

FY25

ANNUAL REPORT



**TRUSTEES
FOR ALASKA**

Letter from the executive director

Dear supporters,

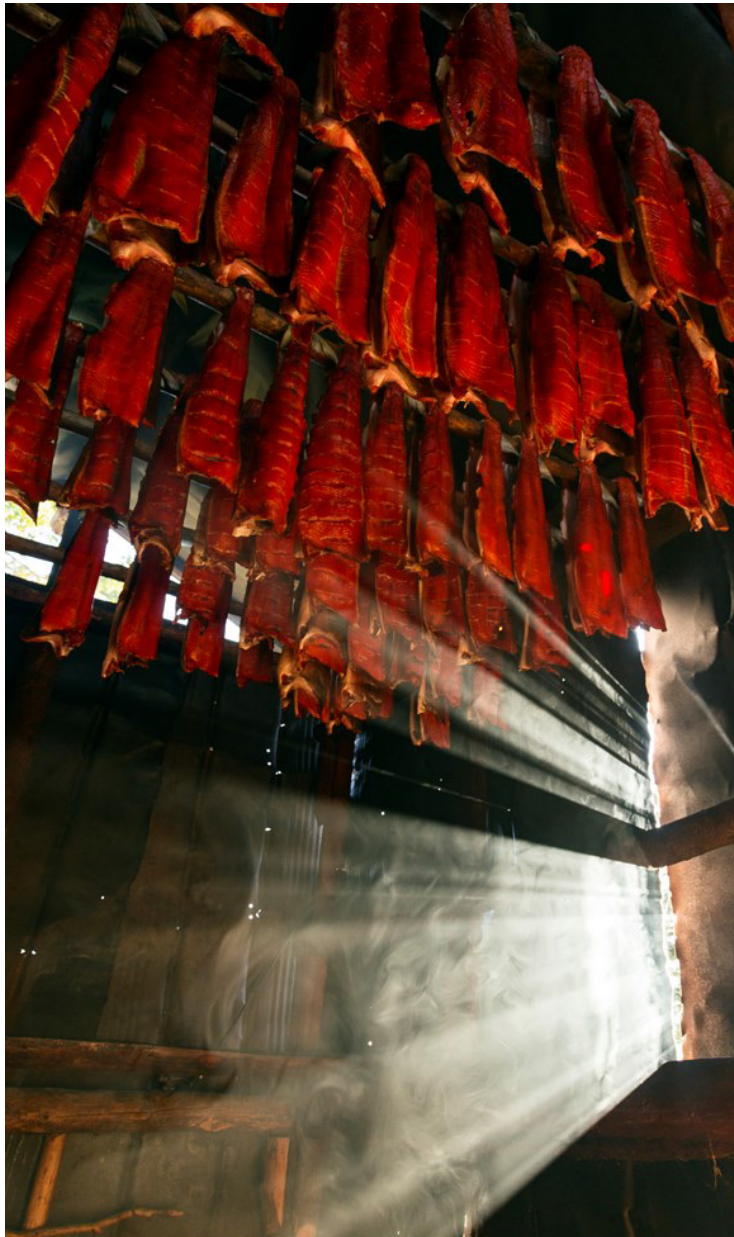
Every presidential transition brings a shift in policy and goals around industrial and extractive projects. As environmental lawyers, we know to prepare, pivot, and build strategies that meet the moment.

Well, the moment came loud and clear this fiscal year. The Trump administration issued an Alaska-centric executive order in January 2025 designed to turn the state into a haven for mining and fossil fuel corporations, while handing federal public lands to private interests. This tectonic order laid out a plan to gut sound rules and protections while disregarding the concerns of local communities, the catastrophic impacts of a warming climate on Alaska communities, and the environmental devastation produced and left behind by unfettered industrialization.

This executive order targeted the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the western Arctic, the southern Brooks Range, lands under U.S. Bureau of Land Management oversight, and national park and preserve lands. It outlined a plan to expand the exploitation of the Arctic and Alaska regardless of the harm done to land, water, and communities, often by stripping long-time protections and undercutting sound rules based on thorough analysis and public input.

This proclamation of "industrialization no matter the cost" clearly prioritizes specific industries and corporate executives, while sacrificing the health of those most impacted by industrial pollution and waste and who rely on healthy land and water for their livelihoods and ways of life. The stated plan further aims to erode the protective and conservation purposes of public lands as established by Congress decades ago and, in turn, devalue the many ways in which Alaskans and Americans engage with these places—as their homes, their sources of food and culture, their place of belonging and hope, their way of connecting with each other and the other living beings, their space of joy and discovery, and so much more.





Letter from the executive director

Responding to the Trump administration's aggressive plan to exploit Alaska required a focused and steadfast response. Trustees met the moment by providing clients with a legal voice and partners with a foundation for advocacy grounded in administrative participation and the law. We did intensive preparatory work to carry forward prior litigation, put our client voices forward, and doggedly take every opportunity for administrative engagement and legal action to prevent or stop on-the-ground harm.

We won in court even as industry and political players tried to weaken the very laws that protect the health of land, water, air and communities. We got a good court ruling as interveners in a lawsuit defending the Biden administration's 2023 suspension of Arctic Refuge leases. Plus, we carried forward our own 2020 lawsuit challenging the Arctic Refuge leasing plan into FY25.

This year we also submitted comments on multiple agency actions, including the Trump administration's decision to revert from a Biden era plan that supported protected areas in the western Arctic to a 2020 plan that gutted designated protected Special Areas. Agencies offered fewer opportunities for public engagement in their decisions, often making it hard to know when decisions were made, so we anticipated what we needed to do, where clients and partners could engage, and we met every challenging timeline.

