

Grantee Update: October 2014

In October 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 October 1, we received 19 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 2014. We will share final reports on all of our April 2014 grants in April 2015.

Final Reports from October 2013 Grantees



Alaska Wilderness League: We supported Alaska Wilderness League'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, to date, no oil development has happened in the Arctic Ocean. Oil companies continue to target the area for oil drilling, so AWL is exploring new ways to withdraw the Arctic Ocean from oil lease sales.



American Rivers: We supported American Rivers' *Wild Rivers of the North Cascades Campaign* to preserve 150 river miles and 48,000 acres of riverside lands in Washington's North Cascades through permanent federal protections and locally-based conservation efforts. AR reports that legislation to protect 37 miles of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt Rivers, and 14 miles of Illabot Creek have moved through key Congressional committees, and are awaiting final passage. The group continues to build local support for protecting 100 miles of the Nooksack River, though legislation has not yet been introduced.



SUCCESS: 80 River Miles Protected

American Whitewater: AW used our funding to support its *Colorado River Campaign* to secure permanent protection of critical river flows in 80 miles of the Upper Colorado River for world-class recreation and river-related habitat. AW reports that they have secured a Recreational In-Channel Diversion water right from the State of Colorado that reserves 2,500 CFS of water for recreational streamflows through Gore Canyon. This accomplishment triples the amount of water permanently reserved for fish and recreation through this 80-mile stretch of the Colorado River.



California Wilderness Coalition: CalWild used our support for its *California Wilderness Campaign* to protect two million acres of wildlands in the California desert and on the state's Central Coast. CalWild reports that Rep. Lois Capps introduced legislation in May to protect 326,000 acres and 230 river miles in the Los Padres National Forest. Sen. Dianne Feinstein has released a draft of her California Desert Protection Act, which would protect more than 1.5 million acres of federal land. Feinstein plans to introduce that bill in January 2015.



Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society: We supported CPAWS' *Protect the Great Slave Lake Campaign* to protect 7.4 million acres in the proposed Thaidene Nene Protected Area near the East Arm of Great Slave Lake in Canada's Northwest Territories. CPAWS reports that Parks Canada and the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation have signed a draft agreement that would establish the new park in 2016.



Conservation Colorado: We funded Conservation Colorado's *Central Mountains Wilderness Campaign* to seek Congressional Wilderness designation for 350,000 acres of Colorado's White River National Forest, the Gunnison National Forest, and nearby Bureau of Land Management lands. In August, Rep. Jared Polis introduced the Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act, which would protect 66,000 acres of land in his Congressional district.



SUCCESS: 1,664 Acres Protected

Conservation Lands Foundation: We supported CLF's 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 monument in March, protecting an additional 1,664 acres of land.



Earthjustice: The Conservation Alliance supported Earthjustice's *Protecting Utah's Redrock Country Campaign* to protect roughly three million acres of wilderness-quality public lands in Utah's red rock country from oil and gas drilling and off-road vehicle use. Earthjustice won a landmark court ruling that struck down the BLM management plan for Utah's Richfield district. This plan would have opened much of the district's 2.1 million acres to poorly-regulated ORV use and energy development. As a result of the ruling, the BLM must re-write the plan, and likely five additional plans across the state.



Grand Canyon Trust: GCT used our funding for its *Colorado Plateau Protection Campaign* to pass legislation for eastern Utah that would permanently protect outstanding Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands as wilderness. GCT reports that stakeholders have reached an agreement in Daggett County to protect 81,000 acres of Wilderness and 14 river miles. The Trust now turns its attention to several other counties with hopes of developing a large, multi-county conservation bill to be introduced into Congress next year by Rep. Rob Bishop.



