Building Tomorrow Together

2021 Gratitude Report
At the start of 2021—with climate change accelerating, racial injustice commanding long overdue attention and a pivotal and fraught transition of political power coming to pass—the country was enveloped by a kind of division and darkness many of us had never seen before.

But even as crises mounted, we came together committed to creating a brighter tomorrow—where connections between people and wild places are strengthened, and our planet receives the care it needs.

Working with the new administration and grassroots stakeholders across the U.S., we began repairing the damage of the Trump years, secured essential progress and continued building the resilient, just and sustainable tomorrow that our communities need.
After four years of attacks on public lands by a U.S. president, we entered a new era with the inauguration of Joe Biden on January 21, 2021. Over the course of the year, your partnership with The Wilderness Society, and your generous support, enabled us to secure significant conservation victories.

Working with community and Indigenous-led coalitions, we focused on undoing the damage of the Trump years and pursuing public lands solutions to climate change, species extinction and expanding equitable access to nature. And together we made a more inclusive conservation movement a reality.

It was an honor to stand with the Tribes and see President Biden restore the Bears Ears National Monument to its original boundaries, and deeply gratifying to have a hand in gaining protection for threatened lands surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park. And we were excited to see the Biden administration fulfill its promise to act on the input of Indigenous leaders and community partners in its approach to restoring protections to the Tongass National Forest.

These victories demonstrate the impact of combining The Wilderness Society’s expertise and strength with efforts led by the people who have the most at stake. They also serve to remind us that we never have, and never will, achieve major conservation gains by acting alone.

You are a vital member of this movement to create a sustainable future in which all people and nature can thrive together, from the urban to the wild. Indeed, you are integral to every victory and advance described in these pages. And we greatly look forward to working with you to pursue our many bold conservation initiatives in the year ahead.

We thank you for your commitment,

Jamie Williams
President

Michael A. Mantell
Chair, Governing Council

Land Acknowledgment

The Wilderness Society recognizes Native American and Indigenous peoples as the longest serving stewards of the land. We respect their inherent sovereignty and self-determination and honor treaty rights, including reserved rights that exist off their reservations.

We acknowledge the historic and ongoing injustices perpetrated against Indigenous peoples and are committed to being more conscientious and inclusive and working with Indigenous peoples to advance the establishment of trust and respect in our relationships.

We seek the guidance of Native American and Indigenous peoples to effectively advocate for the protection of culturally significant lands and the preservation of language and culture.

We strive to support actions that respect the priorities, traditional knowledge, interests and concerns of Native American and Indigenous peoples to ensure a more just and equitable future.

2021: A year of renewed impact

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We thank you for your commitment,
The profound power of public lands can help us address the urgent crises before us and create a resilient, just and sustainable future.

In 1935, The Wilderness Society was built around a simple but bold commitment: to conserve the wild and irreplaceable lands around us.

Eighty-seven years later, with over 200 million acres protected, that commitment hasn’t changed. But its relevance in a world that is facing extraordinary and increasingly urgent challenges has.

Today, we know that wild, public lands offer some of the best solutions to some of the biggest challenges of our time, and that—when they are thoughtfully cared for and equitably shared—they give us a powerful opportunity to confront the crises we face.

**Slowing Species Extinction:**

Rampant development and a changing climate are causing irreversible damage to wildlife and wild nature, as well as to people and communities. With your support, The Wilderness Society is:

- Fostering the creation of a resilient network of landscapes that will conserve healthy ecosystems and allow for the migration necessary for the survival of wildlife.
- Building equitable, community-led collaborations in key landscapes to drive lasting conservation solutions.
- Advocating for new national policies that accelerate the protection of nature.

**Confronting Climate Change:**

We know that we have less than 10 years to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. With your support, The Wilderness Society is:

- Pushing for sharp reductions in fossil fuel extraction on public lands.
- Protecting carbon-storing forests.
- Advocating for rapid expansion of responsibly sited renewable energy.

**Ensuring Equitable Access to Nature:**

Historically, institutions and systems have excluded or failed many communities—and in many ways, continue to do so. With your support, The Wilderness Society is:

- Driving policy innovation to ensure equitable access to nature and inclusive public lands decision-making.
- Using our platform and resources to invest in the power of those who have too often been excluded from conservation leadership.
- Working alongside Indigenous communities in their efforts to protect lands with deep cultural and spiritual significance.
With The Wilderness Society’s consistent presence in Washington, your support helped ensure the Biden administration signed on to and launched a locally driven, community-based effort to protect 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by the year 2030.

