



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Wilderness Volunteers Supporters,

This year proved to be extraordinary for Wilderness Volunteers through the 45 projects that were completed on public lands throughout the U.S. In 2018, 442 volunteers from all corners of the country came together and poured their hearts into accomplishing the seemingly never-ending list of backlogged work between the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife. Our volunteers completed various projects dealing from trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, illegal campsite removal & restoration, and even greenhouse work. Through our volunteers' hard work and tenacity, they provided roughly \$349,000 in volunteer labor. There is nothing I can write to accurately convey my awe and an endless appreciation for our volunteers. They remind me that the goodness of humanity still exists and they inspire me to keep moving forward in a world which is sometimes overwhelming.

2018 also held some very proud moments for Wilderness Volunteers as we received the 2017 National Park Service Wes Henry National Wilderness Stewardship Award (non-government partner category) in Washington, D.C. We are extremely honored to have been recognized for all the work our volunteers have accomplished in over 230 week-long service projects throughout the National Park System and look forward to many more years working with the NPS.

We also continued to offer the Victor Nathan Siwa Memorial Scholarship to eligible applicants, supported an alternative spring break project for DePaul University in Chicago, welcomed Mary Sanders as our 2018 intern, and forged into new waters with a new project at Virgin Islands National Park, St. John. Late summer saw a changing of the Program Manager guards as Taryn Schreiner moved on to accomplish some exciting goals and I was warmly welcomed to fill her boots.



The future is bright but it does not come without challenges. The words "now more than ever" glare in my mind when considering the state of our public lands in tandem with Wilderness Volunteers' mission. Our objective of stewardship of America's wildlands through organizing and promoting volunteer service is needed now more than ever as federal public land agencies



are in a perpetual state of catch-up. In this digital age, we find ourselves in a bittersweet position. We have more people than ever heading outside to explore and experience, which is amazing. On the other hand, with more visitors comes greater adverse impacts on our national parks, designated wilderness areas, refuges and more. Wilderness Volunteers has spent the last 21 years trying to bridge that gap and preserve our public lands for future generations. By getting volunteers in the field to complete these essential stewardship efforts, we can facilitate accessibility for outdoor recreation in our public lands while lowering the adverse impacts of overuse, reducing erosion, improving watershed health, and improving wildlife habitat through planting native plants and removing invasive species.

I would be remiss if I didn't emphasize how important our amazing volunteers and leaders are. Without you, accomplishing this work would not be possible. You invest your time, labor, and resources to protect the lands you love. My deepest gratitude for your invaluable role in Wilderness Volunteers and in the future of our public lands.

An equal contributor to our successful year is the incredibly generous donors - individual, foundation, and corporate – who allow us to continue our mission and give something back. Without your generosity, we would not be able to make a difference in the stewardship of our public lands.

Here's to a brilliant 2019!

Aidalicia Swertfeger
Program Manager
Wilderness Volunteers



2018 Board of Directors

Caroline Williams, President, CO Springs, CO

Cheryl Walczak, Secretary, South Ogden, UT

Rick Volpe, Treasurer, Harleysville, PA

Lee Cooper, Tucson, AZ

Peyton Hutton, Leesburg, VA

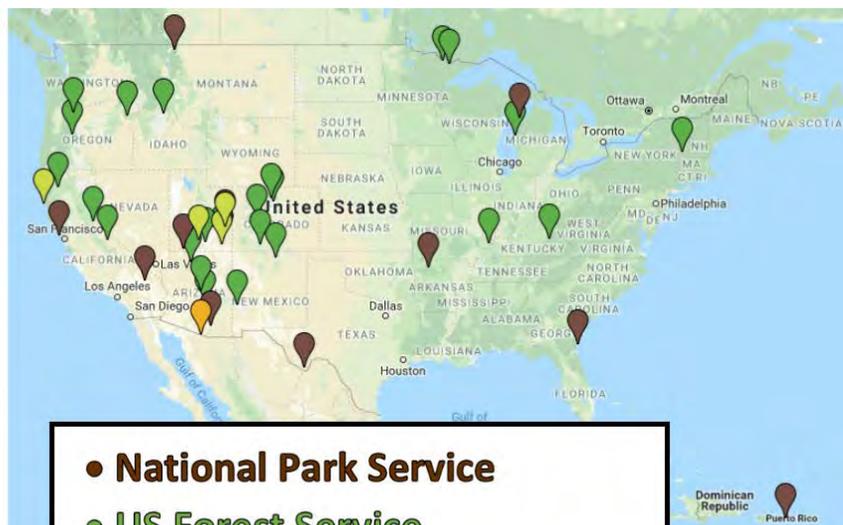
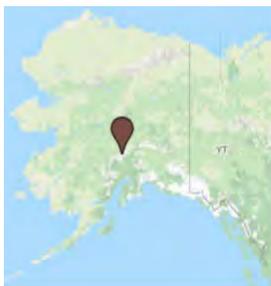
Don Meaders, Albuquerque, NM

