



The
Wilderness
Society

**Our Wild.
Our Climate.
Our Future.**

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Together, we resisted the threats to our wild.
Together, we countered attacks on our climate.
Together, we inspired a movement for our future.

**ABOUT THE
WILDERNESS
SOCIETY**



**Founded
in 1935**



**1,000,000+
supporters**



**109 million
acres of
wilderness
protected**



**12 office
locations
from Maine
to Alaska**



Boundary Waters Canoe
Area Wilderness, Minnesota

Letter from the President and Governing Council Chair

In 2017, the Trump administration and anti-conservationists in Congress launched the largest assault on public lands in our nation's history. They threatened to undo the progress The Wilderness Society and the American people worked so hard to achieve: the progress you made possible.

There's a long road ahead of us, and while we are seeing some real setbacks, we are confident that ultimately we can and will protect the wild places that mean so much to our nation, our climate and our future.

**2017 saw millions of Americans
stepping forward to fight for our public
lands
and defend them in the face of**

Because in 2017, we also saw millions of Americans stepping forward to fight for our public lands and defend them in the face of these unprecedented threats.

From the tens of thousands who participated in the People's Climate March in more than 300 cities last April, to the calls, protests and grassroots-funded lawsuits that greeted the Administration's repeated actions to sell out our public lands, to the tribal councils and private sector allies who raised their

voices with us, Americans everywhere took action—and you led the way. Your activism made a real difference, helping stop anti-conservation actions in this unfriendly Congress and setting a firm foundation for the long-term fights we intend to win.

Since President Lincoln set aside Yosemite 150 years ago, the work to protect our public lands has never been easy or linear, but it has always been essential. These lands are the heritage we share and the legacy we build together.

Thank you for supporting our work—and for all of the work you do. Together, we won't just turn back the Trump administration's agenda. We will continue to build an even stronger movement to protect our wild places and our climate for our future.



Jamie Williams
JAMIE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT



David Churchill
DAVID CHURCHILL
CHAIR, GOVERNING COUNCIL



When we stand together for our wild, we win.

In 2017, Congress placed our wildlands and our climate at risk. But you pushed back with your voice and your support—and achieved some major wins despite long odds.

Stopping the Sell-Off

In late January, amidst the chaotic transition to a new administration, Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) introduced a bill to sell off 3.3 million acres of public lands. You refused to let it pass unnoticed. With your support, we rallied Americans to defend our public lands—a unifying idea in a divided nation—and Congressional offices were overwhelmed with calls. Rep. Chaffetz withdrew his bill just one week later.

Protecting the Methane Rule

During the first few months of the Trump administration, Congress reversed a bevy of Obama-era regulations and set their sights on repealing the Bureau of Land Management's Methane and Waste Prevention Rule: a critical safeguard that reduces greenhouse gas pollution from oil and gas drilling on public lands. But for the first time under this administration, the majority in Congress failed. This come-from-behind victory last May wouldn't have happened without your tireless activism and determined outreach to elected officials.

Your actions made the difference.

Every time you attended a rally, submitted a comment to the Department of the Interior or contacted your representatives, **you applied pressure** when and where it was most needed, laying the groundwork for the fight to come.

Activism depends on persistence and demands courage and optimism, even when facing unprecedented threats or seemingly insurmountable challenges.

You are the advocates our wildlands need—the activists our future depends on—and **last year, you went above and beyond.**



The Wilderness Society, along with partners, organized **170** public land rallies and educational events



You submitted **3,134,000** public comments through the advocacy of The Wilderness Society and our partners



You made more than **45,000** phone calls to members of Congress and the Trump administration through our phone banking and online calling tools



You helped us collect more than **111,000** petition signatures





UNDER ATTACK:
National Monuments

We're rising to today's challenges—and ready for tomorrow's fights.

In April, President Trump signed an executive order to review 27 national monuments that had been protected since 1996—an unprecedented attack on some of our most cherished landscapes that was met with an unprecedented response.

You joined with countless Wilderness Society members in making your voice heard in the largest public comment period in the Department of the Interior's history.

