

# THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





# OUR MISSION

TO GUARANTEE ALL AMERICANS QUALITY PLACES TO HUNT AND FISH

Durrell Smith of Minority Outdoor Alliance hunts chukar in the Owyhee Canyonlands of Oregon.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## TRCP Enters 3rd Decade

REFLECTING ON THE PAST YEAR WITH EYES ON THE CONSERVATION HORIZON

CONSERVATION IS, ALL TOO OFTEN, A GAME OF PATIENCE. It's a time-consuming process to identify a problem or opportunity, work with partners to develop a solid solution, gather resources to get the job done, and enable our conservation community to put the boots and backhoes on the ground. But through collaboration, incredible tasks are achievable. That's why when the issue at hand has appeared to be too challenging, and the solutions have seemed too immense, the hunting and angling community has, time and again, banded together to ensure monumental successes for conservation, habitat, and access, even if they are years in the making.

In 2023, several such hard-fought wins occurred that secured protections for some of our country's most beloved hunting and fishing grounds. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota, a treasured haven of outdoor adventure for millions of Americans, was spared from the threat of devastating pollution after the Department of the Interior withdrew thousands of acres of surrounding public lands from federal mineral leasing.

In an epic victory for the largest sockeye salmon run in the world, the Environmental Protection Agency acted under the provisions of the Clean Water Act to stop mining development in Bristol Bay, Alaska. For decades, the fishing community has fought for these protections alongside non-sporting industries such as fine-jewelry manufacturers, chefs, winemakers, and farmers—millions of people advocating together for clean water and healthy habitat.

After months of coordination, keystone agreements have been penned with many of our conservation partners so that conservation and

restoration work can finally be put on the ground as the result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

As much of a relief as these achievements are, we cannot rest on our laurels. A new challenge arose in 2023, with another iconic landscape coming under threat of development. A proposal to build an industrial corridor looms over Alaska's Brooks Range and its caribou, Dall sheep, and Dolly Varden. TRCP and over 40 hunting and fishing partner organizations have joined together to stand up for fish and wildlife once again. And while a recent action from the Bureau of Land Manage-

ment indicates their intent to deny the permit for construction of the road, we will remain diligent until that decision is made final.

You can learn more about our new Hunters & Anglers for the Brooks Range campaign in the pages ahead, as well as read updates on other important conservation legislation TRCP is working on including the Farm Bill, the MAPWaters and MAPOceans Acts, and more.

The challenges to conservation, habitat, and access will continue, and we thank you for your unwavering support. Alongside our nonprofit and corporate partners, your engagement, advocacy, and donations help TRCP continue to pull the hunting and fishing community together to fight the good fight, for as long as it takes.

### OUR LEADERSHIP



**Becky Humphries**

Interim CEO



**James A. Baker IV**

Board Chair

HUNTER: Brian Gossenbacher



# CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS



Over \$1 billion secured for Everglades restoration.

## Conserving Special Places

There are some landscapes in America that are so valuable to fish and wildlife species, they simply should be left untouched. Industrial development can have significant, long-term effects on habitat that can be complicated to manage or reverse. TRCP, our partners, and the hunting and fishing community have been advocating for two such special places for decades. Thanks to our collective voices, protections were finally granted for both.

►Pivotal safeguards were issued for the headwaters of Bristol Bay, Alaska—home of the largest sockeye salmon run on the planet. Under the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency restricted and prohibited the discharge of mine waste into rivers, streams, and wetlands in the region.

►The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness received historic protections when the Department of the Interior withdrew over 225,000 acres of public land in the Rainy River Watershed of Northeast Minnesota—just upstream of the historic and beloved wilderness destination—from federal mineral leasing for the next 20 years.

### TRCP BY THE NUMBERS ►

**29** BUSINESS SECTOR PARTNERS REPRESENTED ON THE CORPORATE COUNCIL

**63** NGO PARTNERS ON THE POLICY COUNCIL

EVERGLADES: Robert DeVecchio-Ocudrone



## Greatest Gulf Menhaden Conservation Outcome to Date

Louisiana’s Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved a Notice of Intent for a half-mile coastwide buffer prohibiting industrial menhaden purse seiners from netting close to shore and increased fish spill penalties. The new regulations should reduce net spill incidents and protect sensitive, shallow-water habitats used by redfish, speckled trout, and many other sportfish, birds, and dolphins for feeding and spawning.

