



VITAL PROTECTION FOR OUR NATION'S WILDERNESS

THE WILDERNESS LAND TRUST
2021 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: Above the clouds in the North Cascades. The Wilderness Land Trust has numerous projects currently underway across western Washington state with a concentrated focus on the Wild Sky and Henry M. Jackson Wilderness areas. Combined, these two wilderness areas encompass more than 200,000 acres of rugged peaks, glaciated valleys and old growth forests. Photo by Patricia Thomas

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT

We pursue our mission with passion and urgency, rarely slowing down even during the challenges we faced at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Preparing an annual report allows us to pause and reflect on the past year, and the extraordinary people who make our success possible.

Since our founding in 1992, we’ve permanently protected nearly 53,000 acres across the American west and including Alaska – stunning places such as the Organ Mountain Wilderness National Monument in New Mexico, Collegiate Peaks Wilderness in Colorado, Castle Crags Wilderness in California and Wild Sky Wilderness in Washington state to name just a few. Along the way we’ve helped complete 17 federally designated wilderness areas by removing the last remaining private inholding. Think about that last statistic. Within the boundaries of these designations, private properties no longer threaten the surrounding landscape with residential, commercial or industrial development – all thanks to you.

But numbers and names only tell part of the story. These wild places reside in our hearts and nourish our souls. They beckon us to navigate unharnessed rivers with family and friends at the oar, summit a snow-capped peak to grab a passing cloud, or sit quietly at dusk as wolves howl from the across the valley.

As we prepare to celebrate 30 years of wilderness protection in 2022, we are ramping up our efforts to face the climate crisis and increasing development threats. Without a doubt, our work will have an even greater impact on protecting the wilderness landscapes you love.

Permanently protecting designated wilderness, the very landscapes that are desperately needed to provide a safe haven for threatened and endangered flora and fauna, as well as the high-value, ecologically diverse and resilient lands surrounding and connecting these designations, are our priority as we focus our collective energy to help save 30 percent of the planet’s lands and waters by 2030. The Wilderness Land Trust plays a critical role in this effort, as does your support.

From the entire staff and board, we extend a heartfelt thank you for your generous investment in our work to conserve America’s wilderness.

Denise Schlener

Denise Schlener, Board Chair

Brad Borst

Brad Borst, President



WILDERNESS PROTECTED

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

PROPERTY	WILDERNESS AREA	AGENCY	PARCELS	ACRES
ACQUIRED				
Vetlaw	Organ Mountains/Desert Peaks National Monument, NM	BLM	6	98.2
Panama/Principal Lode	Collegiate Peaks, CO	USFS	1	19.3
Achenbach	Organ Mountains, NM	BLM	2	109.0
Trout Creek 4	Santa Lucia, CA	USFS	1	147.6
Mormon Cricket	Juniper Dunes, WA	BLM	1	236.0
Frijoles Spring	Arroyo de los Frijoles Inventoried Roadless Area, NM	USFS	1	57.2
TOTAL			12	667.3
TRANSFERRED				
Emerald Lake	Weminuche, CO	USFS	2	19.5
Lagartija Creek	Sabinoso, NM	BLM	1	320.0
Rimrock Rose Ranch	Sabinoso, NM	BLM	5	581.0
Commodore Lode	Columbine Hondo, NM	USFS	1	20.7
Windham Bay	Chuck River, AK	USFS	1	154.5
Little Castle Lake	Castle Crags, CA	USFS	1	637.0
TOTAL			11	1,732.6

TRANSFERRED

The Trust transferred two of three Emerald Lake mining claims totaling 20 acres to the San Juan National Forest in Colorado to become part of the **Weminuche Wilderness**. These mining claims were part of a group of three purchased by the Trust in 2018. The third parcel is slated to transfer in 2022.

ACQUIRED

The Trust purchased the 19-acre Panama/Principal Lode property in the **Collegiate Peaks Wilderness** near Aspen, Colorado. With help from our partners at The Independence Pass Foundation and the Roaring Fork Outdoor

Volunteers, this land was cleared of garbage and debris, and a contemporary metal roof was removed from the historic cabin. The Trust will now go through the multi-step process of transferring this land to the USFS for permanent protection.

Kelly Conde



ACQUIRED

The Trust received the 57-acre Frijoles Spring property via a legacy donation from an Abiquiu, New Mexico resident who had a keen interest in protecting this land from future development.

ACQUIRED

The Organ Mountains Wilderness is a beautiful and popular destination, known for its spring wildflowers, seasonal streams that flow through rugged canyon bottoms, abundant wildlife and spectacular views. The trust purchased the 100-acre Vetlaw property that straddles the Organ Mountains Wilderness boundary that had been zoned for a future housing development, as well as a 109-acre parcel at the entrance of Achenbach Canyon that saved public access to a popular trail into the designation.



