

FUND for
WILD
NATURE



2019 Annual Report

Investing in Cutting Edge Environmental Grassroots
Action Since 1982

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Page 10: Grizzly Bear, Sandy Nervig
Page 13: White Wolf, Sandy Nervig
Back: Moth on Desert Chicory flower, Dave Parks

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

We are living in momentous times. Through 2019 the world was awakening to the biodiversity and climate crises. Extinction Rebellion and activists like Greta Thunberg called out the worst of the exploiters of nature for their part in pushing the Earth to the brink of collapse—and people were listening. Everyday folks were beginning to understand the consequences of the damage human activities are wreaking on our precious planet. There was hope that this rising tide of world-wide awareness would shape high-level environmental policies for the better.

That hope must be fulfilled, but, as we write this in April 2020, the rising tide has been overtaken by the tsunami of the COVID-19 pandemic. At least in the United States, the forces of exploitation and destruction are taking advantage of the COVID-19 crisis and its dislocations to go full speed ahead. Our grantees and other defenders of the natural world are struggling to maintain their organizations and deal with this rapidly changing situation. We expect that the pandemic will eventually be controlled, but the efforts to dismantle environmental protections will likely continue in the name of economic recovery. Our grantees and other defenders of the wild need all possible help in resisting this onslaught.

Maintaining immediate on-the-ground defense for our most threatened wildlands, waterways, and wildlife takes passionate and dedicated individuals and organizations working tirelessly to protect wild nature in the places they live. Grassroots organizations are implementing bold, smart, targeted tactics at the local level to accomplish effective conservation. These are the organizations the Fund for Wild Nature seeks out and supports on behalf of our cadre of caring donors.

The Fund is honored to provide funding for groups like Sound Action which works to protect the fragile Puget Sound shoreline from overdevelopment. Kentucky Heartwood, Battle Creek Alliance, Santa Fe Forest Coalition, Conservation Congress, and Alaska Rainforest Defenders are safeguarding local forests from damaging logging. Footloose Montana is striving to end the pain and suffering caused by the state's wildlife trapping program.

Read on to learn about all the groups the Fund financially supported in 2019, thanks to our donors. These are the best, the boldest, and the brightest lights in the grassroots movement to protect wild nature which sustains us all. These are the most passionate, dedicated, and feisty folks we know. In these momentous times, we certainly need to push for better global leadership to effect large-scale policy changes—but we also need to support local-scale efforts that secure habitats for grizzly bears, coyotes, salmon, flying squirrels, lynx, sea turtles, bluebirds, owls, and ultimately, for us. By contributing to the Fund for Wild Nature, you are investing in the preservation of the planet’s natural life support systems through the most effective home-grown actions. Join us in leaving a legacy of wild nature.



Grassroots Activist of the Year: Danielle Vosburgh



Danielle Vosburgh has been selected as the Fund for Wild Nature’s Grassroots Activist of the Year for 2020. Danielle is co-founder of the Florida-based grassroots group Balloons Blow, which opposes helium balloon releases and their harmful impact on wildlife. Danielle is a determined, passionate and informed activist and advocate for wild places.

Balloons, intentionally released or discarded, are particularly dangerous for animals living in the ocean. When balloons deflate and fall into the water, they can be readily mistaken for food. Balloons and their attached ribbons can also cause entanglement or strangulation. Examples of marine wildlife killed or injured by balloons include numerous species of seabirds, sea turtles, seals, dolphins, and whales. Researchers in Australia found that balloon debris is the deadliest form of marine pollution for seabirds, killing almost one in five birds who ingest it! Many terrestrial animals are also harmed by balloons, such as songbirds, owls, desert tortoises, elk, and even a bighorn sheep that was found choked to death by a cluster of balloons.

Danielle and her sister Chelsea were inspired to start Balloons Blow after a childhood in which they and their parents regularly cleaned up debris from the beaches near their home in southeastern Florida. Danielle was

particularly struck by the role of balloon pollution after finding a cluster of balloons with markings indicating that they had been released in Nashville, Tennessee. It was a vivid illustration of how far balloons disperse around the country.

This experience ultimately led Danielle to cofound Balloons Blow in 2011. She was 23 years old at the time. In the great tradition of volunteer environmental activism, she works on Balloons Blow in her spare time while holding a full-time job. Danielle decided to try to stop some particularly highly-profile, large-scale balloon releases. One of her early targets was the Clemson University football team in South Carolina, which had been featuring huge balloon releases at home games since the early 1980s. It took seven years of persistent advocacy by Balloons Blow before achieving victory in 2018 when Clemson announced that it would end its balloon releases.

Another high-profile target has been the Indianapolis 500 auto race, which has featured mass balloon releases for over 70 years. In 2019, Balloons Blow tried a new tactic for the Indy 500. With financial assistance from the Fund for Wild Nature, Danielle purchased a billboard next to the racetrack calling out the harms from balloons. However, within hours of the sign going up, the billboard company took it back down. Danielle was told that the company was under pressure from Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The removal of the Balloons Blow billboard then attracted significant media coverage. As Danielle recounted, the suppression of the billboard “wound up causing more of a stir.” Subsequently, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway has come under new management, and Danielle is hopeful that, with continued campaigning, there may be an opportunity to finally end the Indy 500 balloon releases.

