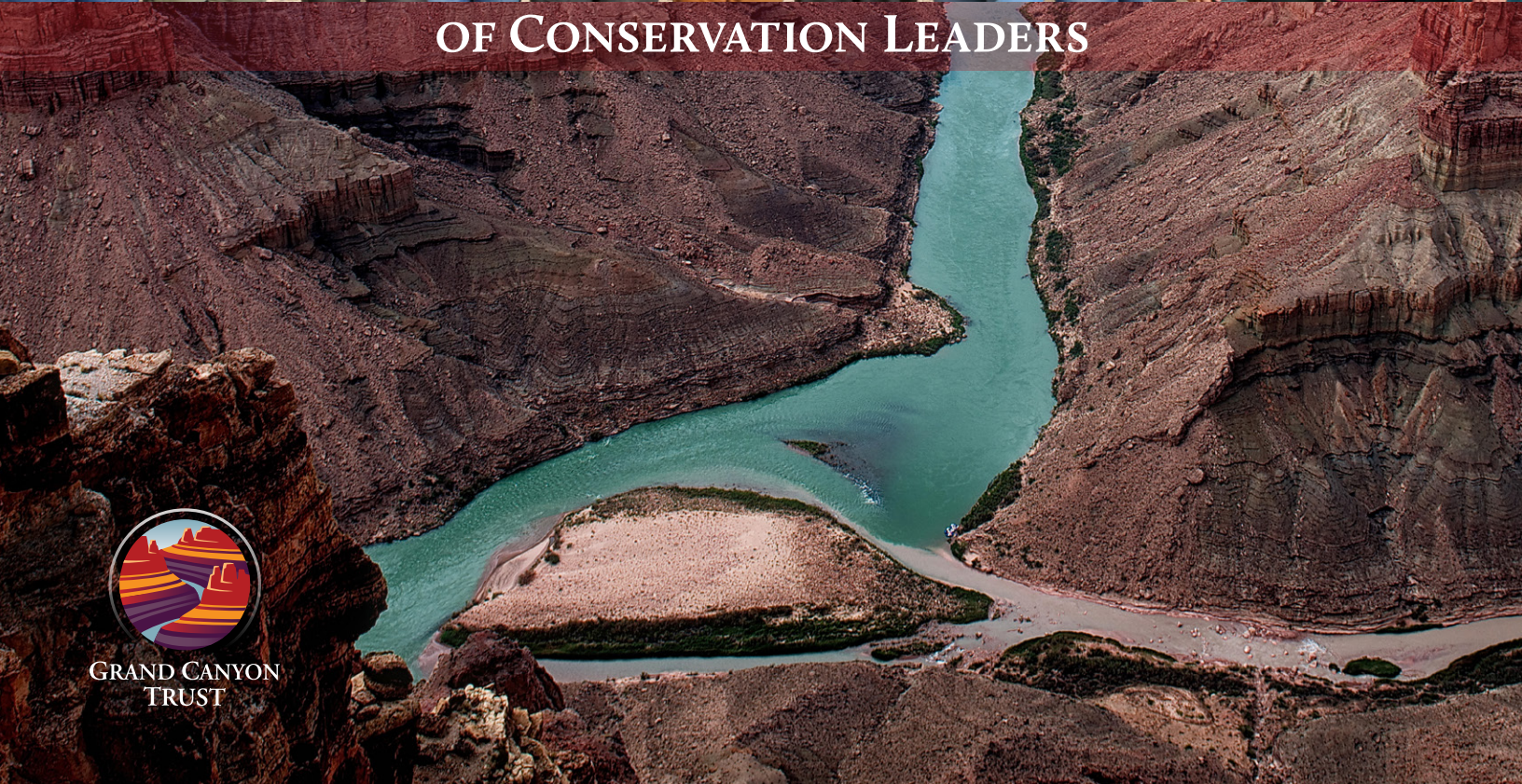




THE GRAND CANYON'S NEXT GENERATION



OF CONSERVATION LEADERS



OUR MISSION

To safeguard the wonders of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau, while supporting the rights of its Native peoples.