SUCCESS: 1,122,441 Acres Protected

Greater Yellowstone Coalition: GYC used our funding for its *Absaroka-Beartooth Front Protection Campaign* to seek permanent protection for 1.8 million acres of the Absaroka-Beartooth Front, including prohibitions on energy development in critical wildlife habitat and migration corridors. By engaging in the planning process for the Shoshone National Forest, GYC won protections for 916,441 acres, putting these lands off limits to energy development. GYC also participated in BLM's Lander Resource Management Plan, which prohibits energy development on 206,000 acres. The Bighorn Basin plan is still draft form.



Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center: We supported KS Wild's *Kalmiopsis Wild Rivers Campaign* to protect Rough and Ready and Baldface Creeks from mineral entry, designate the streams as Wild and Scenic Rivers, and expand the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area to include these lands. KS Wild reports that they have begun the process of securing a temporary mineral withdrawal from the Forest Service, which would prohibit any mining activity in the watersheds. Their long-term goal is to pursue a permanent, legislated mineral withdrawal.

SUCCESS: 496,000 Acres Protected



New Mexico Wilderness Alliance: We funded NMWA's *Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Campaign* to 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, in May, President Obama designated the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, protecting 496,000 acres of federal lands.



Oregon Natural Desert Association: ONDA used our funding to support its *John Day River Wilderness Campaign* to secure permanent Wilderness protection for 127,000 acres of public land along Oregon's John Day River. ONDA reports that legislation to protect 17,000 acres at Cathedral Rock and Horse Heaven has passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and is poised to move in the Congress' next lands package. The group is working to build support for new Wilderness designations on Sutton Mountain (60,000 acres) and along the Lower John Day River (50,000 acres). Legislation protecting Sutton Mountain is likely in 2015.



Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance: SUWA used our support for its *Protect the Redrock Wilderness Campaign* to stop the state of Utah's 29 lawsuits against the United States directed at splintering wilderness, national parks and monuments with off-road vehicle routes. SUWA has used legal means to challenge the road claims, and is poised to halt many of them in court. At the same time, the group is looking for an opportunity to settle this conflict by engaging in a legislative process proposed by Congressman Rob Bishop, which would resolve many outstanding public lands issues in Eastern Utah.



Trout Unlimited - Alaska: We funded TU-Alaska for its *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. For several years, TU has appealed to the EPA to invoke the Clean Water Act to halt the proposed mine. In July, the EPA released a "proposed determination" that, if finalized, will make development of the Pebble Mine impossible. TU expects a final EPA determination soon. Meanwhile, the mine's majority stakeholders have abandoned the project.



Wild Salmon Center: We supported WSC's *Oregon's North Coast Range Protection Campaign* to protect 150,000 acres of rainforest in Oregon's North Coast Range within the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. WSC reports that, in June, the Oregon Department of Forestry designated 100,000 acres of forest land in the two areas as "High Conservation Areas", protecting them from logging. These protections will become final once the ODF releases a final management plan for Northwest Oregon in Spring 2015.



Wild South: The Conservation Alliance supported Wild South's *Tennessee Wilderness Campaign* to designate 19,558 acres of the Cherokee National Forest in east Tennessee as Wilderness, permanently protecting its versatile landscapes of wild whitewater, misty waterfalls, and winding trails. Wild South reports that legislation to protect these areas has passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and is awaiting a vote of the full Senate before it proceeds to the House.



Wilderness Support Center: We supported WSC's *San Juan Mountains and Hermosa Creek Wilderness Campaign* to protect 61,000 acres of priority areas in the San Juan Mountains and 108,000 acres in the Hermosa Creek watershed outside of Durango as Wilderness and other conservation designations. Legislation for the San Juan Mountains protections cleared the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and bipartisan legislation for Hermosa Creek has been introduced into both the Senate and the House. The Hermosa Creek bill passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee in September.



Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve: We supported YDWP's *Yellow Dog River Corridor Project* to acquire and protect 1,266 acres and eight river miles in the Yellow Dog River watershed. During the first year of the project, the group reports having acquired 260 acres including two river miles. YDWP will continue its effort to acquire the remaining 1,046 acres in 2015.