Curtis Mobley, Sammamish, WA

Patricia Olsson, Boise, ID

2018 Projects

- 45 week-long service projects completed
- Over 14,000 hours of volunteer service donated to our federal public lands
- Over \$349,000 in volunteer labor donated to federal public land agencies
- Projects in 19 states across the country



- **National Park Service**
- **US Forest Service**
- **Bureau of Land Management**
- **US Fish & Wildlife Service**





Some Impressive Statistics...

- 72.9 miles of trail maintained/repaired
- 3.8 miles of new trail built
- 1.7 miles of trail removed/rehabilitated
- 367 erosion controls built
- 334 erosion controls maintained
- 1176 trees removed from trails
- Moved over 69 tons of rock
- 8 campsites maintained
- 33 campsites removed/rehabilitated
- 96 fire rings removed/rehabilitated
- 45,139 invasive plants removed
- 1,639 native plants planted
- 4 miles surveyed for weeds
- 0.2 miles archeological survey
- 2.1 miles of fence removed
- 0.2 miles of fence placed



These summary statistics don't do justice to everything our volunteers accomplished in 2018.

Our volunteers hiked, backpacked and paddled for miles to get to and from work sites. They carried packs, food, tools, equipment and canoes, moved tons of materials, cleaned countless rocks & branches off trails, and removed innumerable pieces of trash from trails, forests and beaches, all while making it look easy.



WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS
Giving Something Back





In addition to the physical work completed in 2017, each of our volunteers developed a deep personal connection to the area they visited while working to care for our public lands.

These immersive wilderness experiences cultivate a sense of commitment to the land, creating wilderness advocates who will work for the protection and preservation of our wild lands for years to come.





2018 Project Leaders



Bill Arbour
Athan Barkoukis
Carter Bland
Sue Blish
Cathy Boswell
Steve Breitbach
Lee Cooper
Steve Dorsett
Tom Driscoll
Debra Ellers
Norm Feaster
Katy Giorgio
Bill Goolsby
Max Gordon
Susan Holling
Tom Holling
Ross Holloway
Benjamin Johnson
Tom Kasper



Maidie Kenney
Andrew Kerr
Bill Koenig
Sue Koenig
Misha Kokotovic
Tom Labbs-Johnson
Darrell LeValle
Jerry Lehman
Walter Mah
Reed McDowell
Dennis McKane
John McLean
James McLean
Don Meaders
Ashely Northcutt
Gerald Norton
Ben Ogren
Zoe Purtzer
Amy Qian



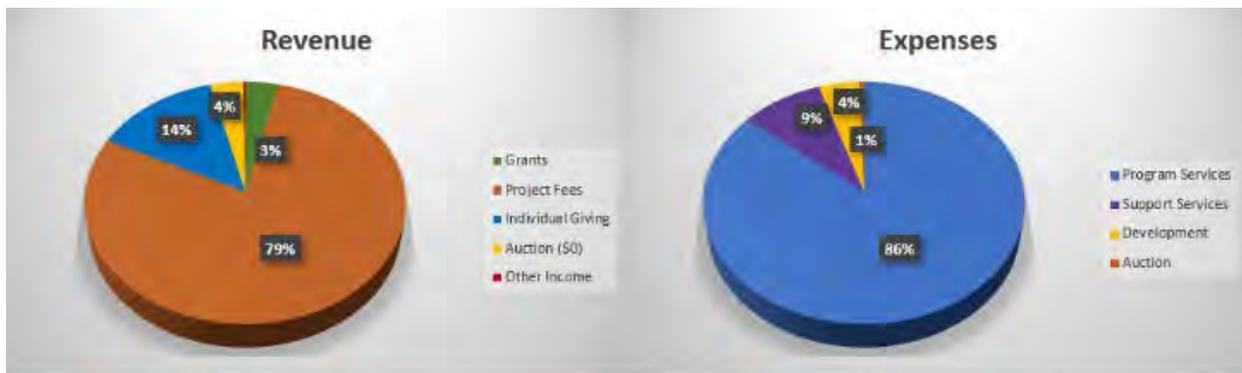
Chris Riccardo
Ruth Sarvis
Taryn Schreiner
Zig Sondelski
Laura Sutherlin
Aidalicia Swertferger
Dean Twehues
Laurie Twehues
Cheryl Walczak
Caroline Williams
John Washo
Bob Wolf
Kathleen Worley
Jeff Wright
Kathryne Zaborowski
Linda Zeismer
Karen Zietlow
Tony Zimmer





2018 Fiscal Summary

Wilderness Volunteers utilizes all donations to advance our mission of stewardship of America's wild lands by organizing and promoting volunteer service in cooperation with public land agencies.