Though we ended fiscal year 2024 with good news on the proposed Ambler road project—a decision that would keep the southern Brooks Range free of industrial mining traffic—Trump's executive order called for reinstatement of the permits for the Ambler project. As with other litigation from the first Trump term, our 2020 lawsuit challenging Trump's approval of the proposed Ambler road remained pertinent this fiscal year.

In much better and surprising news this fiscal year, the Trump administration defended in court the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2023 final determination protecting Bristol Bay communities, salmon, rivers, streams, and other waterways from largescale mining projects like Pebble. We never thought we'd go to court on the same side as this administration, but we happily did so this fiscal year when arguing as interveners in support of that final determination.

Letter from the executive director

Of course, plenty of other agency actions cast shadows over this bright spot. This year, Trump directed the U.S. Department of the Interior to reinstate five public land orders issued during Trump's first term that would remove protections for vast areas of land across the state vital to the health of Alaska communities, their food and ways of life. These lands were first withdrawn from industrial and extractive uses decades ago through section 17(d)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 and are called DL lands. These lands support the hunting practices and cultural traditions of Alaska Native communities and protect ecosystems vital to all five species of Pacific salmon, three of North America's largest caribou herds, abundant moose, and countless migratory birds, among other animals and plants.

Public lands face similar threats throughout the state. In November 2024, the Biden administration released a draft environmental impact statement that outlined a potential land swap designed to make way for a road in Izembek National Wildlife Refuge—again. We submitted comments raising concerns about this land swap and the health of animals like Pacific black brant and emperor geese and about the continued protection of critically important public lands in Alaska. When the Trump administration took office in 2025, it signaled that it would fast-track the transfer of public lands on the narrow Izembek Isthmus to private hands.

If unchecked, this outcome would undermine the conservation purposes of Alaska's parks, refuges, and designated Wilderness areas and potentially lead to more land swaps that put federal public lands into private hands across the state. We will continue working alongside partners to defend against agency actions that erode the health of Izembek and wildlife refuges in Alaska.





Letter from the executive director

Our work protecting land and water strives to sustain animals and communities across the state, but we also stayed engaged this year on issues around sport and trophy hunting practices on federal and state lands. Over the last decade we have defended U.S. Park Service authority to prohibit hunting practices like brown bear baiting on national preserves. Bear baiting not only threatens brown bear populations and the natural relationships between animals that national park lands are meant to preserve, but the very baiting of bears with donuts puts people visiting those places in danger. Unfortunately, we anticipate that the Trump administration will undercut prohibitions on practices like brown bear baiting, and we will track this issue in the months and years to come.

We also engaged in stopping an unconstitutional State of Alaska hunting program this year. Trustees' litigation 15 years ago laid the foundation for the requirement that programs designed to kill animals like bears and wolves must comply with the Alaska Constitution's sustained yield requirements. In other words, the Alaska Board of Game needs to know the sustainable population of bears before authorizing programs that kill them.

Yet, the Alaska Board of Game adopted a 2023 predator control program that aimed at killing all bears within a vast region under the false presumption that doing so would benefit the Mulchatna caribou herd, which has been in serious decline. This shooting program killed 175 brown bears from helicopters and spotting planes in 2023-2024. In March 2025, the Alaska Superior Court struck down the original program as unconstitutional, in part because the Board did not have credible scientific evidence of how many bears were in the region or how many are required to sustain the population. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance brought the case.

When the Board enacted an emergency regulation to reinstate the program in 2025, we drafted comments for clients opposing it, and three of our attorneys (including our legal fellows!) testified against it at the Board of Game's public hearing. We will continue working to put an end to bear killing programs that jeopardize brown bears who move across a vast area, including adjoining national parks, preserves, and wildlife refuges like Katmai National Park and Preserve where so many visitors go to see bears.

Letter from the executive director

Because of our collective commitment and dedication, we could adapt this year to the many threats before us by sticking with what we do best—listening to and advocating on behalf of our clients, preparing for and participating in hearings and comment periods, and going to court.