Despite the public outcry, the administration moved forward, effectively eliminating the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah—the largest reduction of public lands protection in U.S. history, opening up more than two million acres to mining and drilling. Plans to reduce protections for monuments in New England, Oregon, New Mexico, and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans are also on the horizon.

Bears Ears National Monument, Utah

But our battle is not lost, and we remain optimistic that we can reverse these illegal actions. With your support, we were able to establish a new litigation fund and challenge the administration's public lands rollback in court, where the facts are on our side. Whatever challenges lie ahead, Americans like you are ready to keep fighting back—and so are we.

“President Trump is trashing our sacred land. He has no respect for us as natives; he does not care about our opinion, our beliefs.”

— Patricia Yeaman, Navajo accountant and resident of Tootle, Utah

You built a public lands legacy that is more than this administration can undo. And together, we will not only defend that legacy, but push forward with a movement that's louder and stronger than ever before.

National Monuments: The Fight Back

The Trump administration's efforts to review and reduce national monument designations is **unprecedented**.

In December, the administration slashed two monuments by more than two million acres—the **largest reduction of public lands protections in U.S. history**.

A record 2.8 million public comments were submitted to the Department of the Interior, with 99.2 percent opposing rollbacks to our national monuments.

Thanks to your support, The Wilderness Society is challenging these attacks in court.

Grand Staircase-Escalante
National Monument, Utah

PROFILE: **CATHY DOUGLAS STONE**



“Protection requires diligence—we’re going to soldier on and achieve great victories.”

— Cathy Stone

Anticipating enormous threats to America's public lands at the start of the Trump administration, Cathy Douglas Stone—a member of our Governing Council—and her husband Jim established the Stone Fund for Litigation and Defense with a generous gift of \$1 million in February 2017. Their investment in the organization's legal work came at a critical time. “I realized that if we could dig deeper and make a more significant contribution than in the past, this was the moment,” Cathy says. “The Wilderness Society knows more about the legal constraints around the creation and operation of public lands than anyone, and that makes us uniquely able to be the leading voice in public land protection.”

Among the current high-priority fights, Cathy believes that the challenges to the Antiquities Act and to the integrity of our national monuments are impermissible and must be litigated. “This statute has been part of our national life since its inception and used by nearly every president of both parties. It's part of the history of our culture and an expression of our values, and all of that is under attack,” she affirms. Despite the uphill battle, Cathy's optimism shines through. “Protection requires diligence—we're going to soldier on and achieve great victories.”



WILDERNESS SOCIETY ENERGY AND CLIMATE ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

Described as a natural leader with a rare ability to articulate and execute on a vision that protects our lands and waters from harmful energy development, Jenny Kordick is pioneering new ways to strengthen our fight as Advocacy Director for The Wilderness Society's Energy and Climate Program.

Growing up on her family's small farm in Iowa, Jenny formed an early connection with the land, but her lightbulb moment occurred while she was studying environmental politics in the Galapagos Islands as a student at Wartburg College. "It was the first time I realized you can solve environmental problems by building public support for policies grounded in sound science," she says. With a B.A. in Biology and the BP oil spill in the news, Jenny dove headfirst into environmental advocacy. In 2013, she landed at The Wilderness Society. "I was drawn by the organization's holistic approach," she says. "Here, all the important environmental issues converge on land conservation, wildlife conservation and climate change mitigation."

With infectious enthusiasm, Jenny spends her days engaging people in protecting special places from irresponsible drilling and reducing the climate impact of energy extraction from our public lands, where fossil fuel development alone results in more greenhouse gas emissions than all but four countries in the world. She has a knack for creating synergy between the climate community and public lands experts, identifying common goals and maintaining focus on how policy decisions impact people from all walks of life. "We've always had great science and policy staff, but Jenny takes us to a new level in inspiring activism and collaboration," says Chase Huntley, Director of the Energy and Climate Program.

Though her work isn't easy, Jenny's passion keeps her going. "I love our work because we fight every day to protect the places that we care about while helping address the greatest environmental challenge of our generation—climate change."

