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.
The Grand Canyon Trust has been celebrating its 30th anniversary year with a period of muscular and successful advocacy protecting the Grand Canyon and surrounding Colorado Plateau from a rogues’ gallery of development projects that Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga characterized as the worst threats to the park during its century of existence. The work has not all been about fending off disaster… we have also been making strides on the restoration side of our mission, helping heal past wounds to secure a healthier future. This Report to Donors is our way of accounting for our work over the year, which we could not do without your support. Here, I will describe just two projects that hint at the diversity of our concerns and the creative ways our professional staff members approach problems. You can find much more on our website at: grandcanyontrust.org.

Topping any list of bad ideas is the proposal to build an immense resort on the eastern rim of Marble Canyon featuring a tramway to the bottom of the Grand Canyon just upstream from the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers. The Trust partnered closely with Navajo activists of the Save the Confluence coalition to oppose the so-called Grand Canyon Escalade at every turn, and we are happy to report that new Navajo President Russell Begaye also opposes the development. Today, we are cautiously optimistic that this affront to the land and to traditional cultures will not be built. Instead, to provide needed economic opportunities and as a bulwark against the next feverish development scheme, we are supporting many tribal and academic partners in the creation of comprehensive master plans for Navajo Nation tribal parks. This work is precedent-setting globally and offers the best chance for truly durable protection for places like Marble Canyon and Monument Valley.

A signature achievement of the Trust was the early 2012 administrative withdrawal that prohibited new mining claims on over one million acres around the Grand Canyon. We have been assisting the federal government in defending the withdrawal against legal challenges from the mining industry ever since. It has not escaped our notice during the relentless industry attacks that any uranium ore mined in the region must go for refinement to America’s only remaining uranium mill, outside White Mesa, Utah. Due to its unique status, this mill has also been receiving shipments of nasty hazardous wastes from all around the country, giving them a run through the mill before dumping them in one of the disposal cells on the site. The uranium industry has a long history of starting and stopping mills like this one as the market waxes and wanes, letting derelict tailings dumps pollute the environment and eventually declaring bankruptcy and leaving the mess to the taxpayers. The federal government had to develop a multibillion-dollar program to remediate these orphaned mills. In response, the EPA has mandated that mills limit the number and size of tailings dumps, in effect cleaning up as they go along. The White Mesa Mill seems to be violating those regulations as well as the emissions limits meant to protect nearby communities, so we are in court trying to force them to come into compliance. If they are going to be a dump for some of America’s most hazardous waste, they should be operating lawfully.

I hope you enjoy these program reports and photographs. We are deeply grateful for your support!
This year, we continued our opposition to the proposed Escalade development, which would include a tramway to the bottom of the Grand Canyon at the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers. By supporting the Save the Confluence coalition’s educational campaign, which included radio broadcasts and distribution of photos of the proposed project site, we helped to turn back the developer’s well-funded efforts to elect tribal officials who would support this ill-conceived development.

We also engaged national media outlets in covering threats to the Grand Canyon, including the The New York Times, NBC Nightly News, and Smithsonian Magazine.
Our multi-year campaign to end uranium mining on public lands around the Grand Canyon has been strengthened this year by our support of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act, introduced this fall by Arizona Congressman Raúl Grijalva. The proposed monument recognizes that the entire Grand Canyon is integral to the cultural heritage of the Havasupai and all native people throughout the region. It would permanently ban uranium mining on more than a million acres temporarily withdrawn from new claims in 2012. The Trust has joined a coalition of tribes, businesses, community leaders, and conservationists advocating for a presidential proclamation that would permanently protect this sacred place.

