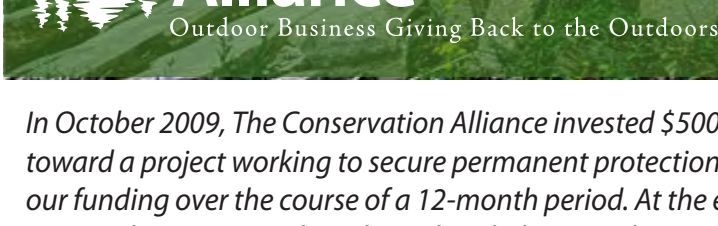


Grantee Update October 2010



The Conservation Alliance
Outdoor Business Giving Back to the Outdoors

In October 2009, The Conservation Alliance invested \$500,000 in grassroots conservation organizations. Each grant went toward 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 October 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 April 2010. We will share final reports on all of our April 2009 grants in May 2011.

VICTORY: 92,000 Acres Protected

Adirondack Council: We supported Adirondack Council's Upper Hudson Woodlands Campaign to ensure that the State of New York purchases a conservation easement covering 92,000 acres of land – including mountains, ponds, lakes and streams, and vast forests and wetlands – in the Adirondacks, and develops a recreation plan that focuses on human-powered activities and public access. The Council reports that the state included funding for the conservation easement in its 2010-2011 budget, and that the final purchase should be complete by November 1, 2010.

Alaska Wilderness League: Our funding supported AWL's Protect the Tongass Campaign to build grassroots support for legislation to protect areas in Alaska's Tongass National Forest that have important biological values and restore watersheds and streams. During this grant period, the League worked with other stakeholders – including the timber industry, Native Alaskans, commercial fishing interests, and the State of Alaska – to develop a proposal that includes protection for four million acres of wildlands throughout the Tongass. Moving the proposal into actual protection requires action by Alaska's Congressional delegation. Given election-year politics, legislation did not advance in Congress, but AWL will continue to build support for the protections in 2011.

American Rivers: We supported American Rivers' North Cascades Wild & Scenic River Campaign to build a grassroots campaign to permanently protect wild rivers throughout the North Cascades in Washington State. The group has played a key role in moving legislation through Congress that will protect 50 miles of the Pratt and Middle Snoqualmie Rivers and Illabot Creek. Final passage of that bill is imminent. The campaign also made progress toward protection of 100 miles of rivers in the Nooksack River watershed, and is in the early stages of building support for a proposal to protect 250 miles of rivers in the Skagit, Skykomish, and Snoqualmie basins.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy: We funded ATC's White Rocks Acquisition Project to acquire five parcels of land in Pennsylvania – currently proposed for development – totaling 1,050 acres in the White Rocks area adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. ATC reports that they have secured more than \$3 million in funding for the acquisition from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The project is on track to be complete in 2011.

Colorado Environmental Coalition: We supported CEC's Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign to protect nearly 500,000 acres of pristine wildlands in the White River National Forest, and nearby Bureau of Land Management lands in Central Colorado. The group reports that the first phase of the campaign made key progress when Rep. Jared Polis introduced a bill in Congress to protect 166,000 acres of federal land in Eagle and Summit counties. CEC will work to pass that bill in 2011, and launch the second phase of the campaign by working with Rep. John Salazar on legislation to protect federal lands in Pitkin and Gunnison counties.

Environmental Defense Center: The Conservation Alliance supported EDC's Saving Naples Campaign to protect Naples – a key portion of Central California's Gaviota Coast – from a proposed development that would destroy habitat, wild lands, and ocean resources on the coastal bluff. EDC is proud to report that they have used every angle to slow the progress of the proposed project, and that no development has happened to date. Various factors, including a slowing economy and change of land ownership, have made the development less viable. EDC hopes to further undermine the project in 2011.

Foothills Water Network: We supported FWN's Middle Fork American River Campaign to protect and enhance stream flows in 147 miles on the Middle Fork American and Western Placer Creeks by negotiating new protective conditions in a hydropower license regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). FWN succeeded in improving conditions on 250 river miles by engaging in the relicensing process. Primary improvements include: increased instream flows; restoration of streambeds and riparian habitat; and limiting water diversions. The draft agreement has been submitted to FERC, and should be approved in Spring, 2011.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness: We supported FNW's Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Campaign to secure federal Wilderness designation for 500,000 acres of Nevada's Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding BLM lands to protect habitat for pronghorn, sage grouse and other wildlife. The campaign also aims to close two million acres on the Sheldon and Desert National Wildlife Refuge near Las Vegas to mining. FNW reports that, as a result of a stakeholder process, Wilderness protection for the Blue Lake and Alder Creek areas – totaling 25,650 acres – now has broad and strong support. The BLM needs to complete its management plan for the remaining areas before FNW can begin to advocate for formal protections. That plan will be final in early 2011, and FNW will start work on legislative protections after its release.

