

THE CONSERVATION FUND

Our Revolving Fund: The Engine Driving Our Land Conservation Successes

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From the forests of Maine to the salmon-rich streams of Alaska, The Conservation Fund protects critical, conservable land that is essential to America's environmental health and economic vitality.



Through dynamic partnerships and unparalleled efficiency, we have protected nearly 8 million acres of the nation's most important resources since 1985. Today these lands are national and state parks, recreation and wildlife areas, and working landscapes.

We protect land the old-fashioned way. We buy it. But saving land often requires the ability to move quickly and decisively. To effectively compete in the real estate market, we established a national Revolving Fund in 1986. Unlike an endowment, where funds sit stagnant in a bank earning interest, every dollar invested in our Revolving Fund is used to purchase important conservation lands. When public and/or private funding later becomes available to secure long-term protection, our Revolving Fund is repaid with interest and continues to grow to serve future conservation investments; these recycled dollars never rest.

Revolving Fund Impact

\$147M

Current Revolving Fund total.

100%

of every dollar invested in the Revolving Fund is used for land conservation—no overhead or administrative expenses.

\$40M

Every \$1 million invested in our Revolving Fund has conserved more than \$40 million of sensitive lands and waters at risk of development—a return on investment that cannot be matched.

90%

Our Revolving Fund utilization rate is a minimum of 90%. These funds are incredibly active year after year.

The Best Tool For Conservation



Named Funds: Our Revolving Fund includes a variety of “named funds” established by individual, corporate and foundation donors for the protection of landscapes and geographies that are of particular importance to them. Often, donors continue to add additional contributions to their named fund in ongoing years.

- A gift of \$500,000 is required to establish a named fund without designations
- A gift of \$1 million is required to establish a named fund with geographic and/or thematic restrictions, such as working landscapes or historic lands.

Spotlight: In 2004, the Hull family created the Hadlai Hull Revolving Fund in honor of Hadlai’s 90th birthday and his lifelong commitment to conservation. The Hull Revolving Fund is national in scope and available for use on our top priority land protection projects. It has been instrumental in the completion of projects across the country.

We have deployed the fund to protect more than 46,000 acres valued at over \$41 million in 21 projects across eight states, including lands with historical importance along the Lewis and Clark Trail in Washington, Montana and North Dakota; working farms and forests, state park lands and loans to local land trusts in his native Midwest; and key wildlife habitat in the Mid-Atlantic, where Hadlai lived and worked for more than a decade. Hadlai and his family have continued to invest in the Hadlai Hull Revolving Fund over the years and are thrilled to be protecting America’s land legacy in perpetuity. Since Hadlai’s passing, his family is particularly pleased to know that their named Revolving Fund will serve as a lasting tribute to his passion for conservation.

Growing Need: While our Revolving Fund model is the most successful in the environmental field, the demand for conservation capital rises every year. To keep pace with the market and its many time-sensitive conservation opportunities, we rely on generous donors to help grow the capacity of our Revolving Fund. Conservation Fund staff are continuously identifying new opportunities to protect important lands, but they cannot take action without increased Revolving Fund resources. To explore a gift to our Revolving Fund, contact us today.

“We felt strongly that we needed to support an organization focused on preserving land for the future. After looking at Charity Navigator we felt comfortable knowing our donations to The Conservation Fund would be used for the intended purpose.”

Dale and Ila Wiersma

Donors since 2011

Our Ratings

At The Conservation Fund, our efficiency is a hallmark of who we are. We are recognized for executing our mission with the lowest overhead and highest programmatic investment in our field. Our commitment to accountability and donor transparency remains a cornerstone of our operations. We are rated four stars by Charity Navigator, A+ by CharityWatch, and Platinum level by Guidestar.

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