



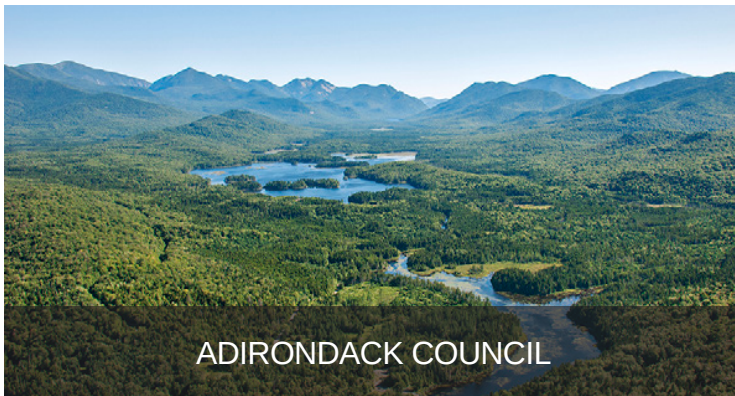
Photo: Bob Wick

THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
Grantee Update

In April 2014, 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 21 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 2014. We will share final reports on all of our October 2014 grants in October 2015.

Final Reports from April 2014 Grantees



We supported *Adirondack Council's Adirondack Forest Preserve Campaign* to protect 40,000 acres in the state of New York, by adding them to the Adirondack Forest Preserve and providing southern access to the Adirondack High Peaks Region. The Council reports that the state of New York has acquired 14,200 acres of land to add to the Adirondack Park, and they now turn their attention to working with the Adirondack Park Agency to classify those lands with the highest level of protection. The group will also engage in the process to determine future management of another 28,000 acres of lands to be acquired by the state by 2016.



ARC used our funding for its *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 has signed an agreement to purchase 9,955 acres for \$10.16 million, and has already raised \$7.33 million toward that goal. The group expects to complete the purchase in 2015.



AMC used our funding to support its *Maine Woods Campaign* to permanently protect 18,000 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 have secured public funding to purchase the 14,000-acre Gulf Hagas-Whitecap property, and the 4,300-acre Baker Mountain property. The group is now waiting for the State of Maine to release those funds to complete the purchase. Final closing on the purchase is likely by early 2016.



We supported the Partnership for its *Bodie Hills National Monument Campaign* to permanently protect 200,000 acres of public lands in California's Bodie Hills as a National Monument. The group spent most of the year building relationships with key members of the small communities surrounding the Bodie Hills, and working with BLM on stewardship projects in the area. As the end of the Obama Administration nears, the Partnership plans to build support for their national monument proposal, which requires Presidential action.



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, sending CPAWS to court to compel the government to adopt the plan. In December, CPAWS prevailed in a historic case that upheld the original management plan for the Peel. The Yukon Government has filed an appeal of the decision, which the Yukon Court of Appeal will hear this Summer or Fall.



CRA used our support for its *Lake Kathleen Dam Removal Project* to remove the Lake Kathleen Dam resulting in a free flowing Maple River in Michigan. CRA reports that the project is on track. The group has secured the funding necessary to complete the project, and expects the dam removal to happen in 2016.



We funded Forterra's *Yakima River Scenic Byway Project* to permanently protect 690 acres of endangered shrub-steppe habitat, resulting in increased public access to recreational opportunities in the Yakima River Canyon. Forterra worked on this acquisition for nearly a year, but the owners chose not to sell the property. Forterra will now look for other acquisition opportunities in the Yakima River corridor.



We supported FOI's *Inyo National Forest Protection Campaign* to permanently protect nearly 500,000 acres of wild public lands and 100 river miles on the Inyo National Forest in California. The formal planning process for the forest is nearly complete, with a Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) to be released in October. Through the process, FOI advocated that the Forest Service recommend 143,494 acres of new Wilderness, and 14 rivers be managed for their wild and scenic qualities.



Friends used our funding to support its *Hi-Line District Protection Campaign* to protect nearly 400,000 acres of wild northern Montana prairies for their wilderness characteristics and habitat for endangered Greater Sage Grouse. The group participated in BLM's planning process for this area, demonstrating strong support for protecting 380,000 acres from energy development and habitat fragmentation. Friends expects BLM to release its Draft EIS in June, and a final plan in the Fall.