When I ponder the future, and the future of conservation, my thoughts begin with my own two daughters, ages 11 and 1. I remember being asked before Brynn's birth in 2008 whether we, as parents-to-be, were worried about bringing a child into a world as perilous as it seemed to be then. Living in a "world of wounds" as environmental advocates do, I found that the question resonated, but the beauty and possibility and promise of bringing another life into this world outweighed my concern.

I admit that 11 years later the question gives me longer pause. Whether it be the ominous specter of climate change, the growing and unprecedented pressures threatening the land, water, and air of the Colorado Plateau (and the globe), or the divisiveness that seems to pervade our national conversations about what we hold most dear, the world can seem a less hopeful place than it did a decade or so ago.

I worry about the future—as many of us do, and more than I ever have. What stirs my soul, though, when I am putting 1-year-old Rowan down to sleep is the knowledge and daily experience that countless people are, right now, pressing to make the world a better place. I witness this every hour of every day with Grand Canyon Trust staff, trustees, members, partners, and many others who bring so much passion to protecting the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau. What moves me most, though, is the next generation of advocates—organizers, scientists, attorneys, and muckrakers—all of whom are cutting their teeth on the most urgent conservation campaigns of our times.



LISA WINTERS

We believe that our job at the Grand Canyon Trust is to do much more than appreciate the next generation. We are committed to training and empowering, listening to and learning from them. From our Rising Leaders program, to the work of the Colorado Plateau Uplift team, from our internship efforts, to our volunteer program, we engage emerging conservationists. This generation is our future.

This inaugural issue of the Grand Canyon Trust's Impact Report shares inspirational stories from and about our next generation of conservation leaders. We dedicate this issue to them. To those that will inherit the legacy of our best ideals and most tragic shortcomings. And especially to those whose sheer force of will and inspired advocacy will heal wounds, and leave the world more just, more beautiful, and more sane. My daughters, and everyone's children, deserve this hope and this possibility.

Ethan Aumack
Executive Director

RISING LEADERS

Learn from the Past, Advocate for the Future

This past summer, a group of seven young people stood between Canyon Mine and Red Butte, the birthplace of the Havasupai people. As they looked out on this sacred place, Havasupai elder Coleen Kaska called for an end to uranium mining on her homelands. "Are they going to listen to us?" she asked. "All we want is protection for our waters."

This was the first annual LeaderShift, a week-long experiential workshop focused on the toxic legacy of uranium mining on the Colorado Plateau. The Trust's Rising Leaders Program created LeaderShift to equip young people with hands-on environmental justice and advocacy experience.

85

Young people participated in trainings and workshops

Following the path of uranium ore from Canyon Mine to White Mesa Mill, this summer's workshop participants met with community members to understand the devastating implications of uranium extraction and environmental injustice on their homelands. They listened to the teachings of Indigenous leaders like Coleen Kaska, Sarana Riggs, and Yolanda Badback, matriarchs of the Havasupai, Navajo, and Ute Mountain Ute peoples, who have been leading a generations-long fight to protect their communities from resource extraction. Alongside these elders, experienced activists, storytellers, artists, and scientists, the group examined how regional environmental issues are connected and explored strategies for personal and political change.

The Trust believes programs like LeaderShift instill youth with the resilience and creativity necessary to solve unprecedented environmental problems. This summer's LeaderShift participants are just a few of the 85 Rising Leaders who have participated in service learning trips, advocacy training, and internships, to prepare a generation of conservationists for work on the plateau.



4

Service learning trips provided experiential education about public and tribal lands issues



PHOTOS ADRIAN HERNANDEZ AND NAMECI REDHOUSE

7

LeaderShift participants attended a week-long uranium mining and environmental advocacy workshop

6

Paid interns gained hands-on professional development experience

YOUTH-LED CLIMATE JUSTICE on the Colorado Plateau

Five years ago in a historic cabin at the Trust's Kane Ranch near the Grand Canyon, young climate activists gathered in a circle around oil lamps to share stories of environmental and social injustice on the Colorado Plateau. At that first retreat, the Grand Canyon Trust's climate justice conference, Uplift, was born, with a mission to connect, train, and mobilize young people for climate justice across the Colorado Plateau and greater Southwest.