The Fund for Wild Nature specializes in supporting small grassroots groups who are confronting much larger opponents. Balloons Blow is a good example of this “David and Goliath” dynamic, and it has substantial impact. Legislation restricting balloon releases has been enacted by five states and 22 cities in the US. As of February 2020, there are pending bills in Arizona, Maryland, New York, and Virginia. The Fund for Wild Nature is proud to support Balloons Blow, and we are happy to present Danielle with a \$1,000 check and a badger statue in recognition of her selection as our 2020 Grassroots Activist of the Year.

2019 Grantees

New grantees are underlined

Alaska Rainforest Defenders (AK), \$3,000

Funds support public outreach and website development to more fully inform the public about threats to the ecologically important and intact stands of old growth on Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

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

Funds will support the protection of the Greater Oak Flat watershed near Superior, Arizona, an area of great spiritual importance to Native American tribes, from destruction by Rio Tinto's proposed copper mine through its ongoing grassroots Protect Oak Flat Project.



Balloons Blow (FL), \$2,000

Funds advertising to protect biodiversity on land and water from the destructive effects of mass balloon releases that pollute and kill wildlife that eat the balloons. This project aired 30 second PSAs in Lincoln, Nebraska educating the public and specifically opposing mass balloon releases at Husker football games.

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

Funds support the protection of the Battle Creek watershed from industrial logging and hold state agencies accountable for their mandate to protect the public trust through data collection, grassroots organizing, and legal action.

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

Funds support the ongoing protection of biodiversity on public lands in eastern Oregon from destructive timber sales and livestock grazing allotments through ground-truthing, public outreach, community organizing, and litigation.

Buffalo River Watershed Alliance (AR), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of biodiversity in the entire 879,575-acre watershed of Arkansas' Buffalo National River from pollution by large swine industrial concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) through legal advocacy aimed at closing an existing offending CAFO.

Chattooga Conservancy (GA), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of old growth forests, sections of national wild & scenic river corridor and green salamander habitat in the Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina, from a destructive timber sale through field work, litigation, and continued public pressure.

Cherokee Forest Voices (TN), \$2,000

Funds support the ongoing protection and restoration of ecologically sensitive areas on the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee from harmful resource extraction and roadbuilding, through ground-truthing, data collection, advocacy and litigation.

Community Action Project - Calaveras Planning Coalition (CA), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of habitat for 34 special status species across 500,000 acres from development in the central Sierra Nevada county of Calaveras through litigation against the County General Plan Update and Environmental Impact Report.

Conservation Congress (CA), \$3,000

Funds support a monitoring Program seeks to protect wildlife populations and habitat for old growth species such as Northern spotted owl, California spotted owl, Northern goshawk, Pacific fisher and American marten, by challenging timber sales planned by the US Forest Service in their habitat on National Forest lands in northern California.

Environmental Protection Information Center (CA), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of California's last remaining Humboldt martens from industrial logging through aggressive advocacy for new protections.

Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (OR), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of wildlands in the Pacific Northwest by challenging firefighting as a means of protecting homes or forests from wildfire in the era of climate change.

Footloose Montana (MT), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of Montana's wolves and other wildlife from trapping through media, public education, coalition development, and volunteer recruitment aimed at ending trapping workshops run by State Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizens Task Force (MT), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of all roadless areas, threatened and endangered species, and water quality on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests, through development of a Citizen Forest Plan and a widespread campaign to generate public support for its adoption.

Forest and Climate Movement Convergence (IL), \$3,000

Funding for a conference to unify activists working on forests and climate to develop strategies with concrete actions and campaigns to address the urgent crises we face.

Friends of Big Ivy (NC), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of old-growth forests and rare species habitat in Pisgah-Nantahala National Forests through advocacy and coalition-building to support permanent protections in the Pisgah-Nantahala National Forest Plan.

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

Funds support the protection of wild steelhead through a petition to NOAA to reclassify populations in the Snake River Basin as endangered under the ESA.

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

Funds support the ongoing protection of grizzly bears, lynx, wolverines, fishers, bull trout, and other imperiled species on the Flathead and Lolo National Forests from timber sales, road building, and federal land takeovers, through the Wildlife Habitat Protection Program.

From the Heart Productions - Pacific Fishers film project (CA), \$3000

In support of work to document the presence of threatened fishers using intact post-fire forests in parts of the Stanislaus, Sequoia National Forest and Klamath Region illustrating the importance of post fire forests and the need to protect those forests from logging. The footage of fishers and other mammals and wildlife will become part of a new film.

Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance (MT), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of roadless wildlands in the Northern Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem through the creation of a formal Wilderness designation and a grassroots movement to advocate for its passage.

