The **MISSION** of the Grand Canyon Trust is to protect and restore the Colorado Plateau—its spectacular landscapes, flowing rivers, clean air, diversity of plants and animals, and areas of beauty and solitude.
Thank you for reading our Report to Donors. This is the Grand Canyon Trust’s annual way of accounting to you for our work. We never forget that your support makes all our successes possible. There is much more information about the full range of our programs on our website at: grandcanyontrust.org

Since I wrote to you last year, we have celebrated major conservation wins and also suffered from the uncertainty engendered by the Trump administration’s radical shift in environmental policy. But, because the year’s accomplishments were so hard won, it is worth dwelling for a moment on President Obama’s establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument and the continued success in turning back the developers who would plunge a tramway into the heart of the Grand Canyon.

Bears Ears has attracted international acclaim as the first U.S. national monument celebrating the history and knowledge of indigenous peoples. The proclamation also established a unique intertribal commission charged with helping federal agencies manage this remarkable cultural landscape. The Trust is working with the tribes to launch the commission and help the monument reach its exciting potential, despite threats from Washington to drastically shrink or revoke it altogether. We are, of course, prepared to litigate any assault on this visionary designation, and we will likewise go to court in defense of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, since the unilateral revocation or diminishment of any monument threatens all of them.

At the Grand Canyon, a coalition of traditional people, with support from the Trust, has continued to defeat well-heeled and underhanded developers pushing a bill to authorize their mega-resort and tramway and have the Navajo Nation pay for the infrastructure. This year, each legislative committee charged with reviewing the bill defeated or tabled it. The people of western Navajo want economic development, but they want sustainable, culturally appropriate development, not a destructive theme park.

This letter marks my last as executive director after nearly 16 years. I will pass leadership into the immensely capable hands of our conservation director, Ethan Aumack, at year’s end, and return to part-time work as an activist, which is where my heart is. In doing so, I will be part of the agile, influential Trust team, ready to push innovative new conservation solutions when that is possible, and play stalwart defense when needed. What better work could one hope for?

Bill Hedden
United to Protect the Grand Canyon

The Trust’s work to protect the Grand Canyon from uranium mining and other threats is succeeding thanks to long-running alliances and generous contributors.
This summer, Havasupai leaders asked the Trust to help organize an intertribal gathering to advance their multi-decade campaign to stop uranium mining around the Grand Canyon. Tribes gathered at the base of Red Butte this June in opposition to nearby Canyon Mine and efforts to rescind the 20-year ban on new mining claims ordered by the secretary of the interior in 2012.

In northern Arizona, a diverse coalition of local communities, business owners, elected officials, hunting and fishing organizations, ranchers, and Native American communities is cooperating to prevent uranium mining from further contaminating Grand Canyon’s air, land, water, wildlife, and people. With your help, we stand united in Keeping the Canyon Grand.

Our partnership with Navajo families, who formed Save the Confluence more than five years ago, continues to prevent a massive resort on Navajo lands with a tramway to the confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado rivers inside the Grand Canyon. The Scottsdale developer planned to have the so-called “Grand Canyon Escalade” up and running by 2015, but, thanks to our coalition, members of the Navajo Nation Council have repeatedly rejected attempts to win legislative approval for the project. In July, the Naabik’iyati’ Committee, which includes all 24 Navajo Nation Council delegates, voted 14 – 2 against the bill.
The mining industry has fought to reopen watersheds around the canyon to uranium extraction ever since, and the Trust has been defending the withdrawal from attacks in court. However, the Trump administration could undo the withdrawal administratively.

To prevent this, we are rebuilding the broad and powerful coalition that originally supported these hard-won protections. We’re also in the final stages of producing a short film that will bring the urgency of this issue to the computer screens of the public across the Colorado Plateau and beyond.

No Backing Down, Keep It In The Ground

In 2012, the Trust and our partners won an important victory when Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced a 20-year mineral withdrawal, preventing development of thousands of uranium claims on over one million acres around Grand Canyon National Park.

The mining industry has fought to reopen watersheds around the canyon to uranium extraction ever since, and the Trust has been defending the withdrawal from attacks in court. However, the Trump administration could undo the withdrawal administratively.
This summer, the White Mesa uranium mill, which processes ore from Grand Canyon mines, underwent a renewal process for the license that governs its operation and eventual cleanup. The Trust conducted an exhaustive analysis of the license and submitted powerful critiques to regulators. The Trust also supported members of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in the organization of a spiritual walk in protest of the risks the mill poses to those nearby. As the last operating mill in the United States, the White Mesa Mill is being used as the final repository for dangerous radioactive wastes from across the country, and the Trust is determined to assure that the mill is in compliance with all applicable regulations.