**We share these lands.
We share these values.
We share this fight.**



We'll stand up for what matters— no matter what.



Musk oxen in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

“I hope that the United States of America is not so rich that she can afford to let these wildernesses pass by. Or so poor that she cannot afford to keep them.”

— Margaret “Mardy” Murie: recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, leader of the conservation movement, lifelong activist for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Our fight to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has lasted more than 80 years—and it’s far from over.

In December, Congress passed a tax reform bill with a provision opening the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas drilling—an underhanded move for a provision that would never have passed on its own.

This was a dramatic setback, but one which only serves to strengthen our resolve and to sustain a powerful resistance.

In the run-up to the tax reform vote, we turned to you to help us mobilize tens of thousands of people to contact their congressional representatives and urge them to advocate for the Arctic Refuge’s permanent protection. Together, we sent a clear message to our champions in Congress and our foes alike: Americans want to see the Arctic Refuge left untouched.

In the months and years to come, we’ll keep fighting to get that message before Congress. We’ll stand with the Gwich’in people to protect the land that sustains them. We’ll challenge any attempt to move forward with seismic testing and oil and gas leasing. We’ll seek every opportunity to mobilize the

41 Senators currently co-sponsoring legislation to permanently protect the Refuge. With your support, we won’t rest until people all across the country understand the ecological value and cultural significance of this sacred place and stand up to protect it.

This is so much more than a fight for the Arctic Refuge: it encompasses every aspect of the work we do and embodies everything The Wilderness Society stands for. And it’s your generosity and activism that will sustain this important work.

Stand with us as we stand for the Arctic Refuge.



PROFILE: **TED ROOSEVELT IV**



Progress Toward Permanence: 80+ Years of Activism for the Arctic

1935: Inspired in part by his journeys to the Arctic, Robert Marshall co-founds The Wilderness Society.

1953: Wilderness Society President Olaus Murie, activist Mardy Murie and others begin working to permanently protect the northeastern corner of Alaska.

1960: Republican President Dwight Eisenhower establishes the Arctic National Wildlife Range.

1980: President Jimmy Carter signs the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, increasing the size of the protected area to 19.3 million acres and redesignating it as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

1995: President Bill Clinton vetoes a measure that would have allowed drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

2005: Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) leads a successful filibuster in the Senate to reject an Arctic Refuge drilling rider on an unrelated piece of legislation.

December 2017: A provision in the tax reform bill opens the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas development.

2018 and beyond: Our fight continues.



On an early summer morning in 2002 on the banks of the Kongakut River in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Ted Roosevelt IV was awakened by an "unworldly symphony" of clicks, grunts and mews. Emerging from his tent, he found himself in the middle of a herd of caribou on their journey to the rich feeding grounds of the coastal plain. "It was very moving to witness these magnificent creatures making the same migration they've traveled for millennia. Ever since, I have been committed to fighting for the protection of this iconic place—the crown jewel of our public lands."

"I am committed to fighting for the protection of this iconic place—the crown jewel of our public lands."

— Ted Roosevelt IV

A member of our Governing Council, Ted has been an active voice in the campaign to defend the Arctic Refuge and decries the 2017 legislation as a tragic retreat from the more than 100 years of conservation progress begun by President Theodore Roosevelt. "What The Wilderness Society brings to the table is a passion and

a deep understanding of why this place is worth saving. Public lands belong to all of us, and that means that we have a responsibility to roll up our sleeves, engage in the political process and ensure that future generations will benefit from the same heritage we have enjoyed." Achieving permanent protection for the Arctic Refuge is a necessity, and he has faith in The Wilderness Society's ability to guide us to that ultimate goal.

Together, we are the movement for our wild, our climate and our future.

PROFILE: **MARSHA MCMAHAN ZELUS**



“I want to ensure that wild places will always be available for them, for us, for plants and animals—no matter what.”