Since then, Uplift has evolved from a single conference to a transformative movement for young climate activists. Across the Southwest, Uplift has become the primary vehicle to convene and mobilize young people acting for climate justice. In its short tenure, Uplift has hired 40 organizing fellows, hosted five climate conferences, and empowered over 1,000 young people. Uplift's organizers bring fresh perspectives to influential organizations and campaigns—from advocating at the U.N. Climate Conference and leading the movement to protect Bears Ears National Monument, to organizing the Latinx community to help support Utah's wildlands. In its work, Uplift has garnered national attention: earlier this year, *Teen Vogue* listed it as one of "Five Youth-Led Climate Justice Groups Helping to Save the Environment."

The Trust helped foster Uplift from an idea to a movement, and is proud to see Uplift transition to become its own organization. With fiscal sponsorship from Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs, Uplift will continue to grow, raise funds, and utilize direct action and grassroots organization, in order to build a strong movement for climate justice.

40

Organizing fellows leading climate justice work on the Colorado Plateau

15

Op-eds written by young leaders

50

Articles published about Uplift's work

5

Climate conferences empowering 1,000 young people

Uplift provides me with enduring hope for my generation's future. Going forward, I know we will create an unstoppable force that shifts the narrative of what's politically possible on the Colorado Plateau. We will work alongside our grassroots partners to inspire a movement that ends extraction and creates a regenerative, renewable, and equitable society.

—Brooke Larsen, Uplift Coordinator



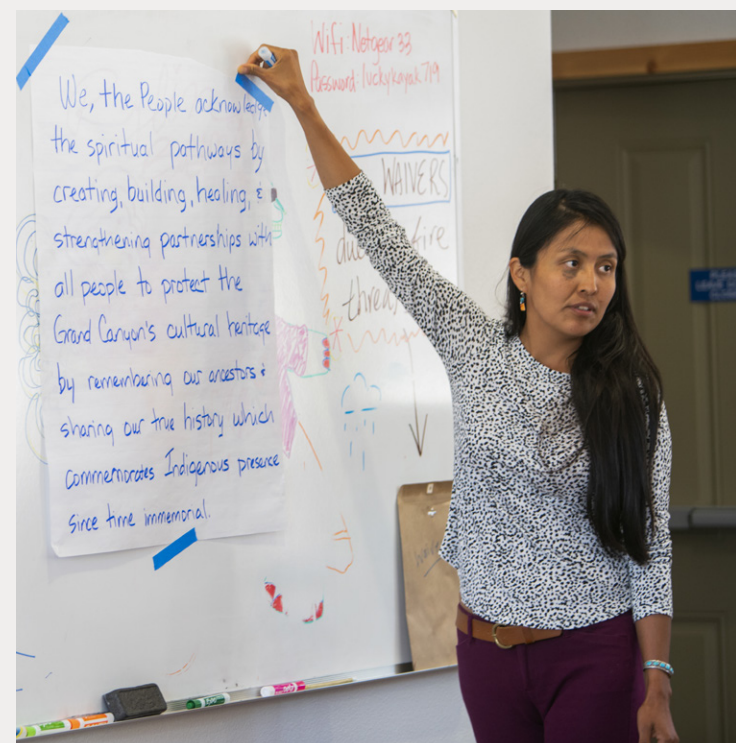


BUILDING A SHARED FUTURE for the Grand Canyon and Beyond

As the 2019 centennial anniversary of Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) comes to a close, the Trust is working more closely than ever with Native communities of the Colorado Plateau. With Tribal communities taking the lead, the Trust's Grand Canyon Program aims to heal and build relationships to ensure a shared future for the park's next 100 years that celebrates Native voices, heritage, and communities.

Jack Pongyesva, a 28-year old emerging Hopi leader, entrepreneur, and environmental advocate, personifies this effort. As an intern at the Grand Canyon Trust in 2017, Jack researched the Navajo Nation's shift away from a coal-based economy and felt "a strong sense of hope that we can put aside our differences and work toward a future where Colorado Plateau communities can survive and thrive without coal."