We continue to defend the 2012 ban on new uranium mines in the Grand Canyon watershed in the face of legal appeals from the mining industry that would overturn it. We are also challenging in federal court the U.S. Forest Service’s decision to allow the Canyon Mine uranium mine to re-open without updating its 1986 permit and environmental impact statement.
Ticking time bombs, like the abandoned gold mine that recently released millions of gallons of contaminated water into Colorado’s Animas River, are found throughout the West. Uranium mines threaten the Grand Canyon region with toxic and radioactive contamination. To prevent future mining contamination catastrophes, the Trust recently united a diverse coalition of tribes, local governments, and conservation organizations behind a petition to reform mining rules on federal lands. The proposed reforms would ensure that mine owners cannot simply walk away from existing and inactive mines. Two county governments, the Havasupai, Hualapai and Zuni nations, and over a dozen regional and national conservation organizations have joined in our reform effort.

*The Animas River flowed a toxic orange after the Gold King Mine disaster in August 2015.*

WIKIMEDIA
Navajo Generating Station (NGS) has been burning a thousand tons of coal per hour each and every day for nearly four decades, and is the largest producer of greenhouse gases in the West. It is also a major source of haze in the nearby Grand Canyon, and its mercury and other toxic emissions are now being found in the Grand Canyon’s native fish and aquatic communities. In 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a rule that will allow NGS to continue polluting for decades to come, at the expense of the Colorado Plateau’s public health, air quality, and our collective climate future. The Trust has joined a coalition of environmental advocates in a legal challenge to this new rule with the express goal of advocating for funding and agreements that will facilitate a transition toward renewable energy alternatives.

The Trust continues its leadership to protect the communities, air, and groundwater of southeastern Utah from contamination by the White Mesa Uranium Mill. In early 2015, we engaged with the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that public and environmental health are maximally protected. As part of this process, we held a public meeting in the White Mesa community to educate residents about our concerns surrounding the mill. Our lawsuit against the White Mesa Mill to force compliance with the federal Clean Air Act remains active.
The Colorado Plateau Intertribal Gatherings continue to be the core of the Native America Program’s work, bringing together cultural leaders, elders, and youth from 12 plateau tribes to share knowledge and preserve songs, stories, and teachings that perpetuate land protection ethics. Two gatherings were held in 2015. Through this process, we have helped establish a mentorship program between master farmers and aspiring or novice farmers, and offered workshops on dryland farming techniques, seed-saving, natural pesticides, and other traditional farming practices.
Over the past year, we have facilitated the incorporation of Dinéhózhó, the Navajo Nation’s first social entrepreneurship venture, owned by seven tribal chapters. The goal of this low-profit limited liability corporation (L3C) is to facilitate investment in enterprises that directly benefit local communities, are consistent with cultural values, result in real opportunities for job creation, and develop a local tax base to generate income for communities and entrepreneurs.

As an executive advisor to Dinéhózhó, the Trust has helped to secure start-up investment, create a social small business venture investment platform, and coordinate a team of tourism experts to build the capacity of the Navajo Nation tribal park system near the Grand Canyon region to protect world-class resources and ensure community-driven eco-tourism development.

This spring, we launched an Intertribal Learning Center in Moenkopi, AZ, that provides in-depth education on topics such as climate change and watershed health, and holds weekly workshops on all aspects of traditional farming. The vision for the learning center was originally developed through the Intertribal Gatherings and was planned and implemented by Trust staff.

In July, we celebrated the first graduating class of Native American Business Incubator Network (NABIN) clients. We also recruited a new class of participants in the program who will develop business plans and marketing strategies guided by our expert business mentors. This year, we helped two NABIN clients, North Leupp Family Farms and Cloud Nine Recycling, organize crowdfunding campaigns to expand their services and secure necessary equipment.

Stacey Jensen, farmer and chairman of the board of North Leupp Family Farms, inside one of the community farm’s greenhouses in Leupp, AZ, on the Navajo Nation. The farm, with assistance from NABIN, is working to become a regional producer and milling facility for traditional blue corn. DONOVAN QUINTERO
Thanks to you, we are...