To achieve this first-ever national conservation goal, we must rely on federal public lands, which cover 28 percent of our country and contain most of its remaining wildlands. Wilderness Society scientists have identified the most biologically rich places to create a resilient landscape network that will allow species of all kinds to migrate and adapt to rapidly changing climate conditions.

Protecting nature on this scale will not only lessen the ongoing extinction crisis but will also help curb the worst effects of climate change and ensure communities have access to clean air, clean water and outdoor spaces.

Federal public lands cover 28 percent of our country and contain most of its remaining wildlands.

“In the face of the extinction crisis, your support is helping to build a more resilient tomorrow.”

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Bears Ears National Monument: A Framework for the Future

Today, the buttes, pinon-juniper dotted lands and sandstone canyons in the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah amount to a living museum, as well as a vibrant and irreplaceable landscape—one that bursts with archaeological significance, supports 18 endangered species, and is imbued with cultural history for the Hopi, Navajo, Ute, Ute Mountain and Zuni Tribes, for whom this land is sacred.

But in 2017, roughly 85 percent of the monument was illegally stripped of protections by an administration intent on prioritizing mining and drilling.

In 2021, with your support, we helped repair this damage—acting as a key supporter and partner to the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, whose advocacy pushed the Biden administration to restore protections for 1.1 million acres that were originally removed from the Bears Ears National Monument.

As public lands co-managed by the Tribes who have long called them home, Bears Ears provides an exciting—and in many ways, groundbreaking—framework for equitable conservation wins in the future.
Restoring Monuments and Connecting Landscapes

Your support made the Bears Ears victory possible, as well as the reinstatement of protections for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Both Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante are in the Red Rock country of southeastern Utah, one of 14 biologically rich landscapes identified by our science team, which will take priority as we confront the crises before us.

With your support, we are actively working with communities in several states that have built strong coalitions seeking new national monument designations in the region.

Public Lands Champions: Ned Whitney and Martha Howell

When Ned Whitney started his career in New York City 50 years ago, he felt far removed from the expansive woods and free-flowing trout streams that shaped his upbringing in rural New Hampshire. The Harvard Business School graduate longed for a few good hiking trails until an acquaintance took him and his wife, Martha Howell, to explore the state parks of the Hudson Highlands. The discovery was extraordinary, recalls Ned. “Just 45 miles outside of Manhattan, we were standing on a mountain—no houses, no roads, no buildings in sight,” he says. “It became hiking heaven for us.”

Thankful for ready access to thousands of acres of public lands near the city, Ned looked for ways to help protect other wild places, including those he may never visit. “The Wilderness Society stood out as having the skills and capacity to build public support to protect large areas of wildlands across the country,” he says. Intrigued, Ned made his first gift in 1985, served as an advisor from 2007 to 2015, and today, he is a member of our President’s Circle.

Enjoying more time to hike, bike and ski with his family in retirement, Ned’s commitment to conservation has only deepened, particularly as the damage to people and nature from climate change has become more severe. “It’s impossible to deny that we’re facing a gigantic crisis right now, and if there was ever a time to support an organization that is going to help us mitigate this crisis—and create a sustainable future for people, wildlife and wildlands—now is that time,” he insists. “I’m confident that The Wilderness Society is using its historic strengths to meet this challenge head-on.”
From the deserts of California to the Alaskan Arctic, from the Appalachian Mountains to countless other landscapes, public lands are rich in beauty and biodiversity and provide immeasurable benefits to the communities who count on them. And yet, private interests, and often our own government, have long seen these shared lands as a source of profit for the fossil fuel industry. This is damaging to wild nature and nearby communities, especially those that bear the brunt of fossil fuel pollution. It also makes public lands a central contributor to our planet’s rapidly changing climate. In fact, in the U.S., coal, oil and gas production from federal public lands represents nearly one quarter of our total national greenhouse gas emissions. If U.S. public lands were a country, its emissions alone would be the fifth highest in the world. 

