

A photograph of a herd of caribou in a mountainous landscape. One caribou is prominently featured in the foreground, looking directly at the camera. Several other caribou are visible in the background, scattered across a grassy slope. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The overall tone is warm and natural.

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL
YEAR

2019

**TRUSTEES
FOR ALASKA**

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR SUPPORTERS:

Trustees for Alaska always confronts powerful forces in our work, and this fiscal year, these forces tried to leverage chaotic and destructive political agendas to exploit Alaska's lands, waters, and wildlife, while evading responsibility for the harm and suffering caused by industrialization and the gutting of protections.

Federal and state agencies led by appointees with close ties to extractive industries pushed ahead with hasty and cursory permitting processes for massive industrial proposals like the Pebble mine, the Ambler road, and the oil leasing program for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

We responded in hearings, on the ground, and in court.

We wrote thousands and thousands of pages detailing the legally flawed conclusions and assumptions of industry permit applications and agency environmental reviews. We guided clients, partners and the public in speaking truth to power. We went to court to prevent greed and insider deals from threatening the health of salmon, water, caribou, and the ways of life and cultures of Alaska communities.

Our efforts held projects at bay, shut down unscrupulous and unlawful actions, and prepared clients and partners for legal and legislative responses. We know that the work ahead will get harder, not easier, and that we have to hold the line until efforts to ensure longer term protections gain traction.

Corruption and greed mean that even legal wins come with caveats. We sued the Interior Department in January 2018 for its illegal land exchange deal aimed at bulldozing a road through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. We won mightily in March. Within weeks the Interior Secretary negotiated a second land swap, so we sued again.

We made Freedom of Information Act requests to Interior for key communications records related to the federal oil and gas leasing program for the Arctic Refuge, and then we took the Interior Department to court when it failed to respond.

We produced a relentless defense of the Western Arctic by consistently putting critical comments in the record during agency permitting processes to make sure that we're ready to go to court if plans to expand oil and gas extraction in long-protected areas of Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve get approved.

The collective work we do as an organization and within coalitions pays off, but it never goes away. Those in power too often ignore or forget their obligation to the law and the public, and our job is to remind them.

We remain vigilant as strategists, experts on environmental law in Alaska, and as a trusted ally to clients, partners and supporters.

We've been protecting Alaska since 1974. We know the issues, the communities, the politics, and the challenges. We know the people and places we fight for, and what's at stake locally, nationally and globally.

Because of you—the foundations and individuals who commit to a shared vision of a vibrant Alaska where wildlife and people thrive—we can use our skills, knowledge, expertise, and experience to protect human rights, sacred places, public lands, and all the living communities that make Alaska extraordinary.

Thank you for being part of our Trustees team!



Victoria Clark, Executive Director





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CLEAN WATER & AIR

Protecting Bristol Bay salmon, communities, and ways of life

Trustees took strategic action this year to counter increasing political and administrative pressure to permit the proposed Pebble mine, a massive open pit copper and gold mining project that would pose a catastrophic threat to dozens of Alaska villages and the world's last great sockeye salmon fishery.

The thriving salmon runs of Bristol Bay nourish traditional Yup'ik, Dena'ina, and Alutiiq ways of life that go back thousands of years, and support a commercial salmon fishery that feeds the world, along with recreational fishing opportunities for Alaskans and visitors.

Trustees submitted over 400 pages of comments to the U.S. Army Corps detailing how its draft environmental review for the proposed Pebble mine violates the law. We drew attention to the agency's unsupported conclusions, noting its consistent disregard of science and traditional knowledge, and refusal to adequately address direct and indirect existential threats to Bristol Bay, including a catastrophic tailings dam failure that would flood the watershed with toxic waste.

Months before the Army Corps rushed through its draft EIS, multiple cooperating agencies such as the State of Alaska, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service, along with thousands of scientists, identified similar concerns about the integrity of the process and environmental review.

During and throughout our work in producing comments for the record to support future legal actions, we continually provided strategic guidance to clients and coalition partners while preparing for the final EIS.