We supported ICL's *Boulder-White Clouds National Monument Campaign* to secure permanent protection for 300,000 acres of extraordinary wildlands in Idaho's Boulder and White Cloud Mountains as a National Monument. ICL reports that the Boulder-White Clouds will likely be protected this year, either by President Obama as a National Monument or by Congress a Wilderness area. Idaho's Congressional delegation is working hard to move legislation, knowing that if they fail, the President will likely act without them.



We supported LPFW's *Central Coast Wild Heritage Project* permanently protect 366,000 acres of open space and wildlife habitat and 200 miles of free-flowing rivers in California's Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Last Spring, Rep. Lois Capps introduced legislation to protect 245,665 acres of Wilderness and 232 miles of rivers in the region. The bill did not pass last year, and LPFW reports that Rep. Capps plans to reintroduce the legislation soon.



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 Congress passed the Rocky Mountain Front bill in December, and President Obama signed it into law, permanently protecting 275,200 acres. Montana Senator Jon Tester plans to reintroduce his Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, which would protect nearly 700,000 acres of Wilderness throughout the state.

SUCCESS: 275,200 Acres Protected



We supported OW's *Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign* to permanently protect more than 500,000 acres of wilderness in the backcountry of Crater Lake National Park and in the surrounding roadless wildlands that form the headwaters of the iconic Rogue, Klamath, and Umpqua Rivers in Oregon. The group has focused its energy organizing support for protecting the greater Crater Lake area and reports that Oregon Senator Ron Wyden is working on an expansive Oregon Wilderness bill that may include legislation to protect Crater Lake.



We supported RRGCC's *Miller Fork Recreational Preserve Acquisition Campaign* to acquire the 310-acre Miller Fork Recreational Preserve climbing area, a 2.5-mile canyon in Kentucky popular for both traditional and sport climbing. The Coalition reports that they reached their fundraising goal for 2014, and are on track to pay off the purchase of the Miller Fork property in 2017.



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. They are also organizing opposition among Alaskans to a new proposal to barge minerals down the Taku to market.



SJCA used our support for its *Dolores River National Conservation Area Campaign* to permanently protect 170,000 acres and 121 miles of rivers in the Dolores River National Conservation Area, 100 miles of Wild & Scenic River designations for the Animas River, Hermosa Creek, and Piedra River, and 45,000 acres in expansions of the Weminuche Wilderness and Piedra Area. SJCA reports that a diverse stakeholder group has released a draft proposal for the NCA that would protect 100,000 acres, including 25,000 acres of Wilderness, and preserve 106 river miles. They are now working with Colorado's Congressional delegation to develop legislation to secure these protections.



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 and a nationally recognized "Salmon Stronghold". SRA reports that they have successfully acquired 320 acres within the Smith River National Recreation Area (SRNRA), and transferred that land to the Forest Service to be managed as part of the NRA. SRA is now focused on transferring the remaining 1,812 acres – already acquired – to the SRNRA.

SUCCESS: 320 Acres Protected



TWS-Idaho used Conservation Alliance funding to support its *Clearwater Basin Collaborative* to permanently protect 500,000 acres of lands in Idaho's Clearwater Basin through Wilderness and other congressional designations, and to protect 187 miles of river under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. TWS reports that a collaboration of stakeholders has agreed to a plan to protect 500,000 acres of Wilderness and 300 miles of Wild and Scenic River in the Basin. The collaboration is now working with Idaho Senator Mike Crapo to draft legislation that would bring the plan to life. TWS also reports that the new draft management plan for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest closely mirrors the collaboration's proposal.



We supported WRC's *Western Slope Rivers Campaign* to permanently protect 1,169 acres and 11 river miles within the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area along the Gunnison River, to purchase an important private inholding adjacent to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area, and to re-establish perennial flows on the Little Cimarron River. During the grant period, WRC acquired 45 acres and one-half mile of stream frontage along the upper Yampa River and Sarvis Creek. WRC also expects to acquire another 190 acres and eight river miles on the Gunnison River in 2015 or 2016.