Despite extreme weather conditions, animals like this bobcat thrive in the Juniper Dunes.

ACQUIRED

The Trust purchased the 236-acre Mormon Cricket property, representing the last private inholding within the **Juniper Dunes Wilderness** in Washington state. Juniper Dunes is the only wilderness area in this state managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Despite extreme weather conditions, plenty of animals thrive in the Juniper Dunes, including mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, badgers, weasels, porcupines, kangaroo rats and rattlesnakes. The Trust transferred this land to the BLM in August 2021.

TRANSFERRED

The Trust's 637-acre Little Castle Lake property in California represented the largest remaining private parcel in the **Castle Crags Wilderness**. This land straddles the wilderness boundary and includes a portion of Castle Lake and all of Little Castle Lake. By transferring this land to the USFS, we have protected the hiking trail to Heart Lake, and access to lake activities, fishing and hunting. It also means the property will be protected from logging and development, which would have threatened old growth forest, critical habitat and a major source of clean water for California and the west.



Volunteers remove a cabin roof with hand tools on Trust property in the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness, Colorado.

By transferring the Little Castle Lake property to the USFS, we have protected access to lake activities, critical habitat and a major source of clean water.

TRANSFERRED

The Trust's 320-acre Lagartija Creek and 581-acre Rimrock Rose properties have been transferred to the BLM, removing the threat of development from this special region of the **Sabinoso Wilderness** in New Mexico. These properties were part of a land donation in partnership with Trust for Public Land (TPL), the Wyss Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the leadership of U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, BLM staff and local public officials. By donating the Trust's 908 acres and TPL's 8,947-acre Cañon Ciruela property, a total of 9,855 acres have been transferred to the BLM, marking the largest expansion (50 percent) of a federally designated wilderness via a single donation in U.S. history.



Wilderness Land Trust Vice President and Senior Lands Specialist Aimee Rutledge (L) with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland.

TRANSFERRED

The Trust's 20-acre Commodore Lode property in New Mexico has been transferred to the Carson National Forest for permanent protection. This land "cherry-stems" into the **Columbine Hondo Wilderness** in Long Canyon, and is adjacent to a popular wilderness access trail near Taos Ski Valley. Purchasing and transferring this land helps protect the viewshed above the north fork of the Red River, a major tributary to the upper Rio Grande River and ensures continued public access into the designated wilderness.

TRANSFERRED

The Trust has transferred to public ownership the largest remaining private property in the **Chuck River Wilderness** in Alaska. The 154-acre Windham Bay property is located at the head of the bay, approximately three hours southeast of Juneau by boat and across from the Admiralty Island National Monument. It includes a complex of eight mining claims dating back to 1869.

ACQUIRED

The Trust purchased the 148-acre Trout Creek 4 property in the Los Padres National Forest that will provide a crucial wildlife connection between the **Santa Lucia Wilderness** and a proposed wilderness to the northeast. This land is part of more than 1.7 million acres of protected coastal landscapes that provide resilience to a rapidly changing climate. Our Trout Creek 4 project builds on our purchase and transfer of three prior properties – Trout Creek 1, 2, 3 – that total more than 800 acres.

VITAL PARTNERSHIPS

Atascadero Horseman's Association
Backcountry Horseman of California
Bureau of Land Management
Conservation Alliance
Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Friends of Scotchman Peaks
Independence Pass Foundation
Mono Lake Committee
Mono Lake Foundation
Mount Shasta Trail Association
National Park Service
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

New Mexico Wildlife Federation
Pacific Coast Long Riders
Resource Legacy Fund
Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Rewilding Institute
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
Wilderness Watch



The Trout Creek 4 property supports critical habitat for a number of endangered, threatened and sensitive species, including the California spotted owl.



"MORE MOUNTAINS TO CLIMB"

A Profile of Trust Supporter Wayne Pfeiffer

Wayne Pfeiffer spent his childhood in Wichita, Kansas, a land of gentle rolling plains and an elevation of about 1,300 feet. His only climbing options as a child were the large trees behind his house, which he tackled with gusto at every opportunity. In eighth grade his perception of the great, flat outdoors expanded when a young history teacher came to his school from California and described its rugged, mountainous wilderness as "God's country."

"I remember thinking that's where I'm going when I get out of school," says Wayne. "I studied hard, graduated from college, and was accepted to graduate school at the California Institute of Technology.

I was eager to leave Kansas and explore the outdoors, so I went to Pasadena in the summer of 1965.

There I met other students who wanted to do cool things outdoors like climb mountains, which we didn't have in Kansas," says Wayne.