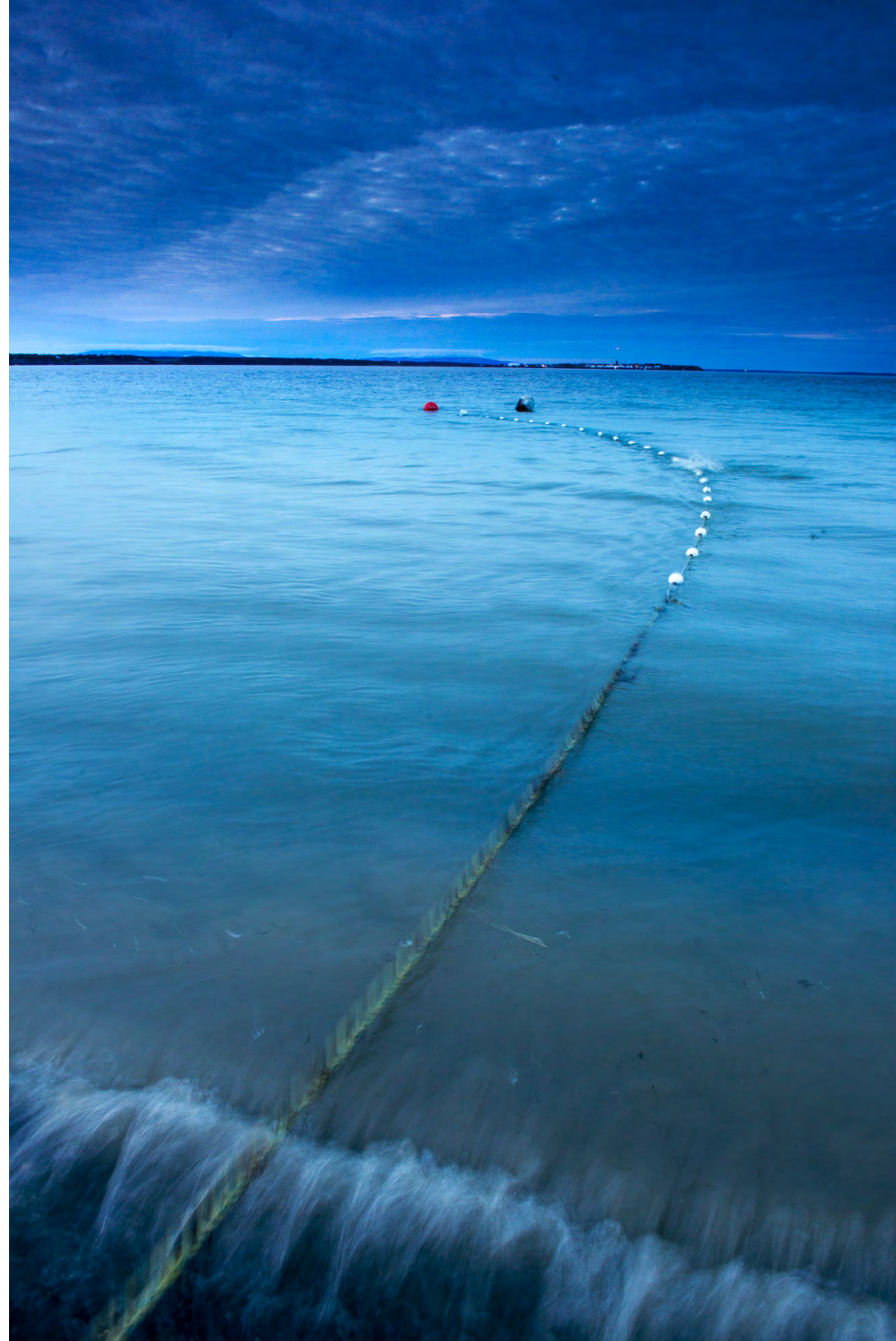
CLEAN WATER & AIR (cont'd)

In addition, Trustees evaluated and provided guidance to clients and partners about potential responses to the EPA decision to withdraw its own 2014 scientific conclusions that the proposed Pebble mine would devastate the fisheries, economies, and social and cultural fabric of communities in Bristol Bay.

The need to stay vigilant when tracking the actions and decisions of federal and state agencies, agency representatives, and the Canadian company Northern Dynasty—also known as the Pebble Partnership—remained ever-present and intense as industry and political pressure undermined public processes and the law.

While Pebble has been pushing to build a massive mine in the headwaters of Bristol Bay, it has lost multiple major mining partners and faced ongoing and overwhelming opposition in the region.