Grizzly Times (MT), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of grizzly bears in Yellowstone by challenging the government to revise its outdated recovery plan, and pursuing litigation.

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

Funds support the protection of the Kentucky arrow darter, Indiana bat, and other at-risk species from public lands logging through advocacy and public engagement.

Lobos of the Southwest (AZ), \$2,500

Funds support the protection of Mexican gray wolves from social intolerance and build support in communities directly affected by the loss of wolves and their habitat by developing educational materials for schools in the Mexican gray wolf recovery area.

Native Ecosystems Council (MT), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of Canada lynx through advocacy and possible litigation to prevent the US Forest Service from removing habitat protections on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest next to Yellowstone National Park.

Northwest Ecosystem Survey (OR), \$3,000

Supporting tree-climbing wildlife surveys to produce data for use with management laws to halt logging on ancient and native forests, protect complex and interwoven forest ecosystems, and to create a culture that encourages the preservation and value of all things wild.

Public Lands Media (OR) \$3,000

Funds support the protection of wildlands and the promotion of ecosystem conservation through public education by publication of essays and editorials, radio interviews and public presentations on wildfire ecology, the ineffectiveness of thinning/logging, the ecological impacts of logging projects, the need for more wilderness protection, and the ecological impacts of livestock grazing.

Raptors Are The Solution (CA), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of raptors and other wildlife from death due to secondary poisoning from anticoagulant and other rat poisons, through advocacy and public education in Massachusetts and California to increase awareness about rat poison in our ecosystems.

RESTORE the North Woods (ME), \$2,000

Funds to protect large tracts of forest from logging and other industrial exploitation and prevent biodiversity loss by supporting the ongoing promotion for creation of a new Maine Woods National Park and state parks and reserves in Massachusetts through individual initiatives, building coalitions and rallying public support.

Rewilding Institute (NM), \$3,000

Funds support the Puma Recovery for Eastern Wildways project to restore viable Puma populations to eastern North America while building social and political support for restoration and conservation of all native predators.

Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative (CO), \$3,000

Funds support the protection of Colorado wildlands from damaging outdoor recreation through sharing experiences with GIS mapping, grassroots organizing, strengthening enforcement and wildland protections in federal trail decisions, and changing trail policies that encourage trail proliferation in undeveloped backcountry.

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

In support of a continuing legal challenge in federal court that will protect the largest core habitat area left in the Southern Rockies, which includes the Canadian Lynx, and continued media coverage regarding the importance of protecting Wolf Creek Pass, wildlife connectivity and the negative impacts of applying ANILCA to the lower 48 states.

Santa Fe Forest Coalition (NM), \$3,000

Funds support the Santa Fe Mountains Litigation project that is mounting a legal challenge to the 50,566 acre Santa Fe Mountains Landscaping Resiliency Project.

Sheep Mountain Alliance (CO), \$3,000

Funds support conservation advocacy to safeguard biologically important habitat in the San Juan Mountains from resource development.

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

Funds support the protection of sockeye salmon from extinction caused by high water temperatures through legal defense of a 9th Circuit appeal of our Lower Snake TMDL victory.

Sound Action (WA), \$5,000

Funds support the protection of Puget Sound nearshore habitat from development impacts through regulatory watchdog work and legal action to enforce environmental laws. This includes reviewing every shoreline permit issued to defend habitat critical to the health of Puget Sound

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

Funds support the protection of grizzly bears, bull trout and other wildlife in the Flathead National Forest from habitat destruction through advocacy for the decommissioning of logging roads on the Flathead National Forest.

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

Funds support the protection of native ecosystems from conversion to organic production by advancing a new rule change in the National Organic Program.

WildWest Institute (MT), \$3,000

Funds support the ongoing protection and restoration of public lands in the Northern Rockies bioregion through the Public Lands Project that mobilizes the public and political support necessary to protect this area, including the Ecosystem Defense, Watershed and Wildland Fire Restoration, and Roadless Rockies programs.

Yellowstone to Uintas Connection (UT), \$3,000

Funds for continuation of the Yellowstone to Uintas Corridor Habitat Integrity Project that acts as a voice for wildlife and habitat throughout the corridor, advocates for sound science in land management, and supports litigation efforts to oppose projects with a projected negative impact on wildlife and habitat.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 2019 Financial Position

Assets	\$199,049
Liabilities (Dec 31, 2019 unpaid grants)	\$15,500
Net Assets	\$183,549

2019 Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue

Contributions, unrestricted	\$227,060
Contributions, restricted	\$0
Investment Income	(\$97)

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$226,963
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Expenses

Grants awarded	\$116,500
Administration and Fundraising	\$6,900

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$123,400
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Change in Net Assets	\$89,861
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December 31, 2019 Financial Position

Assets	\$285,411
Liabilities (Dec 31, 2019 unpaid grants)	\$12,000
Net Assets	\$273,411



Fund for Wild Nature

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