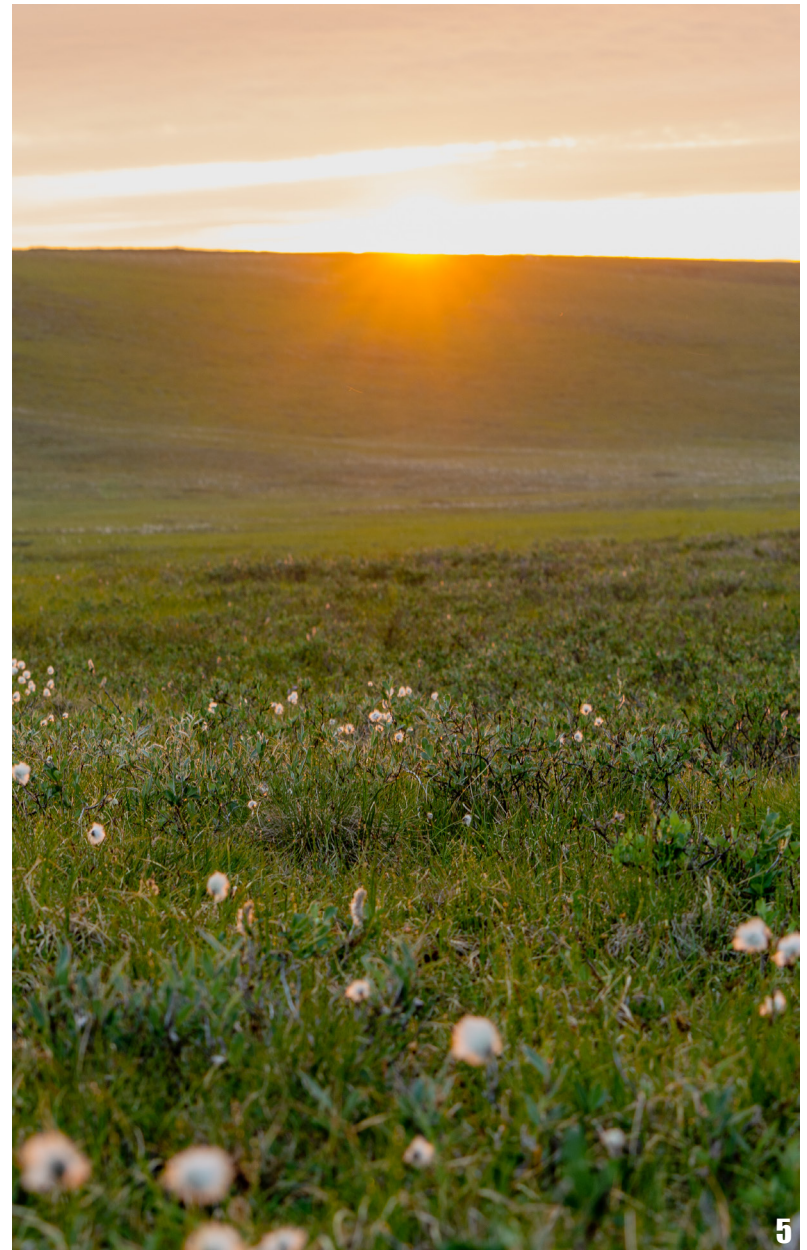
Alaska is our home, our focus, our place of belonging and a place we want to share with care.

We know so many of you feel the same, and we're deeply honored to work alongside all of you in stewarding this place and all the living beings who thrive. Staying committed to this effort, staying resolutely and purposefully in the fight to protect expansive Arctic landscapes, and waterways that nourish fish and communities, and public lands that hold space for everyone for generations to come is the good and necessary work we do together. What a privilege to do this work with all of you!

With respect and many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Victoria Clark, Executive Director



Clean water & air

Protecting salmon, fishing ways of life, and a thriving Bristol Bay watershed

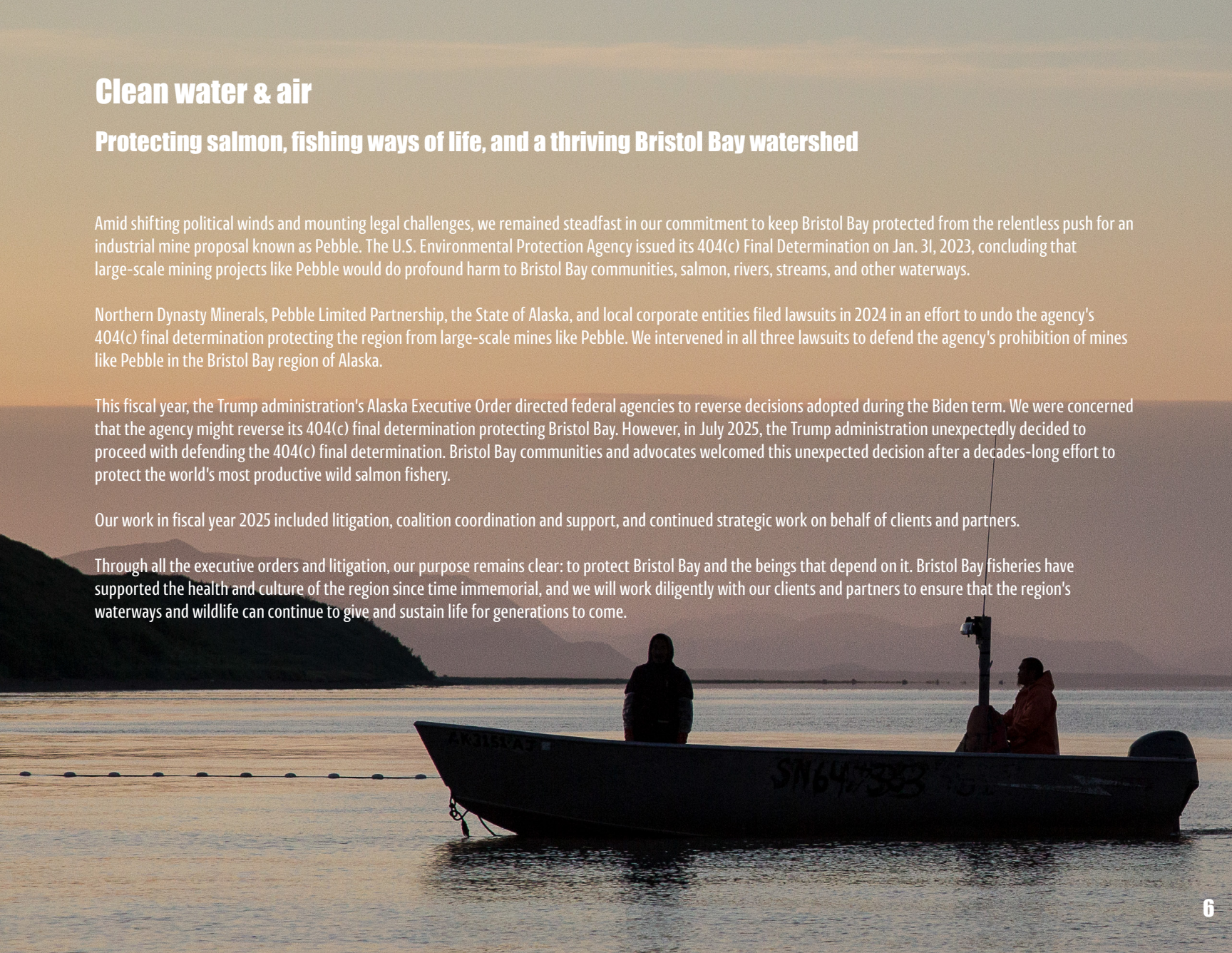
Amid shifting political winds and mounting legal challenges, we remained steadfast in our commitment to keep Bristol Bay protected from the relentless push for an industrial mine proposal known as Pebble. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued its 404(c) Final Determination on Jan. 31, 2023, concluding that large-scale mining projects like Pebble would do profound harm to Bristol Bay communities, salmon, rivers, streams, and other waterways.

