



Great Basin National Park Foundation

2020 Annual Report

Great Basin
National Park Foundation

FOUNDER

Bonnie Bryan
(1939-2016)

Senator Harry Reid,
Honorary Director

Dave Tilford,
Board Emeritus

Mary Simmons,
Board Emeritus

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Briget Eastep, *Chair*

Steven Brown
Vice Chair

Robert Morrill
Secretary

Jeremy Reichenberg
Treasurer

Kenji Hakuta
*Education & Outreach
Chair*

John Kenney
GBO Operations Chair

Alicia Reban
Strategic Planning Chair

Senator Richard Bryan
Greg Fine

Thomas McAfee

Rebecca Mills

Mike Niggli

Senator Julia Ratti

Kevin Robison

Melodi Rodrigue

McClure Wallace

ADVISORY BOARD

Timothy Cashman

JaNae Johnson

Marc Johnson

Caroline Bruno Meisner

Cindy Ortega

Margaret Rees

James T. Reynolds

Mary Simmons

Bill and Holly Wilson

National Parks are so many things to so many people. Outdoor classrooms, places of healing and respite from our busy and stressful lives, places to challenge our minds and bodies in a natural playground, and places to feel a sense of calm and serenity within the immense diversity and beauty of an expanse of untrammled wilderness. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, said, “There is nothing so American as our national parks.... The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, for the enrichment of the lives of all of us.”

Great Basin National Park Foundation is contributing to this sacred American ideal. Making certain that whether in good times, or times of unprecedented challenge– our beloved National Park is preserved, enhanced, and protected for present and future generations

With your help, we are safeguarding Great Basin dark skies through research, outreach, and education. We are bringing the Park to youth near and far, increasing access, supporting science education through Parks as classrooms, and inspiring a new generation of National Park stewards. We are safeguarding Great Basin’s pristine land, water, and air through proactive advocacy. And we are improving today’s and tomorrow’s National Park visitor experience through supporting volunteers, interns



and new wayside exhibits.

“The Great Basin National Park Foundation is the primary partner, our “friend’s group,” for Great Basin National Park. The park is lucky that our friend’s group is chock full of talented and effective people who help us do the job of preserving and interpreting the incredible Great Basin. Thank you Guardians of Great Basin!”

James Woolsey, Great Basin National Park Superintendent



83% of our funds were invested into park preservation and youth education programs

Photo: The view from Mt. Washington, National Park Service

Great Basin Observatory

With the darkest, clearest, and most stable skies in the contiguous U.S., Great Basin National Park is recognized as one of the best National Parks for gazing at the cosmos. Great Basin National Park Foundation supports Great Basin astronomy programs and the GBO, the only research-grade astronomical observatory located in a National Park. The observatory connects students, the public, and Park visitors to Great Basin dark sky preservation, research, and education. Remote operation made the GBO an even more valuable teaching resource during the pandemic, with students researching double star and black hole systems, and imaging far off galaxies. We also reached new budding astronomers and Great Basin enthusiasts this year through scientist videos, virtual research seminars, and virtual star parties. Learn more at greatbasinobservatory.org

Reach for the Stars

brings Great Basin National Park to students locally, regionally, and nationally. Focused on connecting youth to the Great Basin through science, the Foundation is helping to grow a new generation of devoted National Park friends and public land stewards. Before the pandemic we distributed Star Box teaching kits to elementary schools in gateway Park communities and instructed 30 educators in their use. In the spring we shifted our outreach to virtual, supporting shuttered schools by creating 14 new lesson plans designed for the homeschool, hybrid, or remote learning environment. We also reached 180 youth in virtual visits to Great Basin National Park and 50 educators in a virtual training. Going virtual has broadened our reach. Thanks to a grant from the National Park Trust, our virtual presentations are now able to reach students nationwide.

GBO highlights from 2020

49
GBO researchers

21
research projects

8 virtual
presentations

1,150
attendees at virtual
events

Photo: Charles Reed, Comet Neowise traveling behind ancient Bristlecone Pine Trees at Great Basin National Park

Visitor Experience, Education, and Advocacy

Great Basin National Park has some of the wildest and most isolated terrain of any unit in the National Park System. From craggy peaks to gentle sagebrush covered foothills, from alpine lakes to intricately connected underground limestone caverns, the vastness, serene wild beauty, and solace of the Park was especially appreciated this year, during a world-wide pandemic. Park management kept visitors and staff safe, and Great Basin National Park Foundation is stepping in to help cover needs arising from the half-million dollar budgetary shortfall due to cave tour and campground fee disruptions. In 2021, we will be supporting three specialized astronomy interns to shore up 2021 interpretive staffing needs. We will continue to support the Bioblitz citizen science inventory and the Astronomy festival, and have created the framework to support new Artist in Residence and Scientist in Residence programs.