— Marsha McMahan Zelus

“The Wilderness Society is the only organization that can fight on the front lines in Washington, DC for wilderness and other public lands. It gives me such hope to know that you’re there for us, being vigilant, keeping an ear to the ground about what’s going on, and inspiring us all to take action to counteract the most egregious threats. Having three grandchildren intensifies my desire to speak up for public lands, especially as we face an administration that wants to undo so many of the conservation gains we’ve achieved. In fact, I made an additional gift to The Wilderness Society this year because I want to ensure that wild places will always be available for them, for us, for plants and animals—no matter what.”

A former teacher and a frequent docent at Point Lobos Natural Reserve in Carmel, Calif., Marsha McMahan Zelus has always enjoyed educating others about the wonders of wild places. Attracted by The Wilderness Society’s science-based approach to conservation, she became a member in 1990 and went on to chair the organization’s former California-Nevada Regional Advisory Council. Today, Marsha continues her advocacy as a member of our President’s Circle and our legacy society, the Robert Marshall Council.

Thank you to our supporters!

The Wilderness Society extends our deepest gratitude to all of our supporters. Your generosity has helped preserve and defend the places we love, from the remote wilderness of Alaska’s Arctic to the serene lakes and rivers of Maine’s north woods. The commitment of our donors is what enables The Wilderness Society to work tirelessly to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. Together we will harness a rising pro-conservation movement for the future. Thank you for being a partner in our work.

The donors listed on the following pages generously contributed \$1,000 or more in fiscal year 2017 (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017). We would also like to thank the many contributors who supported our work with gifts under \$1,000, not listed here due to space limitations.

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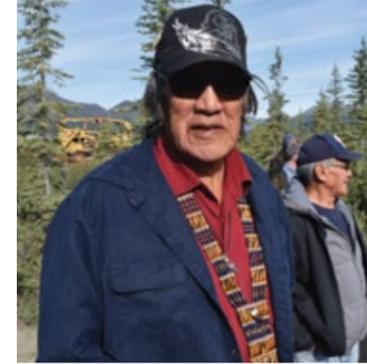
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Trimble Gilbert, a Gwich'in leader, and Nicole Whittington-Evans, Alaska Regional Director at The Wilderness Society, discuss the Arctic Refuge and the ongoing fight to protect it.

TG: I grew up hearing wolves howl, watching the birds come back in May and watching hundreds of thousands of caribou migrating at one time. My people have used this country for thousands of years—and been affected by oil and gas for the last 30 years.

NWE: The Arctic Refuge is an incredible place that has remained virtually unchanged for millennia. It truly is one of the last great wild places in America.

TG: Now the oil is declining and everyone is saying, “What happened to the money?” Some villages are smaller and schools are closing because of declining oil supplies. They promised Native people that it would only be in one area they would develop oil and gas. But they’ve forgotten the promises, and they keep wanting more and more. Our people might disappear.

NWE: It is important to understand that for over 10,000 years, the Gwich'in people and their forebears have depended upon this pristine ecosystem for their survival and way of life. They call themselves “caribou people” and sustain their culture and communities with the resources of the Arctic Refuge. For them, protecting the refuge is a matter of human rights.

TG: I can already see birds changing their behavior—some are not coming back to our area, or not in the same numbers. With more and more human activity, animal numbers will continue to decline.

NWE: If drilling were allowed in the Refuge, the sprawling infrastructure would likely affect the entire coastal plain—a vital habitat for polar bears and the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Threats to the caribou would be devastating for the Gwich'in people. And in addition to noise and air pollution, toxic spills would change the Arctic Refuge forever.

TG: This is how we live. We have to keep this land the way it is for the generations to come.

NWE: The tax bill was devastating for everyone who loves the Arctic Refuge and works to defend it, but we were prepared. We quickly began work to ensure that drill rigs never touch the coastal plain. In many ways, the fight is just starting. This is the very core of our history as an organization, and we are as committed as ever to defending the Arctic Refuge.

TG: We know people stand with us to help us protect this land. And that is what we need. A lot of politicians need to hear from us. I still feel the hope in my heart...There is no other place like this place.