Northern Dynasty Minerals, Pebble Limited Partnership, the State of Alaska, and local corporate entities filed lawsuits in 2024 in an effort to undo the agency's 404(c) final determination protecting the region from large-scale mines like Pebble. We intervened in all three lawsuits to defend the agency's prohibition of mines like Pebble in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska.

This fiscal year, the Trump administration's Alaska Executive Order directed federal agencies to reverse decisions adopted during the Biden term. We were concerned that the agency might reverse its 404(c) final determination protecting Bristol Bay. However, in July 2025, the Trump administration unexpectedly decided to proceed with defending the 404(c) final determination. Bristol Bay communities and advocates welcomed this unexpected decision after a decades-long effort to protect the world's most productive wild salmon fishery.

Our work in fiscal year 2025 included litigation, coalition coordination and support, and continued strategic work on behalf of clients and partners.

Through all the executive orders and litigation, our purpose remains clear: to protect Bristol Bay and the beings that depend on it. Bristol Bay fisheries have supported the health and culture of the region since time immemorial, and we will work diligently with our clients and partners to ensure that the region's waterways and wildlife can continue to give and sustain life for generations to come.





Clean water & air

Supporting communities facing mining threats

Back in 2021, Trustees participated during the formation of a network of groups and individuals concerned about mining threats to communities throughout Alaska. Since then, Trustees staff have joined Alaska Mining Impacts Network meetings and the Alaska Conference on Mining Impacts and Prevention conferences hosted by the Alaska Conservation Foundation.

This year we continued this work in multiple ways. Trustees' executive director Vicki Clark served on the network's council to provide guidance and support for all the work of Network partners. Our attorneys continued to answer general legal and agency process questions during network events and, this year, Trustees committed to preparing training sessions in response to network needs to help people understand laws around public lands, clean water, wildlife, subsistence and other environmental concerns and when and how to engage in public processes. Trustees will conduct those trainings in fiscal year 2026.

Wild Lands and Wildlife

Sustaining the health of national refuges and parks in Alaska

This year we continued our decades-long effort to protect Izembek National Wildlife Refuge by engaging in public processes and other continued advocacy efforts.

In November 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a draft environmental impact statement that outlined a potential land swap that would make way for a road in Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. We worked with partners to organize and submit comments on the draft environmental impact statement, raising concerns about the health of animals like Pacific black brant and emperor geese and about the continued protection of critically important public lands in Alaska.

The proposal would transfer King Cove Corporation lands for Izembek Refuge and Wilderness Area lands—an exchange that does not provide equivalent ecological value and risks opening the door for an Interior Department secretary to negotiate and authorize similar land exchanges of Wilderness lands across Alaska to benefit private interests without congressional approval. If unchecked, this outcome would undermine the conservation purposes of Alaska's parks, refuges, and designated Wilderness areas.

A road over the narrow Izembek isthmus from King Cove to Cold Bay's larger airport has been promoted as a means for providing emergency medical access for King Cove for decades and for commerce long before that. November's draft environmental impact statement selected a land exchange and road as the agency's preferred option, despite alternatives that do not damage refuge lands and subsistence resources.

The road would threaten migratory bird habitat, compromise subsistence traditions in western Alaska, and undermine the region's ecological integrity. We remain steadfast in our decades-long commitment to advancing solutions that uphold the well-being of rural communities while safeguarding the integrity of Alaska's public lands.



Wild Lands and Wildlife

Safeguarding millions of acres of land in Alaska

Areas of Alaska known as DI lands because of the section of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act that protects them stretch across the state and include regions like Bristol Bay and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Many of these lands have been protected from a variety of threats, including mining and oil and gas, since the law was enacted in 1971 when they were withdrawn from the operation of public land laws.

The first Trump administration issued five public land orders that would have withdrawn nearly 28 million acres of land from protection. Those orders never took effect. The Biden administration later determined that the orders were legally flawed. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management then initiated a programmatic National Environmental Policy Act review to evaluate the potential adverse impacts of lifting the withdrawals on fish, wildlife, subsistence activities, and the ecological health of these regions. In August 2024, the U.S. Department of the Interior came to the decision to continue the protection of these DI lands, outlining the extensive harm that resource extraction and other threats, like transferring select land to the State of Alaska, would have caused.

This fiscal year, Trump issued an executive order directing the Department of the Interior to reinstate the five public land orders from the first Trump administration and to broadly reassess public land classifications for potential revision in service of the administration's "mineral dominance" policy goal.

We are prepared to continue the fight to protect Alaska's DI lands for the wildlife and communities that depend on them.





