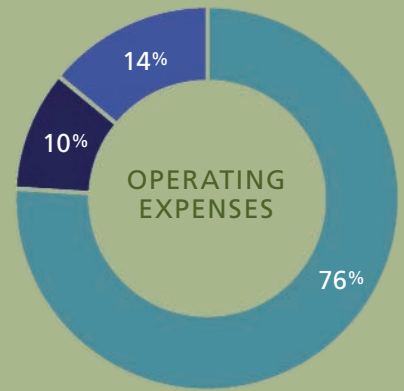
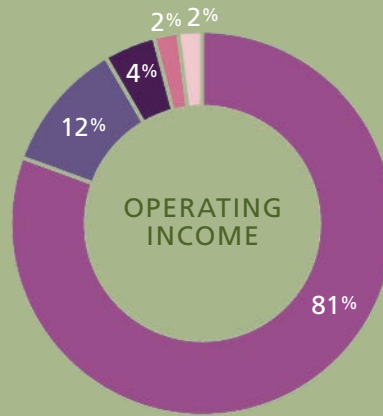
## OPERATING INCOME

Contributions	\$820,402	●
Operating Grants	\$120,000	●
Other Income	\$36,016	●
Land Sales	\$23,315	●
Reimbursements	\$15,900	●
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,015,633</b>	

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Lands Program Support	\$678,246	●
Administrative	\$87,964	●
Fundraising	\$122,800	●
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$889,010</b>	

**Ending Net Assets** **\$2,985,867**



\*See audited financials on our website in November 2020

## Leave a wilderness legacy for future generations



Zack Porter

**The 1964 Wilderness Act** created a globally unique National Wilderness Preservation System that is a safe haven for threatened and endangered species, a reservoir of clean air and water, a refuge from the noise and pace of cities, and an opportunity to experience the profound beauty of nature.

They are special places meant to be cherished by ensuring they remain untrammelled, wild and free.

Help us fulfill the legacy of wilderness for future generations through the creation of a bequest in your will, a relatively simple and powerful way you can support our work to protect the wild places you and your family love.

Speak with a knowledgeable, reputable financial advisor today to help you get started.

To learn more contact Brad Borst, President, at 206-842-1214 or [brad@wildernesslandtrust.org](mailto:brad@wildernesslandtrust.org)

**Thank you for your generosity.**

# THANKS TO YOU

## FISCAL YEAR 2019–2020 HONOR ROLL

**For 28 years, The Wilderness Land Trust has been focused on one thing: making wilderness areas complete and secure. With sincere gratitude, we thank each and every one of you for your generous investment in our work.**

### Sentinel Fund

The Sentinel Fund advances The Trust's critical lands work. From acquiring high priority inholdings and edge holdings, to transferring these lands to public ownership and permanent wilderness protection, this is how the Trust fulfills its mission.

### Sentinel Society Members

Sentinel Society members provide essential support for ongoing wilderness lands projects by generously contributing \$1,000 or more annually.

### Sentinel Society Patron (\$10,000+)

Lyn & David Anderson  
Currie & Thomas A. Barron,  
Merlin Foundation  
craigslist Charitable Fund  
Jean Davenport  
Phillip Hocker  
Barbara Roastingear &  
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Dr. George Sardina  
Elizabeth C. Schoeberlein

### Sentinel Society Member (\$1,000 – \$9,999)

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Joe Albright & Marcia Kunstel,  
Joe Albright & Marcia Kunstel  
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Bradley W. Cameron  
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Mark Pearson  
Charles Pillsbury Resor  
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The Susan & Ford Schumann  
Foundation

The Summit Foundation  
James Wetter  
John Witmeyer

### (\$250 – \$499)

501 Commons - GiveBIG  
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Kathryn Sutcliffe  
Stephen & Lucinda Swartz  
Amy & Stephen Unfried  
Bryan L. Wyberg

### (Up to \$249)

Thanks to the 176 committed members who are the foundation of The Wilderness Land Trust.

**We appreciate the opportunity to recognize every donor. The Donor Honor Roll above includes gifts received during our last fiscal year, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. If you find an error or omission please accept our sincere apologies and contact us so that we may correct our records.**

### Grants

The Trust partners with grantors specializing in wilderness lands projects. We are very grateful for the essential resources they provide as well as their guidance and counsel.

Anonymous  
Gladys & Roland Harriman  
Foundation  
Oak Foundation  
The Conservation Alliance

### Wilderness Opportunity Fund

Donors to the Wilderness Opportunity Fund invest in The Trust's revolving capital fund for wilderness land acquisitions. The fund includes donations, grants and loans – including project specific funds and revolving funds.

Anonymous  
Dr. Paul F. Torrence  
Gladys & Roland Harriman  
Foundation

### Jean Hocker Memorial Wilderness Opportunity Fund

Ama Adams  
Lyn & David Anderson  
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MaryKay Walk & Beth Bills  
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Sarah Morrison  
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Mark Stevens  
Stephen & Lucinda Swartz  
Jennifer & Mike Taylor  
Amy & Stephen Unfried  
John & Nancy Wilbrecht  
John Witmeyer  
Mike Wolfson  
Andrew Zepp





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[wildernesslandtrust.org](http://wildernesslandtrust.org)

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# KEEPING WILDERNESS WILD

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**Kelly Conde**, Lands Specialist  
**Lisa Janeway**, Director of Operations  
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