MENHADEN: Chris Macaluso; CCAD: Jon Fleming; GROUSE: Shutterstock; BLM: USFWS



## Record-setting Annual Fundraising Gala

The 15th annual Capital Conservation Awards Dinner, co-hosted by MeatEater founder Steve Rinella, was another record-breaking year in both funds raised as well as in-person attendance. TRCP bestowed conservation achievement awards to Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Representative Blake Moore (R-UT-01), and lifetime achievement awards to Becky Humphries (CEO of National Wild Turkey Federation, retired) and Howard Vincent (CEO of Pheasants Forever, retired).

## Partnering to Pass the Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is the largest investment in conservation the federal government makes yearly. In 2023, TRCP gathered our partners in calling upon Congress to double investments to the conservation programs that hunters and anglers care about. This has included:

- Leading a Farm Bill platform supported by **27 partners**
- Hunter-angler education campaign promoted by 7 partners
- 11,000+ letters sent to USDA and Congress
- 50+ meetings with key members of Congress and the USDA
- National media coverage in publications that reach the hunter-angler community at large and inside the Beltway

## BLM Ecosystem Restoration and Resilience Projects



**INVESTMENT:** \$161 Million  
**BENEFITTING:** 21 Landscapes in 11 Western States

This huge win for public land conservation has TRCP field staff from Alaska to Colorado eager to see habitat improvements in their states.





# MOVING FORWARD TO MODERNIZE ACCESS

Digital tools and applications help hunters and anglers make the most of days on the water or afield.



**A**S BLESSED AS American hunters, anglers, and other recreationists are with incredible public land and water resources, we are not free from difficulties and confusion when it comes to public access. That's why TRCP is working to solve the most pressing public land and water access challenges. To fulfill our mission of guaranteeing all Americans quality places to hunt and fish, TRCP is taking the necessary

steps to help pass legislation that will direct federal agencies to identify and make known the locations of existing public access routes, and to clarify and make readily accessible regulations such as vehicle, weapon, boating, and fishing restrictions on those public lands and waters.

### THE PROBLEM

America's public lands and waters represent an invaluable treasure to the citizens of the nation. Most of these acres are open to hunting, fishing, and other forms of recreation. However, accessing some of these public lands and waters, and the regulations that accompany them, has long been complicated and confusing. It wasn't until GPS units and smartphone applications started showing precise ownership boundaries in

the 2010s that the average American could navigate public land and water parcels near private or between different agency properties without the risk of trespassing or committing a regulation infraction such as fishing over a protected marine boundary.

Using this technology, hunters and anglers came to identify many public lands, and some public waters, as unreachable.

To address this challenge, TRCP teamed up with onX Maps to quantify the scope of the landlocked public lands problem and offer solutions that would open access to these acres. Since 2018, the team has found a staggering 16.43 million acres of inaccessible public land across 22 states. The problem was nationwide, and a solution had to be found.

PHONE: Maven; ANGLER: Lindsay & Dave Agness



### OUR ACTION

#### The MAPLand Act

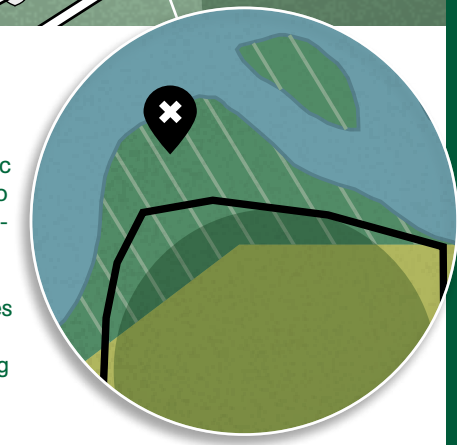
In 2022, the TRCP-led Modernizing Access to our Public Lands Act was passed to help enhance access to our existing public lands by requiring federal land management agencies to digitize their paper maps and records. This includes access easements across private lands and detailed road and trail information on public lands. The MAPLand Act will increase the power of GPS mapping apps commonly found on smartphones, but this information must be implemented before public users will benefit.