We consider protecting Bristol Bay a vital part of our ongoing work to protect Alaska's lands, waters, wildlife and people.



MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

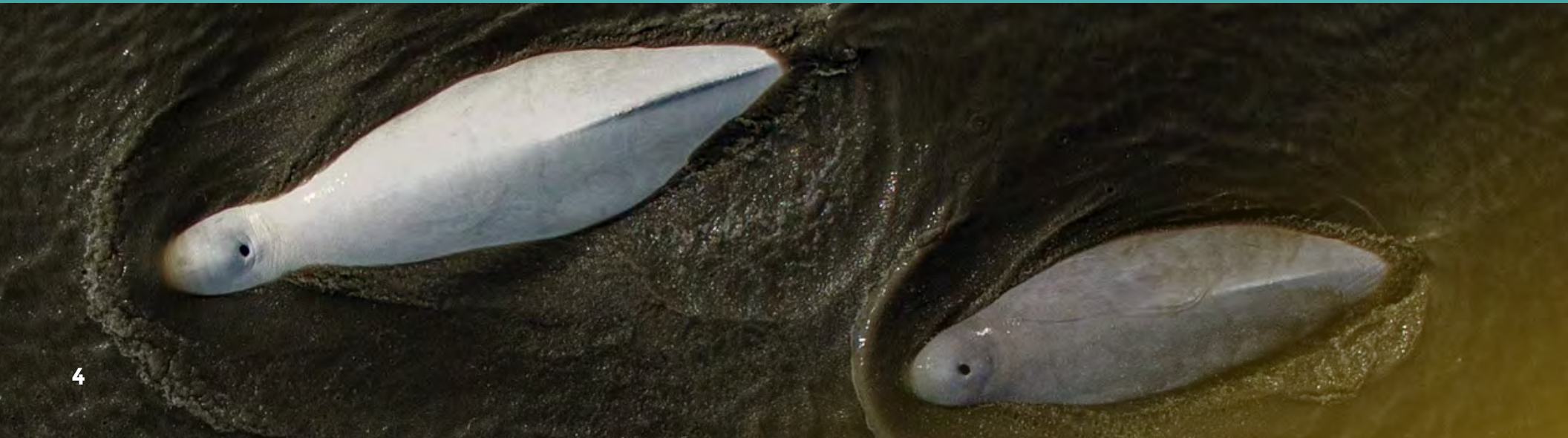
Keeping watch to ensure the health of Cook Inlet and beluga whale habitat

Trustees continues to keep a close watch on any administrative and industry actions impacting Cook Inlet water quality and beluga whales.

After years of delays, the Department of Environmental Conservation finally released the draft General Permit for Cook Inlet Oil and Gas Facilities for public comment.

The coastal waters of Cook Inlet are the only waters in the United States where oil and gas facilities are allowed to discharge wastes such as drill cuttings and fluids directly into the water. All other coastal oil and gas facilities in the country are required to meet a zero discharge requirement for these discharges.

DEC also released a draft permit for the Osprey platform, which has historically met the zero discharge standard. In both the individual permit for Osprey and the General Permit, DEC proposed to roll back the standards applicable to Osprey and allow for discharge into Cook Inlet. The draft General Permit also reduced many of the protections that were in the previous permit issued by Environmental Protection Agency, which were already limited. Trustees drafted comments on both permits on behalf of client groups to protect Cook Inlet.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

AMERICA'S ARCTIC/CLIMATE CHANGE

Stopping drilling on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Republican majority in Congress slipped oil and gas drilling into the tax bill at the end of 2017, opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain to oil and gas exploitation by eluding transparency, and avoiding real debate and public input. The majority of Americans want the Arctic Refuge protected.

The coastal plain of the Refuge protects and nourishes millions of animals, including the Porcupine caribou herd, denning polar bears, and birds that migrate to all continents. The Gwich'in Peoples of Alaska and Canada consider the coastal plain sacred—calling it Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit, or “the sacred place where life begins”—for



AMERICA'S ARCTIC/CLIMATE CHANGE (cont'd)

its vital role as the birthing and nursing grounds for the Porcupine caribou, a primary food and foundation for the Gwich'in way of life.

