



Grantee Update: May 2014

In April 2013, The Conservation Alliance invested \$750,000 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 20 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 2013. We will share final reports on all of our October 2013 grants in October 2014.

Final Reports from April 2013 Grantees



Access Fund: We supported Access Fund's *Holy Boulders Project* to secure permanent public access and long-term conservation of Holy Boulders, a popular climbing area in Southern Illinois. AF reports that they have acquired the property, and are now working to transfer the land to a local climbing organization to manage and maintain. Final transfer should be complete by December 2014.



SUCCESS: 700,000 Acres Protected from Energy Development

Adirondack Mountain Club: ADK used our funding for its *Save Our State Forests Campaign* to secure permanent protection for New York's public lands from oil and gas drilling, including to practice of hydraulic fracturing on and beneath the surfaces of New York's state parks. ADK's work over the past year has secured a permanent ban on oil and gas development on 700,000 acres of state park and state forest lands. The group also convinced the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to prohibit horizontal drilling from private lands to access subsurface energy deposits beneath 2.9 million acres of State Forest Preserve lands in Adirondack and Catskill Parks.



SUCCESS: 1,059 Acres and 1.5 River Miles Protected

American River Conservancy: We funded ARC's *Cosumnes River Conservation Project* to purchase and protect 1,059 acres of riverfront lands on the Cosumnes River, the last undammed river system on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada, and to construct a 2.5-mile recreational trail, the first public trail within the upper Cosumnes River watershed. ARC reports that they have completed the acquisition, and are beginning the process of building the trail.



Appalachian Mountain Club: AMC used our funding to support its *Maine Woods Campaign* to permanently protect up to 20,000 acres of new conservation land adjacent to both the Appalachian Trail and AMC's 66,500 acres of existing conservation lands in the 100-Mile Wilderness region of Maine. AMC reports that they are on track to acquire the 14,000-acre Gulf Hagas-Whitecap property, and an additional 4,300 acres by the end of 2015.



Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Yukon: We supported CPAWS-Yukon for their *Peel Watershed Protection Campaign* to protect 14 million acres in the Peel River watershed with significant First Nations participation in long term policy and management. In 2012, the Peel Watershed Planning Commission issued a final recommendation that the Yukon government adopt a plan to protect 14 million acres in the watershed. The government ignored that recommendation. CPAWS reports that they are now going to court to compel the government to adopt the plan. The trial begins in July.

SUCCESS: 2,570 Acres Protected

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust: CDLT used our support for its *Wenatchee Foothills Campaign* to protect 2,562 acres and establish a foothills trail system that ensures recreational access for future generations of outdoor enthusiasts and conserves wildlife habitat lands. Since receiving our funding, the trust has completed purchase of all the target property, and an additional eight acres, which will be used for a new trailhead.



SUCCESS: One Dam Removed

Conservation Resource Alliance: We funded CRA's *Boardman River Dams Project* to remove three dams and restore 15 river miles resulting in a free flowing and reborn Boardman River. CRA reports that they have successfully removed Brown Bridge Dam, the first of the three dams slated for removal. Following the removal, the group restored 2.5 river miles and 12.2 acres of previously inundated floodplain. CRA now turns its attention to removing Boardman and Sabin dams. Boardman Dam is on track to be removed in 2015, and Sabin Dam in 2017.



Friends of the Inyo: We supported FOI's *Inyo National Forest Protection Campaign* to permanently protect nearly 500,000 acres of Roadless Areas, wild public lands and waterways on the Inyo National Forest through grassroots mobilization of a diverse constituency dedicated to preserving wilderness values. The formal planning process for the forest has begun, and the Forest Service will develop management alternatives this year, with important review and public comment periods beginning in late 2014.



International Mountain Bicycling Association: IMBA used our funding to support its *Colorado Central Mountains Campaign* to work with the conservation community to permanently protect 98,000 Wilderness acres and 80,000 acres as Special Management Areas in Colorado's Central Mountains. IMBA reports that Senator Mark Udall has begun a public process to develop legislation for these protections. IMBA will continue to work to ensure that any legislation benefits both conservation and mountain bike access.