**WORKING TO PROTECT UTAH’S MAGNIFICENT WILDLANDS**

Above: Hickerson Park and the High Uinta Mountains, UT. TIM PETERSON
Right: Stakeholders and decision-makers gather to discuss the Public Lands Initiative at the Anticline Overlook on Hatch Point, UT. TIM PETERSON
Far Right: Floating the Green River in Red Canyon, UT. TIM PETERSON
For nearly three years, the Grand Canyon Trust and our conservation partners have participated in good faith negotiations with stakeholders and decision-makers regarding the future of land management for up to eight counties in eastern Utah through legislation called the Eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative.

This initiative could be our best chance in three decades to ensure up to four million acres of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands receive the permanent protection they deserve. Through our discussions, we have identified many areas of agreement between conservation groups, the Utah state government, counties, and other key stakeholders. These areas of agreement should form the basis for any proposal.

Unfortunately, the draft legislation may include unacceptable provisions—such as limitations on the president’s use of the Antiquities Act—that we cannot support, are unnecessary, and would doom the initiative’s chances in Congress. The proposal may also include too much development, and too little conservation. Successful legislation would have the support of key stakeholders and would ensure that everyone supports the results. We stand ready to continue to participate in good faith, and believe that with some effort from all sides, a good bill is still possible for a subset of the counties involved. Stay tuned to learn how you can help protect these remarkable lands forever.
The Four Forest Restoration Initiative's (4FRI) first 1 million acre restoration plan was completed with a final environmental impact statement (EIS) in April 2015. Now, the Forest Service and the 4FRI stakeholder group (which includes the Trust) is moving full speed ahead with its second plan, which will guide restoration activities across an additional 800,000 acres along the central Mogollon Rim. This plan is likely to build on key restoration strategies developed in the first EIS, which we hope will allow it to be completed significantly faster.

On-the-ground restoration activities are accelerating across 4FRI’s 2.4 million acre project area. Industry partners will have restored between 12,000 and 15,000 acres by the end of 2015, with an expected acceleration to at least 20,000 acres treated in 2016. This work provides local jobs and will return our forests to good health while also protecting human communities from catastrophic wildfire. We are now on our way to restoring ponderosa pine forests in Arizona at landscape scales for the first time in the state’s history.
The Trust has played a wide variety of leadership roles in 4FRI’s development so far—founding stakeholder, facilitator, negotiator, science provider, cheerleader, workhorse, and advocate. As 4FRI moves into its second phase, we will continue to play all of these important roles, as well as bring volunteers into the field to help jump-start critical pieces of the on-the-ground restoration program. As 2016 will be a consequential year for 4FRI, we will be pushing to ramp up on-the-ground restoration significantly.
Thanks to you, we are...  

**Making Scientific and Collaborative Contributions to New Public Lands Management**

Johnson Lakes Canyon is 800 acres of beauty, biological soil crusts, raptors, water birds, cliffs, ancient granaries... and land that has been damaged by more than 100 years of livestock use. But it’s also the property of Rick and Susie Knezevich, two profoundly positive and generous people who intend to give this canyon back much of the life that it once supported. **To this end, they have placed the property under a conservation easement with the Trust, and we are partnering with them to restore this ecologically important area.** Johnson Lakes Canyon will provide an important long-term reference point for how the heavily-grazed surrounding Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument could be similarly restored.

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Side-oats grama is a native grass that will be restored to Johnson Lakes Canyon.  
*Both photos by Ellen Morris Bishop*

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63 volunteers worked on 10 six-day science trips

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Thanks to extraordinary people, we are able to demonstrate stewardship and bring scientific data to public agencies to advocate for better land management.