The Trust is also appealing coal mine expansions at sites in Utah and Colorado, and is working to prevent oil shale and tar sands development in northeastern Utah.

A 2016 photo of the Greens Hollow lease tract, recently leased by the Bureau of Land Management to expand the SUFCO coal mine in Utah’s Sevier and Sanpete counties. The Trust is appealing this lease expansion before the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

TIM PETERSON
Working with Tribal Communities for Local Action

Late last year, the group convened indigenous people from across the globe to share traditional knowledge and related initiatives. A major theme of the meeting was the need to recognize the Rights of Nature as a framework for collaboration centered on existing tribal natural laws.

The Colorado Plateau Intertribal Conversations Gathering Group, founded and staffed by the Grand Canyon Trust, has won international recognition for contributions to tribal health and the protection of sacred sites, water, language, and culture.
Following the international gathering, we went to Los Angeles to meet with traditional tribal farmers and modern urban farmers united by the challenges of agriculture in the arid Southwest. Participants shared practices and discussed emerging climate issues as seen by those closest to the land.

The Trust’s work helping diversify the economy of western Navajo communities has become essential with the announced 2019 closure of the Navajo Generating Station. Our Native American Business Incubator Network (NABIN) has been helping entrepreneurs launch start-ups, from identifying their customers to branding and marketing their businesses. In 2016, we held our first Innovation Challenge. Three winners secured $5,000 in seed money plus a year of business counseling.

We have also been engaging local community leaders to create feasible economic alternatives on the east rim of the Grand Canyon through our innovative DinéHózhó investment platform, which pairs socially minded investors with Navajo entrepreneurs. The goal is a sustainable, diverse, and culturally appropriate regional economy. We are beginning to make loans to vendors and entrepreneurs, incubating businesses, and the future looks bright.
Bears Ears National Monument
Following decades of advocacy, Bears Ears National Monument was finally designated by President Obama in 2016. The monument represents a hard-won victory for public lands conservation, protecting 1.35 million acres of stunning wildlands—serpentine canyons, forested mountains, high mesas and plateaus, and desert badlands dotted with buttes and stone pinnacles. The monument is prime habitat for predators like bear and cougar, as well as medicinal plants and rare species of pollinators.

More than that, Bears Ears is a victory for tribes—it’s the first truly Native American national monument that honors the cultures and identities tied to this singular landscape. Countless sacred sites—cliff dwellings, rock art, prehistoric villages, as well as places to practice pilgrimage and ceremony, and to gather firewood, food, and medicine—have been protected from off-road vehicle abuse, new uranium mining, and fossil fuel drilling.

Bears Ears, by its proclamation, is a place where indigenous traditional knowledge is to be preserved and used in monument management. A new paradigm of collaborative management between tribes and federal land managers is emerging here through the presidentially established Bears Ears Commission. The commission is combining traditional knowledge and cutting-edge science into a comprehensive vision that elevates this cultural landscape so that the land and its inhabitants—plant, human, and animal—can flourish in a dance of reverence, respect, and reciprocity.

This year, we worked to support the Bears Ears Commission in asserting its priorities and values, and increasing its public presence and capacity to advocate for better interim management and public education. We also worked in the media and the political arena to defend Bears Ears from unrelenting attacks lobbed by local anti-public lands politicians and the Trump administration. With your support, Bears Ears National Monument will endure these tests, building a transformative model wherein the land’s first inhabitants help shape the future of their ancestral lands.
Advocating for our national monuments

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has recommended shrinking Utah’s two most recent national monuments, as well as undermining the Antiquities Act of 1906 by opening them, and possibly all national monuments, to commercial logging, mining, and fossil fuel drilling. This will put the very values national monuments protect at risk.

At the urging of anti-public lands politicians in Utah, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments are under grave threat of diminishment, and sensible public lands management reforms are in danger of being abandoned by the new administration.
The Trump administration has launched the most aggressive assault on protected public lands in American history. Anti-public lands forces across the West are mobilizing as well, working to undo decades of progress by pushing for state ownership of public roads, and looking to a sympathetic president and Congress to undo protections for our shared cultural and natural heritage.