#### The MAPWaters Act

In 2023, TRCP helped introduce the Modernizing Access to our Public Waters Act, which expanded the reach of the MAPLand Act by directing federal agencies to digitize water and fishing access and recreational use information on federal waterways and make those resources readily available to the public.



In the situation above, the combined reach of the MAP Acts means that even as a hunter or angler navigates through public lands under the management of the Bureau of Reclamation and United States Forest Service, they will be able to digitally access the different regulations and boundaries in real time while in the field or on the water. Meaning they can confidently hunt birds on Bureau of Reclamation land then cast to fish within a National Forest without having to find a map or kiosk.



“ I'd love to see a world where both access and recreation rules are readily available and simple to understand. The MAPWaters Act would bring a much-needed investment in outdoor recreation. I appreciate TRCP for their continued efforts to improve the public's experiences in the outdoors. ”

—ERIC SIEGFRIED, Founder of onX

### NEXT STEPS

American hunters, anglers, boaters, and other recreationists are urging federal lawmakers to appropriate \$13.5 million toward MAPLand Act implementation in Fiscal Year 2025, and land management agencies must prioritize the law's implementation by 2027.

MAPWaters and MAPOceans are still in the process of becoming law, and we ask you to join us in urging lawmakers to pass this important access legislation.

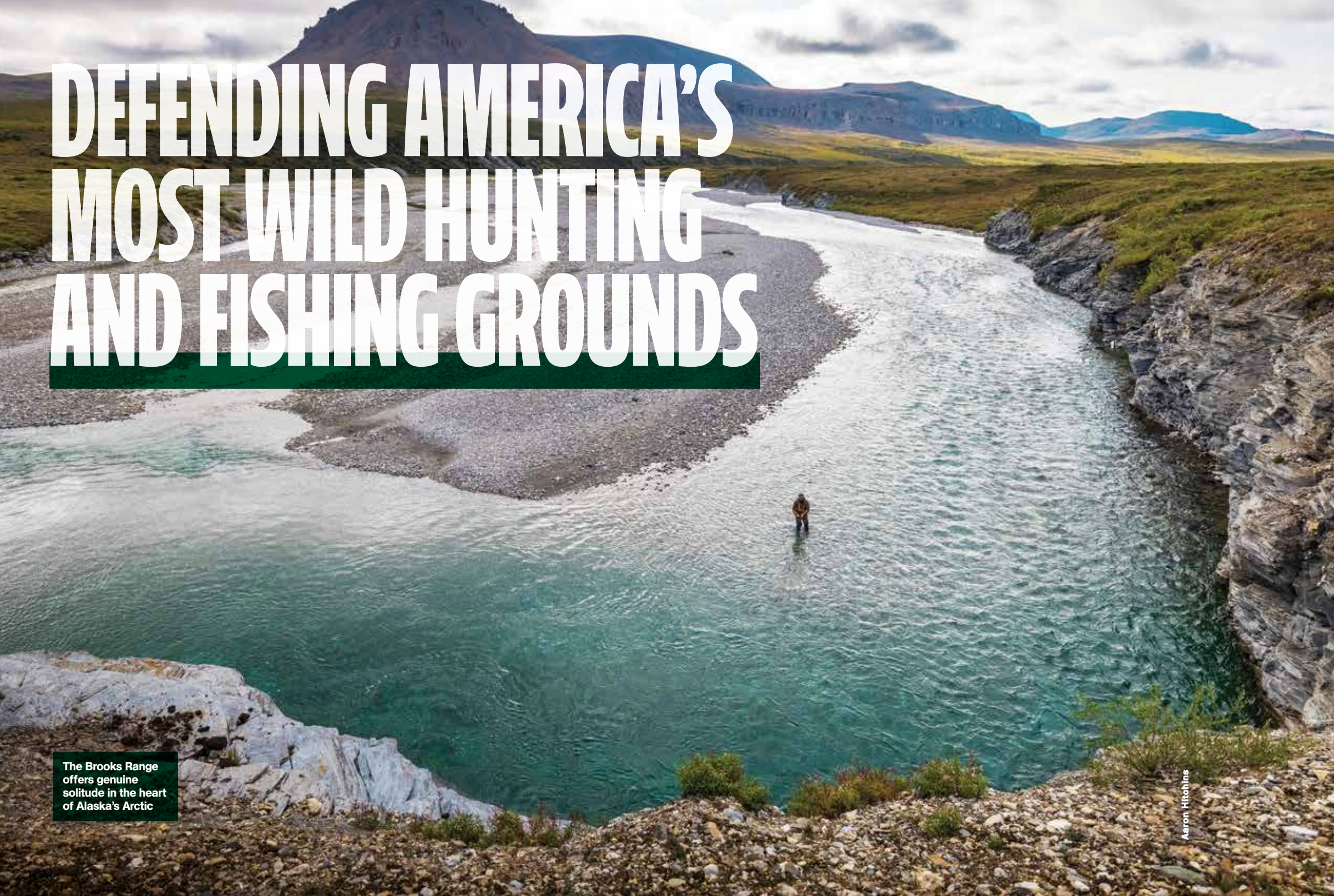
Stay informed with updates on these two important acts.