Gifford Pinchot Task Force: The Conservation Alliance funded GPTF's Volcano Country Wild & Scenic Rivers Campaign to protect 14 of the wildest and most unique rivers in Washington's legendary Volcano Country, between Mount St. Helens, Mount Adams and Mount Rainier. The group has made good progress on the effort, largely winning support from local elected officials, employers, and recreation groups. Unfortunately, the Congressman who agreed to carry legislation for the protections unexpectedly announced his retirement earlier this year. Next steps in the campaign largely depend on whether the new representative supports river protection, or whether GPTF can convince one of Washington's Senators to introduce the legislation.

National Parks Conservation Association: We supported NPCA's Canyonlands National Park Expansion Campaign to expand the boundaries of Canyonlands National Park by nearly 500,000 acres to reflect the natural ecological erosion basin of this landscape, thereby protecting this magnificent place from rim to rim. NPCA worked closely with Utah Senator Robert Bennett on this effort until the Senator lost his primary election, putting the campaign on hold. As a result, NPCA has asked to extend the period of the grant through October 2011, and develop a new strategy once the results of the November election are clear.

VICTORY: 1,200 Acres Protected

Northeast Wilderness Trust: We funded NWT's Piscataquis Preserve Project to conserve 1,200 acres of habitat in Atkinson, Maine. We are pleased to report that NWT will complete this acquisition on December 6, 2010. As a result of this success, the Trust will add 1,200 acres of protected land to an existing matrix of 20,000 acres already in conservation ownership. The Piscataquis Preserve includes 15 acres of naturally occurring, mature, nut-bearing American Chestnut trees – the only stand of its kind left in the world.

Oregon Natural Desert Association: ONDA has used Conservation Alliance funding to support its Lower John Day Wilderness Campaign to protect more than 100,000 acres of Wilderness and an additional 25 miles of Wild and Scenic River in Oregon's John Day River Basin. ONDA reports that Senator Ron Wyden introduced legislation to designate the Cathedral Rock and Horse Heaven Wilderness areas, totaling 18,000 acres. That bill had a Senate hearing in June, and stands a strong chance of passing this year or in 2011. ONDA is now building local support for protection for the 60,000-acre Pat's Cabin Wilderness, which will be a longer-term effort. Finally, the group secured a formal recommendation from the BLM that 37 miles of the North Fork John Day River be protected as Wild and Scenic.

Pacific Wild: Our funding supported Pacific Wild's From Tar Sands to Tankers Campaign to halt Enbridge Incorporated's proposal to construct a 1,100-km twin oil pipeline from Alberta to the BC coast, and convince the Canadian federal government to implement a permanent ban on oil tankers in the Great Bear Rainforest region. Pacific Wild acknowledges that this is a David and Goliath battle, and that several other conservation organizations are involved in the effort. The group used our funding largely on media and outreach to call attention to the potential impacts of the pipeline on the Great Bear Rainforest and its coastal habitat. We will continue to monitor how this campaign proceeds in 2011.

Save Our Canyons: We supported SOC's Wasatch Wilderness Campaign to designate roughly 25,000 acres of Wilderness in the central Wasatch Mountains to permanently protect primitive recreational opportunities, water quality, natural beauty, and quality of life for the residents of Utah. SOC reports that Congressman Jim Matheson introduced legislation to protect these special areas in the Wasatch, and the bill had a hearing in the House in June. It is possible the bill could pass in 2010, but it will more likely happen in 2011.

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance: The Conservation Alliance supported SUWA's San Rafael Swell Wilderness Campaign - To protect up to 3.5 million acres of Wilderness in Utah's San Rafael Swell, and to increase administrative protections for millions of acres of public land by settling ongoing litigation. After some encouraging progress working with stakeholders in Emery County, this campaign came to a halt when the county itself decided not to negotiate any further on Wilderness designations. The campaign was further complicated when Utah Senator Robert Bennett, who proved willing to work on Wilderness issues, lost his primary election. SUWA is uncertain how to proceed, but reports that they will likely shift their focus to securing protections for Desolation Canyon.

The Wilderness Society-Idaho: We supported TWS' Clearwater Basin Campaign to engage in a collaborative process to protect Wilderness, rivers and backcountry values in Idaho's Clearwater Basin. The Clearwater is home to 1.2 million acres of Inventoried Roadless Areas and 2,200 miles of rivers eligible for federal Wild and Scenic designation. TWS reports that it has reached an agreement with stakeholders that would protect 327,000 acres in the Clearwater as Wilderness. The group is cautiously optimistic that one of Idaho's Senators will introduce legislation for the protections in 2011.

VICTORY: 5,727 Acres Protected

Trust for Public Land of Northern New England: The Conservation Alliance funded TPL's Campaign for the Northern Green Mountains to permanently protect 6,700 acres of Vermont's Northern Green Mountains including several miles of the Long Trail and other hiking and skiing paths. TPL reports that 5,727 acres of that goal – the Eden Forest – will be protected by the end of November, 2010. The remaining acreage – the 1022-acre Canada View parcel – should be secured in conservation ownership by Summer 2011.

