



Photo: John Dittli

THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
Grantee Update

In April 2015, 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 April 1, we received 24 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 2015. We will share final reports on all of our October 2015 grants in October 2016.

Final Reports from April 2015 Grantees



AUDUBON ALASKA

We funded Audubon Alaska's *Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge National Monument Campaign* to protect the 1.5-million-acre Arctic Refuge coastal plain through a National Monument designation by President Obama before he leaves office in January, 2017. Audubon reports that there is a growing drumbeat of support for the National Monument despite well-known opposition from Alaska's Congressional delegation. Audubon has focused its effort on connecting people to the Arctic Refuge through the many bird species that breed in the refuge and migrate to the Lower 48.



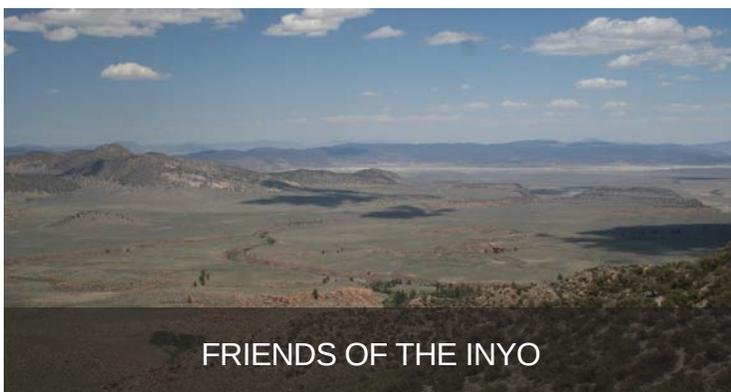
CANADIAN PARKS & WILDERNESS SOCIETY - QUEBEC

We supported CPAWS-Quebec's *Magpie River Campaign* to permanently protect Quebec's Magpie watershed. CPAWS has secured official support from two key stakeholders for protecting 650,000 acres in the Magpie watershed: the regional government of the North Shore; and the Ekuanitshit First Nation. CPAWS now turns its attention to overcoming opposition from Hydro Quebec, the state-owned hydropower company in Quebec.



CONSERVATION RESOURCE ALLIANCE

CRA used our support for its *Lake Kathleen Dam Removal Project* to remove the Lake Kathleen Dam on Michigan's Maple River, and restore the Maple's overall riverine system. CRA reports that strong support for dam removal has kept the project on track. The unexpected death of the dam's owner last year has forced CRA to work with the estate to ensure that the dam removal proceeds as planned. They are now working with a local land trust to purchase the property and keep the dam removal and related habitat restoration on track.



FRIENDS OF THE INYO

We funded Friends of the Inyo's *Inyo National Forest Protection Campaign* to protect nearly 500,000 acres of Roadless Areas, wild public lands, and waterways on California's Inyo National Forest by engaging in the Forest Service's management planning process for the Inyo. After three years of effort, the Forest Service released its draft plan, which would designate up to 121,000 acres as recommended Wilderness, and 161 miles of recommended Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Forest Service will accept comments on the plan throughout the year, and plans to release a final plan in 2017.



GRAND RAPIDS WHITEWATER

GRWW used our support for its *Grand River Rapids Project* to remove five dams on Michigan's Grand River, restoring rapids for their habitat function and recreation benefits. The group is working to secure the property easements necessary to complete the dam removals and related restoration, and is focusing an increasing amount of time on securing permits for the project. Once permitted, the project will cost an estimated \$34 million to complete.



LAKE GEORGE LAND CONSERVANCY

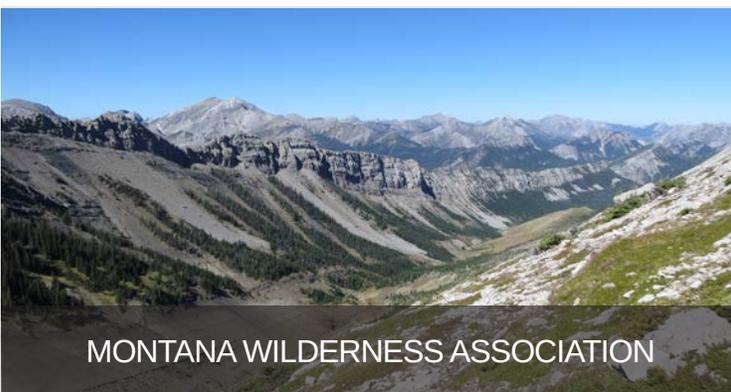
We supported LGLC's *Anthony's Nose Acquisition Campaign* to acquire the Anthony's Nose property, preserving the connection to the first wildlife refuge on Lake George, and ensuring quality recreational opportunities. As we reported in our last summary, LGLC completed the acquisition in July, 2015, permanently protecting 18 acres and establishing a key access point to an existing, 189-acre preserve. The group is now working on a 4.5-mile recreation trail in the area.