- Seven interns provided 60 weeks of youthful energy, scientific accuracy, mapping, and photography
- 63 volunteers worked hard on 10 six-day science trips
- Photographer, writer, and geologist Ellen Morris Bishop traveled with us for five weeks to provide stunning photos of the landscapes we work to protect

Our advocacy is made immeasurably more influential and respected through the work of thoughtful land managers, honest stakeholders, volunteers, interns, funders and donors working to protect the complex, vulnerable, and irreplaceable public lands of the Colorado Plateau.
After four years of working group meetings co-convened by the Trust and Utah’s Grazing Improvement Program, the Fishlake National Forest has released a final plan for 10 years of aspen restoration throughout Monroe Mountain. The plan incorporates much of the thinking of the working group. It includes numerous innovations that will improve elk, cattle, and fire management to restore aspen and associated species throughout southern Utah.

Far below the 12,000’ peaks of the La Sal Mountains in southeastern Utah, the multi-stakeholder La Sal Sustainability Collaboration has been kicking the dirt and listening hard to each other in order to reach consensus on improved cattle management by the end of 2015. They will then provide their recommendations to the public agencies that manage grazing in the La Sals, and cutthroat trout, native plants, sagebrush, and riparian communities will all benefit.
The Trust is working closely with the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition, which is spearheading a campaign to designate 1.9 million acres of public land in southeastern Utah as a national monument. The coalition includes the Hopi, Navajo, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Uintah and Ouray Ute tribal governments and is formally supported by 20 other tribal governments. The group’s protection proposal urges the Obama administration to preserve this living cultural landscape, and, uniquely, represents tribal interests in land management decisions in the region.

The Trust has played an instrumental role in this process, as we have utilized our relationships across Indian Country to bring this coalition together. We have now been appointed by the tribes to assist the coalition as it moves toward a vision for protection and collaborative management of this area. Our grassroots and high-level tribal relationships, which have been nurtured for over a decade within our Native America Program, put our organization in a unique position to work closely with the coalition.

The Bears Ears cultural landscape is located just south and east of Canyonlands National Park, and is indispensable to tribal peoples of the Colorado Plateau, who rely on these sacred lands as a place of subsistence, spirituality, healing, and contemplation. This living cultural landscape of mountain peaks, verdant high plateaus and roughhewn canyon country is home to more than 100,000 cultural and historic sites. More importantly, this sacred place remains vital today to tribal peoples of the region, and their identity is deeply rooted in this place. Tribes rely on these public lands to maintain their traditional livelihoods and cultural practices, such as hunting, gathering, and ceremonial uses.

In addition to unique attachments to the land, tribal leaders share the concerns of the broader American public: looting of cultural sites, careless visitors, oil and gas development, potash, uranium and tar sands mining, and irresponsible off-road vehicle use that can permanently damage the land. Together, the tribes share a united vision for broader protection of the region, and are working with federal officials on a government-to-government level.

Thanks to you, we are... CAMPAIGNING FOR A BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT
A Trust staff member from our Native America Program has been selected by tribal leaders and federal officials to act as the official liaison between the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition and President Obama’s staff. In this role, she will streamline top tribal leaders’ participation by providing regular briefings from the county, state, and national levels. Additionally, our attorneys will coordinate and staff a series of working sessions in which the tribes will formalize a proposal for protection and collaborative management of the region. We will continue to work closely with the coalition, and to stand behind the tribes to support their vision of protection for the unparalleled Bears Ears region.

Top: A young horse rider at the Bears Ears summer gathering.
Middle: Intertribal Coalition Co-chairs Alfred Lomahquahu and Eric Descheenie address federal officials at the Bears Ears summer gathering.
Below: Bears Ears Buttes, UT.
Our work on the North Rim Ranches focuses on protecting and restoring ecological integrity across 850,000 magnificent acres of public land north of the Grand Canyon. We lead a pioneering public-private partnership using the best science-based land management to achieve conservation and restoration goals.