Hope soared in 2021 when President Biden took office committed to taking decisive action on climate change. Although transformative legislative solutions stalled in Congress at the end of the year, opportunities for progress remain as the Executive Branch has direct control and wide latitude over the use of federal public lands. Making public lands part of the climate solution requires making change at a grand scale. We must transition away from fossil fuel extraction, expand responsibly sited renewable energy, and protect wildlands that serve as “carbon sinks,” which take carbon from the atmosphere and store it.

In the face of climate change, your support is helping to build a more sustainable tomorrow.

Old-growth and mature forests are among the most powerful tools for natural carbon sequestration we have, and none is more important than the Tongass National Forest. Located in southeast Alaska, the Tongass is one of the last and largest temperate rainforests on earth. With its towering old-growth and mature stands of trees, it absorbs and stores more heat-trapping carbon than any other U.S. forest.

In 2021, your support empowered us to partner with a coalition of Southeast Alaskan Indigenous Tribes, local businesses and others to push the Biden administration to initiate the formal process to restore protection to 9.4 million acres in the heart of the Tongass that had been unlawfully voided by the Trump administration. Crucially, the Biden administration went further, banning all industrial-scale logging of old growth trees throughout the 17-million-acre forest and committing an initial $25 million to Tribal priorities and community well-being in the region.

These restored and expanded protections secure an essential “carbon sink” and set an important precedent for climate-friendly forest protection in the future.
Building from Here

Transforming National Priorities for Public Lands

We are working to change the laws and policies that govern how public lands are managed so that they prioritize climate protection, equitable access to nature for everyone, and conservation—not corporate profits for fossil fuel and other extractive industries.

To build enduring approaches to managing our shared lands, we will continue to follow the lead of Tribes, communities of color, working-class and frontline communities—those directly impacted by fossil fuel extraction on public lands—and others who continue to be excluded from public lands decision making.

Alongside communities, our partners, and supporters like you, we will press the Biden administration to begin a rapid phase-out of fossil fuel development on public lands, while ensuring a just transition to a sustainable economy for fossil fuel-dependent states and localities. We will help communities choose the best sites for responsibly expanding renewable energy, thereby boosting local economies and generating revenue streams for state and local governments. And we will continue to conserve and protect carbon storage champs like our national forests.

A well-preserved site of rituals and meetings for Ancestral Puebloan peoples one thousand years ago, the Chaco Canyon area in New Mexico is a sacred landscape and critical link to the past for the Pueblo, Hopi and Navajo peoples. Yet for too long—and despite Indigenous communities’ pleas to protect this landscape—the federal government has thrown much of it open to fossil fuel extraction. Ninety-one percent of available lands in the Greater Chaco region are already leased for oil and gas development. The impact of this is not only pollution that threatens the historical site and the health of nearby Tribal communities, but also emissions that threaten the future of our shared planet.

But with the leadership and advocacy of Tribal communities and the partnership your support makes possible, we helped secure a breakthrough years in the making. In 2021, the Biden administration announced a 20-year withdrawal of federal lands within a 10-mile radius around Chaco Culture National Historical Park, ensuring no new oil and gas leasing or development will take place.

Banning Oil and Gas from Chaco Canyon

Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico

Mason Cummings
For far too long, too many have lacked easy access to nature and healthy outdoor activities—especially those who experience outsized burdens and challenges to their well-being. Today, communities of color are three times more likely to live in nature-deprived areas, and low-income communities have significantly less access to nature than the rest of the country.

But it doesn’t have to be this way. By fighting alongside local communities for park equity funds that provide outdoor access to all, we are working to address historical injustices. Together we can set a new precedent for equitable access to public lands that everyone can get to, feel welcome in and benefit from.

In the face of inequity, your support is helping to build a just tomorrow.

“The today’s signing of the Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Program marks the beginning of closing the racial ‘nature gap,’ so that all of our kids can enjoy the outdoors.”

— Jared Bynum, Communities & Justice Advocate, Conservation Colorado

Establishing Models for Park Equity Across the U.S.

With your support, The Wilderness Society contributed to two major state-level victories in 2021 that will not only provide a new level of equitable outdoor access, but also set a model for other states and for future national legislation.

In New Mexico, we supported a state-wide coalition that tripled the funding for the nation’s first state-level Outdoor Equity Fund, which provides grants to increase access to the outdoors for youth of color and youth living in low-income areas.