Notable Updates from April 2014 Grantees



American River Conservancy: We funded ARC's *Granite Chief Wilderness Campaign* to purchase 10,115 acres of stream and river front lands at the headwaters of the Middle and North Forks of the American River, and designate 5,000 acres as part of the Granite Chief Wilderness. ARC reports that they have signed an agreement to purchase 9,955 acres of the land, and have raised more than half of the funds necessary to complete the acquisition.

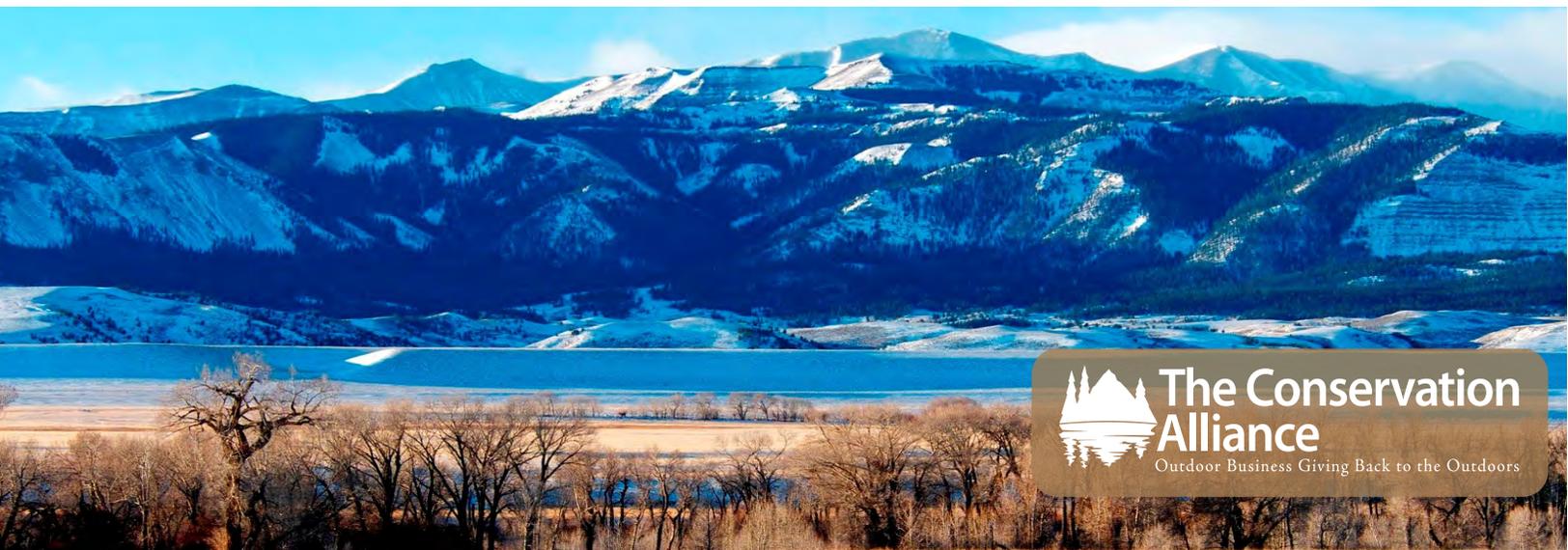


Montana Wilderness Association: MWA used our support for its *Rocky Mountain Front and Montana Forests Campaigns* to pass the Rocky Mountain Heritage Act and the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, permanently protecting 1.3 million acres of threatened wild landscapes in Montana. MWA reports that both bills have passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and await a full vote in the Senate before proceeding to the House.



SUCCESS: 320 Acres Protected

Smith River Alliance: We funded SRA's *Hurdy Gurdy Creek Property Acquisition Campaign* to permanently protect the 2,000-acre Hurdygurdy Creek watershed, a key tributary of California's Smith River, one of the crown jewels of the Wild and Scenic River System. SRA reports that they have transferred 320 acres of land along the Siskiyou Fork of the Smith River into the Smith River National Recreation Area for public recreation access and wildlife habitat.



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