We’re working to raise the profile of the plateau’s protected lands in local, regional, and national media, coordinating with tribes and our conservation partners to be ready should legal action be necessary to defend national monuments, and redoubling our efforts to stave off the Trump administration’s aggressive push to return the plateau to its days as a fossil fuel colony. Over the coming years, the Grand Canyon Trust will be a leading voice in defending the Colorado Plateau in the media, the courts, and the halls of Congress. Our work is developing quickly. Please check our blog and social media feeds to stay current on how you can help preserve the plateau.
Thanks to years of Trust leadership, there is broad agreement on landscape-scale forest restoration strategies for the world’s largest ponderosa pine forest north of Arizona’s Mogollon Rim.

Arizona towns and counties, environmental organizations like the Trust, wood products companies, scientific institutions, tribes, and resource management agencies have worked together to plan and implement forest restoration work across the Four Forest Restoration Initiative’s (4FRI) 2 million acre area. It’s America’s largest forest restoration project.

On the east side of the Mogollon Rim, treatments are hitting the ground at an encouraging pace, with local industry mechanically thinning about 15,000 acres per year, for a total of over 60,000 acres since 2012. This work has been complemented by prescribed and managed fire across nearly 200,000 additional acres. Unfortunately, work is stunted on the west side because of the Phase 1 contractor’s inability to cut significant numbers of trees.
The Trust and other stakeholders came together to plan ways to accelerate mechanical treatments on the west side toward the original goal of treating 50,000 acres per year. The central component of this strategy is a new request for proposals aimed at attracting industry partners with the capacity to thin the forest and remove biomass to meet 4FRI’s objectives. This request for proposals will be issued this fall, and the Forest Service will make a decision about whether to award one or several new contracts soon thereafter.

The Trust’s volunteer citizen scientists will continue to assist the Forest Service with inventory, monitoring, and adaptive management at spring, stream, and riparian areas throughout the 4FRI footprint. The key role that citizen science plays in 4FRI will provide an example for public lands management across the West.
Grand Canyon Trust and National Geographic Live present

**Between River and Rim: Hiking the Grand Canyon**

Author Kevin Fedarko and photographer/filmmaker Pete McBride are hitting the road to tell tales of their nearly 800 trail-less miles through the heart of the Grand Canyon, and the threats to the canyon they discovered along the way.

We’re sponsoring a National Geographic Live tour, bringing Kevin and Pete to a city near you to share stories of their audacious and demanding adventure.

Find out more at grandcanyontrust.org/natgeo

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**TOUR DATES**

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**2018**

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**PORTLAND, OREGON**
Feb 19 at 7:30 pm
Portland’s Newmark Theatre

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**
Feb 25 at 2 pm
Feb 26 and 27 at 7:30 pm
Benaroya Hall

**MESA, ARIZONA**
March 1 at 7:30 pm
Mesa Arts Center

**LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**
March 15 and 16 at 7:30 pm
The Broad Stage

**SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA**
April 4 at 7:30 pm
UC Santa Barbara
Campbell Hall

**THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA**
May 4 at 8:00 pm
Civic Arts Plaza

**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**
June 5 at 7:30 pm
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
Boots on the Ground for Utah Forests

Hiking above tree line in the La Sal Mountains this summer, we recorded the impacts of exotic mountain goats in the Mount Peale Research Natural Area. In 45 vegetation plots, we documented signs of goats wallowing and trampling sensitive plant species.
Over on Monroe Mountain in south-central Utah, the Trust is working on an aspen restoration project. Sixty southern Utah county commissioners, state staff, and Utah’s Governor Herbert joined us for a field visit this summer, giving high visibility to the work. On the site, the Trust completed an intensive, four-year project to document all plants that grow beneath 65 aspen sites across Monroe Mountain. A healthy aspen stand is a community, not “merely” trees, and our survey will provide an important baseline for judging the success of the restoration project when it concludes eight years from now. We’re clearly “grounded” in southern Utah to act and care for our shared public lands.

The herd has now grown to more than 80 animals, on its way to the state’s goal of 200. The nosebleed research and the accompanying Trust litigation are aimed at getting the Forest Service to obey its own regulations and remove the goats from the rare protected alpine land.
Our work on the North Rim Ranches focuses on protecting and restoring ecological health across 850,000 magnificent acres north of the Grand Canyon.
In collaboration with the Trust’s Volunteer Program, the Springs Stewardship Institute, and the Forest Service, we are hard at work prioritizing springs for assessment and restoration.