In Colorado, we helped power a coalition of roughly 65 groups—including many organizations led by or representing Black, Indigenous or people of color—to secure the creation of a new Outdoor Equity Grant Program. This program establishes a dedicated funding source that will ramp up to $3 million annually and direct much-needed funding to meaningful outdoor experiences for youth and their families living in underserved communities.
A Catalytic Partner: The Bullitt Foundation

For decades, the Bullitt Foundation has been helping to lead the Pacific Northwest’s pursuit of a greener future, supporting efforts to conserve lands and waters, promote sustainable communities, and center racial equity and justice in the environmental movement. The Wilderness Society is grateful for the foundation’s leadership support of our efforts to secure lasting conservation gains in the region since the early 1990s.

Founded by the late philanthropist and businesswoman Dorothy Bullitt, since 2016 the foundation has focused on community-led efforts to form an “Emerald Corridor.” The goal is to connect the vibrant ecosystems of the North Cascades—from Portland, Oregon to Vancouver, British Columbia. It is critical to ensure that this landscape flourishes, while also creating ways for city dwellers to reach and experience the wildlands. “Urban sustainability is built on a foundation of ecological health,” says the foundation’s CEO Denis Hayes, who organized the first Earth Day in 1970.

But in order to protect the region’s iconic peaks, ancient forests and waters, alongside its recreation values, the foundation was looking for a partner that understood the complexities of bridging the urban to wild divide. “It wasn’t easy to find groups willing to embrace the big, complex challenges of connecting urban communities to wildlands, including understanding and addressing the deep racial inequities in access to nature,” says Denis.

But The Wilderness Society had demonstrated the ability to do just that through our Urban to Wild program in Los Angeles, California—and expanding to Seattle was a natural next step. Always seeking to be a catalyst for change, The Bullitt Foundation stepped forward with a grant to launch Urban to Wild in Seattle. For Senior Program Officer Steve Whitney, a Wilderness Society alum, it was no brainer. “Although The Wilderness Society didn’t have a history of engagement in Seattle’s urban neighborhoods, they are trusted for their collaborative approach, their deep policy and science expertise, and their effective advocacy efforts,” he says.

Denis agrees. “This is a real opportunity to engage in natural area, open-space conservation, in collaboration with community partners, and to connect that work with efforts to protect the region’s public lands,” he adds.

As The Bullitt Foundation prepares to wind down its grantmaking in 2024, The Wilderness Society is looking ahead and sees the Urban to Wild program as integral to landscape-scale conservation. The opportunity to refine this model to enhance the resilience of natural ecosystems and human communities will continue to benefit the greater Seattle region and beyond. As Steve insists, the results can pay dividends: “If you first meet people on issues that are meaningful to them, you can build political power to address a wide range of environmental issues.”

Connecting Urban to Wild

All people need and deserve places where they can enjoy nature and live healthy lives. And with more than 80 percent of the U.S. population now residing in cities, it is more important than ever to focus on green spaces in urban places. But many urban communities lack equitable access to nature, and after decades of discriminatory planning and development policies, communities of color are far more likely to face challenges accessing parks and green space. That’s why The Wilderness Society launched the Urban to Wild program. Starting in Los Angeles, the program has expanded to Albuquerque and Seattle and will add new locations in the coming years.

Working collaboratively with organizations in each city, we will drive resources to communities that need it most. And we will partner with local groups and leaders to connect residents to nature and achieve big policy wins, while leveraging our work at the federal level for maximum impact.

Urban to Wild will also expand our efforts to develop the conservation leaders of the future. We’ll expand our partnerships with groups providing outdoor experiences to urban youth to bring them into wild public lands, teach them about the history of these shared lands and how to become effective advocates for public lands and conservation.

We supported a state-wide coalition in New Mexico, that tripled the funding for the nation’s first state-level Outdoor Equity Fund.

Building from Here

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mason Cummings

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The Wilderness Society extends our deepest gratitude to all of our supporters. You have protected America’s wild places and laid the groundwork for enduring conservation gains. Together, we will build a more inclusive and powerful conservation movement to harness the potential of public lands to help our nation address the challenges of our time: species extinction, climate change and inequitable access to nature.