Utah Rivers Council: We funded URC's Utah Wild & Scenic River Campaign to protect the Utah stretches of the Green River and Colorado river and their major tributaries through Congressional legislation to grant Wild and Scenic River protection to these aquatic ecosystems. Like many conservation efforts in Utah, this project depended on Senator Robert Bennett's willingness to push legislation. When Senator Bennett lost his re-election bid, it undermined the project. URC now plans to build a coalition of conservation interests in both Utah and Colorado to launch a multi-year Green River Wild campaign to halt proposed diversions of water from the Green by water developers in Colorado, and protect the river as Wild and Scenic.

VICTORY: Two Dams Removed

WaterWatch: Our funding supported WaterWatch's Free the Rogue Campaign to complete the removal of the two remaining major dams on the lower Rogue River, freeing the lower 157 miles of the river from recreational and fish passage barriers, boosting salmon and steelhead runs by an estimated 114,000 fish and finalizing the largest instream transfer of water in Oregon's history to protect streamflows in the Rogue forever. WaterWatch reports that with the removal of Savage Rapids Dam in October 2009, and Gold Ray Dam in August 2010, this project is now complete.

Yaak Valley Forest Council: We supported YVFC's Yaak Wilderness and Protected Areas Campaign to secure permanent protection for 97,271 acres of wildlands in Montana's Yaak Valley, including Wilderness designation for 30,000 acres of the Roderick Roadless Area, and non-motorized protection for 98.5 miles of trails and at least 13 backcountry lakes. These protections have been included in legislation introduced by Montana Senator Jon Tester. The bill is being heard by the relevant Senate committee, and awaits further action. Senator Tester is working hard to move the bill this year, though it may get pushed to 2011.

Notable Updates from April 2010 Grantees

VICTORY: 65,000 Acres Protected

Adirondack Mountain Club: ADK used our funding to support its Save Allegheny State Park Campaign to protect Allegheny State Park from proposed hydro-fracking mining by purchasing sub-surface mineral rights by the state, or by designating the area a Park Preserve. ADK reports that they won a significant victory by convincing the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to protect 85 percent of the 65,000-acre park as Park Preservation Areas, which means the state must maintain these areas in a near-wilderness state. These protections were made final when the state approved the new Master Plan for Allegheny State Park in July. The action should prevent any oil and gas drilling and development from the park.

Appalachian Voices: Our funding 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 mining by passing a law while fighting ongoing mining permit by protest until the practice can be outlawed. AV reports that in April, the EPA stipulated that valley fills – a key component of mountaintop removal mining – would no longer be permitted unless they meet new, rigorous standards. In June, the Army Corps of Engineers, which also has a hand in regulating mining, issued new, more strict permitting regulations. These two regulatory improvements will, slow mountaintop removal mining, but ending the practice depends on the passage of the Clean Water Protection Act. The bill has been introduced into both houses of Congress.

California Wilderness Coalition: We supported CWC's California Desert and San Gabriel Mountains Wilderness Campaigns to pass legislation protecting up to 1.6 million acres of public land in California's desert and San Gabriel Mountains. CWC reports that Senator Dianne Feinstein has introduced legislation for the California desert protections, and that bill had a Senate hearing in May, putting it in a good position to move forward in 2011.

Our Ocean: We supported 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 to ensure that this coastal legacy will be here for future generations of Oregonians. The group reports that Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will approve marine reserve management plans for two reserves – Redfish Rocks and Otter Rocks – in November. Our Ocean will continue to work to secure aquatic reserves at Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Cape Perpetua, and Cap Arago, which the state will consider in 2011.

Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition: We supported SAFC's Tennessee Wilderness Campaign to secure permanent Wilderness protection for at least 18,000 acres in the Cherokee National Forest for outdoor recreation, biodiversity protection, climate change buffering, headwaters protection and wildlife migration. SAFC reports that Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander introduced legislation in June that would formalize these protections. The group is now working to build additional support for the bill so that it will move forward in Congress in 2011.

VICTORY: One Climbing Area Acquired

Washington Climbers Coalition: The Conservation Alliance was one of the lead funders of WCC's Index Lower Town Wall Acquisition Campaign to purchase the Index Lower Town Wall, a popular climbing area in Washington State. We are pleased to report that WCC completed the acquisition in August, and transferred the property to Washington State Parks.

Wilderness Support Center: We funded WSC's San Juan Mountains Wilderness Campaigns to permanently protect up to 200,000 acres in the San Juan Mountains of southwest Colorado through wilderness and other conservation designations, specifically through the enactment of the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act and the campaign to protect the Hermosa Creek watershed outside of Durango. Legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate to protect areas in the San Juans. WSC continues to work to build support for protections for Hermosa Creek.



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