Statement of Activities

Revenue

Corporate / Foundation Grants	\$4,947.37
Project Fees	\$108,883.10
Individual Giving	\$19,149.11
Auction	\$5,040.55
Other Income	\$300.72

Net Operating Revenue \$138,320.85

Expenses

Program Services	\$173,459.53
Support Services	\$18,435.65
Development	\$8,990.69
Auction	\$1,093.10

Total Expenses \$201,978.97

Increase (decrease) in Net Assets **-\$63,658.12**

Statement of Position

Current Assets \$12,635.18

Long term Investments \$261,426.33

Total Assets \$274,061.51

Liabilities \$2,658.50

Net Assets (unrestricted) \$271,403.01

[Wilderness Volunteers is a nonprofit charitable organization as by IRS section 501\(c\)\(3\) of the Internal Revenue code. EIN #91-028-255-1128 or emailing \[info@wildernessvolunteers.org\]\(mailto:info@wildernessvolunteers.org\).](#)



Comments From the Field



"I first went to Boundary Waters on a WV trip in 2010. I had such a great time I promised myself I'd go back. I did in 2018, through another WV trip, this time with my wife, who I met on another WV trip. Let's just say this is a project you should sign up for."

-Dave Pacheco

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness
Superior National Forest, MN

"This was my first WV project. It was a pleasure to meet many "veteran" participants and hear their stories of past project experiences. It was a wonderful group of folks from all parts of the country sharing a common interest of public land stewardship. Working as a state govt employee with limited funds for my program, I understand and appreciate all too well the value of these efforts and was happy to be a part of this experience. I highly recommend WV to anyone and look forward to participating in my next project!"

-Michelle Pate

Denali National Park, AK





“As usual, I was not disappointed with this trip. The work definitely lived up to the "challenging" rating. Our leader, Maidie Kenney, provided gourmet meals on top of everything else. When else do you get cheesecake in the wilderness? What a unique experience to be able to say, "I made that segment of trail, or I helped save that meadow." Since I live in Central Oregon, I will have to opportunity to see the effects of our hard labor in the coming years. Except for one participant, everyone in the group was repeat volunteers. That's says a lot about the Wilderness Volunteers organization as a whole. Keep up the excellent work. You are making an impact!”

- Cathy Moore
Three Sisters Wilderness
Willamette National Forest, OR

“After 50 years of enjoying hiking trails, it was time to give back and I am glad that I did as the trip was fantastic! Highly recommend that everyone find a trip that fits their ability and signs up as you will not regret it!! Wonderfully organized and could not have asked for more.”

-Michael Framberger
King Range National
Conservation Area, CA





Partners

The work of Wilderness Volunteers in 2018 was made possible by:

Individuals

500+

William Arbour
 Dodd Cosgrove
 Ethan Clapham
 Mary Carunchia
 Mark Kochendorfer
 Eric Mak
 John McLean
 Zig Sondelski
 Rick & Marge Volpe

Julie Alcon
 Anne Ashford
 Judith Bennett
 Anne Bittner
 Sue Blish
 Rick Brickley
 Maggie Chesnutt
 Donald Conroy
 Nancy Corn
 Tom Davidson
 Drew Dembowsku

Mark Milewicz
 Kevin Morrissey
 Kay Noguchi
 Gary Pedigo
 Alex Pensinger
 Hank Pensinger
 Charles Phy
 Susan Phy
 Warren Rawson
 Bob Reynolds
 Leslie Richard

250+

Ed Belove
 Peter Bergstrom
 Steve Breitbach
 Lee Cooper
 John Leonard
 Ronald Little
 Jan Lochner
 Doug Michel
 Joe Nattress
 Sandra Stroo
 Caroline Williams
 Tony Zimmer

Janis Emanuel
 Michael Framberger
 John Glade
 Jamin Heady-Smith
 Leslie Howard
 Rose Johnson
 Nancy Kaiser
 Paul Kehrer
 Barbara Kern
 Mark Larson
 Jerry Lehman
 Pamela Maez
 Eric Mak

Monika Rutkowski
 Ruth Sarvis
 Chris Schwab
 Freda Sherburne
 Ken Smith
 Chris Stearns
 Mark Viglianco
 Stacy Viglianco
 Jennifer Voorhees
 Cheryl Walczak
 Teri Walker
 Paul Whiting
 David Willey

100+

Fred Mansfield
 Walter Meltzer

Jake Wimberger
 Lihmin Yuan



Corporations/Foundation

(corporate giving/matching grants/volunteer hour matching/etc.)