Montana Wilderness Association: We supported MWA's *Rocky Mountain Front/Montana Forests Campaign* to pass the Rocky Mountain Heritage Act and the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act in Congress, permanently protecting 1.3 million acres of threatened wild landscapes in Montana through a combination of designated wilderness, backcountry recreation areas and Conservation Management Areas. MWA reports that both bills have cleared the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and are awaiting a floor vote. They are now working to secure support from Montana's lone House representative.



Oregon Wild: We supported OW's *Oregon Wilderness Campaign* to permanently protect 58,000 acres surrounding the Rogue River, 30,000 acres at Devil's Staircase in the heart of the Oregon coast range, 21.3 miles of the Wild and Scenic Molalla River, and 18,000 acres of the last unprotected gems on the Mount Hood National Forest. The group reports that legislation for the Devil's Staircase protections has cleared both the House and Senate, while bills for the Rogue and Molalla River have passed out of the relevant Senate committee. These bills are now in a good position to be included in any public lands conservation package that Congress develops this year.





Rivers Without Borders: RWB used our funding to support its *Taku Watershed Protection Campaign* to keep the 4.5-million-acre Taku watershed totally intact and virtually pristine by eliminating crucial access options for mining ventures that put wild salmon and other exceptional ecosystem values at risk. RWB reports that they have joined a lawsuit with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to halt a road to service the proposed mine.



Soda Mountain Wilderness Council: SMWC used our support for its *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Expansion Campaign* to double the size of the 61,000-acre Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and expand the designated Soda Mountain Wilderness in the Monument's southern backcountry by 2016. The group reports that various monument-expansion efforts are underway, both through legislation and through BLM planning processes. This groundwork puts the monument in a good position to be expanded by President Obama if Congress or the BLM fail to act directly.



Thompson Divide Coalition: We funded TDC's *Save Thompson Divide Campaign* to pass legislation to permanently withdraw 220,000 acres of the Thompson Divide area from availability for future oil and gas leasing, and to purchase and retire existing leases. TDC reports that Colorado Senator Michael Bennet has introduced legislation to secure these protections. Senator Mark Udall has co-sponsored the bill, and Governor John Hickenlooper has endorsed its passage. Meanwhile, the group is working to buy and retire existing leases in the area.



SUCCESS: 30,338 Acres Protected

Trust for Public Land: TPL used Conservation Alliance funding to support its *White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative* to permanently protect 67,900 acres of woods, waters, and mountains in Maine and New Hampshire's "Great White Moose", one of the Northeast's largest natural landscapes. TPL reports that they have successfully acquired the 12,050-acre Crocker Mountain property, and transferred it to the State of Maine. They have also purchased or secured conservation easements on 18,286 acres in the Androscoggin River Headwaters region. TPL anticipates that another 10,354 acres will be protected in 2014, and 35,000 acres over the next two years.



SUCCESS: 1,200 Acres Protected

Vermont Land Trust: Our funding supported VLT's *Bolton Valley Nordic and Backcountry Project* to permanently protect the 1,200-acre Bolton Valley Nordic and Backcountry property that provides both critical habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities. VLT reports that they have purchased the property, which is an iconic destination for nordic skiing in Vermont. The property will be transferred to the State of Vermont and added to Mt. Mansfield State Forest. VLT will maintain a perpetual conservation easement on the property, which will ensure permanent public access and protect the land's wildlife habitat and important natural features.



SUCCESS: 920 Acres and 2.5 River Miles Protected

Western Rivers Conservancy: We supported WRC's *Cross Mountain Canyon Ranch Acquisition Campaign* to permanently protect 920 acres of riverlands and establish public ownership of the only land-based access point to the fabled whitewater and hunting opportunities of Cross Mountain Canyon. WRC successfully purchased the property, which is adjacent to the 11,580-acre Cross Mountain Wilderness Study Area, and has transferred it to the BLM.



SUCCESS: 1,256 Acres Protected

Wilderness Land Trust: We funded WLT's *Castle Crags Wilderness Acquisition Project* to permanently protect and transfer to public ownership the 1,257 acres of private land currently blocking direct public access from I-5 to the climbing and backpacking within the 12,232-acre Castle Crags Wilderness Area. WLT completed the purchase, and is now working to transfer the land to the US Forest Service.