In 2015, employing our new climate adaptation plan that identifies specific actions to reduce impacts on the ranches, we rolled out a strategy for sharing this unique management tool with agency partners and the public. Our goals are to increase the resiliency of forests to drought-triggered wildfires, create a water use master plan for wildlife waters, ensure healthy grazing practices, and spark a conversation about climate with residents in the region.
In 2015, we worked with a host of amazing students on the North Rim Ranches: multicultural undergraduates who desire to become the next generation of conservation leaders, recent law school graduates who are ready to fight for land protection in court, interns who are more than willing to get their hands dirty to achieve conservation goals, and many more. Field-based education at the ranches inspires people to match the measure of the land.

With the help of several volunteer crews, we built a series of fenced-in research plots to monitor how plants adapt to changing conditions from lowland grasslands to high elevation forests. This work will provide keys to understanding how species and ecosystems evolve to deal with droughts and less rainfall.

We expanded last year’s successful wildlife habitat connectivity project from a handful of remote cameras to almost a hundred. Bighorn sheep, bobcats, mule deer and other animals need healthy habitat and that means landscapes that are connected and protected. With agency partners, we are fine-tuning management to reconnect animals to their homes.

A bobcat streaks across the North Rim Ranches landscape; a rare desert bighorn captured on a wildlife camera.
The Trust is partnering with private landowners, the Bluff City Historic Preservation Association (Utah), and the Bureau of Land Management to establish a magnificent non-motorized trail along eight miles of the San Juan River. Stretching from Bluff to Sand Island, the trail winds beside the river through a peaceful cottonwood bottom filled with birds, past a dramatic slot canyon, and beneath cliffs covered with a vast gallery of rock art created over the course of thousands of years.
Our staff has mapped the route, and we are leading the way on the requisite environmental analysis for the public lands. We have also acquired easements across three parcels of private land, whose owners are excited to help with this popular project. We are now raising funds for constructing trailheads and alternative access points and for shoring up fragile portions of the route.
Thanks to you, we are...

**Nurturing Lifelong Stewards of the Colorado Plateau**

Your support helps us to nurture future generations of conservation advocates for the Colorado Plateau. By spending a week on the north rim of the Grand Canyon installing wildlife cameras, surveying beaver habitat in the national forests of southern Utah, studying grazing impacts in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument or working with traditional farmers on the Navajo Nation, *volunteers experience firsthand the beauty of—and threats to—our public lands. They walk away with a sense of empowerment, ready and willing to advocate for these special places.*
In 2015…

- 315 volunteers participated in 18 conservation projects on public and tribal lands across the Colorado Plateau
- Volunteers donated 16,700 hours of service, the equivalent of eight full-time positions
- Over 150 new and returning “citizen scientists” contributed to climate change adaptation research, habitat restoration, and data collection that will influence public lands management decisions
- 60% of volunteers were diverse youth ages 14-25
- 12 interns contributed 7,900 hours of time, brainpower, sweat, and heart

We believe conservation isn’t sustainable without youth involvement, so we organized Uplift 2015 along with Northern Arizona University’s Landscape Conservation Initiative. This event brought together 85 passionate young leaders from across the plateau for an inspiring weekend of workshops, film, music, and networking at Camp Colton, on the San Francisco Peaks. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the challenges facing the region and ways to take action. Uplift, as one attendee reflected, was about “bringing people together, instilling hope and passion.”

“The Uplift leadership team gets ready for day one of the three-day event. The team of volunteers spent six months planning and organizing Uplift.”

BLAKE MCCORD

“Uplift taught me that the conservation movement is not dead in my generation. Young people are merely reimagining what it means to be a conservationist, and that means mixing the conservation movement with other movements in a world that’s becoming more and more comfortable with the interconnectedness of environmental and social issues.”

–Ana Miller-ter Kuile, Uplift organizer and Grand Canyon Trust AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator
Communicating the Conservation Message

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program is using cartography and interactive media to give you a front-row seat to learn about conservation issues.
This July, ESRI, the world leader in GIS software, showcased our GIS program at its annual International User Conference in San Diego. We were among a select few conservation organizations worldwide invited to share how we use GIS to further our conservation goals. Attended by an estimated 14,000 individuals from around the world, this honor elevated the public profile of our GIS program and the Trust’s work.