SUCCESS: 45 Acres and .5 River Miles Protected

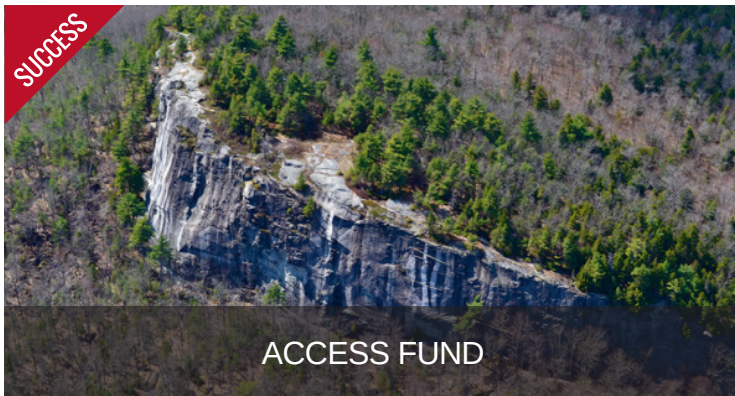


We funded WOC's *Protect Wyoming's Red Desert Campaign* to designate Wyoming's wild northern Red Desert as a National Conservation Area. WOC spent most of the grant period organizing support for protection of the Red Desert. In the process, the group decided to pursue a suite of permanent protections for the landscape rather than focus solely on a National Conservation Area designation. WOC is now focusing on participating in the BLM planning process for the area, which begins in early 2016.



Y2Y used our funding to support its *Keeping the Peace Campaign* to secure a decision to deny approval of the proposed Site C Dam on British Columbia's Peace River, and to permanently protect the Peace River Valley as a vital component of a healthy ecosystem and a vibrant local community. Y2Y reports that the BC government approved the dam, but escalating costs have aroused increased opposition to the project. The future of the dam proposal will likely be determined by seven lawsuits against the project filed by First Nations and local land owners. Delays caused by the costs and the lawsuits give Y2Y more time to rally opposition.

Notable Updates from October 2014 Grantees



We supported Access Fund's *Eagle Bluff and Muir Valley Acquisition Campaigns* to secure permanent public access and long-term conservation of Eagle Bluff in Central Maine and Muir Valley in Kentucky. Working with Clifton Climbers Alliance, Access Fund closed on the Eagle Bluff property in August, 2014. Access Fund also helped Friends of Muir Valley secure funding for stewardship of Muir Valley. Once this funding was secured, the landowners gifted this climbing area to Friends of Muir Valley to ensure long-term stewardship of this popular crag.

SUCCESS: 2 Climbing Areas Totaling 465 Acres Protected



AWL used our funding to support its *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Management Plan Project* to secure a management plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that recommends Wilderness protection for the Refuge's Coastal Plain. AWL and its partners generated more than one million pro-conservation comments on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell signed the CCP in January. The final CCP included a formal recommendation from President Obama to Congress that the Arctic Refuge be designated Wilderness.



AR used our support for its *Wild Rivers of the North Cascades Campaign* to protect 150 river miles and nearly 50,000 acres of riverside lands in Washington's North Cascades through federal legislation and locally-based conservation efforts. AR reports that, in December, Congress passed legislation to protect 22,100 acres as additions to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness in Washington State. Congress also pass bills that protected 54 miles of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt Rivers, and Illabot Creek as Wild and Scenic.

SUCCESS: 21,100 Acres and 54 River Miles Protected



We funded CLF's *National Monuments Campaign* to secure three new national monuments: Browns Canyon National Monument near Salida, Colorado; Coast Dairies National Monument near Santa Cruz, California; and Birthplace of Rivers National Monument in eastern West Virginia, permanently protecting approximately 150,000 acres. CLF reports that President Obama designated the Browns Canyon National Monument in February, permanently protecting this special, 21,586-acre area. In California, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo has introduced legislation to add the 5,800-acre Coast Dairies property to the California Coastal National Monument as the "Santa Cruz Redwoods" addition.

SUCCESS: 21,586 Acres Protected



We supported KLT's *Brave Boat Headwaters Acquisition Campaign* to permanently protect one of the region's most scenic views, critical wildlife habitat, public access to recreational trails and the coast, and provide a keystone "to the Sea" link in the regionally significant Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative vision. KLT has succeeded in acquiring 43 acres toward their 150-acre goal for the project.



The Conservation Alliance supported TDC's *Thompson Divide Campaign* to permanently protect Colorado's Thompson Divide from future mineral leasing through legislative or administrative actions; successfully negotiate the sale of valid leases from willing sellers; and, utilize separate Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management NEPA processes to affect the cancellation of illegal leases in the area. TDC reports that the Forest Service has issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the White River National Forest, which closed most of the Thompson Divide area to future oil and gas leasing. The group is also working with Senator Michael Bennet to reintroduce legislation in Congress to permanently close the area to new energy development.