Wild Lands and Wildlife

Defending the Susitna River region

This year, we worked diligently to protect the Susitna River region from the proposed West Susitna Industrial Access Road. This 100-mile route, backed by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, would primarily benefit an Australian mining company while putting Alaska's salmon-rich waters, diverse ecosystems, and rural communities at risk.

The project would cut through the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, require a major crossing of the Susitna River, and span more than 150 streams, threatening to fundamentally reshape the region's biodiversity, recreational opportunities, and cultural heritage. After AIDEA's initial permitting attempts failed, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities joined the effort, now attempting to advance the project in pieces by misleadingly presenting the first 22-mile segment as an independent "recreational access road," despite its clear role as the entry point to a larger industrial corridor.

In July, AIDEA submitted yet another application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, seeking the Clean Water Act permit required for construction in wetlands. The Corps once again deemed the application incomplete. We continue to closely monitor any new permitting actions from both AIDEA and the Department of Transportation and stand ready to engage when public comment opportunities arise.

Throughout the year, we supported and participated in advocacy and public education efforts to highlight the project's long-term consequences. We have stressed that the permitting process must address the full scope of the entire road—not just its initial segment—and continue to call for a comprehensive environmental impact statement rather than the limited environmental assessment proposed by Alaska's Department of Transportation.

We are committed to defending the West Susitna region from irresponsible and destructive industrial roads that end up being subsidized by taxpayers while destroying areas vital to fish, wildlife, and people. Protecting this critical landscape will remain a priority as we prepare for additional legal and strategic challenges in the year ahead.

Wild Lands and Wildlife

Protecting animals in wildlife refuges and national preserves in Alaska

Back in 2020, we sued the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. National Park Service for adopting a rule that allowed Alaska's predator hunting regulations, which were designed to aggressively reduce predator populations, to govern in national preserves. This rule opened the door to practices such as brown bear baiting, killing wolves during denning season, and other harmful methods that had previously been prohibited. The U.S. District Court ultimately agreed, finding the 2020 rule poorly reasoned and arbitrary. In response, Park Service finalized a new rule in July 2024 that bans the controversial practice of bear baiting on Alaska's national preserves.

Although the new rule affirms the Park Service's authority to regulate sport hunting and acknowledges that predator-reduction practices conflict with agency policy, it still leaves many damaging, state-sanctioned methods in place. These techniques—intended to artificially boost moose and caribou numbers—lack scientific support and undermine the conservation purposes of national preserves.

This year, however, Trump issued an executive order that directed the Department of the Interior to reinstate the discarded 2020 rule, and we expect a new version to be published soon.

As we prepare for potential legal and strategic challenges in the coming year, we remain committed to advocating for science-driven, ecologically sound wildlife management — policies that respect the relationships between animals and the natural dynamics that ensure that public lands remain places where all wildlife can thrive.



Wild Lands and Wildlife

Protecting bears in the Mulchatna region from a state program aimed at killing them all

Trustees has historically been involved in contesting Alaska's wildlife management policies. Our work laid the foundation for the requirement that programs designed to kill animals like bears and wolves must comply with the Alaska Constitution's sustained yield requirements.

Most recently, the Alaska Board of Game adopted a predator control program aimed at killing all bears within a vast region under the false argument that doing so would benefit the Mulchatna caribou herd, which has been in serious decline. The State of Alaska launched the controversial bear-control program in the Wood-Tikchik basin in 2023, shooting bears from helicopters and spotting planes, despite opposition from dozens of biologists and the public.

Fish and Game killed 175 brown bears and 5 black bears in 2023-2024. Our partner organization, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, challenged this original program. In March 2025, the Alaska Superior Court struck down the original program as unconstitutional, in part because the Board of Game did not have credible scientific evidence of how many bears were in the region or how many are required to sustain the population.

The Board then enacted an emergency regulation to reinstate the program, which the court also invalidated as a bad-faith attempt to circumvent the ruling.

We drafted comments for clients opposing this proposal, and three of our attorneys testified against it at the Board of Game's public hearing.

The State continues to promote predator control as a means to increase caribou and moose populations. Studies indicate that habitat conditions, nutrition, and disease — not predation — are the primary cause of population declines in the herd.

The Board's actions jeopardize bears that move across adjoining national parks, preserves, and wildlife refuges and undermine public trust in Alaska's wildlife stewardship. These same bears are central to Alaska's ecological integrity, tourism economy, and global visibility.

The law is clear: wildlife management must be grounded in science and must comply with constitutional obligations. We will continue our work to ensure that state officials honor those responsibilities and that Alaska's bears and the ecosystems they support are protected for future generations.



America's Arctic/Climate Action

Keeping oil and gas off sacred and public lands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Trustees for Alaska has played a vital role in keeping oil and gas industrialization out of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge since our founding over 50 years ago. The Gwich'in of Alaska and Canada consider the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge sacred because of its importance to the Porcupine caribou herd and the herd's importance to the Gwich'in way of life.

This fiscal year, the Interior Department issued a final supplemental environmental analysis of an Arctic Refuge leasing program put in place after passage of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which mandated two lease sales. The 2024 decision chose a leasing program that opened only the minimum mandated number of acres for leasing (400,000), and limited seismic testing to only areas available for leasing. Though we oppose any auctioning off of these lands, this outcome met the legal mandate of the 2017 Tax Act to hold lease sales while also trying to provide protection for the vital habitat of animals like caribou and denning polar bears, while reducing potential impacts to land, water, and wildlife important to local communities.