Winter Wildlands Alliance: WWA used our funding to support its *Quiet Winter Recreation Campaign* to permanently protect the remaining undeveloped lands in Utah's Central Wasatch; to establish a 3,000-acre Backcountry Recreation Zone on Oregon's Tumalo Mountain; to secure new Wilderness designations in Idaho's Boulder White Cloud Mountains; and to establish winter nonmotorized areas on Wyoming's Two Ocean Peak and Beartooth Pass. WWA reports that there is solid progress on the Boulder-White Clouds effort, with a strong push to designate the area a National Monument. In Utah, the group is well-positioned to fight off large-scale ski area development proposals that would diminish human-powered backcountry skiing in the Wasatch.



Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative: Y2Y used our support for its *Keeping the Peace Campaign* to secure a decision to deny approval of the proposed Site C Dam on the Peace River, and to permanently protect British Columbia's Peace River Valley as a vital component of a healthy ecosystem and a vibrant local community. Y2Y reports that public opposition to the proposed dam is growing. The BC and Canadian federal governments are conducting a formal environmental assessment of the project, which will play a key role in determining whether the dam is built. Y2Y is working to generate opposing public comments during the assessment process, which will conclude this year.

Notable Updates from October 2013 Grantees



Alaska Wilderness League: We supported AWL's *Protect the Arctic Ocean Campaign* to halt oil drilling in and conserve vital portions of the Arctic Ocean, including the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. AWL reports that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Department of the Interior violated the law when it issued Shell Oil a lease to drill for oil in the Chukchi Sea. As a result Shell announced that it would not pursue its 2014 oil exploration plans while it considers its next steps.



California Wilderness Coalition: CWC used our funding to support its *Central Coast Wild Heritage Campaign* to permanently protect wilderness in California's Los Padres National Forest. CWC reports that Rep. Lois Capps has released a draft bill that would protect 366,000 acres and 200 river miles in the region.



SUCCESS: 1,600 Acres Protected

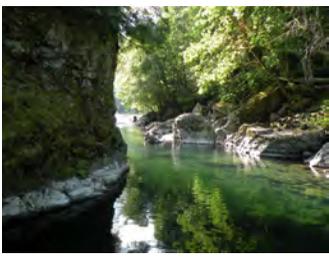
Conservation Lands Foundation: CLF used our support for its *National Monuments Campaign* to encourage President Obama to use the Antiquities Act to expand the California Coastal National Monument and proclaim two new national monuments, Browns Canyon National Monument near Salida, Colorado and Coast Redwoods National Monument near Santa Cruz, California. CLF reports that President Obama officially expanded the California Coastal National Monument by 1,600 acres in March.



New Mexico Wilderness Alliance: We funded NMWA's *Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Campaign* permanently protect 500,000 acres of New Mexico's best public lands that are unique historically, culturally and ecologically, with an abundance of wildlife and natural beauty. NMWA reports that support for the monument designation is growing. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited the area in January, a clear sign that the Obama Administration is laying the groundwork to designate the Monument in the near future.



Trout Unlimited-Alaska: We supported TU's *Stop Pebble Mine Campaign* to protect the 6.7 million acres of state land in the Bristol Bay watershed from large-scale, hard rock mining. The EPA released a Watershed Assessment that reveals that salmon habitat would be damaged or eliminated by the development of the Pebble Mine. This assessment led one of the mine's key partners to abandon the project. TU is still working to secure EPA's proactive veto of the mine permit.



Wild Salmon Center: The Conservation Alliance supported WSC's *Oregon's North Coast Range Protection Campaign* to protect 150,000 acres of rainforest in Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. WSC reports that in March, the Oregon Department of Forestry officially proposed 150,000 acres of High Value Conservation Areas that would be protected from logging for their habitat and recreation values. These protections are likely to be finalized by the end of the year.



Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve: YDWP used our funding for its *Yellow Dog River Watershed Protection Campaign* to acquire 1,266 acres and eight river miles along Michigan's Yellow Dog River. The group reports that they have completed acquisition of 240 acres, and have funding requests pending for the remaining 1,026 acres.