Ally Matching Gifts Program	NGM Charitable Foundation
Amazon Smile	Schwab Charitable
Bank of America Charitable Foundation	Standard Insurance Company
Benevity Community Impact Fund	TRUIST
Conoco Phillips	T Rowe Price
Entergy	Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Merck Foundation	Employee Giving
Mesa United Way	PepsiCo Foundation
Nationwide Foundation	UBS Matching Gifts Program
Network for Good	YourCause LLC

Supporters

All donations to Wilderness Volunteers are greatly appreciated and help us continue to run our program. Program fees only cover half of our per person costs, so individual support is critical.

50+	Chuck Dillard	Linda Kellough
Neal Allbee	Joseph Fabiny	Maidie Kenney
Pam Beardsley	Michael Frank	Andrew Kerr
Isabel Bearman Bucher	Randy Goode	Lynette Linn
Dave Becker	Karen Gordon	Michael Martin
Ned Becker	Connie Gordon	Lee Masterson
Shawn Bodine	Elaine Gorman	Jeanne Masterson
Michal Bowen	Karen Greig	Amanda McCoy
Anne Branen	Dennis Grzeninski	David McGrath
Daniel Brodkey	Steve Haas	Ann McNulty
Rose Bundy-Hansen	Derek Hancock	Rebecca Mirsky
Gerry Chambers	Geoff Hardies	Mineko Murai
Elizabeth Combs	Lynn Hardies	Mark Nelson
Robert Coover	Robert Hashioka	Gerald Norton
Carol Corbett	Jeff Hawkins	Patricia Olsson
Charles Cottingham	Brandy Hugo	Bill Orben
Allen Crawford	Judy Immesoete	Dave Pacheco
Julie d-Ablaing	Gail Johnson	Stephen Parks
Anita Davis	Tony Johnson	Allen Payne
Erik DeBolt	Kevin Judge	David Peters
Robert DeForest	Robery Jurkowski	Patricia Peterson



Stewart Pravda
 Roger Schatzlein
 Rick Schlauderaff
 Jason Schulte
 Donna Seaman
 Howard Sherman
 Yum Shimizu
 Valerie Simon
 Elaine Solomon
 AJ Solomon
 Lee Spencer
 Jeffrey Sprague
 Anne Stevens
 Chris Stockdale
 Mary Street

William Swafford
 Joe Sweeny
 Larry Telle
 William Walters
 Patty Ware
 Brenda Waugh
 Troy Wood
 Kathleen Worley
 Alex Zubelewicz
 David Zurheide

 <50
 Beth Allen
 Daniel Appel
 Michael BeBout

Terry Brandt
 Stephen Brown
 David Cormier
 Leslie de Leon
 Alma Fong
 Dyanne Foster
 Katy Giorgio
 Sylvia Harvey
 Catherine Jelencovich
 Randy Meier
 Beth Pacheco
 Marcia Paulson
 Maggy Piranian
 Kaylee Smith

2018 Auction

The 2018 online auction was a great success thanks to the generous support support of the following amazing supporters:



Individuals:

Mike Leonard
 Chris Sterns
 Karen Martin
 Rick Volpe

Margaret Fahey
 Caroline Williams
 Ed Leonard
 Connie Townsend

Eric Mak
 Cheryl Walczak
 Bill Sheppard
 Patricia Olsson

THANK YOU!



2018 Photo Contest

Many thanks to all who entered the 2018 photo contest! With nearly 200 entries picking winners was extremely difficult. Thank you also to our generous sponsors:



The grand prize winner for Best Photo is Rick Brickley. Rick took this breathtaking photo of hikers on the 2018 Glacier National Park service project.





The Wildlife photo winner is Eric Mak. Eric took this photo of two mountain goats on the Wild and Scenic Salmon River service project in the Salmon-Challis National Forests.



The Hard At Work photo winner is Randy Meier. Randy took this photo of volunteers doing trail work on the Three Sisters Wilderness service project in the Willamette National Forest.