The Biden administration conducted that review process to address legal problems with the woefully troublesome 2020 program adopted by the Trump administration before the end of his first term. Trustees brought litigation in 2020 to challenge that Trump-era program on behalf of the Gwich'in Steering Committee and other groups.

Of note, the Tax Act required two lease sales, with the first taking place on Jan. 6, 2021, and drawing no bids from major oil companies and failing to yield even a fraction of one percent of promised revenues. Only the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, a State-owned entity, held leases into this fiscal year before the Biden administration cancelled them. The second lease sale in January 2025 drew no bids at all.



America's Arctic/Climate Action

Keeping oil and gas off sacred and public lands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (cont'd)

However, Trump's second term began in January 2025 with an immediate targeting of the Arctic Refuge and making oil and gas exploitation a priority. He issued an Alaska-centric executive order that directs the Interior Department to rescind the 2024 supplemental environmental review and record of decision, reinstate his first term's environmental review and 2020 record of decision, reinstate AIDEA's leases, and hold more lease sales.

Congress and the Trump administration also continued their effort to push through an Arctic Refuge leasing program despite broken laws. An additional budget reconciliation bill signed into law in July 2025 mandates at least four lease sales on the coastal plain of the Refuge within the next ten years, with the first directed to occur within a year.

Considering the impacts of the budget reconciliation bills, executive orders, and other actions, we are looking at every legal option to keep leasing and drilling out of the Arctic Refuge. Our original lawsuit challenging the 2020 leasing program has been stayed since 2021 when the Biden administration began trying to address legal problems with the program and continued to be stayed while we awaited next steps from the Trump administration.

Other legal actions concluded with a win and an appeal. We won as interveners in the Alaska District Court when a lawsuit brought by the State of Alaska and AIDEA challenged the suspension of leases by the Biden administration in 2023. The court ruled that those leases were legally suspended. AIDEA appealed that decision but then dismissed its appeal.

AIDEA also challenged the Biden administration's cancellation of its leases, and we of course intervened. The U.S. District Court ruled in March 2025 that AIDEA could hold onto its leases on a procedural ground, stating that Interior should have obtained a court order before cancelling the leases. We appealed this decision to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in June.

We will steadfastly join clients, partners and coalitions in doing everything we can every step of the way and no matter the obstacles to protect the health of Arctic landscapes and communities.

America's Arctic/Climate Action

Protecting the western Arctic from an expansive oil and gas agenda

Trustees went to court multiple times in the last ten years to stop the massive ConocoPhillips' Willow oil and gas extraction project and industrial hub in the western Arctic. An appellate court ruling in June 2025 allowed ConocoPhillips to continue bulldozing and erecting oil facilities with impacts to people in the community of Nuiqsut, already surrounded by oil operations that blast the community with noise, spew out air and water pollution, and degrade hunting and fishing grounds. We filed a motion with the appellate court requesting a full panel review of its prior 3-judge split decision but were denied further review.

Allowing the Willow project to move forward only supercharges the industrial harm and climate impacts caused by oil and gas exploitation.

One way that Trustees works to protect the region is by defending the existence and promoting the expansion of designated Special Areas important to communities, Arctic health, and future generations. Congress required maximum protection of these areas almost 50 years ago to preserve fish, wildlife, cultural resources, recreation opportunities, and subsistence food and traditions. Preserving and modifying those areas would protect local communities now and uplift the health of the Arctic for generations to come.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management adopted a new rule in May 2024 that would maintain protections of these Special Areas and develop a process for potentially expanding their boundaries and purposes. We intervened in five lawsuits brought by the State of Alaska and industry interests to help defend the new rule.

Trump quickly directed Interior to rescind that 2024 rule in the January 2025 executive order focused on Alaska. We submitted comments during that rulemaking process. The executive order also tells Interior to stop activities under the 2022 Integrated Activity Plan for the Reserve and reinstate Trump's 2020 plan gutting Special Areas and opening over 80 percent of the Reserve to oil and gas interests. We submitted comments on the agency's analysis to revert to the 2020 program and are awaiting that final decision to determine our next steps.

The Arctic is warming over four times faster than other parts of the country, with sea ice melt, permafrost thaw, floods, severe storms, and other impacts devastating community infrastructure and making it harder for people and animals to find food.

Trustees will engage in and litigate agency decisions in the year to come as part of our core mission to support the health of Arctic land, water, animals and people.

America's Arctic/Climate Action

Stopping the Ambler industrial road and protecting the southern Brooks Range

We ended the last fiscal year with great news when the U.S. Bureau of Land Management listened to Tribes, local communities, sound science and Traditional Knowledge by protecting the southern Brooks Range and denying the permit for the Ambler road. In other words, the Bureau reviewed the application, conducted a public process, produced an analysis of impacts, and concluded that the project would do too much harm to the region to allow it to move forward.

The road proposal got new life when the Trump administration issued an executive order calling for unfettered fossil fuel and mineral extraction across Alaska and reinstatement of the permits for the project.

The proposed Ambler industrial road would subsidize foreign mining operations by plunking a 200-mile-plus gravel industrial road across thousands of rivers and streams and thousands of acres of wetlands while polluting air and water and destroying and degrading land. It would slice through the migration routes of one of the greatest caribou herds in Alaska, threaten sheefish and salmon spawning areas, and pose a profound existential threat to the traditions and food sources of local people.

We filed a lawsuit over the Trump administration's approval of the Ambler road in 2020. The Biden administration pulled that decision back in 2022 because of its legal problems and requested that the court allow it to do a supplemental environmental impact statement. We paused our lawsuit through that process, but that lawsuit is still pertinent as we go into a second Trump term. We know Trump's Interior Department is intent on plowing through this industrial project regardless of the impacts on people and the landscapes vital to their health.