SUCCESS: 18 Acres Acquired



LOS PADRES FOREST WATCH

LPFW used our funding for its *Central Coast Wild Heritage Project* to permanently protect more than 300,000 acres of open space and wildlife habitat and roughly 150 miles of free-flowing rivers in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument through the passage of wilderness legislation in the U.S. Congress. LPFW reports that bills to secure these protections are now pending in both the Senate and the House. The Senate bill had a formal hearing in April.



MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

We supported MWA's *Montana Forests Campaign* to permanently protect more than one million acres of Montana wildlands through passage of the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. Montana Senator Jon Tester is looking for a strategic opportunity to introduce the legislation, but with dysfunction in Congress, it is possible that the protections will come as the result of smaller, place-based legislative efforts. MWA is focusing on efforts to protect lands in the Blackfoot Clearwater region (83,000 acres), the Kootenai National Forest (180,000 acres), and the Whitefish Range (83,000 acres).



NMWA used our grant for its *Pecos Wilderness Expansion Campaign* to expand New Mexico's Pecos Wilderness by 120,000 acres, protecting important watersheds, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. The group reports solid progress in building support for new protections among counties, pueblos, and businesses. NMWA hopes this support will lead to legislation introduced into Congress in 2017.



We funded Niparaja's *Sierra La Giganta and Guadalupe Biosphere Reserve Campaign* to secure designation of the proposed Sierras La Giganta y Guadalupe Biosphere Reserve, protecting four million acres on Mexico's Baja Peninsula. The group reports that the project has great momentum on the national level, but is facing challenges on the local level. Niparaja will focus its efforts moving forward on better explaining to local people the value of the Biosphere Reserve proposal.



Pew used our support for its *Eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative* to permanently protect up to three million acres of wild landscapes in eastern Utah by finding common ground with Tribes, counties, energy industry representatives, conservation groups, recreation interests, ranchers, and sportsmen. Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT) released draft legislation for these protections, which included many provisions unacceptable to the conservation community. This legislative effort evolved concurrently with the Bears Ears National Monument proposal, which would protect much of the same landscape, but does not require an act of Congress. While hopeful the Rep. Bishop's legislation can be improved, Pew is prepared to shift its effort to support for the Bears Ears.



We supported Potomac Conservancy's *White Horse Mountain Conservation Project* to acquire the 1,715-acre White Horse Mountain and the adjacent 1,500 acres of private forested land to provide critical water quality, wildlife habitat and scenic benefits for future generations. The group reports that they acquired the White Horse Mountain property in May, 2015, and now turns its attention to paying the bridge loan and purchasing the adjacent 1500 acres. Once the acquisitions are complete, Potomac Conservancy plans to transfer to properties to the state of West Virginia.



SAN JUAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE

SJCA used our funding to support its *Southwest Colorado Rivers Protection Campaign* to designate the Dolores River National Conservation Area, protecting 100,000 acres, including 25,000 acres of newly designated Wilderness, and 106 river miles in the Lower Dolores River watershed in Southwest Colorado. SJCA reports that the campaign is at a critical moment with negotiations in progress among stakeholders including water districts, ranchers, and conservationists. If the negotiations go well, Colorado Senator Michael Bennet could introduce protective legislation this year.



SUCCESS

SAVE MOUNT DIABLO

We funded Save Mount Diablo's *Curry Canyon Ranch Acquisition Project* to permanently protect the 1,080-acre Curry Canyon Ranch adjacent to Mount Diablo State Park in California's East Bay Area. The group acquired the property, and is now working to transfer ownership and management responsibilities to California State Parks.