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Bob's gift through his will was the first planned gift to The Wilderness Society, and we gratefully acknowledge today's visionaries who are following Bob's example by including The Wilderness Society in their wills or other estate plans.

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 Van Royce Vibber, as Surviving Trustee of the Van Royce Vibber & Julie Shular Trust Dated 10/2/2013

Jordan Voelker
 Donald A. Vogel
 Phyllis M. Vogt
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 James R. Wagner
 Carol and Joseph Waldner
 Billy C. and Jo Ann L. Wallace Revocable Trusts
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 Robert Wallace
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We are deeply honored and grateful to acknowledge gifts received during fiscal year 2017 from the estates of the following individuals:

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 Norma R. Axelrad
 Jere L. Barnhart, Jr.
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Bound by their shared commitment to The Wilderness Society, our President's Circle members represent the organization's most generous philanthropists and ambassadors. Together, they support our mission to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places through substantial annual gifts and engagement.

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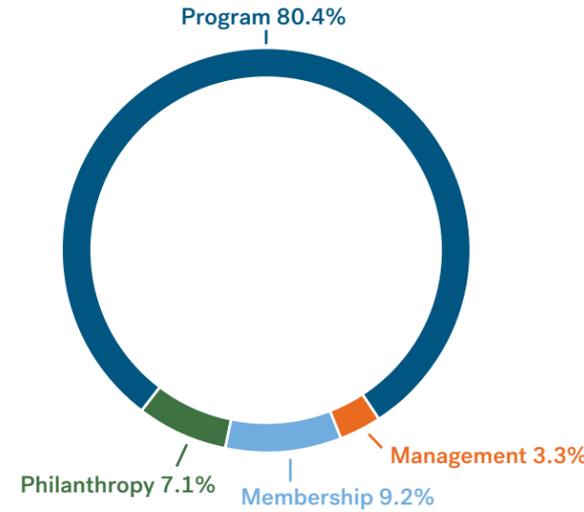
Thanks to the generosity and commitment of all of our supporters, The Wilderness Society stands in a position of unprecedented financial strength as we face the greatest assault ever on America's public lands.

A wonderful generosity from our donors allowed us to invest in programs at levels not seen in five years. At the same time, we have held our management and fundraising costs stable, resulting in over 80% of our spending going to programs. Meanwhile, our total assets and unrestricted reserves have reached historic highs, at \$63 million and \$16 million, respectively, providing us with the financial stability and flexibility to persevere and respond to the continued threats to our mission.

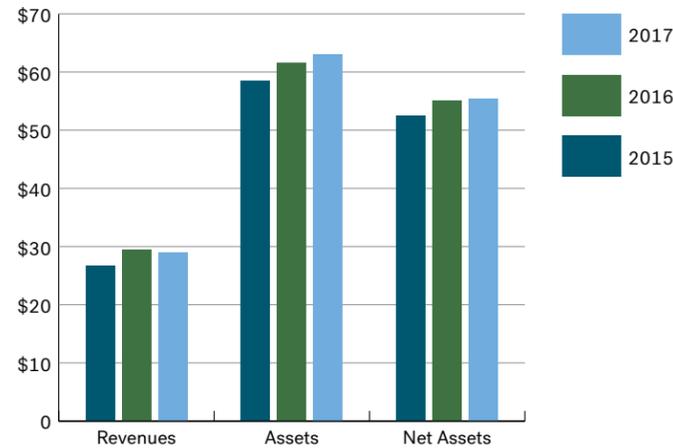
Thank you for enabling us to sustain our fight to protect our wildlands.

