

FUND for  
WILD  
NATURE 



Investing in Cutting Edge Environmental Grassroots Action Since 1982

## 2017 Annual Report

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**Our Mission:**

The Fund for Wild Nature invests in bold grassroots organizations and innovative conservation efforts that meet emerging needs for protecting biodiversity and wilderness.

The Fund for Wild Nature is supported entirely by donations from individuals like you. We have no endowment – our ability to make grants depends upon the continuing generosity of our contributors. We invite you to join our many donors whose contributions are making a tremendous difference for wild nature. The Fund is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization #87-0386717. Donations may be made by mail or on our website and are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

**Fund for Wild Nature**

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## FROM THE BOARD

Standing up to bullies...It would be nice to think that this task could left behind in the schoolyards of our yesteryears. Yet now with bullies in positions of power, we are sharply reminded that the responsibility to stand up to bullies never goes away.

The Fund for Wild Nature is proud to provide financial support to a remarkable array of bold grassroots environmental groups who are standing up to the bullies trying to assault wildlife and wild places. Our partners show what courage and tenacity can accomplish, even when faced with a much bigger adversary.

One example is Mike Garrity of the Alliance for Wild Rockies. When large forest fires occur, the timber industry and its allies ruthlessly stoke public fears and scapegoat environmentalists in order to try to roll back environmental protections and cut down more of our national forest. Mike Garrity experienced these attacks first-hand when Montana had a busy fire season last year. Despite the harassment and threats he faced, Mike did not back down. He has continued to challenge destructive logging projects in

court, including a big new timber sale that would cut right up to the edge of Yellowstone National Park in habitat for endangered lynx, grizzly bears, and bison. And when the timber industry's boosters in Congress tried to use the fires as a pretext to gut forest protections, Mike spoke out boldly. Through editorials in the Washington Post and numerous western news outlets, he called out those politicians and debunked their misinformation about wildfires.

This year's recipient of our Grassroots Activist of the Year Award—Christine Canaly -- is the latest example of someone who is effectively standing up to stop a big bully from despoiling nature. Christine is the director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council in Colorado. Christine and her allies have been engaged in a David-and-Goliath struggle against a billionaire from Texas who is trying to build a massive development in a mountain pass that provides a key corridor for lynx and other wildlife. As described in greater detail on the following pages, Christine and her co-plaintiffs recently spearheaded a successful legal challenge that has halted the development.

Standing up to bullies takes courage and tenacity, but it also helps when you have other people by your side. The Fund for Wild Nature is honored to stand by the many brave grassroots environmental groups that we assist. Your contributions to the Fund provide the financial and moral support to help them stop the bullies who are attacking wild nature. Together we are making a difference.



## Grassroots Activist of the Year:



### Christine Canaly

The Fund for Wild Nature's Grassroots Activist of the Year for 2017 is Christine Canaly. For nearly three decades, Christine has worked tirelessly to protect wild nature in the Colorado Rockies. As Director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (SLVEC), she has been at the heart of the campaign to protect Wolf Creek Pass from the proposed Village at Wolf Creek, an intensive 8,000-person development that would harm wildlife such as Canada lynx, degrade fragile wetlands, and destroy the rural nature of the area.

Wolf Creek straddles the Continental Divide and functions well as a wildlife corridor connecting two of the Southern Rockies' largest wilderness areas. But a scheme by the Texas billionaire developer Red McCombs, and a U.S. Forest Service that bends to his will, would replace this unique area with a town the size of Aspen, forever squandering the wild nature of this area.

The coalition resisting the destruction of Wolf Creek Pass has good reason to celebrate, with a court victory in 2017 that has halted the project for now. The effort has required constant vigilance: Christine's organization has participated in every court case, local and federal, to resist the Village at Wolf Creek development, for nearly 20 years.

As Matt Sandler of Rocky Mountain Wild explained, “Christine has been working to protect Wolf Creek Pass for decades. She’s been a backbone of this multi-organizational campaign, doing everything from helping to draft comments, gathering intel, and overall community organizing. She is a pleasure to work with and an inspiring member of the Colorado conservation community.”

Where did Christine get her inspiration? Growing up in a working class neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio, she remembers when the Cuyahoga River caught on fire when she was 10 years old. She recalls her brother reeling in fish from Lake Erie that had growing tumors on them. That bothered the young Christine. Over the years, she was shaped by personal experiences as well as by authors such as Terry Tempest Williams, Margaret Murie, Dr. Theo Colburn, and Wendell Berry.