JOIN TRCP



# DEFENDING AMERICA'S MOST WILD HUNTING AND FISHING GROUNDS



The Brooks Range offers genuine solitude in the heart of Alaska's Arctic

Aaron Hitchhins

## TRCP Launches Campaign to Conserve Alaska's Brooks Range

PRIVATE MINING ROAD POSES UNACCEPTABLE RISKS TO HABITAT

**A**LASKA'S BROOKS RANGE offers some of the finest remote hunting and fishing opportunities remaining in North America. Home to Alaska's largest caribou herds, along with Dall sheep, moose, grizzly bear, sheefish, and Dolly Varden, the Brooks Range inspires countless Americans who dream of experiencing this big, wild country. Unfortunately, a proposed 211-mile industrial corridor threatens the very qualities that hunters and anglers value most about the Brooks Range. The Ambler Industrial Road—designed to disproportionately benefit foreign mining interests—would fragment important caribou habitat, cross nearly 3,000 rivers and streams, and perma-

nently diminish the wild and remote character of this awe-inspiring place. TRCP's Alaska team studied this issue extensively and collaborated with local stakeholders before launching Hunters & Anglers for the Brooks Range in the fall of 2023. This collective of 40+ leading outdoor brands, small businesses, and conservation partners have mobilized approximately 10,000 individual advocates who have urged the Bureau of Land Management to deny the permits for this risky project. TRCP and the hunt-fish coalition will continue to deliver credible opposition to the BLM until a final permitting decision is made in 2024 and will work to ensure the durability of a favorable outcome.

“ Simms is proud to be an early partner of Hunters & Anglers for the Brooks Range. Generations of future anglers should know the thrill of casting for trophy sheefish on a truly wild river like the Kobuk. With their deep issue knowledge and tailored communications resources, the TRCP made it easy for our team to engage our customers in this important conservation campaign. ”

—JOHN FRAZIER, Manager of PR, Content + Digital Marketing, Simms Fishing Products



The proposed Ambler Road would require the construction of nearly 3,000 culverts.





# 2023 FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ended December 31, 2023

### ASSETS

Cash and Investments	\$5,107,971
Accounts Receivable, net	\$1,400,477
Prepaid Expenses	\$213,823
Total Fixed Assets, net	\$50,447
Security Deposit	\$45,210
ROU Asset, net	\$1,704,551
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$8,522,479</b>

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

#### LIABILITIES

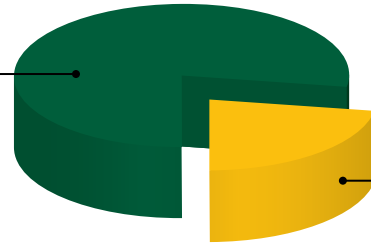
Accounts Payable/Accrued Liabilities	\$220,535
Accrued Salaries and Related Benefits	\$383,397
Economic Injury Disaster Loan	\$157,372
Deferred Revenue	\$864,686
ROU Liability	\$1,848,823
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$3,474,813</b>

#### NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions (Undesignated)	\$24,250
Jim Range Conservation Fund	\$2,365,967
With Donor Restrictions	\$2,657,449
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,047,666</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$8,522,479</b>
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**78%**  
Spent on  
conservation  
services



