

Leslie A. Mattson

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Leader in nonprofit management and philanthropy with extensive experience in advancing national park and land conservation initiatives. Proven record in fundraising, strategic planning, board and staff leadership, and cultivating long-term donor and foundation relationships. Dedicated to preserving natural and cultural resources while fostering multiparty partnerships across federal, state, and private sectors.

EDUCATION

Tufts University, Medford, MA — Bachelor of Science, Psychology

Boston University School of Management, Boston, MA — Coursework

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Grand Teton National Park Foundation, Jackson, WY

President (July 2004 – Present)

- Lead all aspects of the Foundation's operations—including fundraising, financial oversight, governance, and strategic vision.
- Serve as the public face of the organization, cultivating relationships with major donors, local and federal leaders, and National Park Service partners.
- Drive multi-year strategic planning that has elevated the Foundation from a community-based organization to one of the strongest and most successful "friends" groups nationwide.

Selected Accomplishments

- Raised more than \$115 million in private funding since inception, supporting cultural, historic, conservation & educational projects across Grand Teton National Park.
- Launched and completed the \$21.6 million Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center—a 22,000 ft² interpretive facility that is a national model for public-private collaboration in park interpretation.
- Secured permanent protection of 1,280 acres of critical wildlife habitat by leading the \$46M Antelope Flats acquisition (2016) and the \$100M Kelly Parcel purchase (2024), landmark public-private partnerships combining philanthropic support with federal resources.
- Completed the Jenny Lake Renewal Project in 2019—enhancing accessibility, trail infrastructure, and interpretive facilities at one of Grand Teton's most iconic destinations.

Jackson Hole Land Trust, Jackson, WY

Executive Director (April 1993 – April 2004)

- Directed all aspects of the Land Trust to protect open space, critical wildlife habitat, and agricultural values.
- Advanced land protection through real estate transactions, landowner negotiations, and partnership-building.

- Managed staff of eleven, annual budget of \$850,000, and annual/capital fundraising.
- Represented the organization publicly and cultivated major donors.

Selected Accomplishments

- Orchestrated a four-year, \$26.5 million fundraising campaign protecting 13,000 acres.
- Successfully completed a \$1 million Kresge Foundation challenge grant.
- Established strategic plans to strengthen organizational capacity.

Director of Development and Public Relations (February 1991 – April 1993)

- Increased giving by 29% in the first year.
- Established foundation, corporate, and major gift programs.
- Oversaw public relations strategy and communications.
- Promoted to Executive Director in 1993.

Independent Fundraising Consultant, Jackson, WY

(1990 – 1991)

Lesley College, Cambridge, MA

Director of Development (1986 – 1990)

New Boston Group, Cambridge, MA

Project Manager (1984 – 1985)

Tufts University, Medford, MA

Associate Director of Development, Undergraduate College (1982 – 1984)

Professional Affiliations

- Former Board Member, Teton County Search and Rescue Foundation
- Former Board Member, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming
- Former Alumni Admissions Representative, Tufts University
- Presenter, Land Trust Alliance National Annual Conference (1995–2004)
- Former President and Treasurer, Board of Directors, Dancers' Workshop
- Former Publicity Chair, USGA National Women's Amateur Public Links Championship (1993)
- Former Board Member, Cambridge Family YMCA