During much of the 1980s, Christine had a career as an engineer, working for CNN Headline News in Atlanta and then NBC-TV in New York City. But when General Electric bought NBC, she became disillusioned by media consolidation and the shift from news as a public service to profit-seeking. She headed for parts West; New York City’s loss was our gain.

Christine’s philosophy is that “if you bring people together to solve a problem, it has a much higher rate of success.” She works in a complex local context and negotiates that setting well. She’s sensitive to, and has advocated for, environmental justice concerns, reporting that a local long-time Hispanic colleague pointed out to her “we are treated like a third world country here, they just come in and take the resources.” She organized farmers and ranchers in the San Luis Valley, helping to achieve the bi-partisan Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000. The Great Sand Dunes, and her efforts to protect them, are a particular source of pride for Christine.

For her tireless and innovative efforts in defense of wild nature, Christine received the Jasper Carlton “Activist in the Trenches” Award from Rocky Mountain Wild in 2015. Other awards she’s received include the EPA Environmental Stewardship Award in 2008.

In addition to her work to protect Wolf Creek Pass, Christine has also helped nurture an impressive array of environmental organizations and actions in her region. She has helped to start or promote Citizens for San

Luis Valley Water (1989); the Technical Assistance Grant (1992) to oversee the Summitville Mine Clean Up of the Alamosa River; Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, which ties private property to water rights with conservation easements (1998); Orient Land Trust, which protects the Valley View Hot Springs (2000); San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (1995), which advocates for public lands; Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, to preserve cultural and historic resources (2009); and the Conejos Clean Water, an environmental justice organization based out of Antonito, CO (2010).

Says Christine, “I am very proud of all these organizations who have taken off and are going in some wonderful directions, in their own way. Most of these organizations needed someone to help them (voluntarily) build/guide their infrastructure to be able to pursue non-profit/environmental work and get through the IRS credibility. It makes sense to have all these organizations now, but they needed effort and nurturing in the beginning.”

**For her long-term dedication to safeguarding nature and ability to achieve results, the Fund for Wild Nature is proud to honor Christine with a \$1,000 check and a badger statue in recognition of her selection as our Grassroots Activist of the Year.**



## 2017 Grantees

New grantees are underlined



### Alaskans for Wildlife (AK) \$3,000

Funding for efforts to protect wolves and other wildlife of Denali National Park and Preserve and Izembek National Wildlife Refuge from shooting and trapping by pressuring the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Board of Game.

### Alliance for the Wild Rockies (MT) \$3,000

Funding for litigation to halt clearcutting of lynx and grizzly bear habitat on the border of Yellowstone National Park.

### Arizona Mining Reform Coalition (AZ) \$3,000

Funds for the ongoing Protect Oak Flat Project to halt Rio Tinto's proposal to build a destructive mine.



**Basin and Range Watch (NV) \$3,000**

Support for efforts to stop the Bureau of Land Management from clearing hundreds of thousands of acres of pinion-juniper woodlands in Nevada.

**Battle Creek Alliance (CA) \$3,000**

Continued support to raise awareness about the impacts of clearcutting, salvage logging, and herbicide usage on the public trust resources of water, air, soil, climate, and wildlife in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges of California.

**Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project (OR) \$3,000**

Continued support for field-surveying timber sales; BLM livestock and USFS allotments; potential litigation of timber sales; public outreach; and organizing a network for public lands protection in the Blue Mountains and Eastern Oregon Cascades.

**Bold Visions Conservation (Saving Chaco) (NM) \$2,000**

Support for grassroots organizing to empower citizens to resist oil and gas development in Chaco Canyon in the Four Corners region, and its adverse impacts on Navajo and Hopi communities.

**Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons (FL) \$3,000**

Funding for grassroots organizing and litigation challenging construction of a federal prison in the Appalachian Mountains of eastern Kentucky, which would expose protected species, ecosystems, and human communities to toxic materials.

**Cherokee Forest Voices (TN) \$2,500**

Continued support for forest watch activities to protect and restore ecologically sensitive areas on the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee.

**Conservation Congress (CA) \$3,000**

Ongoing funding for comments, objections, and litigation of timber sales that violate federal environmental laws in northern California, especially Endangered Species Act enforcement for the Northern Spotted Owl.

**Friends of the Clearwater (ID) \$3,000**

Support for post-fire monitoring to hold agencies accountable to laws curtailing heavy-handed fire-fighting techniques and road development on firebreaks in north-central Idaho's roadless areas and wilderness areas.