Trustees has worked to protect the Arctic since our founding in 1974. This fiscal year we prepared for and executed administrative and legal actions to stop a lease sale in the Arctic Refuge, and to protect the human rights and voices of local communities. We produced incisive and robust comments in response to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's rushed and faulty draft environmental impact statement, and we assisted clients and coalition partners with preparing written comments and testimony.

We submitted Freedom of Information Act requests to shed light on communications and other records informing decision-making processes around oil and gas leasing in the Refuge, and sued the Interior Department when these requests were ignored and withheld.

We assisted in developing and supporting bills to restore protections to the Arctic Refuge. One of the bills to repeal the Tax Act and restore protections for the Refuge passed on the House floor in a historic vote. This was the first time the House passed a bill directed specifically at protecting the Refuge since the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980. This bill had 182 House co-sponsors and strong congressional support.

Throughout the year, Trustees prepared clients and partners for administrative hearings and legislator outreach, developed technical documents, followed seismic exploration and other oil and gas proposals, and educated legislators and the public about how drilling in the coastal plain would erode human rights, accelerate climate change, and devastate the wilderness and wildlife purposes of the Arctic Refuge.

Trustees considers the protection of the Arctic Refuge a fundamental goal. We will continue to prepare proactively for potential legal challenges, even as we do defensive work in a political climate that puts exploitation before the health of the Arctic.

From the halls of Congress and Arctic communities to the courtroom, we stand with the Gwich'in.



AMERICA'S ARCTIC/CLIMATE CHANGE (cont'd)

Acting on climate by halting expanded fossil fuel extraction in the Western Arctic

The National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska has an unfortunate “official” name that fails to capture this Arctic region’s importance to people and wildlife. It provides vital calving and breeding grounds for caribou and shorebirds, habitat for mammals, fish, and birds of all kinds, and lands that support the ongoing traditions of the Alaska Native Peoples who have lived in, hunted on, and moved through its landscape for thousands of years.

The current management plan for the region calls for the protection of special areas in the Western Arctic because of their importance to the health of the region and the Arctic as a whole. This year, the Interior Department proposed changing this plan to allow more leasing and drilling by opening up protected areas of the Reserve to fossil fuel exploitation.

Trustees provided critical comments during the U.S. Bureau of Land Management’s proposed plan to drive for more oil and gas industrialization in the Arctic, where people already suffer pronounced impacts due to dirty air, rising seas, reduced sea ice, animal die-offs, floods, and other climate harms. We assisted clients, partners, and the public in accessing hearings and public comment processes, and provided strategic guidance around planning for potential legislative and legal actions.

BLM’s effort to open more of the NPRA land to leasing and drilling further erodes an area under increased pressure due to cumulative projects that will degrade the Arctic and the health of local communities.

AMERICA'S ARCTIC/ CLIMATE CHANGE (cont'd)

BLM has held annual lease sales every year in the Reserve for years. We originally took BLM to court over its 2017 lease sale, but BLM has continued to violate the law by disregarding the impacts of its decision to lease public lands in the Reserve for oil and gas. This year, we took the agency to court again over its 2018 lease sales and its continued violations of the law.

Meanwhile, BLM is reviewing a massive ConocoPhillips oil and gas proposal called the Greater Willow Area that will extend the spider web of roads and industrialization further into the Western Arctic. Trustees prepared detailed comments during BLM's scoping process for the agency's Environmental Impact Statement for the Willow proposal. BLM released the draft EIS in August 2019, and Trustees led the preparation of detailed comments in that process.

The federal administration's attempt to make essentially every public land an oil field, no matter the destruction of land, water, animals and communities, makes Trustees' legal prowess essential to protecting the Western Arctic.



Preventing the proposed Ambler road from degrading the Arctic

Trustees continues to prepare partners for hearings and other outreach to the Alaska State Legislature to prevent a publicly funded road that would benefit private mining interests at the expense of Arctic lands, waters, and communities.

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority presented its proposal for using millions of public dollars for the proposed Ambler road in 2018. The 220-mile road would be used solely by private mining corporations and would degrade and pollute water, air, and land on state and tribal lands, and within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

AIDEA's permit application failed to fully describe details of the project or provide adequate information on impacts to waterways, fish, wildlife and people. BLM released the draft EIS for the Ambler Road in August 2019, and Trustees led the preparation of detailed comments in that process.