With the help of Trust citizen scientist crews, we also completed research on controlling the spread of noxious cheatgrass in 2017. Now comes the data analysis and management planning to contain one of the most problematic weeds in the West.

To do this, we graze minimal numbers of cattle and lead an innovative public-private Research and Stewardship Partnership using science-based land management to achieve our conservation goals.

In 2016, we shared our new Climate Change Adaptation Plan with agency and citizen partners. Now it’s all about taking the words on paper and turning them into action on the ground. This year we have been focusing on improving management of precious springs on the North Rim.
Putting in the Hours: Volunteers in Action

This year, 375 volunteers gave 11,000 hours of service to 27 hands-on and advocacy-based conservation projects across the Colorado Plateau.

The variety of work is impressive: volunteer stewards built fences to protect water resources on the Kaibab Plateau, modified cattle fencing for pronghorn movement across House Rock Valley, removed over 10,000 invasive plants on ungrazed lands in Utah national forests, supported traditional Navajo farmers, and assisted with Kane Ranch headquarters maintenance.

Citizen scientists surveyed 27 springs on the Grand Canyon’s north rim and built fences to protect springs from trampling, assisted with critical climate research, documented impacts of non-native goats in southern Utah, and surveyed over 40 miles of streams near the Mogollon Rim.
YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The Trust remains committed to amplifying the voices of the West’s emerging young environmental leaders. This year we worked with 14 interns, who spent over 4,000 hours in the field and behind the scenes gaining professional conservation experience. We also took various school groups onto the plateau for service trips, after which many of our student volunteers hosted advocacy workshops and film screenings for their peers.

“I found Grand Canyon Trust and found exactly what I was looking for. It’s incredible to be a part of a committed group of people working together for our future.”

– Jim Grajek
Understanding the Plateau Through Maps and Graphics

Using cartography and interactive media, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program gives you a front-row seat to learn about conservation issues. In 2017, we produced Bears Ears: A Story of Homelands. This guided tour of Bears Ears National Monument tells the story of the historical, scientific, and cultural wonders the monument protects, with words from tribal elders and leaders helping to guide the way through the long journey to protection.

• Produced over 50 maps for publications
• Analyzed over 291,000 signatures in support of Bears Ears
• Cross referenced over 2,000 spring locations

Bears Ears: A Story of Homelands
Brought to you by the Grand Canyon Trust
To date, our map resources account for 10 percent of all our web traffic.

We also produced a second Grand Canyon story map, *Threatened Waters: Grand Canyon’s Seeps and Springs*. This story displays the importance of the canyon’s native waters, those seeking to capitalize on their life-giving flows, and efforts the Trust is taking to restore springs along the north rim of the canyon.

The GIS program also provides spatial analysis and data visualizations to better explain the issues we face, facilitate informed decisions, and support the communities of the Colorado Plateau. We continue to provide mapping support and data analysis for various groups fighting to keep our national monuments protected, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, and Save the Confluence.
**Turning Adventurers into Advocates**

In 2017, we integrated the Colorado Plateau Explorer (CPE) into the Trust website and have seen impressive web growth as a result.

- The hike, campground, and national park pages account for more than a quarter of all web traffic to the Trust site.
- The new traffic to Colorado Plateau Explorer pages represents 100 percent of our web growth this year.
- The hikes page has been the top preforming page on our site since July 2017.

- With more people visiting the Trust site, online donations are up more than 50 percent this year.
- CPE is driving people to sign petitions, submit comments, and become Trust members.

By tying recreation information to our on-the-ground conservation work, we’re connecting people to issues impacting the lands they love.
Statements of Financial Position  
for the 12 months ended December 31, 2016

ASSETS  
2016

Current Assets:
- Cash and cash equivalents $5,501,061
- Contributions receivable 1,022,469
- Account receivable 47,204
- Note receivable 23,019
- Livestock inventory 50,677
- Prepaid expenses 83,664
  TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 6,728,094

Non-Current Assets:
- Breeding herd 113,568
- Property and equipment 1,529,372
- Investments 7,442,083
- Conservation easement 2,295,000
- Beneficial interest in remainder trust 41,184
- Note receivable, net of current portion 23,720
  TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS 11,444,927

TOTAL ASSETS $18,173,021

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:
- Account payable $61,368
- Accrued expenses 115,081
  TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES 176,449

Net Assets:
- Unrestricted 13,405,705
- Temporarily restricted 2,265,745
- Permanently restricted 2,795,000
  TOTAL 18,466,450

