



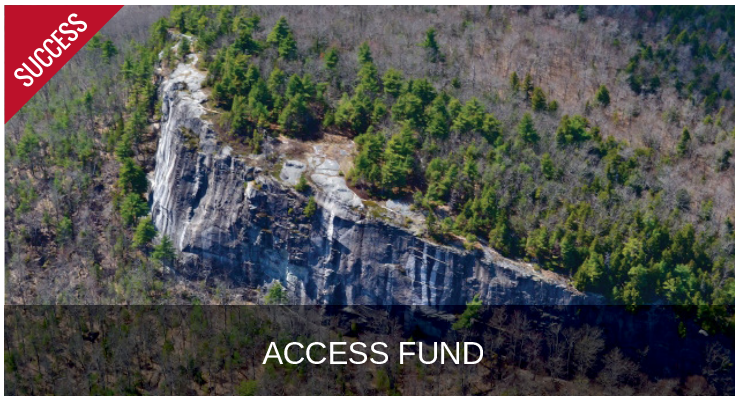
Photo: Noah Howell

THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE  
**Grantee Update**

In October 2014, The Conservation Alliance invested \$800,000 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 23 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 2015. We will share final reports on all of our April 2015 grants in April 2016.

## Final Reports from October 2014 Grantees



Access Fund used our funding to secure permanent public access and long-term conservation of two climbing areas: Eagle Bluff in Central Maine; and Muir Valley in Kentucky. Access Fund reports that it acquired and transferred ownership of the 165-acre Eagle Bluff property to Clifton Climbers Alliance, the local organization responsible for providing permanent protection and public access. In March 2015, ownership of the 300-acre Muir Valley nature preserve and climbing area was transferred to Friends of Muir Valley. Friends of Muir Valley is the local organization responsible for the long-term stewardship and maintenance of this world-renowned climbing area.

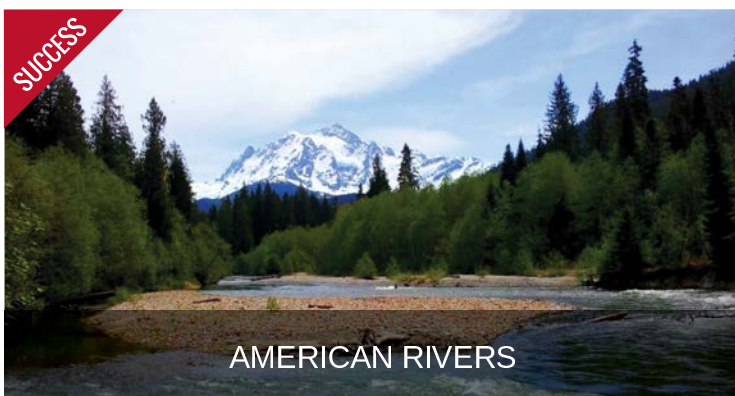
**SUCCESS: Two Climbing Areas and 465 Acres Protected**



ADK used our funding for its *Responsible Recreation Campaign* to protect 379,705 acres of the New York State Forest Preserve from unregulated all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use. ADK worked with other local stakeholder groups to successfully block policies and legislation that would have allowed ATV trail connections in the Forest Preserve. ADK will continue to work with New York State agency staff and legislative leaders to permanently protect the Forest Preserve from unregulated ATV use.



We funded AWL's effort to secure a proclamation from President Obama that designates the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a National Monument before he leaves office in January 2017. AWL reports that in early 2015, it worked with partners to flood the Administration with praise for their recent Arctic Wilderness recommendation to Congress. This laid important groundwork for the campaign by solidifying relationships in new stakeholder communities. AWL has organized task forces using these stakeholders to help secure a monument designation by January, 2017.



We supported American Rivers' *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, supporting sustainable recreation, thriving wildlife populations, and vibrant local communities. American Rivers reports that Congress passed the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act, designating 22,100 acres as Wilderness and 54 river miles as Wild and Scenic. AR's campaign now shifts to designating 100 miles of the Upper Nooksack River as Wild and Scenic.

**SUCCESS: 22,100 Acres and 51.2 River Miles Protected**



AMERICAN WHITEWATER

We funded AW's *Wild Olympics Campaign* to permanently protect 126,000 acres of new Wilderness and 19 Wild and Scenic Rivers representing more than 450 river miles on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. AW reports that Senator Patty Murray and Representative Derek Kilmer reintroduced Wild Olympics legislation in June, 2015. In 2016, AW will focus on getting hearings for Wild Olympics legislation in the House and the Senate, the next step towards passing Wild Olympics legislation.



CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

We funded CalWild's campaign to permanently protect Wilderness and rivers in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument along California's Central Coast, and Marin, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties in Northwest California. CalWild reports that Representative Lois Capps reintroduced the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act in May, 2015. The bill would protect 288,788 acres and 230.8 river miles. CalWild is now working with Representative Jared Huffman to draft legislation to protect up to 363,903 acres of Wilderness and 531 river miles in Northwest California.



CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY - NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CPAWS used our funding to support its campaign to protect the proposed Thaidene Nene Protected Area around and beyond the East Arm of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories. CPAWS reports that the federal and territorial governments announced their support for the protection of 6.4 million acres of Thaidene Nene. The group expects that Thaidene Nene will be permanently protected within the next 18 months.



CONSERVATION LANDS FOUNDATION

We funded CLF's *National Monument 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. CLF reports that President Obama designated the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument in February, legislation to protect the 6,200-acre California Coast Dairies was introduced in both the House and Senate, and significant progress was made to build local grassroots support for a Birthplace of Rivers National Monument in West Virginia.

**SUCCESS: 22,000 Acres Protected**



Earthjustice used our funding for its *Safeguard Utah's Red Rock Country Initiative* to preserve millions of acres of spectacular, wilderness-quality public lands in Utah's red rock country from destructive oil and gas drilling, and off-road vehicle use. Earthjustice reports that after a successful 2013 court ruling struck down a bad BLM management plan, the court ruled that BLM must conduct "comprehensive environmental and cultural surveys" to regulate ORV travel in the area surrounding Capitol Reef National Park, the Henry Mountains and the Green River. Earthjustice will continue defending threatened wilderness quality lands by staying closely involved in BLM's Resource Management Plans and Master Leasing Plans in Utah.



We funded Earthworks' *Boundary Waters Twin Metals Mine Project* to provide lasting protection for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) from the adverse impacts of large-scale sulfide mining by securing a 20-year mineral withdrawal for public lands within the watershed. Earthworks reports that they generated 60,000 signatures from US citizens who want to protect this one-million acre area from the renewal of mining leases. In addition to this demonstration of broad public support, House Representative Betty McCollum introduced legislation to permanently protect BWCA from mining and its toxic pollution.



We funded GCT's effort to pass legislation to permanently protect outstanding Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands in Eastern Utah as wilderness, exchange certain state lands out of newly protected areas, and secure other special area designations. GCT reports many significant challenges confront this "Public Lands Initiative" (PLI), including: draft legislation delays; failed negotiations within PLI stakeholders; and unacceptable threats to the Antiquities Act. Should the PLI lose momentum, GCT is prepared to put its weight behind the campaign to protect the 1.9-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument in the same region.



We supported GYC's *Gallatin Range Management Plan Project* to secure long-term protection for Montana's Gallatin Range (227,000 acres) and the Lionhead Mountains (23,000 acres) on the Custer-Gallatin National Forest. GYC reports that as co-chair of the Gallatin Community Collaborative, they helped a diverse group of stakeholders agree on a "Shared Interest and Values" statement that balances economy, recreation, social aspects and wilderness character of the Gallatin Range. The collaborative expects to send final recommendations to the Forest Service in December 2015. The Forest Service has indicated that these stakeholder recommendations will guide the next management plan for the Gallatin Range.



KLT used our funding 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 link in the regionally significant Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative vision. KLT reports that they acquired a 43-acre parcel of undeveloped habitat adjacent to existing conserved lands creating a 103-acre block of protected land. KLT also expects several conservation easements to close by the end of 2015.

**SUCCESS: 43 Acres Protected**



We funded KS Wild's campaign to protect Rough and Ready, Baldface and Hunter Creeks from mineral entry, and to obtain Wild and Scenic River designations and expand the Kalmiopsis Wilderness to include these watersheds. KS Wild reports that legislation to permanently protect the South Kalmiopsis and Oregon Coast from mining was introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives in early 2015. Due to the uncertainty of Congress passing legislation, KS Wild is actively involved in the process to use BLM and Forest Service administrative protections to withdraw this 101,000-acre area from mineral entry for five years.