Ambler is truly a con job—it would cost Alaska billions of dollars with no reasonable payback scheme in place, and it would enrich Outside mining corporations that hire Outside labor to extract unneeded minerals to export to foreign countries like China. It's a lose-lose and lose again proposal that would sacrifice the Brooks Range, dozens of Arctic communities, and Alaska's fiscal health for a private gravel road that would enrich foreign mining interests while leaving a wake of toxic waste and destruction behind.

Again, we will fight for Alaska communities and the lands and waters of the Brooks Range.



America's Arctic/Climate Action

Keeping Beaufort Sea polar bears alive

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits unauthorized harassment of marine mammal populations like polar bears, with a narrow exception that allows U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to authorize an unintentional "take" of small numbers of marine mammals for five years or less if it will have a negligible impact on the population. These authorizations are called "incidental take regulations," and the term "take" means to harass or injure an animal.

Back in 2021, we filed a lawsuit that challenged a Fish and Wildlife Service rule that allowed oil operators to do activities that disrupt polar bears in the Beaufort Sea and along the North Slope. The regulation allows oil and gas operators to harass or harm polar bears when doing oil and gas operations with heavy equipment, aircraft, and other disruptive activities. In other words, the rule lets them do things that cause bears to abandon food, force sows with cubs to leave dens, and compel interacting bears to scatter. The agency itself concluded there would be a high chance of polar bear fatality due to these oil and gas activities, with cubs at the highest risk. In fact, Fish and Wildlife Service's own numbers showed a 94 percent likelihood that oil and gas operations would cause a polar bear cub death within the five-year period covered by the regulation.

This population of bears is struggling, with birth rates and cub survival already low, so any death threatens the population.

We won that lawsuit in U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in 2024 when the court sent the rule back to Fish and Wildlife Service to fix. That regulation's period ends in 2026, and we will comment on and respond to new incidental take proposals to ensure this Alaska population of polar bears—already one of the most vulnerable in the world—gets the protections laid out in the law.



Legal fellowships with Trustees

Trustees for Alaska's legal fellowship program allows lawyers to expand their knowledge and skills as they work alongside the legal team for two years. The fellowship experience gives opportunities to dive deeply into all aspects of environmental law, from coalition work and client representation to litigation, organizational support, and communications.

The perspectives and contributions of fellows are invaluable to Trustees, and we're grateful to all who have started or shifted their careers with us. Here're some thoughts from our 2024 fellows at the end of the first year of their fellowships.



Ashley Donovan

During my first year as a legal fellow, I honed my research and writing skills under the supervision of Trustees' attorneys.

I worked on a variety of projects touching the diversity of Trustees' legal work by researching procedural issues, like the effect of case consolidation, as well as substantive law, such as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. I drafted sections of an amicus brief for the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and gave public testimony at an Alaska Board of Game hearing.

I enjoyed interviewing members of our client organizations and drafting their declarations. It is particularly rewarding to talk with individuals directly impacted by the issues that Trustees litigates on their behalf. All these assignments have strengthened my research, writing, and communication skills.

I am excited to continue to learn and grow in this supportive atmosphere for a second year as the attorneys entrust me with more responsibility and bigger projects. I feel integrated into the team, and I am eager to take on more assignments, especially as our work continues to heat up. I value the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of litigation with the support of Trustees' expert staff, and I feel more confident as an attorney as a result.

Megan Mason Dister

I began my fellowship shortly before the 2024 presidential election, so my work with Trustees has been largely shaped by efforts to anticipate and respond to a myriad of new issues. Despite the challenges from the current administration, I have learned so much from the resilience of the Trustees team and the impactful strategic litigation Trustees pursues. I've worked with Trustees staff attorneys to understand how to prepare for a chaotic administration change, how to develop case strategies to deal with complicated legal and factual issues, and how to work collaboratively in coalitions to pursue both litigation and policy goals.

My first year with Trustees has been filled with opportunities to learn from experienced attorneys and assist with complicated legal issues. I've had the chance to draft research memoranda, a comment letter, and assist with legal briefs. The attorneys have provided insightful feedback on my writing and have helped me grow as a lawyer. I also developed my oral advocacy skills when I gave oral public comment at an Alaska Board of Game meeting. Trustees has provided opportunities for me to connect with partners and clients through attending the Arctic Defense Campaign annual meeting, the Alaska Mining Impacts Network Conference, and the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference.

I look forward to continuing to grow and learn from the Trustees team in the final year of my fellowship.



Donor Spotlight - Rich Seifert

With the support of monthly donors like Rich Seifert, Trustees for Alaska can provide legal expertise, strategic support, and legal representation to protect and defend Alaska's lands, waters, animals, communities, and ways of life. Thank you, Rich, for your commitment to Trustees for Alaska!

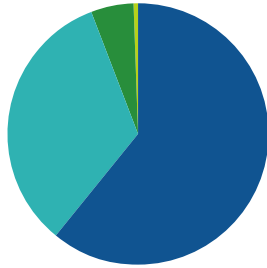
Rich Seifert has advocated for sustainable communities through a range of work, from teaching about and promoting safe and energy-efficient home building to advocating for a cooperative market that makes access to nutritious food more stable and affordable to Fairbanks residents. He got his bachelor's degree in physics in Pennsylvania before moving to Alaska to study engineering physics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Soon after graduating, he took a job as a professor at the Fairbanks campus where he taught, researched, and conducted public service from 1973 to 2010, and is now professor emeritus. Rich is a true community organizer, bringing experts and thinkers together to write well-reasoned opinion pieces in the local newspaper, and endorsing pro-renewable energy candidates for office or seats on the local utility boards. He continues to advocate for communities and the health of Earth. He also travels widely and loves to spend time birding and writing letters to the editor on issues that matter to him.

