

Hello!
The Fall colors have started to replace the greens of Summer here in Bend, and we are looking forward to completing another successful year at The Conservation Alliance. We're cranking on all fronts. Most important, our grantees continue to deliver on their conservation goals, as you'll see from the Western Rivers Conservancy update below. Speaking of grantees, we look forward to our members nominating another great batch of organizations for us to consider funding in our Winter 2010 grant cycle. And, we're working hard to improve our communications with you, and to make it easier for our members and friends to connect with our grantees. We hope you like our updated and improved online tools.

Finally, Summer is a great time to take a break, explore the wild places we're working to protect, and recharge for the forthcoming Fall and Winter. We've been doing just that, and hope you have too! Happy Reading.

John Sterling
Executive Director

Grantee Update: Western Rivers Conservancy



Conservation Alliance grantee Western Rivers Conservancy reports key progress in its effort to protect the 8,000-acre Murtha Ranch on Oregon's John Day River. The effort would also secure an 8,000-acre BLM grazing lease, placing more than 16,000 acres into conservation ownership. Western Rivers' goal is

to transfer ownership of the ranch to Oregon State Parks. Last month, the state parks commission approved spending \$2.2 million to purchase roughly 25 percent of the ranch, putting the project on track to be completed within the next two years. The John Day River is the largest undammed tributary of the Columbia River, and holds the basin's healthiest populations of salmon and steelhead. The Murtha Ranch project supplements another successful project completed earlier this year by another Alliance grantee, Oregon Natural Desert Association, to secure federal Wilderness protection for the 8,000-acre Spring Basin Wilderness, also along the John Day upstream from Murtha Ranch.

ConservationNEXT: Check It Out!



The Conservation Alliance is making way in the social networking scene. We launched www.conservationnext.com last year, and are are very excited with the membership and activity on the site. If you have not signed up, please check out the site, set up a profile - which is easy as we are linked up with Facebook Connect - and learn more about Conservation Alliance grantees. This is also the way to find out more about our on-the-ground Backyard Collectives. Finally, the best way to stay in tune with Conservation Alliance news is through the ConservationNEXT blog, where we post important news about our efforts as it happens. You can sign up for the RSS feed and always be alerted to what is going on.

The Conservation Alliance is on FaceBook!



Become a Fan! The Conservation Alliance has set up a page on Facebook where you can become a fan, comment about our grantees receive updates from our blog. Help us grow our fan base!

Staff Update



On a personal note, The Conservation Alliance staff set aside vacation time after the Outdoor Retailer show, and have enjoyed some time out of the office, and in beautiful, wild places. The end of August found Krissy in France. Her 10-day vacation was in prep for the Ultra Tour du Mont Blanc, a 166km trail race around the Mont Blanc massif. It was an incredible event and her end result still seems dream-like to her. Krissy finished 1st female, 11th overall and set a new women's course record at 24:56:01. She appreciates all of the acknowledgment and congrats she received from outdoor industry friends.

The Sterling family returned to Tuolumne Meadows for their annual pilgrimage to the land of granite domes and alpine meadows. With young kids in tow, John isn't climbing as hard as he used to, but he did lead a group of 3-5-year-olds to the summit of Pothole Dome -- without any diaper changes.

We hope you all enjoyed a fun and adventurous Summer!

Sincerely,

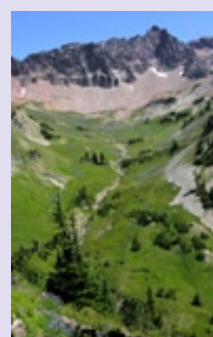
John Sterling
Executive Director

Krissy Moehl
Program Associate

In This Issue

**Grantee Update
Winter 2010 Funding
Cycle
ConservationNEXT -
check it out!
We are on Facebook
Play Time
Record Grant Cycle**

**Alliance to Contribute a
Record \$500,000 in
Next Grant Cycle**



Thanks to the ongoing support of our member companies, The Conservation Alliance will contribute a record \$500,000 to conservation organizations during our Summer 2009 funding cycle. Given the challenging economy, this is a huge accomplishment, and one that should make us all proud. The Alliance board made this commitment at our July board meeting knowing that we it would require that we recruit \$80,000 in new members by year's end. We're on track to reach that goal, but can always use your help finding new members. Please contact John or Krissy if you have any hot new member leads.

We'll announce our new grantees on October 1.