**22%**  
Spent on  
overhead

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

### REVENUE

Grant Revenue	\$6,071,446
Event Sponsorships	\$515,870
Individual Contributions	\$1,832,215
Corporate, Non-Profit, and Associations	\$773,056
Other Revenue	\$18,164
In-Kind Services	\$215,512
Interest Income	\$12,522
Investment Income	\$264,346

<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$9,703,131</b>
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### EXPENSES

Program Services	\$7,484,966
Management	\$416,990
Fundraising	\$1,680,479

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$9,582,435</b>
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<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$120,696</b>
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The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that takes great pride in its financial accuracy, transparency, and accountability. The TRCP uses every dollar as efficiently as possible to honor the generosity of our donors. In 2023, the TRCP spent 78 percent of all contributions directly advancing conservation, keeping our overhead at a minimum. As a testament to the integrity of TRCP's work, we have received the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator for eight years in a row, a Platinum Seal from Guidestar, and the top-tier rating from the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.



## POLICY COUNCIL





# OUR LEADERSHIP & TEAM



Alston Watt, 2024 Incoming Board of Directors Chair

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**Theodore Sedgwick**  
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**I Ling Thompson**  
CEO

Foundation for America's  
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Property and Environment  
Research Center

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**Becky Humphries**  
Interim President & CEO

**Alex Aguirre**  
Wyoming Community Partnership  
Coordinator

**Elle Benson**  
Rio Grande Program Manager

**Zach Bodhane**  
Director of Government Relations

**Greg Booth**  
Controller

**Carlina Croston**  
Special Projects Manager

**Kendra Davis**  
Director of Foundation Relations

Staff member Dan Morgan showing  
off his son's first ever self-caught  
trout. Way to go, little angler!



BACK COVER: Pat Ford Photography

**Noah Davis**  
Communications Manager,  
Western Conservation

**Jamelle Ellis**  
Senior Scientist

**Carl Erquiaga**  
Nevada Field Representative

**Christian Fauser**  
Western Water Policy Associate

**Aaron Field**  
Director of Private Lands  
Conservation

**Emily Forkey**  
Digital Coordinator

**Alex Funk**  
Director of Water Resources  
and Senior Counsel

**John Gans**  
Northeast Field Representative

**Lynn Gill**  
Director of Operations and People

**Marcel Gaztambide**  
Southwest Field Manager

**Tristan Henry**  
Oregon Field Representative

**Jaclyn Higgins**  
Forage Fish Manager

**Sam Kasner**  
Development and Events Manager

**Meredith Keyse**  
Chief Development Officer

**Alexandra Kozak**  
Pennsylvania Field Manager

**Scott Laird**  
Montana Field Representative



Jess Riggleman (center), winner of the 2023 Spring Sweepstakes, with TRCP staff and supporters Janis Putelis, Josh Walters, Steve Rinella, Mark Sledge, and Taylor Sledge.

**Jen Leahy**  
Senior Alaska Program Manager

**Ryan Lockwood**  
Communications Manager, Marine  
Fisheries

**Chris Macaluso**  
Director, Center for Marine  
Fisheries

**Josh Metten**  
Wyoming Field Manager

**Dan Morgan**  
Director of Communications

**Ian Nakayama**  
Government Relations Manager

**Michael O'Casey**  
Deputy Director, Pacific Northwest  
& Forest Policy

**Liz Ogilvie**  
Chief Communications &  
Operations Officer

**David Pelikan**  
Climate Solutions Coordinator

**Christy Plumer**  
Chief Conservation Officer

**Liz Rose**  
Colorado Field Representative

**Rob Thornberry**  
Idaho Field Representative

**Tiffany Turner**  
Director of Climate Solutions

**Joshua Walters**  
Director of Program Development

**Joel Webster**  
VP of Western Conservation

**Madeleine West**  
Director, Center for Public Lands

**James Wicks**  
Digital Marketing Manager

**Rees Wilson**  
Development Manager

## CORPORATE COUNCIL







## GET IN TOUCH

### NATIONAL OFFICE

529 14th Street NW,  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20045  
202-639-TRCP

### WESTERN OFFICE

725 West Alder Street,  
Suite 1  
Missoula, MT 59802  
406-926-3201



@theTRCP  
info@trcp.org



SCAN TO DONATE