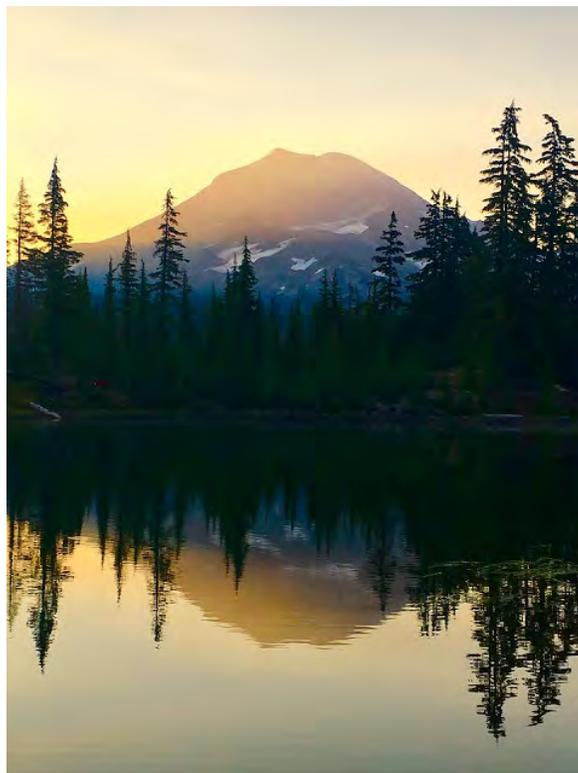




The On The Trail photo winner is Robert Hashioka. Bob took this photo of the hike in on the spring Dark Canyon service project in the Manti-La Sal National Forest.



The Landscape photo winner is Kelly Randall. Kelly took this photo of sunrise over the South Sister on the Three Sisters Wilderness service project in the Willamette National Forest.





Wilderness Volunteers Intern

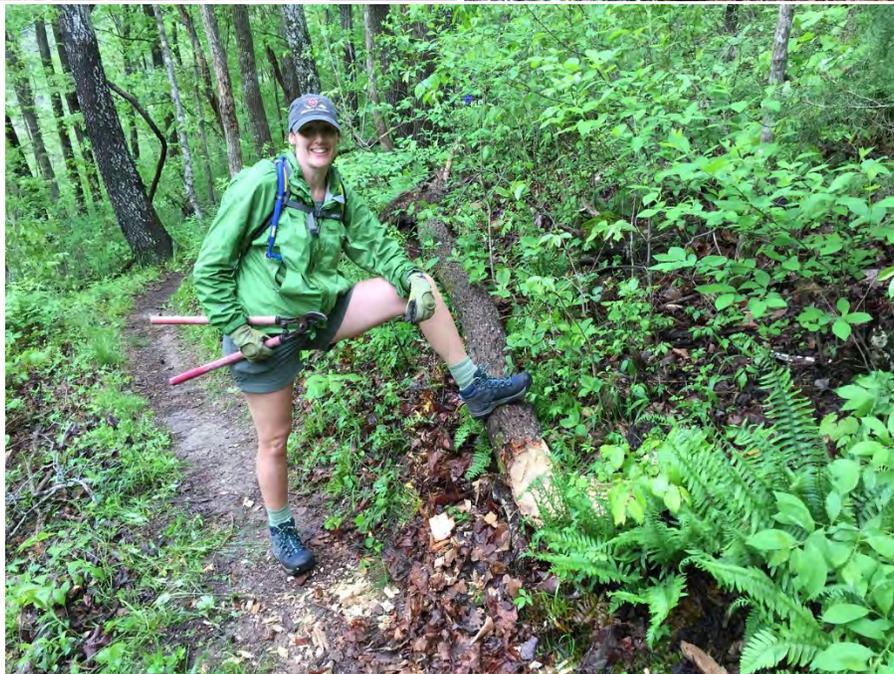
Our 2018 summer intern was Mary Sanders, a college student at Michigan State University majoring in Environmental Studies and Sustainability & Sustainable Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. As part of her internship she participated in four service projects and published 4 blog articles and a couple of videos documenting her project experiences. Thank you Mary!





Victor Nathan Siwa Memorial Scholarship

2018 marked our third year of a scholarship program to promote youth involvement in volunteer service. The Victor Nathan Siwa Memorial Scholarship helps young men and women get into the wilderness and give something back to our nation's public lands in memory of Victor Nathan Siwa.





Some of Our Amazing Volunteers



WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS

Giving Something Back



2018 Wilderness Volunteers service project
Honey Creek, Wild & Scenic Snake River,
Salmon-Challis National Forest,
Idaho





Why We Do It: Our Public Lands





