**Friends of the Wild Swan (MT) \$3,000**

Continued support for the Habitat Protection Program for grizzly bears, lynx, wolverine, fisher, bull trout, and other imperiled species in northwest Montana that are threatened by timber sales, road building, and federal land takeovers.

**From the Heart Productions (CA) \$3,000**

Funding to produce "Pacific Fishers - In the Wild After Wildfire," a film to document this rare carnivore in Lassen and Sequoia national forests that have experienced fire, to assist in efforts to protect those snag forests from logging.

**Kentucky Heartwood (KY) \$3,000**

Continued support for Forest Watch program of project reviews, monitoring, advocacy, and public education to protect the Daniel Boone National Forest and Land Between the Lakes against harmful management practices.

**Klamath Forest Alliance (CA) \$3,000**

Ongoing support for documenting negative impacts of grazing on water quality and other ecosystem functions and pushing for reform or elimination of grazing on wilderness in the Klamath Mountains of California.

**Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team Support Network (OR) \$3,000**

Funding to use survey and manage laws to stop destructive logging of native and ancient forests in Oregon.

**Ocean Defenders Alliance (CA) \$3,000**

Funding to prevent whale entanglements from Dungeness crab “ghost (discarded) gear” by creating a detailed map of California’s Dungeness crab trap fishery to pressure the California Department of Fish and Game to enact tighter restrictions.

**Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition (CA) \$2,000**

Funding to fight construction of a highway on Paradise Ridge in Idaho to protect the endangered Palouse prairie ecosystem.

**Pasadena Audubon Society (CA) \$3,000**

Support for litigation and community outreach to fight a massive sediment removal project that threatens rare riparian habitat in Hahamonga Watershed Park in southern California.

**RESTORE: The North Woods (ME) \$2,000**

Funding to promote the expansion of America's National Park System by developing new park proposals, supporting individual new park initiatives, building a grassroots national parks coalition, and rallying public support for a new generation of national parks.

**Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative (CO) \$2,000**

Funding to protect Colorado wildlands from damage from mountain bike trails by mapping trail fragmentation and engaging conservationists, hunters, and anglers.

**San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (CO) \$3,000**

Ongoing support to protect the Rio Grande National Forest's ecological functionality and wildlife connectivity by galvanizing broad public support for the Conservation Alternative in the Forest's Management Plan.

**Sequoia ForestKeeper (CA) \$3,000**

Support for a lawsuit to halt the Bull Run Roadside Hazard Tree Project and compel the Forest Service to address cumulative impacts of salvage logging projects on the mountain yellow-legged frog, California Spotted Owl, and Pacific fisher.

**Sound Action (WA) \$3,000**

Funding to push for regulatory reform to protect Puget Sound's nearshore habitat by reviewing every development permit issued by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and taking legal action when necessary.

**Snake River Waterkeeper (ID) \$3,000**

Support for litigation to compel the Environmental Protection Agency to protect endangered sockeye salmon in the Lower Snake River in Idaho.

**Swan View Coalition (MT) \$3,000**

Ongoing support for enforcing Flathead National Forest's motorized road and trail closures to protect fish and wildlife, especially bull trout and wolverine, in the Swan Range of Montana.



**Tennessee Heartwood (TN) \$3,000**

Support for Forest Watch's timber sale monitoring and grassroots activist training in the Cherokee National Forest and Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area of Tennessee.

**Wild Farm Alliance (CA) \$3,000**

Funding to pass a rule change in the USDA National Organic Program to eliminate the incentive to convert native ecosystems to farms, to protect both wildlife habitat and the integrity of the organic label.

**WildFutures (CA) \$3,000**

Support for the development and dissemination of mountain lion educational and outreach materials to conserve the species and promote a peaceful co-existence between mountain lions and humans.

**WildWest Institute (MT) \$2,500**

Continued support for the Public Lands Project to mobilize the public and political support to protect and restore public lands in the Northern Rockies, including Ecosystem Defense, Watershed and Wildland Fire Restoration, and Roadless Rockies programs.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## January 1, 2017 Financial Position

Assets	\$61,859
Liabilities	\$13,314
Net Assets	\$48,548

## 2017 Statement of Activities

### Support and Revenue

Contributions, unrestricted	\$200,180
Contributions, restricted	\$0
Investment Income	\$540

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$200,720
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### Expenses

Grants awarded	\$86,000
Administration and Fundraising	\$6,965

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$92,965
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Change in Net Assets	\$100,755
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## December 31, 2017 Financial Position

Assets	\$157,300
Liabilities	\$1,000
Net Assets	\$156,300



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