Today, Jack plays a vital role to ensure plateau communities thrive economically through community-based businesses. While unrelenting economic pressures to develop tourist-centric commercial services threaten the meaning of the Grand Canyon as a place of great spiritual significance for



40
Intertribal Centennial
Conversations participants redefining
GCNP's next century

12

Partnership events and activities initiated
during GCNP's centennial year



PHOTOS JAKE HOYUNGOWA

tribal communities, the Trust is working with Jack and others to change that narrative. Over 40 tribal members have joined efforts to recommend Native-led economic development, inclusive management of public lands, and a deeper understanding of Native perspectives with partner institutions like GCNP.

The commitment of the Trust's past interns to become emerging leaders, like Jack, and to lead dynamic initiatives for conservation on the plateau is vital to our work now and in the future.

10

Institutions partnering to include
Native perspectives in their work



REDEFINING LOCAL ECONOMIES

through the Next Generation of Native Entrepreneurs



RAYMOND CHEE



DIEDRA PEACHES

In 2013, the Grand Canyon Trust Native America program founded Change Labs, a business incubator to enhance regional economic opportunity by supporting local entrepreneurs on tribal land, where \$400 billion dollars of annual tax revenue is estimated to be lost to businesses in bordering towns. Since then, it has graduated 18 businesses ranging from food service to tourism, equipment repair, and traditional arts and crafts, and is meeting the need for goods and services in Native communities.

With Change Labs' assistance, a member of this year's cohort, Tyrone Thompson, will position Chi'shie Farms within the regional agricultural industry to provide technical assistance in farming. His dream is to achieve a shift in the region's food supply, making locally-grown produce more available. Soon, produce from Chi'shie Farms could be on the shelves of fellow Change Labs graduate Germaine Simonson's store, Rocky Ridge Gas and Grocery, where she is selling quality groceries, gasoline, and creating a central gathering place for her community.

Carlos Deal, another Change Labs graduate, is considering the possibility of serving local produce from his food truck in Tuba City, Arizona. After working for 5 years as a sushi chef following graduation from culinary school, Deal founded AlterNativEats to provide local sushi to customers on the Navajo Nation.

Like Tyrone, Germaine and Carlos, all the entrepreneurs in the Change Labs community are redefining local economies by starting businesses that serve local needs and conserve cultural traditions, landscapes, and a future of opportunity for the next generation.

18

Businesses graduated from Change Labs

21

People employed by businesses incubated by Change Labs



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5 YEARS IN A ROW!



A Deep and Profound Commitment, Continued

Over the course of my now-long career, I have been absolutely stunned by the extent and quality of the contributions made by young lawyers on critical conservation and tribal matters.

When I joined the law faculty at the University of Oregon in 1975, I was taken aback by the students' powerful interest in these fields. This was just at the beginning, after all, of modern environmental law—Earth Day and National Environmental Policy Act had both been launched just five years before. “Environmental lawyer” had just recently entered the national vocabulary. Indian Law, ignored for so long, was exploding and “tribal sovereignty” was itself part of public discourse, especially in the West. After graduating, many of these students went into these fields, mostly in the Pacific Northwest.

In 1987, I moved to the University of Colorado Law School and found even more students committed to conservation and tribal work, a trend evident as well at Oregon and other schools. Fellow faculty (and long-time Grand Canyon Trust board members) David Getches and Sarah Krakoff and I reveled in our relationships with students in the classroom and during vigorous office discussions about classes, job possibilities, and changing the world. These

young people were so determined, knowledgeable, and articulate! The three of us often talked about all the information and inspiration our students gave us. After graduation, a large and steady stream of students moved into conservation and tribal work and became energetic and creative leaders, mostly in the Southwest and often on the Colorado Plateau, with several serving as staff members at the Grand Canyon Trust.

The Colorado Plateau is and will be in good hands under this new and exceptional generation. They are numerous and the cultural diversity is strong and increasing. They represent an uncountable number of disciplines and perspectives. They know more than we do about international affairs, which provides valuable issues and context to the work here. Most of all, there is no doubt that they, as we do, feel a deep and profound commitment to this dry, rocky, scratchy, often hard-to-access—but everlastingly sacred—red rock landscape.

My best,
Charles Wilkinson
Grand Canyon Trust Trustee



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