DEAR FRIENDS,

If there’s a word to sum up 2018, I’d say it’s “defense.” Attacks on America’s National Monuments and other publicly-owned lands were unrelenting and we were singularly focused on protecting these treasures from irreparable harm.

As the only nonprofit in the nation solely dedicated to protecting, restoring, and expanding the National Conservation Lands with natural, cultural and historic significance, our model of success has taken on greater importance and urgency.

You’ll see in this 2018 Annual Review that in the face of enormous challenges on the ground, in the courts and in the halls of Congress, thanks to your steadfast support, the Conservation Lands Foundation and our 70-organization-strong Friends Grassroots Network were able to achieve significant impact over the last year.

We’ll continue to hold an aggressive defensive line as we head into 2019 with a renewed push to build grassroots power for the future and set the stage for more proactive campaigns.

Yours in optimism and excitement about what we will collectively achieve,

—BRIAN SYBERT | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“...it’s vital that we honor these lands for their sacred and cultural significance to indigenous people and their irreplaceable ability to connect people with the outdoors, improve public health, and promote environmental and cultural justice.”

—Hilary Dessouky, board member
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, Bears Ears National Monument, Red Cliffs National Conservation Area; all B. Wick; Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument; T. Till.

“My attraction to joining the board of the Conservation Lands Foundation was its model of impact and success that is like no other: a steadfast commitment to support locally-based advocates who work tirelessly to protect these special places regardless of political headwinds.”
—Marcus Limines, board member

Through small group gatherings, individualized coaching and a web-based training series focused on Grassroots Advocacy, Programming and Community Engagement, Leadership and Nonprofit Management, we are partnering to build and empower strong, capable, confident and diverse leaders who are leading the next chapter of conservation in communities across the American West and Alaska.

“We’re passionate about defending these remaining iconic public lands and valuable environments for current and future generations to enjoy. We consider our work an honor that requires a deft touch and we believe our strategy to support community-based and diverse communities inspires others to act.”
—Chiqui Cartageña, board member

Snapshots OF SUCCESS:

OUR GRANTMAKING:
In 2018, we awarded 54 grants to 51 friends grassroots network groups and partners in 11 states totaling:
$1,607,500

NATIVE AMERICAN LAND CONSERVANCY
Native American Land Conservancy is successfully engaging Native American communities to defend California’s Mojave Trails National Monument and its sacred springs. With the support of the Conservation Lands Foundation, they are leading and empowering Native American engagement within the MOJAVE TRAILS COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE PLANNING PROCESS, which calls for the creation of a Tribal Commission, Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan, and ensuring the best possible Native American consultation process for the Monument

FRIENDS OF CEDAR MESA
Several years in the making, the Conservation Lands Foundation is honored to support Friends of Cedar Mesa’s September opening of the BEARS EARS VISIT WITH RESPECT CENTER. Friends of Cedar Mesa raised over $600,000 to open the Center, which provides education and interpretation to visitors about protecting cultural history in the archaeologically-rich Monument. With increased education, visitors reduce their impact to sensitive cultural sites within Bears Ears National Monument.

GET OUTDOORS NEVADA
In partnership with Clark County Parks and Recreation, Get Outdoors Nevada expanded their FAMILY IN NATURE program, which had struggled to grow due to financial constraints despite its popularity among low-income families. With support from the Conservation Lands Foundation, the program is now in two recreation centers and provides guided camping trips, along with all the gear and transportation for participants.

FRIENDS OF THE INYO
When a Canadian gold mining company was approved for exploratory drilling permits on CONGLOMERATE MESA—a culturally-rich open space in the California Desert Conservation Lands—Friends of the Inyo successfully pushed back on the permitting decision, highlighting the negative impacts and irreparable damage the project would have on the lands. As a result of their campaign, the permitting review was abandoned.

By providing the resources to empower local groups to make a difference in their communities and applying a unique place-based approach, our GRASSROOTS ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM is harnessing the collective knowledge and passion of the Friends Grassroots Network for continued success for America’s National Conservation Lands.

Our strategic approach cuts across the American West and Alaska. By engaging advocates, building a collective knowledge base, harnessing the power of place, and protecting critical ecosystems, we are ensuring the resources, capacity and resiliency needed to vigilantly protect and care for America’s National Conservation Lands.
Statement of financial position as of December 31, 2018. Copies of the complete audited financial statements are available at www.conservationlands.org or by contacting us at info@conservationlands.org.

In-kind contributions: Defending our national monuments in court takes substantial legal resources and in 2018, our legal partners at Hogan Lovells, LLP and Covington and Burling, LLP donated $896,049 in pro-bono legal counsel. We are grateful for their support and honored to stand with them to protect America’s National Conservation Lands.

We are grateful for the generous individuals, foundations, corporations and agencies whose gifts, pledges and in-kind services made our impact and success possible in 2018. For a full 2018 donor list, visit: https://conservationlands.org/donate/thank-you-donors