That summer, Wayne and his new friends climbed Mounts San Geronio, Whitney, and San Antonio. Over the next 20 years, he climbed about 50 peaks, including the dozen 14,000-foot peaks in the Sierra Nevada of California and the highest peaks in Washington, Wyoming, and Mexico.

"When I read about the Castle Crag project, I decided that this was an organization I should support."

What draws Wayne to the wilderness? "First of all, there is so much natural beauty to observe and appreciate. In addition, you have to be self-reliant. When you are on a five-day loop and no one else is around, you have to think about what you're doing and be prepared."



Betsy Pfeiffer

Wayne took a break from climbing after having two children, Betsy and Gordon. "Going away on mountaineering trips wasn't popular in my house when the kids were young," says Wayne. "But as soon as Betsy was old enough, she came with me and we resumed climbing. She's been my climbing partner for the last 20 years."

A few years ago, Wayne read an article about The Wilderness Land Trust's Lundy Canyon acquisition in Eastern Sierra. Wayne was familiar with the area because he and Betsy had climbed Matterhorn Peak and Mount Dana, to the north and south of the canyon, respectively.

"After reading about the Lundy Canyon project, I went to the Trust's website and learned they were acquiring inholdings throughout the west, including in the Castle Crag Wilderness."

"Betsy and I had admired the rocky terrain of Castle Crag from a previous trip to climb Mt. Shasta, and when I read about the Castle Crag project, I decided that this was an organization I should support," adds Wayne.

Until recently, Wayne and his late wife Mary took vacations cycling in the mountains of the western U.S. and Canada, Europe, Costa Rica, and Chile, while still working as a scientist and engineer. Now he looks forward to spending more time in the mountains with Betsy. "She's a better climber than I am on serious rock walls. However, she still likes to climb mountains with me where we're a good match. Plus, there are more mountains to climb."

You can read more about Wayne's work and adventures at his website: waynepfeiffer.com.

Top: Wayne Pfeiffer descending Pyramid Peak in California's Sierra Nevada.

Left: Wayne and his daughter Betsy hiking in the Sierra Nevada.

PARTNER PROFILE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

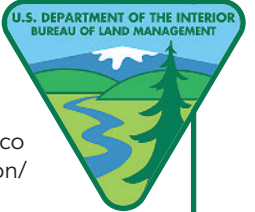
The Wilderness Land Trust purchases private property within designated wilderness from willing sellers who wish to see their land permanently protected. During our nearly 30-year history, we've acquired nearly 53,000 acres and transferred approximately 48,000 of those acres to the public for permanent protection, eliminating the threat of development, road construction, mining and logging.

But what exactly does "transferring to the public" mean and how does the trust add to our existing public lands?

When the Trust transfers land to the public for permanent protection, we depend on our strong partnerships with the agencies dedicated to managing these lands in order to ensure it is protected and becomes part of our nation's legacy of wild public lands. One of those agencies is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), whose mission is "to sustain

The Trust thanks all of our partners at the Bureau of Land Management for working with us to protect our nation's Wilderness:

- BLM Arizona
- BLM California
- BLM Idaho
- BLM Nevada
- BLM New Mexico
- BLM Washington/Oregon



the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

The Trust has partnered with the BLM to protect wilderness lands on 165 parcels of land in six states across the western United States (and counting). Our latest partnership with the agency involved a special piece of land in the Juniper Dunes Wilderness. Special because it was the first opportunity for us to work with BLM in Washington state and it represented the last private property within the designated wilderness. Together with our partners at the agency, we completed this wilderness and have permanently protected it for future generations to enjoy.

"The Wilderness Land Trust was an excellent partner, working hand in glove with BLM but with a more flexible and friendly face for the landowner throughout the process. They demonstrated incredible responsiveness and attention to detail, which helped the BLM reach a decades long goal of completing this wilderness."

—Mark Foley, Realty Specialist, BLM Washington Border Field Office

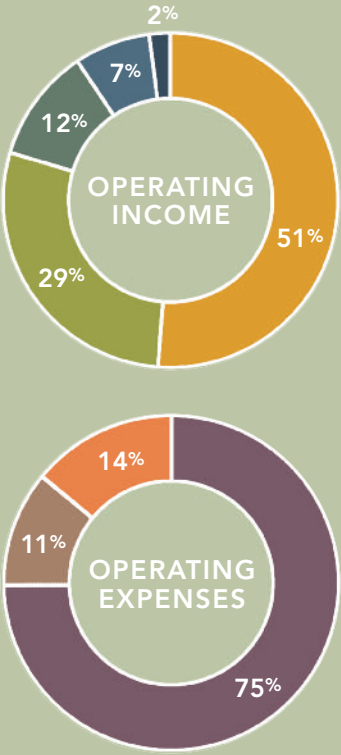


Juniper Dunes Wilderness in Washington state.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021
unaudited*