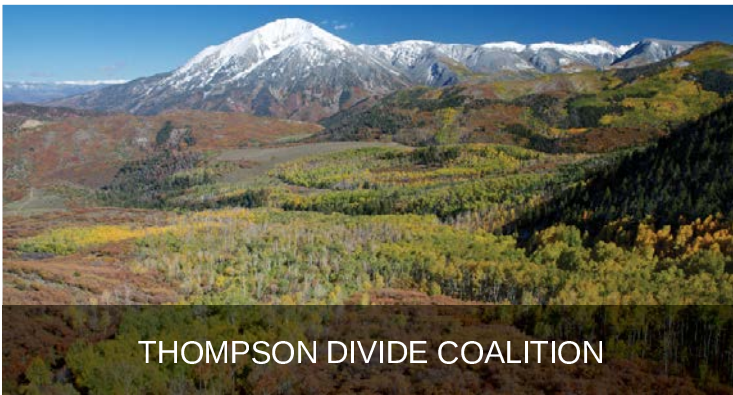
NAEC used our funding for its *Brooks Range Wildland Campaign* to protect 10 million acres of wildlands and rivers flowing from Alaska's Brooks Range to the Yukon watershed with special designations in BLM's Central Yukon Plan, and eliminate crucial access options for mining and oil and gas that put these world-class rivers, iconic ecosystems and cultural values at risk. NAEC reports that they identified 1.3 million acres for protection as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the BLM's Central Yukon Resource Management Plan. Additionally, Alaska Governor Walker issued a stop work order on the proposed road to the Ambler Mining district that would have cut through the heart of the Brooks Mountain Range.



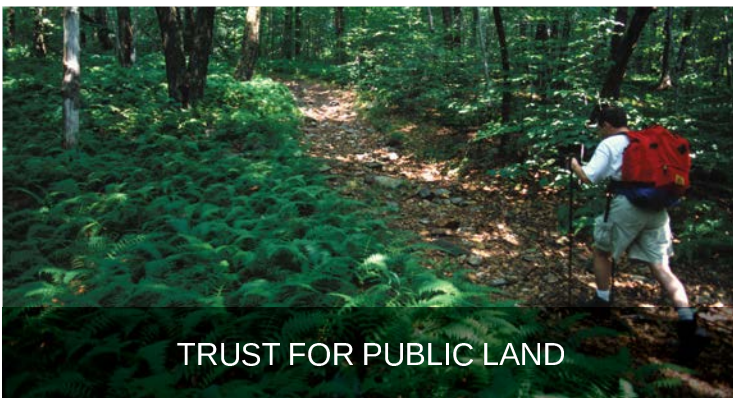
ONDA used our funding for its campaign to protect the most ecologically significant lands in the John Day River basin – more than 130,000 acres – as Wilderness, and to conserve sensitive fish and wildlife habitat by removing grazing from an additional 20,000 acres of public land. ONDA reports that Senator Jeff Merkely introduced legislation in the Senate to protect 60,000-acre Sutton Mountain as Wilderness. Legislation to protect the 17,000-acre Cathedral Rock and Horse Heaven areas is also in the works.



STW used our funding for its campaign to protect the San Miguel Watershed - one of the last intact watersheds and one of northern Baja's most iconic surf spots - through the creation of Baja California's first state park. STW reports significant progress toward building grassroots support in the USA and Mexico through the launch of the #SaveSanMiguel social media campaign. STW will continue working with local partners, lawmakers and the Baja state government to develop the process and guidelines for achieving the State Park designation.



The Thompson Divide Coalition used Conservation Alliance funding to pursue market-based solutions to purchase and retire undeveloped oil and gas leases and use administrative processes to cancel illegal leases in the Thompson Divide area of Colorado. TDC reports that the Forest Service moved to protect the majority of the Divide from future leases in an Environmental Impact Statement for the White River National Forest. Now that future leases are no longer a threat, the group will focus their effort on passing permanent mineral withdrawal legislation and canceling existing oil and gas leases issued by the BLM.



TPL used our funding for its *Appalachian Trail Corridor Acquisition Project* to permanently protect a one-mile section of the Appalachian Trail and 351 acres of critical forest habitat as an addition to the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont. TPL reports that they added a 32-acre inholding to the project, and that the entire 383-acre acquisition will be complete by December, 2015.



Tuleyome used our funding for a campaign to permanently protect the federal public lands in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a National Conservation Area or National Monument. Tuleyome reports that President Barack Obama designated Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in July 2015, permanently protecting 330,000 acres. After the designation, Tuleyome shifted focus to the development and implementation of travel and recreation planning for the new monument.

