



The Conservation Alliance

Outdoor Business Giving Back to the Outdoors

In April 2010, The Conservation Alliance invested \$400,000 in grassroots conservation organizations. Each grant went to a project working to secure permanent protection for a specific threatened wild place. We direct organizations to use our funding over the course of a 12-month period. At the end of the grant period, we ask each group for a 12-month final report. These reports play a key role in helping us determine the return on our investment. On April 1, we received 15 final reports. Following is a summary of the progress our grantees have made with our funding. At the end of this summary are several exciting updates on work we funded in October 2010. We will share final reports on all of our October 2010 grants in October 2011.

VICTORY: 55,000 Acres Protected

Adirondack Mountain Club: We supported Adirondack Mountain Club's *Save Allegany Park Campaign* to protect New York's Allegany State Park from proposed hydro-fracking mining by purchasing sub-surface mineral rights, or by designating the area a Park Preserve, the state's highest level of protection for state park lands. ADK engaged in the park's master planning process and succeeded in securing the first Allegany State Park Master Plan that contains provisions to designate 85 percent – 55,000 acres – as Park Preserve. This designation will prevent hydro-fracking mining within park boundaries. The group will now work to secure similar protections for lands adjacent to the park boundary.

Appalachian Mountain Club: Our funding supported AMC's *Campaign to Protect and Promote Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness Region* to protect 60,000 acres of new conservation lands adjacent to the 66,500 acres AMC already manages in the region. These lands lie within 100 miles of the end of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. In an interesting twist, a third party – Roxanne Quimby, founder of Burt's Bees – purchased a 30,000-acre parcel that AMC had hoped to buy, and plans to manage it for conservation. Though the end result is positive, our funding did not contribute to this outcome. The remaining 30,000 acres remains in private hands, and the owners have yet to decide whether they will sell to AMC.

VICTORY: One Mine Halted

Appalachian Voices: We supported Appalachian Voices' *Stop Mountaintop Removal Campaign* to protect some of America's most diverse forests and rivers from the devastating practice of mountaintop removal by fighting ongoing mining permit-by-permit until the practice can be made illegal. AV reports two pieces of good news. First, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a decision in 2010 to place new and higher standards for permitting mountaintop removal mines. In January 2011, the EPA decided to veto the Spruce Mine No. 1 permit, halting what would have been the largest single proposed mountaintop removal mine in West Virginia history. This action protects 2,300 acres of land and six miles of headwaters streams.

California Wilderness Coalition: We funded CWC's *California Desert and San Gabriel Mountains Wilderness Campaigns* to protect up to 1.6 million acres of public land in the California desert and San Gabriel Mountains. CWC reports that Senator Dianne Feinstein re-introduced her California Desert Protection Act in January. The bill would designate 395,000 acres of new Wilderness, create two new National Monuments, expand Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks, and protect the Amargosa River and Deep Creek as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Representative David Dreier introduced legislation to protect 18,000 acres of Wilderness in the San Gabriel Mountains east of Los Angeles. Given political differences between the two parties in Congress, both bills will be a challenge, but CWC will work hard to maintain the strong local support that helps moves Wilderness bills forward.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Yukon Chapter: We supported CPAWS' *Peel River Watershed Wilderness Campaign* to protect all or most of the 17.5-million-acre Peel River Watershed in Canada's Yukon. The area is targeted for mining claims that would undermine its wild characteristics. Key to the success of this campaign is passage of a formal land-use plan for the Peel that would be sanctioned by the Yukon Provincial government. CPAWS has worked hard with the First Nations in the area to show broad support to protect the watershed. CPAWS expects to know by the end of 2012 what protections will result from their campaign.

Grand Canyon Trust: The Conservation Alliance supported the Trust's *Grand Canyon Uranium Mining Campaign* to protect one million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium exploration and mining. The group seeks administrative action by the Department of Interior to ban uranium mining in the area for the next 20 years. The administrative process is nearly complete, and Interior is expected to make a final decision by the end of July. The Trust has played a key role in engaging the public to comment in support of the ban during the environmental impact statement process.

Idaho Rivers United: We supported IRU's *Lower Salmon Wild and Scenic River Campaign* to protect 112 miles of Idaho's Lower Salmon River as a federally designated Wild and Scenic River. Over the past year, the campaign made progress, but stalled in November when Congressman Walt Minnick, who agreed to lead the legislative effort in Congress, lost his bid for re-election. Conservation politics in Idaho are challenging, and with Minnick out of office, this campaign will likely require another five years to succeed. IRU will continue its effort, but is forced to develop a new strategy.

Montana Wilderness Association: We supported MWA's *Montana Forests Campaign* to secure federal Wilderness designation for 670,000 acres of public land in Montana. Legislation for the protections nearly passed Congress in 2010, but fell short. Senator Jon Tester re-introduced the bill in January, and is committed to passing the bill during the current Congress. MWA will continue to build local support for the bill, providing Senator Tester with the political leverage he needs to move the bill through Congress.

Our Ocean: The Conservation Alliance funded Our Ocean's *Oregon Marine Heritage Campaign* to establish a coast-wide network of at least six marine reserves and protected areas in Oregon waters. The group reports that they are poised to finalize five of the six reserves by the end of 2011. The reserves have been endorsed by community teams charged with making formal recommendations to the Oregon Legislature. Our Ocean expects that the state government will officially designate the areas by the end of 2011.