"We can never do enough to protect our precious planet, but we need to prioritize our efforts. I know what Trustees for Alaska can do for us, so I put my faith in them. I donate to Trustees because they're the lawyers protecting Alaska landscapes, wildlife, and ways of life for over 50 years now. I feel deep gratitude to this nonprofit law firm founded in and focused on Alaska issues, and to all who work for the planet's peace and protection."



Statement of financial position

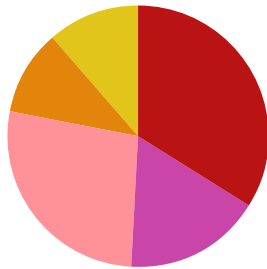
Revenue:



Grants (61%)	\$ 1,819,713
Contributions (33.3%)	\$ 992,319
Special events (0%)	\$ 0
Program service revenue (5.2%)	\$ 156,352
Other (0.5%)	\$ 15,833

Total \$ 2,984,217

Expenses:



Arctic and Climate Change (34%)	\$ 747,669
Clean Air and Water (17.1%)	\$ 375,893
Wild Lands and Wildlife (27.1%)	\$ 594,519
Administration (10.6%)	\$ 233,518
Fundraising (11.2%)	\$ 245,655

Total \$ 2,197,254

September 30,	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 305,290	\$ 256,678
Receivables:		
Foundation grants	\$ 925,000	\$ 125,000
Other receivables	\$ 16,135	\$ 5,681
Intercompany receivable	-	\$ 11,300
Investments	\$ 379,128	\$ 363,970
Prepaid expenses	\$ 14,192	\$ 23,270
Property and equipment, net	\$ 83,709	\$ 99,990
Operating lease right-of-use asset	\$ 434,328	\$ 513,847
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,157,782	\$ 1,399,736
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 9,329	\$ 19,372
Accrued payroll expenses	\$ 93,343	\$ 109,483
Deferred revenue	-	-
Finance lease liability	-	\$ 2,985
Operating lease liability	\$ 451,908	\$ 528,641
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 554,580	\$ 660,481
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	\$ 392,793	\$ 245,550
Board designated - operating reserves	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Net investment in property and equip.	\$ 83,709	\$ 97,005
With donor restrictions:	\$ 976,700	\$ 246,700
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 1,603,202	\$ 739,255
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 2,157,782	\$ 1,399,736

In gratitude

Thank you to the many generous individuals and foundations who make our work to protect the health of Alaska's land, water, people and wildlife possible. We are incredibly grateful.

444S Foundation
Alaska Conservation Foundation
Charlotte Martin Foundation
Eaglemere Foundation
George H. and Jane A. Mifflin Memorial Fund
Glickenhau Foundation
Harder Foundation
Holdfast Collective
New-Land Foundation
Patagonia
Tortuga Foundation
The Volgenau Foundation
WestWind Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation

Individual giving

We are honored by all of the people who contributed to Trustees this year through direct contributions, qualified charitable distributions, legacy gifts, monthly giving, stock donations, and workplace giving programs. Though we do not list the names of donors to protect their privacy, we recognize our ongoing supporters as essential to our work, and we are extremely grateful to partner with so many generous people.

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Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Alaska Wilderness League
Alaska Wildlife Alliance
Alaskans for Wildlife
Brooks Range Council
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society—Yukon Chapter
Center for Biological Diversity
Conservation Lands Foundation
Cook Inletkeeper
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthworks
Environment America, Inc.
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges
Friends of McNeil River
Gwich'in Steering Committee
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Ocean Conservancy
Salmon State
Sierra Club
Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic
The Wilderness Society
Wild Salmon Center
Wilderness Watch
Winter Wildlands Alliance

Coalition partners

Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Arctic Audubon Society
Audubon Alaska
Braided River
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation
Bristol Bay Native Association
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association
Center for American Progress
Center for Science and Public Participation
Chilkat Indian Village-Klukwan
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
Copper Country Alliance
Denali Citizens Council
Earthjustice
Environmental Investigation Agency
Eyak Preservation Council
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Food and Water Watch
Friends of the Earth
Great Old Broads for Wilderness – Alaska SOLES
Greenpeace
Humane Society of the United States
League of Conservation Voters
Lynn Canal Conservation
Native Movement
Native Peoples Action
Natural Resources Defense Council
Patagonia

Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation
Salmon Beyond Borders
Seeding Sovereignty
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Susitna River Coalition
Tall Grass Institute (formerly First Peoples Worldwide)
The Alaska Center
The Nature Conservancy
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
United Tribes of Bristol Bay
Water Protector Legal Collective



FY25 Staff

Victoria Clark, Executive Director
Teresa Clemmer, Legal Director
Tracy Lohman, Development Director (through April)
Christin Swearingen, Development Director (starting in May)
Ashley Boyd, Administrative Director
Dawnell Smith, Communications Director
Madison Grosvenor, Communications Specialist
Brook Brisson, Senior Staff Attorney
Suzanne Bostrom, Senior Staff Attorney
Bridget Psarianos, Senior Staff Attorney
Joanna Cahoon, Staff Attorney
Siobhan McIntyre, Staff Attorney
Michelle Sinnott, Staff Attorney
Lang Van Dommelen, Legal Assistant
Ashley Donovan, Legal Fellow
Megan Mason Dister, Legal Fellow

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