Beginning Net Assets	\$2,990,966
OPERATING INCOME	
Contributions	\$728,535
Land Sales	\$412,518
Grant Income	\$175,000
Other Income	\$101,376
Reimbursements	\$24,786
TOTAL	\$1,442,215
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Lands Program	\$628,787
Administrative	\$91,786
Fundraising	\$122,857
TOTAL	\$843,430
Ending Net Assets	\$3,589,751



*See audited financials on our website in November 2021

Future Generations
Will Celebrate Your
Wilderness Legacy

Our National Wilderness Preservation System is a treasure trove of wild landscapes that needs our help to protect them from the threat of private development.

Help ensure this legacy of wilderness will be passed on to future generations through the creation of a bequest in your will. This simple and powerful tool can provide vital financial support for our programs to conserve and expand 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 206-397-5240 or brad@wildernesslandtrust.org.

Please let us know if The Wilderness Land Trust is in your future plans.

Thank you for your generosity.



HONOR ROLL

Fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

For 29 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 Patron (\$10,000+) Anonymous (2) Currie & Thomas A. Barron, Merlin Foundation Andrew M Bellofatto David Bonderman Buckmaster Foundation Ray Hohenberger John & Carolyn Peterson Charitable Foundation Scott Jonas John & Kate McBride Wayne Pfeiffer Dr. George Sardina Elizabeth C. Schoeberlein Cynthia Sears Jill Soffer Thornburg Foundation	Lyn & David Anderson Community Foundation Serving Boulder County, The Bamboo Fund Liz Armstrong Natasha Bell Bruce Berger James T. Blomquist & Rosemarie Kapolczynski Brad Borst & Jill Forseth James Brundige & Chelsea Congdon Louis Bubala Bulger-Stover Family Trust Story Clark & Bill Resor Fred Dietrich Boots Ferguson Karen Fisher & Sam Roberts, Fisher Roberts Family Charitable Fund Fred & Elli Iselin Foundation Michael Fuller & Sally Ranney Craig Groves Jeff & Sharon Guddat William Hamann Marshall B. Hamilton Mark Harvey Kristen Henry Philip Hocker Richard Hoffman Molly & Jock Hooper	Charles Hopton Kramer Giving Fund Kenneth & Eugenia Lange Susan G. Lodge Peter Loomam Julia Love Pritt Pete McBride Meridian Press Gerald Morsello Jack & Sheri Overall Paul Phillips & Susan Zimmermann Peter Van Domelen & Robin Van Dom William T. Pope David Porter Price Dennis G. Rice Arthur & Toni Rembe Rock Kate Sako & Kendall Flint Denise Schlener & George Bren David Schroeder Martha M. Scott Stuart Smith Carol Wood & John H. Stansfield Tom Hopkins Dr. Paul F. Torrence Mark Trautwein Bob & Ruth Wade Patrick Wallace Cynthia Wayburn Andrew F. Wiessner
Sentinel Society Members Sentinel Society members provide essential support for ongoing wilderness lands projects by generously contributing \$1,000 or more annually.	Sentinel Society Member (\$1,000 – \$9,999) Anonymous Joe Albright & Marcia Kunstel, Joe Albright & Marcia Kunstel Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole	(\$500 – \$999) Anonymous Lowell & JoAnne Aplet Dawn Barton James L. Bauer Hamilton B. Brown Caleb Burchenal Bradley W. Cameron Jean Davenport Kathleen Doyle John Fielder Bob & Sue Helm Susan Helm John E. Hiatt Grace Ewing Huffman Terrell & Jennifer Johnson Amory Lovins Mark Main Howell Mallory Joel & Patricia Marx Tim Mckimmie Wilhelm Northrop Miriam Schoenfield The Susan & Ford Schumann Foundation Susan Shaver Sarah Chase & Richard Shaw	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 (2) Alpenglow Foundation Fred and Elli Iselin Foundation Independence Pass Foundation Norcliffe Foundation Resources Legacy Fund The Summit Foundation
	(\$250 – \$499) Anonymous Ann Mullins Adam Argento Derek Berlin Suzanne & Peter W. Birkeland Danna Bowers Joan & Wes Carter David & Ellen Drell Matthew Dusek Barry Gammell Laura Gorman Mr. Robert H. Graham Mike Campbell & Ann Harvey Ralph Holmes Karen Ferrell-Ingram & Steve Ingram Bonnie Johnson Dale Johnson	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 (2) BF Foundation John Witmeyer	
		(Up to \$249) Thanks to the remaining 224 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021. If you find an error or omission please accept our sincere apologies and contact us so that we may correct our records.



PO Box 881
Helena, MT 59624

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