SUCCESS: 1,080 Acres Acquired

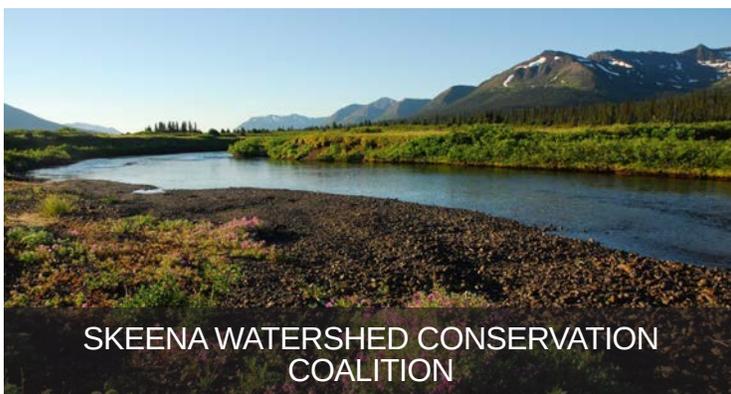


SUCCESS

SIERRA CLUB OF BC

We supported Sierra Club of BC's *Protect the Transboundary Flathead Campaign* to designate a new Flathead National Park as an extension of Waterton Lakes National Park into British Columbia, and protect up to three new wilderness areas across the border in Montana, creating a new, one-million-acre protected area. As we reported in October, this campaign achieved an important milestone when the US Congress passed the North Fork Watershed Protection Act, protecting 430,000 acres in Montana. On the Canada side of the border, the group continues to work to secure a new Wildlife Management Area in British Columbia.

SUCCESS: 430,000 Acres Protected



SKEENA WATERSHED CONSERVATION COALITION

SWCC used our funding for its *Sacred Headwaters Campaign* to secure permanent protection for one million acres of the Sacred Headwaters, a pristine wilderness area surrounding BC's Skeena, Nass, and Stikine Rivers. SWCC reports that a key obstacle to permanent protection for the Sacred Headwaters was the proposed Arctos Anthracite coal mine. The mine proposal has been rejected, opening the door for the Tahltan First Nation to implement a management plan for the area without the interference of a large industrial project.



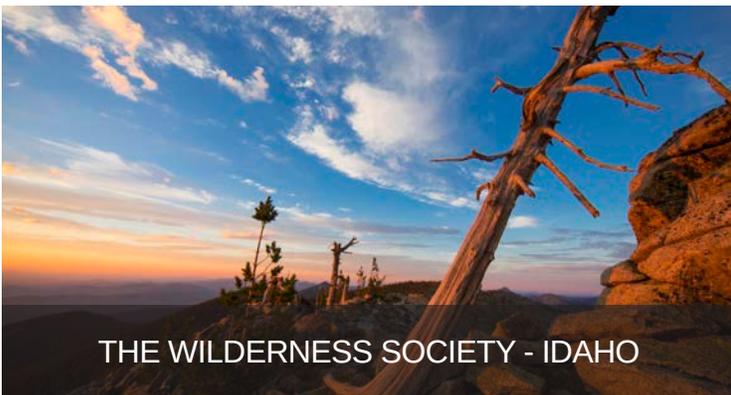
SODA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS COUNCIL

We funded SMWC's *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Expansion Campaign* to double the size of the 61,000-acre Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument by the end of 2016 through both private land acquisition and through a proclamation by President Obama. SMWC reports that they have facilitated the acquisition of 12,090 acres of private land within the monument expansion areas. The group is now working to encourage the Obama Administration to expand the monument before the President leaves office in January, 2017.



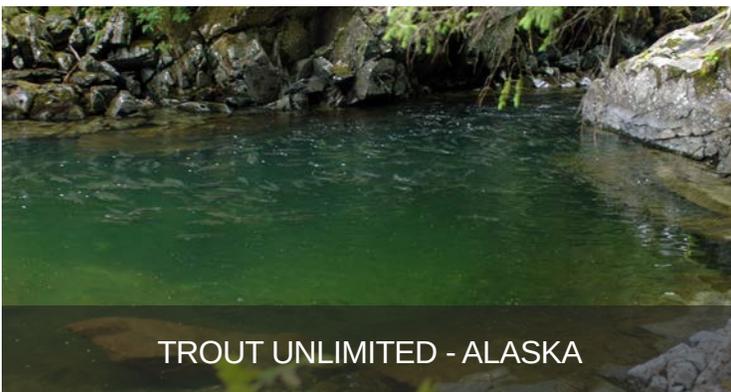
SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

We supported SUWA's *Campaign to Project Utah's Public Land* to enact legislation that protects up to three millions of acres of Utah's redrock wilderness. SUWA worked with other conservation groups and Congressman Rob Bishop to develop the Public Lands Initiative, legislation that would protect millions of acres of Wilderness in Southeastern Utah. Unfortunately, Congressman Bishop drafted legislation that included many provisions unacceptable to the conservation community. SUWA now turns its energy to supporting the proposed Bears Ears National Monument, which would protect much of the same landscape through Presidential proclamation.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY - IDAHO

TWS-Idaho used our support for its *Clearwater Basin Wilderness Campaign* to permanently protect 500,000 acres of land as wilderness and special management designations, and 300 miles of river in the Clearwater Basin of Central Idaho. After years of effort, the Clearwater Collaborative has reached an impasse, and legislation that would protect the landscape is unlikely. Fortunately, TWS's was concurrently working to ensure that the draft management plan for the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest reflects the group's conservation goals for the area. That draft plan is due by the end of 2016, and could result in administrative protections that mirror the goal of the original legislative vision.