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While it is critical in the near-term to keep up the fight to defend the Arctic Refuge, it is also urgent that we lay the groundwork for future conservation gains. With this in mind, Karlin Itchoak, Alaska State Director for The Wilderness Society and a member of the Nome Eskimo Community, conceived the Imago Initiative—an effort to bring Indigenous peoples together in order to explore possibilities for Tribal-led protection and management of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Iñupiat, Gwich’in and other Indigenous people joined conservationists in an eight-day retreat on the banks of the Hula Hula River in the Arctic Refuge in July. With this gathering, the Imago Initiative began advancing its goals of enhancing Native capacity, healing historic trauma, increasing trust and encouraging open dialogue among conservationists, government managers and Indigenous peoples.

The Imago Initiative introduces a new approach that both promotes reconciliation and addresses the most serious threats to the Arctic Refuge. It is meant to support a transition away from a fossil fuel-dependent economy and permanently protect the lands, waters and a way of life for the Indigenous peoples of the region.

Karlin Itchoak at the Imago Initiative Retreat, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

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The Imago Initiative

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The Roberts Marshall Council

Our legacy society is named for Robert "Bob" Marshall, a visionary whose bequest served as the foundation for The Wilderness Society. His generous gift decades ago paved the way for spirited individuals whose bequest served as the foundation for The Wilderness Society. 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.

Robert "Bob" Marshall Council
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.

Anonymous (17)
Gail R. Austin
Anne and Greg Avis
Tom and Allen Brown
Heidi and William M. Bumpers
The Bunting Family Foundation - Fund B
Benjamin C. Caplin
Barbara J. and David A. Churchill
Barbara Cohn
Judith and Stewart M. Colton
Carla D'Arista and George T. Frampton, Jr.
Brenda and Swep Davis
Walter Eberspacher
Christopher Elliman
James Ellsworth
Chris Enbom
High Meadows Foundation
Jaimie and David Field
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Field
Daniel Flickinger
Michelle and Robert Friend
Jessica and John Fullerton
The Horace J. Goldsmith Foundation
Sara and Ed Groark
Janet Haas
Ben Hammett
Anna Harvey and Mike Campbell
Lena and Gerald Hirschler
Lena and Gerald Hirschler
Pamela Johnson and Carl Hatfield
Tony Kezer
Sara and Joel Kimmel
Mariana Kutcheslav and Joseph Allbrit
Amy Liss
Ann Lovig
Anne R. Lovett and Stephen G. Wood
Hampton and Kevin Luzac
Jacqueline Badger Mars
Sandy and Patrick Martin
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Sandra J. Mosi
Priscilla Nafplios and Seth Niwalt
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Margy and Gilman Ordway
Martha and Robert Osborne
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Peter Peterson
Nancy and Robert Plasco
Pat Powers and Tom Wolfe
David Reker
Mrs. Diana and Governor Bruce Rauner
Mary and Gaylan Rockswold
Connie and Ted Roosevelt IV
Brett Sandquist and Phil Black
Kathrin Scheid-Ungerer
The Shearman Family Foundation
Sabine and Greg Sherrill
Jan and Carl Siechert
Nolan Kenneth Snead
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Lois and Arthur Steierman
Richard B. Steinitz
Jennifer Stolley
Christy and Robin Stubbs
Catherine B. Stowell and J. Keith Bahr
Alice and Fred Stanback, Jr.
Jennifer Perkins Speers
Aaron Wernham
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Francis G. Bronson-Elston, Riverside, NY
Richard Blum, San Francisco, CA
William M. Bumpers, Cabin John, MD
Brenda S. Davis, Ph.D. Bussem, MT
George F. Frampton, Washington, DC
Jim Eistein, Zuni, NM
Carl Frenzeck III, Boston, MA
David J. Field, Gladwyne, PA
Caroline M. Getty, San Francisco, CA
Martinique Grigg, Seattle, WA
Ben Jealous, Baltimore, MD
Lisa Keal, Old Greenwich, CT
Marcia Kunz, Jackson, WY
Kevin Lusk, Jackson, WY
Jacqueline Badger Mars, The Plains, VA
Juan Martinez, Big Bear, CA
Dave Matthews, Charlotte, NC
Jeffrey Rhodes, San Francisco, CA
Rebecca L., Rome, NY
Theodore Roosevelt IV, New York, NY
Jennifer Perkins Speers, Salt Lake City, UT
Aaron Wernham, M.D., M.S., Bozeman, MT
Edward A. Ames, Bronx, NY
Francis G. Bronson-Elston, Riverside, NY
Richard Blum, San Francisco, CA
William M. Bumpers, Cabin John, MD
Ames S. Davis, Ph.D. Bussem, MT
George F. Frampton, Washington, DC
§ Deceased
Reginald ‘Flip’ Hagood, Washington, DC
William H. Meadow, Nashvill, TN
Gilman Ordway, Walling, WY
James A. Pinkham, Ridgefield, WA
Charles Wilkinson, Boulder, CO

