The Conservation Fund’s 2012 Annual Report

FROM THE PRESIDENT

One exciting chapter ending last year paved the way for a new season in 2012. We reached a high-water mark in our financials: Federal and State Grants increased by 25% to $58.5 billion, while our total revenue grew by nearly 21%. These funding milestones set the stage for the next chapter: a property-collecting story.

The Conservation Fund is a partner in the Great American Outdoors Campaign, an effort by federal leaders to purchase lands and waterway corridors before they become lost to future generations. By purchasing land in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Conservation Fund is putting a significant portion of our federal funding to work to conserve land in our nation’s most iconic mountain range.

In 2012, we purchased 1.6 million acres of land, including the 1.2 million-acre Badger-Two Medicine National Forest, which protects a critical wildlife corridor in Montana. We also purchased the 365,000-acre Blackrock! project in California, which protects important critical habitat for imperiled species. This project is one of the largest conservation transactions in our history.

As we look forward to 2013, we are excited about the potential to continue our work to conserve land and waterways across America. With the help of our donors, we are committed to protecting our nation’s most precious places for future generations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lauren M. Working
President
SAViNG lAND To…

Management Area. In 2012, we provided approximately 30,000 acres to the state, for permanent natural defense against storms and floods. We’ve worked for more than a decade to help the state Shelter from The Storms In new orleans

Conservationists in los Angeles County, an emerald necklace for L.a.

providing financing and strategic conservation parks and trails from the San Gabriel Forest to connect 62 cities in an “emerald necklace” of infrastructure work in greater Houston, Chicago, clockwise from top left: maurepas swamp wildlife management area, louisiana

Whitey Flanagan; gibson mariposa butterfly park, los angeles, california

the property features almost 4 miles of regional park on the Stones River Greenway. Ultimately could become part of a 1,500-acre conservation priority. Recently, nashville’s Metro 600-acre Stones River Farm property as a top conservation priority. The project will ensure that 1,500 acres will be preserved and connected to the Stones River Greenway. We’re working to protect this property.

Wide Open Spaces For Nashville

When naturalists founded the first state park in Tennessee in 1855, they dreamed of giving the state’s citizens access to parks and recreation areas. Currently, Nashville’s piece of nature is about 30,000 acres. Nashville’s First State Park—Tims Ford State Park, which has been preserved since 1933—was the first state park, and it continues to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

A Family Farm Paradise In Ohio

For more than a century, the Stacy family has raised dairy cattle and tended fruit trees on 24 acres in Marietta, ohio. Clockwise from top left: forests of the mahoosuc range, new hampshire

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We support the Stacy family in their work on their family farm. We’re working to keep these important agricultural landscapes intact, and we’re doing it by helping to protect and connect them to public lands. The Stacy family has preserved their property for future generations.

WORK

The First National Monument For Historic Dismal Swamp National Monument

For decades, conservationists have worked to raise awareness about the Dismal Swamp, a unique forest that is an important part of the region’s history. In 1996, we launched a campaign to conserve key areas of the swamp, and in 2000, the state of Virginia purchased 7,200 acres of federal and state land. Today, the Dismal Swamp is a national park, and we’ve helped to protect and connect it to the surrounding landscape.

LEARN

Maryland’s Underground Railroad

Here at Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Harriet Tubman spent most of her life as a slave. She freed herself, and then she worked to set others free. She escaped slavery, and then she worked to help others escape. She was a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and she helped hundreds of people escape to freedom in the north. In 2012, we purchased 1,000 acres of federal land and water to help connect the Maryland and Pennsylvania portions of the Underground Railroad. The property will be preserved as a national park.

LEARN

Alaska’s Cold, Wild Kenai River

Alaska’s wild salmon are a natural and economic wonder. One of the state’s most popular fishing rivers, the Kenai River, flows through the state’s most visited national park. The river is home to more than 1,100 sockeye salmon, and it’s one of the best places in North America to catch a trophy fish. The Kenai River is also home to one of the largest populations of bald eagles in the world. In 2012, we purchased 2,600 acres of land along the Kenai River to help protect and connect it to the surrounding landscape.

EXPLORE

A Monumental View At St. Croix River Valley’s Grand Portage National Monument

For more than a century, the Washoe Tribe has worked to raise awareness about the St. Croix River Valley, a region that is home to some of the state’s most important natural and cultural resources. In 2012, we purchased 2,000 acres of land along the river to help protect and connect it to the surrounding landscape.

EXPLORE

A New Forest Legacy For Wisconsin

For more than a century, the St. Croix River Valley has been home to some of the state’s most important natural and cultural resources. In 2012, we purchased 2,000 acres of land along the river to help protect and connect it to the surrounding landscape.

LIVE

An Eternal Pastoral For S. L. Conservationists in Los Angeles County, California are working to protect and connect the county’s 40,000-acre property. In 2012, we purchased 3,000 acres of land along the river to help protect and connect it to the surrounding landscape.

Dairy Farms In New Orleans

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