Trustees will continue supporting clients and local opposition to the road. The road would create an unjustifiable cost to the State and an unjust cost to the fish, wildlife and people of the region.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WILD LANDS AND WILDLIFE

Keeping a road out of Izembek National Wildlife Refuge

Trustees for Alaska filed a lawsuit in January 2018 in U.S. District Court arguing that a land exchange between King Cove Corporation and the Department of the Interior to build a road in Izembek National Wildlife Refuge violated multiple federal laws, including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

We won in court in March 2019. The federal judge voided the land exchange, and agreed that the Interior Department cannot use the land exchange provision of ANILCA to gut a National Wildlife Refuge, congressionally designated Wilderness, or to circumvent public process, environmental review, and congressional approval.

Weeks later, the Interior Secretary negotiated a second deal behind closed doors, so we took them to court again in August 2019 with the same nine clients.

Those pushing for the land exchange claim that King Cove needs a road to Cold Bay for emergency medical access, but studies show that there are cheaper, safer and more reliable ways of getting people from King Cove to Cold Bay. Weather conditions would also make driving this corridor dangerous and even impossible. Unlawfully appropriating a vital part of a Refuge and Wilderness for a road would set a dangerous precedent for the entire Refuge System and public lands throughout the country. We will see through our latest legal action and continue using the law to protect public lands.

Staying true to the purpose of National Parks

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in November in an appeal of a Ninth Circuit decision that upheld National Park Service authority over waterways in National Park Units in *Sturgeon vs. Frost*. Trustees represented 13 clients as amici curiae, or friends of the court, in the case, supporting NPS and centuries of law that support federal authority over navigable waters and other public lands.

The lawsuit stems from a National Park Service citation given to John Sturgeon in 2007 for using his hovercraft—banned under Park Service regulations nationwide—within Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

The broader issue is whether NPS may regulate the use of navigable waters within the boundaries of

federal conservation areas established by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Trustees argued that if disallowed from managing rivers within the parks, NPS would not be able to regulate harmful activities like placer mining or other incompatible uses in national parks in Alaska.

The Ninth Circuit ruled in favor of NPS twice, and Sturgeon appealed to the Supreme Court. In March of 2019, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Sturgeon, finding that the Park Service could not prohibit Mr. Sturgeon from operating his hovercraft within the boundaries of the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve on waterways overlying state-owned submerged lands.



WILD LANDS AND WILDLIFE (cont'd)

Protecting bears and wolves



The Department of the Interior proposed regulations that would allow extreme, egregious predator hunting practices in national parks, preserves and refuges in Alaska, including the killing of bears and wolves in dens, killing sows with cubs, using aircraft to scout and shoot bears, and baiting brown bears with sweets like donuts.

This year Trustees wrote and submitted comments on proposed regulations that would allow these hunting practices on national preserves, and supported clients, partners, and the public in voicing their concerns. The State of Alaska and National Park Service have had an agreement for over four decades in how to manage federal lands in Alaska, and multiple laws inform that agreement. The proposed rule would undermine the intent and the law protecting and conserving wildlife diversity in national parks.

We further submitted comments outlining how a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services proposal to delete a rule prohibiting the use of planes or helicopters to locate wolves and then land nearby to shoot them violates the law and undermines the purpose of the National Refuge System. Same day airborne hunting had been illegal in National Refuges for decades.

The agency proposal was finalized in September 2019, which means the State of Alaska Board of Game can allow same day airborne hunting to manipulate predator populations to turn Refuges into game parks. We are monitoring to see if any specific Refuge managers allow the killing of wolves through same-day airborne practices, and we will work with clients and partners to respond strategically if they do.

Trustees for Alaska has been involved in stopping extreme predator control measures for years, and in 2017 intervened on behalf of clients in two lawsuits filed by the State of Alaska and Safari Club that challenge National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations prohibiting these aggressive sport hunting methods targeting wolves and bears.

Trustees will stay engaged in administrative and legal actions to stop dangerous wildlife management practices that undermine the purpose of national parks, preserves and refuges.



POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Trustees for Alaska began its Post-Graduate Legal Fellowship program in FY19. Through these two-year fellowships, new lawyers eager to expand their knowledge and skills in environmental law get the opportunity to work alongside the Trustees legal team.