If you would like to receive a copy of our audited financial statements, or if you have any questions about this overview or The Wilderness Society, please contact us at:

The Wilderness Society
 Attn: Membership Services
 1615 M Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20036
 E-mail: member@tws.org
 Visit: www.wilderness.org



Fiscal Year 2017 Expenses



Changes in Key Balances (in Millions)

Statements of Financial Position		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Assets	Cash and cash equivalents	\$6.2	\$3.6	\$1.7	\$3.4	\$2.5
	Accounts and contributions receivable	4.1	9.9	7.7	6.6	4.7
	Investments	40.8	34.3	31.8	32.1	25.0
	Planned giving investments	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.8	5.3
	Beneficial interest in assets held by others	5.2	5.6	6.1	6.8	7.8
	Other assets	2.1	3.6	6.8	7.3	9.4
	Total assets	\$63.0	\$61.6	\$58.5	\$61.0	\$54.8
	Liabilities	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$3.3	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$2.9
Deferred rent		1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.1
Planned giving liabilities		2.9	2.9	2.4	2.5	3.1
Total liabilities		\$7.6	\$6.6	\$6.1	\$6.6	\$5.9
Net Assets	Unrestricted	\$15.9	\$10.5	\$8.3	\$8.9	\$2.9
	Temporarily restricted	27.1	32.3	32.0	33.5	34.5
	Permanently restricted	12.4	12.2	12.1	12.0	11.5
	Total net assets	\$55.4	\$55.0	\$52.4	\$54.4	\$48.9
	Total liabilities and net assets	\$63.0	\$61.6	\$58.5	\$61.0	\$54.8

Statements of Activities		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Revenues	Individuals	\$23.4	\$21.7	\$16.4	\$20.8	\$28.5
	Foundations	4.2	6.3	8.1	7.1	5.9
	Corporations	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2
	Total contributions	\$28.2	\$28.5	\$24.7	\$28.0	\$34.7
	Other	0.8	0.9	2.0	1.8	1.5
	Total revenues	\$29.0	\$29.4	\$26.7	\$29.7	\$36.2
	Expenses	Program Services				
Land and Water		\$14.4	\$13.7	\$14.2	\$14.7	\$16.7
Energy and Climate		7.0	5.6	4.5	5.2	4.0
People Outdoors		3.2	2.7	3.2	1.0	0.7
Total program services		\$24.6	\$22.0	\$21.9	\$20.9	\$21.5
Support services						
Fundraising		\$5.0	\$5.4	\$5.3	\$4.3	\$4.3
Management and general		1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.9
Total support services		6.0	6.4	6.4	5.6	6.2
Total expenses		\$30.6	\$28.4	\$28.4	\$26.5	\$27.7
Change in net assets from operations	\$(1.6)	\$1.0	\$(1.6)	\$3.2	\$8.5	
Gains from investments and other changes	2.0	1.6	0.1	2.2	3.1	
Change in net assets	\$0.4	\$2.6	\$(1.5)	\$5.4	\$11.6	
Beginning net assets	55.0	52.4	53.9	48.5	36.9	
Ending net assets	\$55.4	\$55.0	\$52.4	\$53.9	\$48.5	

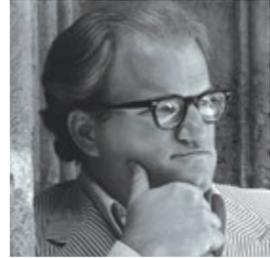
The Wilderness Society lost three irreplaceable members of our family in 2017.



Bert Cohn served on The Wilderness Society's Governing Council from 1996 to 2015, and he remained involved in the Honorary Council thereafter, continuing to offer wise guidance and support. Generous donors to our intern program, the Land and Water program and our former Wilderness Support Center, the Cohns invested wholeheartedly in building the next generation of conservationists, a commitment his wife Barbara continues to honor.



Megan Dickie, an environmental attorney, worked in our BLM Action Center, where she helped to lead policy work to protect and shape the future of 250 million acres of public lands. She also played an early and critical role in advancing our organizational commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. The Megan Dickie Wilderness Leadership Fund, established by her family, supports engaging new attorneys in our community and in our Denver office.



Bill Turnage, our President from 1978 to 1986, was best known for his outspoken opposition to Interior Secretary James Watt and for helping The Wilderness Society become a credible and effective voice for wilderness and public lands conservation. He brought Ansel Adams into our work and was instrumental in securing the gift of the incredible prints in our Ansel Adams gallery in Washington, DC, which is open to the public.

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