We continue to support the Great Basin National Park visitor experience with investments in wayside exhibits, improved access and safety, and operating an educational program, all of which cannot be achieved with limited National Park service budgets. Our mission is to passionately work to enhance, preserve, and interpret the starry night skies, wide-open scenery, cultural heritage, and diverse native ecosystems of Great Basin National Park. Diversity will be considered a priority as we plan, carry out and review our work to ensure the Park and its surroundings remain safeguarded for ecosystem health and the enjoyment of future generations.

If you made a financial or in-kind contribution this year, we thank you! If not, we encourage you to join our passionate group of Great Basin Guardians today!

Learn more at greatbasinfoundation.org



Improved visitor experience, safety, & understanding:

Sculptured bronze relief map of Wheeler Peak Cirque installed at Mather Overlook

New Bristlecone Trail wayside exhibits to replace outdated and vandalized signs

Osceola trail kiosk to improve visitor safety and education

Advocating for protection: Statement made against oil and gas drilling on public lands adjacent to the Park

Photo: Stella Lake below Wheeler Peak, National Park Service

Thank You - 2020 Guardians

Individual Donors

Stellar Guardian, \$5,000 - \$24,999

Norman C. Pease
Bill and Holly Wilson

Bristlecone Guardian \$1,000 - \$4,999

Steven Brown
Tim Cashman
Gary Donaldson and Kody Wallace
Briget Eastep
Kenji Hakuta
Flora Mason
Brian and Anne Menzel
Steve Moore
Mike and Linda Niggli
Margaret Rees
Donald Shalmy

Stalagmite Guardian \$500 - \$999

Anonymous gift in honor of Elinor J. Charleston
Pam and Joe Brown
Fred Bachhuber
Garth Fehner
John and Inga Kenney
Dave Marquart
Rebecca Mills
Robert and Mia Morrill
Senator Julia Ratti
Alicia Reban
Jeremy Reichenberg
Kevin Robison
Mary and Reed Simmons
Robert Stoldal

Sustaining Guardian \$100 - \$499

Donna and Gail Andress
Jorgia Bordofsky
Senator Richard Bryan
Peter Buerger
Michael Bush
Galeta Carleton
Dana Carroll
David Charleston in honor of Elinor J. Charleston
Michael and Jan Gilbert
Dave Hubbell & Janet Keyes
Marc Johnson
Patricia Ferraro Klos
Susan Lynn
Thomas McAfee
Caroline McIntosh
Elizabeth Miller
Aviva O'Neil
Holly Pecetti
Melodi Rodrigue
Marianne Slagle

Dave Tilford
McClure Wallace
Deborah Wallin
Howard Watts
Laura Welcher
Sandra and Fredrick Zoerner

Guardian \$25 - \$99

Murray Aronson
Karen Boeger
Harvey Lambert
Donna Mickleson
Melvin Pereira
Jan Shipstead
Gordine Smith
Harvey Smith
Ron Sundergill
Elaine York

Corporate and Foundation Donors

Great Basin Guardian Circle \$25,000 & above

Fund for People in Parks
Mt. Cuba Astronomical Foundation
National Park Foundation

Stellar Sponsor \$15,000 - \$24,999

National Park Trust
Willard L. Eccles Foundation

Bristlecone Sponsor \$10,000 - \$14,999

Great Basin Heritage Area
First National Bank of Ely
NV Energy Foundation

Stalagmite Sponsor \$5,000 - \$9,999

Robert S. and Dorothy J. Keyser Foundation
George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
Nevada Humanities
Community Foundation of Western Nevada
Ormat Technologies

Sustaining Sponsor \$1,000 - \$4,999

Buckley Wealth Management in memory of JoAnn Kelly
Mt. Wheeler Power
Robinson Nevada Mining Company
The Howard Hughes Corp

Sponsor \$100 - \$999

Nevada Northern Railway
Wheeler Machinery



Great Basin National Park Foundation
P. O. Box 181 Baker, Nevada 89311

greatbasinfoundation.org
greatbasinobservatory.org

501c3 tax ID number 88-0407290

Photo: Bristlecone Pine Tree, Brian Anderson

Printed on 100% recycled paper