**SUCCESS: 330,000 Acres Protected**



WaterWatch of Oregon used our funding to restore salmon and steelhead access to 70 miles of high-quality habitat by removing two obsolete dams from Evans Creek, a major Rogue River tributary in Southern Oregon. WaterWatch reports that Fielder and Wimer dams were dismantled in August, 2015 and that site restoration and monitoring is underway.

**SUCCESS: Two Dams Removed**



We supported Wild South's *North Carolina Backcountry Campaign* to increase protection for priority backcountry areas by improving management of recreational resources and preserving backcountry experiences on 200,000 acres of forest and 500 miles of trail on the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests in Western North Carolina. Wild South reports that they are working with a coalition to advocate for the highest level of protection for 88,000 acres of wilderness quality wild land in the forest through agency land management planning.



WWA used our funding for an effort to permanently protect undeveloped backcountry terrain in Utah's Central Wasatch through conservation easements and management designations, and to protect winter habitat and backcountry recreation in Idaho's Boulder-White Clouds Mountains. WWA reports progress toward protecting the remaining undeveloped lands of the Central Wasatch, including the protection of 80,000 acres as a National Conservation Area with potential for Wilderness. WWA also reports the passage of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act, which protected 275,665 acres as Wilderness in the Boulder-White Clouds.

**SUCCESS: 275,665 Acres Protected**

## Notable Updates from April 2015 Grantees



We supported CPAWS-Quebec's *Maggie River Campaign* to permanently protect Quebec's Maggie watershed, a whitewater river recognized worldwide, but threatened by hydroelectric development. CPAWS reports that they have secured official support from 20 regional mayors to protect 640,000 acres in the Maggie watershed. The group will now focus on convincing the Quebec government to proceed with creating a new protected area covering the watershed, and hopes to complete the project in 2016.

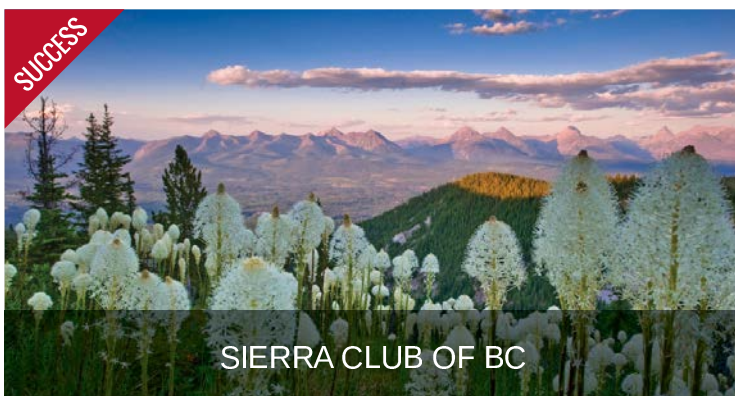


Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) acquired 18 acres at the base of Anthony's Nose, an iconic peninsula at the north end of Lake George, NY. This acquisition provides public access to the whole 189-acre property, which was acquired by LGLC in 2000 and includes the 1,265-ft summit of Record Hill.

**SUCCESS: 18 Acres Protected**



Potomac Conservancy used our funding to acquire the 1,700-acre White Horse Mountain and transfer it to public ownership to provide critical water quality, wildlife habitat and recreational benefits for future generations. The conservancy reports that they closed on the property in May, 2015, and now turn their attention to paying off a loan that secured the property, and work with the state of West Virginia to transfer the property to the Department of Natural Resources to be managed for conservation and recreation.



We funded Sierra Club of BC's *Transboundary Flathead Campaign* to designate a new Flathead National Park, establish a Wildlife Management Area and three new wilderness areas in southeast B.C., and establish one new wilderness area across the border in Montana. Sierra Club of BC reports that they worked closely with US organizations to pass the North Fork Watershed Protection Act at the end of 2014, permanently protecting 430,000 acres in Montana from mining and future oil and gas exploration. Sierra Club of BC secured similar protections in 2010 for the Canadian portion of the Flathead landscape.

**SUCCESS: 430,000 Acres Protected from Mining, and Oil and Gas Development**



We funded WRC's *Western Slope Rivers Campaign* to protect at least 17,835 acres of conservation and recreation lands along twelve miles of the Yampa, Rio Grande, Gunnison and Little Cimarron Rivers of Colorado. WRC's option agreement to purchase a 16,707-acre property along four miles of the Rio Grande is in place, and they expect to acquire the property in March 2016. In the same region, the group secured an additional option to acquire a 1,366-acre property with three miles of frontage along the Rio Grande and Conejos River.