Rivers Without Borders: We supported RWB's *Taku Watershed Campaign* to protect the Taku River Watershed from proposed mining developments that would diminish its pristine nature, and wild salmon populations. RWB reports that their organizing in Canada helped secure a land-use plan for most of the watershed, which prohibits mining companies from building a road to transport minerals from the watershed. Unfortunately, that plan still allows the possibility that a mining company could barge minerals down the river, which would require dredging of prime salmon habitat. RWB is now working to secure a Critical Habitat designation from the Alaska legislature, which would prohibit the dredging necessary to facilitate any barging. The group hopes to reach closure on this designation in 2012.

Save Our Wild Salmon: We funded SOS's *Columbia and Snake River Campaign* to restore wild salmon and steelhead populations on the Columbia and Snake rivers by removing four dams on the Lower Snake, and implementing a full spill/flow regime through the Columbia River dams. This campaign hinges on an SOS lawsuit that challenges the Obama Administration's plan for managing salmon on the two rivers. A district court judge will hear arguments in the suit on May 9th, and SOS expects a verdict in early June. The ruling will determine whether the Obama salmon plan is adequate to keep Columbia/Snake salmon from going extinct. If the judge rules against the Obama plan, SOS will likely be invited to participate in settlement negotiations to secure meaningful changes in the administration's salmon policy.

Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition: SAFC has used Conservation Alliance funding to support its *Tennessee Wilderness Campaign* to protect at least 18,000 acres of Wilderness in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest. Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker introduced legislation in 2010 for the protections, but it did not pass before the end of the last Congress. SAFC is confident Senators Alexander and Corker will re-introduce the bill soon, with strong support from their colleagues in the Tennessee Congressional delegation. SAFC continues to build support for the protections on the local level to provide Senators the leverage they need to move the bill through Congress during this session.

VICTORY: One Climbing Area Acquired

Washington Climber's Coalition: Our funding supported WCC's *Index Lower Town Wall Acquisition Campaign* to purchase the popular climbing crag in Washington state, and transfer management of the land to Washington State Parks with climber access permanently secured. WCC reports that they completed the purchase in August 2010. The group is now in the process of transferring the land to Washington State Parks, and expects to complete the transfer by Summer 2011.

Wilderness Support Center: We supported WSC's *San Juan Mountains and Hermosa Creek Wilderness Campaigns* to protect roughly 200,000 acres of public land in southwest Colorado through Wilderness and other protective designations. Congressman John Salazar introduced legislation for the San Juan Mountains protections in 2009, but the bill did not make it through Congress by the end of the session in 2010. Unfortunately, Salazar lost his bid for re-election, forcing WSC to shift its strategy. The group reports that Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet have agreed to push the legislation in the Senate, and hope Salazar's successor agrees to carry it in the House. WSC is also working with Senator Bennet in hopes he will introduce legislation for the Hermosa Creek component of the campaign.

Winter Wildlands Alliance: The Conservation Alliance supported WWA's *Quiet Winter Recreation Campaign* to permanently protect Yellowstone National Park from the impacts of motorized recreation. The group reports that they are close to ultimate success on the Yellowstone campaign. Yellowstone National Park is expected to finalize a new long-term Winter-use plan in October. WWA expects that – thanks in large part to their efforts – that final plan will limit snowmobile use in the park to 318 commercially-guided machines per day, less than half the number allowed in recent years.

Notable Updates from October 2010 Grantees

American Rivers: American Rivers used our funding to support its *North Cascades Wild Rivers Campaign* to protect 150 miles of rivers in the North Cascades. The group reports that members of the Washington Congressional delegation have introduced bills into the House and Senate to protect 50 miles of the Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers, and the prospects are good that the bills will pass. Concurrent efforts to protect Illabot Creek, and 100 miles of streams in the Upper Nooksack River system have made strong progress.

Colorado Environmental Coalition: Our funding supported CEC's *Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign* to protect Wilderness-quality lands in Colorado's White River National Forest and associated BLM lands. Congressman Jared Polis introduced legislation in April 2011 to protect roughly 160,000 acres in Eagle and Summit Counties, and CEC is confident that Colorado's Senators will push companion legislation.

Friends of the River: We supported FOR's *California Wild and Scenic Rivers Campaign* to pass legislation protecting 380 miles of rivers throughout the state. FOR reports that members of California's Congressional delegation have already introduced four different bills that together would protect more than 100 river miles in the California Desert, San Diego backcountry, San Gabriel Mountains, and in the Sacramento River system.

Oregon Natural Desert Association: We supported ONDA's *Lower John Day Wilderness Campaign* to protect 116,000 acres of Wilderness and 30 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers in Oregon's John Day River Basin. ONDA reports that Oregon's Senators have introduced legislation to protect the 17,000-acre Cathedral Rock/Horse Heaven Wilderness areas. The separate effort to protect the 60,000-acre Sutton Mountain/Pat's Cabin Wilderness areas have made solid progress, and legislation for the protections could surface later this year. Finally, ONDA is confident that the BLM will administratively protect 37 miles of the North Fork John Day in its new management plan.

Sierra Club of BC Foundation: We supported Sierra Club of BC's *Save the Flathead River Valley Campaign* to designate a new National Park in the southeastern one-third of Canada's Flathead River Valley. The campaign made a crucial step forward in February 2011 when the BC government announced that it would legislate a ban on mining and energy development in the Flathead. This progress removes one of the key obstacles to formal protection for the area.

The Trust for Public Land: The Conservation Alliance supported TPL's *Campaign to Conserve the Upper Connecticut River* to protect key parcels of land in the Upper Connecticut River Watershed in Vermont and New Hampshire. The group reports that it is on track to complete the purchase of 2,341 acres in three separate parcels by the end of 2011.