This immersive experience allows fellows to dive deep into all aspects of working in environmental law, from coalition work and client representation to litigation and communications. Throughout, fellows gain a greater diversity of experience and knowledge that empowers them with skills that will serve them well in their careers.

MARESA JENSON

As Trustees' first Legal Fellow, I feel incredibly fortunate that I can begin my legal career in the program. During my first year of practice, I received exceptional mentorship and guidance from Trustees' attorneys, drafted public comments and memoranda, filed my first lawsuit, and provided other support for the Arctic Program.

Alaska's wild spaces deeply inspire me and I am grateful for the past and current Indigenous stewardship of these lands. It is an honor that I have this opportunity to represent Trustees' clients and to work on Arctic conservation and other oil and gas issues that affect these lands, wildlife, and waters. The mentorship, guidance, and experiences at Trustees will provide me with a strong foundation to move forward in my career.

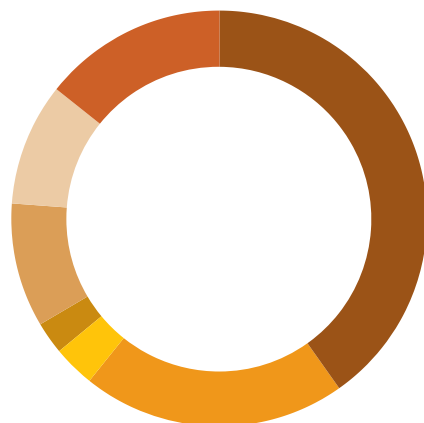
2019 FINANCIALS

REVENUE



Grants 59%	\$847,390
Contributions 38%	\$548,625
In-kind revenue 1%	\$9,565
Interest 0%	\$0
Other 2%	\$23,601
Colleen Burgh Fund for Science and the Law 0%	\$0
Total	\$1,429,181

EXPENSES



America's Arctic 40%	\$393,840
Clean Air & Water 20%	\$285,703
Climate Change 3%	\$44,983
Marine Ecosystems 2%	\$35,267
Wild Lands & Wildlife 10%	\$141,002
Administration 9%	\$136,166
Fundraising 14%	\$209,361
Total	1,446,065

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

September 30	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 370,361	\$ 342,024
Receivables:		
Foundation grants	100,000	115,000
Other receivables	14,237	10,157
Prepaid expenses	14,156	22,454
Total Current Assets	498,754	489,635
Property and equipment	73,870	72,701
Less accumulated depreciation	(56,349)	(48,831)
Property and Equipment, Net	17,521	23,870
Total Assets	\$ 516,275	\$ 513,505
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 21,175	\$ 11,164
Accrued payroll liabilities and leave	49,591	42,785
Current portion, capital lease payable	3,573	3,459
Total Current Liabilities	74,339	57,408
Long Term Liabilities - capital lease payable, net of current position	6,778	10,351
Total Liabilities	81,117	67,759
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted:		
Designated by the board for operations	150,000	150,000
Undesignated	32,563	88,758
Temporarily restricted	252,595	206,988
Total Net Assets	435,158	445,746
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 516,275	\$ 513,505

IN GRATITUDE

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the generous individuals and foundations that make our work to defend Alaska's lands, waters, wildlife, and people possible.

FY19 FOUNDATIONS

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Ambler Traditional Council
Audubon Alaska
Brooks Range Council
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society
Castle Mountain Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity
Conservation Lands Foundation

Cook Inletkeeper
Copper Country Alliance
Curyung Tribal Council
Defenders of Wildlife
Denali Citizens Council
Earthworks
Earthjustice
Environment America
Eyak Preservation Council
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges
Friends of McNeil River
Gwich'in Steering Committee
Humane Society of the United States

Humane Society Legislative Fund
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Koliganek Village Council
League of Conservation Voters
McNeil River Alliance
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Native Movement
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Oasis Earth

The Pew Charitable Trusts
REDOIL (Resisting Environmental Destruction on Indigenous Lands)
SalmonState
Sierra Club
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Stand for Salmon
The Wilderness Society
Trout Unlimited
United Tribes of Bristol Bay
Wild Salmon Center
Wilderness Watch



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TRUSTEES FOR ALASKA

PROTECT | DEFEND | REPRESENT