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY GOVERNING COUNCIL

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William M. Bumpers, Cabin John, MD
Brenda S. Davis, Ph.D. Bussem, MT
George F. Frampton, Washington, DC
§ Deceased

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Anonyou (17)
Financials

Despite the negative impacts of COVID-19 over the last two years, thanks to the efforts of our adaptable team and steadfast supporters, we continue to benefit from steady growth in financial resources to support current and future conservation efforts. The growth in net assets in 2021 resulted from unusually large bequests and exceptional returns in our investment portfolio. These funds provide a foundation of financial stability as we tackle three existential crises: extinction, climate change and inequity.

If you would like a copy of the consolidated audited financial statements or have any questions, please contact us:

Email: member@tws.org
Visit: wilderness.org/our-accountability
Call: 1-800-THE-WILD

2021 Total Program Expenses: $28,028,837

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<td>$36,401,638</td>
<td>$34,206,703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Efficiency

- 9.3% Net Assets
- 4.5% Expenses

Revenue Sources

- 77% Membership
- 19% Program
- 13.2% Institutions
- 68% Management
- 13.2% Philanthropy
- 6% Other

Organizational Growth

- Revenues: $50,365,417
- Expenses: $36,032,929
- Net Assets: $34,629,242

Governing Council Transitions

Brenda Davis
Joined Honorary Council
Brenda was an officer of Johnson & Johnson, leading of global compliance and quality, energy, environment, health and safety. Earlier she was a visiting fellow at Princeton University, and served in the Cabinet of New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean and was a senior staff member of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget. She holds a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of CA, Berkeley, and was a post-doctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Institution. A former Governing Council Chair, she serves on the boards of the World Wildlife Fund and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Brenda lives in Bozeman, Montana.

Jim Enote
Elected to Serve
Jim is a Zuni tribal member and has spent over 45 years working professionally to protect and steward cultural and natural resources. He is the CEO of the Colorado Plateau Foundation, which supports regional Native communities to protect water and sacred places, ensure food security, and preserve languages and ancestral knowledge. He also serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Grand Canyon Trust and is a National Geographic Society Fellow. Jim lives in Zuni, New Mexico.

Reginald “Flip” Hagood
Joined Honorary Council
A trailblazer for diversity and inclusion in the conservation movement, Flip was a regional Vice President of the Student Conservation Association and its Senior Diversity Relations Officer before that, he was Director of Training, Education, and Employee Development for the National Park Service’s 20,000 employees. Flip has served on several governing boards, including the SCA, the Institute of Conservation Leadership and the National Outdoor Leadership School. He advises many groups on environmental and conservation education as well as diversity, equity and inclusion. Flip lives in Washington, DC.

Ben Jealous
Elected to Serve
A civil rights leader, environmentalist and social impact investor, Ben is President of People for the American Way. In 2018, he was the Democratic nominee for governor of Maryland. As NAACP President and CEO from 2008-2013, he co-led the 2012 NAACP political campaign that preserved California’s landmark climate change legislation and chaired two campaigns resulting in state voter approvals over $38 billion of investments in water, land and ocean conservation.

Michael Mantell
Elected to Chair
Michael founded the Resources Legacy Fund to design and advance innovative solutions that have broadened the leadership and constituency for the environment and helped achieve enduring gains for land, water, wildlife and climate. He co-led the 2012 NAACP political campaign that preserved California’s landmark climate change legislation and chaired two campaigns resulting in state voter approvals over $38 billion of investments in water, land and ocean conservation.

A former Undersecretary for Natural Resources (CA) and General Counsel for the World Wildlife Fund, Michael lives in Sacramento.