Non-controlling interest – 469,878
  TOTAL NET ASSETS 17,996,572

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $18,173,021

Statement of Activity
for the 12 months ended December 31, 2016

Revenues:
- Grants and contributions $4,988,389
- In-kind contributions 504,528
- Membership income 423,892
- Investment income 288,791
- Cattle revenue 54,864
  Change in value of beneficial interest in remainder trust – 552
  Other income 19,968
  TOTAL REVENUES 6,279,880

Expenses:
- Program services 3,866,300
- Education 232,062
  TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES 4,098,362
- Development and membership 429,691
- General and administrative 410,402
  TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES 840,093

  TOTAL EXPENSES 4,938,455

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS BEFORE NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST 1,341,425

Less: change in net assets attributable to non-controlling interest 49,791

Changes in net assets for controlling entities 1,391,216

BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2016 16,657,425

Changes in net assets 1,341,425

Net contributions – 2,278

BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2016 $17,996,572

The Grand Canyon Trust and North Rim Ranch, LLC

North Rim Ranch, LLC is a subsidiary of the Grand Canyon Trust
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2016 Donors
The Grand Canyon Trust’s work is made possible through the generosity of all of our contributors. Below, we list extraordinary financial contributions by name, but please know that we have heartfelt appreciation for everyone’s support. Thank you for caring, for your confidence, and for contributing at whatever level is meaningful to you!

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Your annual gift of $1,000 or more makes you part of a special donor group. We invite you to join this loyal community and be recognized for your commitment to preserving the wild heart of the West.

GIVE MONTHLY
Knowing we can count on your gift every month helps us plan our work and is critically important to the Trust’s ability to achieve its mission. Please make the commitment today!

PLANNED GIVING
Make a lasting contribution for generations to come. Remembering the Trust in your will or estate plan is one of the easiest ways to make a meaningful gift. Learn more at: grandcanyontrust.org/legacy

For more information on any of these options or to learn about other ways to give, please contact our office at: 928-774-7488 or info@grandcanyontrust.org

THANK YOU!
A TRIBUTE TO A LIFETIME OF CONSERVATION

Bill has led the Trust as executive director over the course of the last 16 years with vision, grace, and an unmatched passion for conservation. He has spearheaded numerous complex negotiations resulting in some of the biggest and most improbable conservation victories in the Southwest. Removal of the Atlas uranium tailings pile from the banks of the Colorado River, the retirement of grazing permits along the Escalante River, and the expansion of Arches National Park are just a few of the world-class conservation achievements for which Bill has been personally responsible.

Bill’s legacy across the Colorado Plateau will be an enduring one, and we are forever grateful for his friendship, leadership, and singularity as one of the preeminent conservationists of our time. — Ethan Aumack

Conservation, like academia, is a field packed overfull with words. Here, Bill stands out in his brevity. He does not overpower a conversation or send rambling emails. When Bill speaks and writes, his dry humor, pith, and candor are flawless. We should all aspire to match Bill’s precision with language. — Tim Peterson

Bill and I both started at the Trust 22 years ago. During that time, he has acted as my mentor, been a valued colleague, and grown to be a close friend. The Trust has thrived during Bill’s leadership, as have the landscapes we all work to protect. — Darcy Allen

Over the years, I spent hundreds of hours on the phone with Bill discussing the issues facing the Trust and the Colorado Plateau. What most impressed me was how quickly he grasped the essential dynamics of a particular situation and how quickly he could come up with ideas of what to do. His entrepreneurial spirit, combined with his deep knowledge of the Colorado Plateau and his abiding love for it, came together beautifully as he led the Trust to become the respected and successful organization that it is today. — Rick Moore

Bill is long game and he is Utah. He is Arches National Park that was expanded for creeks; he is the nightly train that leaves Moab, carrying uranium mining tailings away from the Colorado River. He is wisdom about Utah culture, ecology, and needs, and potential within the Trust. — Mary O’Brien

Anyone who has spent time with Bill out on the Colorado Plateau knows that his allegiance to place is total. The Colorado Plateau got a win when Bill found home in Castle Valley with Eleanor. — Anne Mariah Tapp

We were dirty, sleepy, and hungry, heading home from Dark Canyon. While the others were fed, Bill interviewed me on his expansive Castle Valley lawn where we shared experiences and fantasized about lawsuits. That relaxed yet insightful first encounter characterized Bill’s career at the Trust. We will miss his temperament and keen sense of what matters. — Neil Levine

Bill Hedden, Executive Director

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