We also provide spatial analysis to better understand the issues we face and make informed decisions. We have provided mapping of the San Juan River Trail and conservation easements, analyzed the potential uranium contamination radius around the White Mesa Mill, tracked invasive goats in the La Sal Mountains, conducted vegetation analyses for the White Mesa Cultural and Conservation Area, and collaborated on cultural mapping within the proposed Bears Ears National Monument.
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 a heartfelt appreciation of everyone’s support. Thank you for caring, for your confidence, and for contributing at whatever level is meaningful to you!

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SUPPORT. Thank you for caring, for your confidence, and know that we have a heartfelt appreciation of everyone’s extraordinary financial contributions by name, but please the generosity of all of our contributors. Below we list 2014 DONORS

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**$599 to $100**

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**Statements of Activity**

for the 12 months ended December 31, 2014

**Revenues:**
- Grants and contributions $3,096,888
- In-kind contributions 384,216
- Membership income 507,374
- Investment income 252,417
- Cattle revenue 238,439
- Change in value of beneficial interest in remainder trust –1,315
- Other income 3,986

**Total Revenues** $4,482,005

**Expenses:**
- Program services 3,200,536
- Education 338,175
- Development and membership 397,982
- General and administrative 331,136

**Total Expenses** $4,267,829

**Changes in Net Assets Before Non-Controlling Interest** 214,176

Less: change in net assets attributable to non-controlling interest –4,706

Changes in net assets for controlling entities 209,470

**Balance, December 31, 2013** $14,964,219

Changes in net assets 214,176

Net contributions –185,108

**Balance, December 31, 2014** $14,993,287

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**Statements of Financial Position**

for the 12 months ended December 31, 2014

**Assets**

**2014**

**Current Assets:**
- Cash and cash equivalents $3,590,716
- Contributions receivable 1,054,398
- Note receivable 11,003
- Livestock inventory 34,220
- Prepaid expenses 77,351
  **Total Current Assets** $4,767,688

**Non-Current Assets:**
- Breeding herd 146,634
- Property and equipment, net of accumulate depreciation of $181,137 1,747,896
- Investments 7,157,975
- Conservation easement 1,295,000
- Beneficial interest in remainder trust 46,776
- Note receivable, net of current portion 47,063
  **Total Non-Current Assets** 10,441,344

**Total Assets** $15,209,032

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**Current Liabilities:**
- Account payable $155,003
- Accrued expenses 60,742
  **Total Current Liabilities** 215,745

**Net Assets:**
- Unrestricted 10,904,136
- Temporarily restricted 2,670,787
- Permanently restricted 1,795,000
  **Total** 15,369,923
- Non-controlling interest –376,636
  **Total Net Assets** $14,993,287

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** $15,209,032

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North Rim Ranch, LLC is a subsidiary of the Grand Canyon Trust.
Your annual gift of $1,000 or more makes you a 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! You can sign up on our website or by calling the office.

**Give by Will**

Remembering the Grand Canyon Trust in your will or estate plan is one of the easiest ways to make a meaningful gift. Trust staff will be happy to discuss the options with you. There may be tax or other financial benefits to gifts by will.

*Please contact our office for more information on any of these options. 928-774-7488 or info@grandcanyontrust.org*
Explore sandstone canyons, wander among slickrock, and sleep under the stars with this **FREE** online trip-planning tool provided by the Grand Canyon Trust.
The Colorado Plateau

IN CELEBRATION OF
OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

We've created a one-of-a-kind map of the Colorado Plateau. With your donation of $250 or more, you'll receive a limited-edition, 16” by 20” copy, shipped rolled and ready to frame.

It's our way of saying thank you for protecting this incredible place—and a way for you to keep it close, no matter where you are.
Protecting the wild heart of the West since 1985

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