Our Northwest Team:

Mark Elsbree  
Senior Vice President, Real Estate and Northwest Director  
(208) 726-4419  
melsbree@conservationfund.org

Luke Lynch  
Wyoming State Director  
(307) 733-2360  
llynch@conservationfund.org

Evan Smith  
Vice President, Conservation Ventures  
(503) 407-0301  
esmith@conservationfund.org

Gates Watson  
Montana State Director  
(406) 541-8555  
gwatson@conservationfund.org

At The Conservation Fund, we combine a passion for conservation with an entrepreneurial spirit to protect your favorite places before they become just a memory. We have protected over seven million acres across America, in all 50 states. And we’ve done that with a deep commitment to conservation that makes economic sense.

Even if you’re just learning about us, chances are you already know places we’ve protected: national parks, natural areas, storied battlefields, popular getaways and more. From our first conservation acquisition near Lake Champlain, Vermont, in 1985, to the working forests that we own and sustainably manage on California’s North Coast today, we have completed more than 2,000 projects in all 50 states, achieving conservation priorities coast to coast.
Why Support Us?

We are passionate about conservation. Rather than devote resources to a membership or endowment, we direct our dollars where it counts: saving land and water. The Conservation Fund has consistently received Charity Navigator’s highest possible ranking of four stars—an “exceptional” designation that indicates our team outperforms most other charities in America and executes our mission in a fiscally responsible way. Among conservation nonprofits, we allocate the highest amount (97%) of our resources toward mission and the lowest (1%) toward fundraising.

When you give to The Conservation Fund, you know your money is going where it matters.

We work in every state in the U.S. but here are a few highlights from the Northwest:

Idaho:
- Protected over 133,000 acres across the state.
- Saved more than 20,000 acres along the Upper Snake River.
- Helped protect more than 140 acres at Minidoka Historic Site, a site where Japanese-Americans were interned.
- Added nearly 1250-acres to Castle Rock Ranch.

Montana:
- Protected 196,000 acres across the state.
- Launched an unprecedented 5-year effort to protect 220,000 acres of wildlife habitat along the Rocky Mountain Front.
- Preserved more than 5,500 acres that flanks the eastern side of the Elkhorn Mountains.

Oregon:
- Protected over 89,000 acres across the state.
- Helped establish Gilchrist State Forest, the first addition to Oregon’s state forest system in more than 60 years.
- Conserved more than 25,000 acres along the famous Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Wyoming:
- Protected over 135,000 acres across the state.
- Conserved over 23,000 acres in the upper Green River Valley, including key migration routes, miles of Green River frontage, sage-grouse breeding grounds and crucial winter range for moose, elk, mule deer, and pronghorn.