TROUT UNLIMITED - ALASKA

We supported TU-Alaska's *Tongass National Forest Campaign* to secure permanent protection for 1.9 million acres of the best remaining salmon habitat in the Tongass National Forest and shift management and funding to a "fish-first focus". TU engaged in the Forest Service's planning process for the Tongass, and helped secure a new draft management plan that would protect 1.9 million acres in 77 watersheds throughout Southeast Alaska. TU expects the plan to be final by the end of 2016.



We funded WRC's *Western Slope Rivers Campaign* to protect at least 17,835 acres of conservation and recreation lands along 12 miles of the Yampa, Rio Grande, Gunnison and Little Cimarron Rivers of Colorado. WRC reports that they have successfully acquired the 16,707-acre Brownie Hills Property along four miles of the Rio Grande, and will likely add an adjacent 1,330-acre property by Summer, 2016.

SUCCESS: 16,707 Acres Acquired

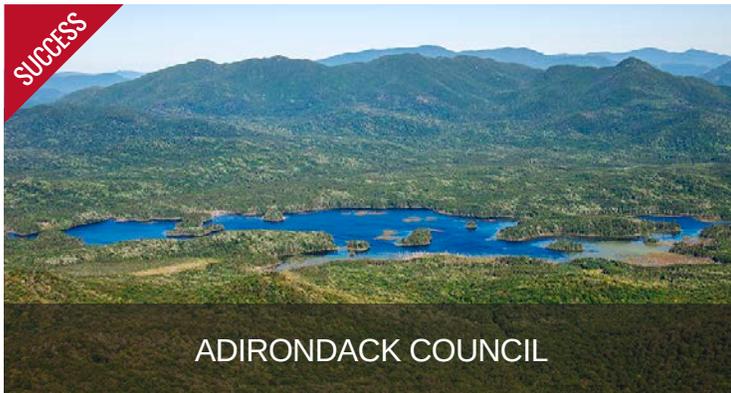


WLT used our funding for its *Galbraith Mountain Project* to permanently protect 2,240 privately-owned acres of Galbraith Mountain near Bellingham, WA, and secure legal rights to extensive, non-motorized recreational activities on that land. The effort to acquire this property is nearing completion, and could cross the finish line by late Summer, 2016.



We supported WSC's *Susitna River Campaign* to protect the Susitna River by defeating the state of Alaska's plan to build the 735-foot Susitna River Dam, and securing permanent protection for the river under state or federal law. WSC reports that, despite a budget crunch, the State of Alaska is pursuing the necessary licenses to study the feasibility of the dam. The group will continue its efforts to build widespread opposition to the proposed dam, focusing on its high costs. WSC will also work to build long-term support for protecting the Susitna River as a state-designated recreation river, which would prohibit any dam construction.

Notable Updates from October 2015 Grantees



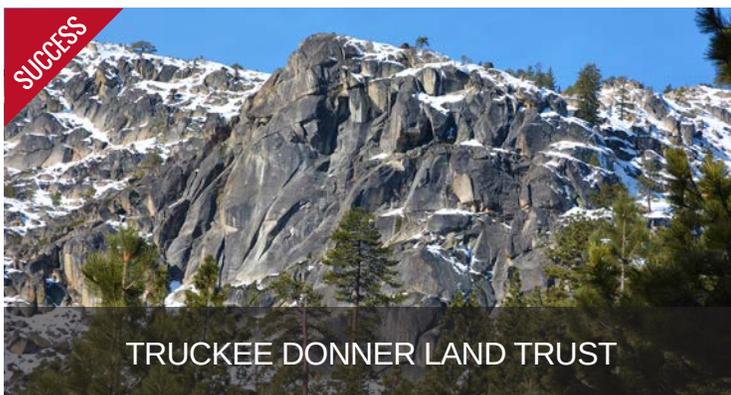
We supported Adirondack Council's *Adirondack Wilderness and Eco-tourism Campaign* to complete a historic 65,000-acre land acquisition agreement by purchasing the final Boreas Ponds parcel for the Adirondack Forest Preserve. Adirondack Council reports that New York state acquired the Boreas Ponds tract in April, 2016. The next phase of the project is to protect all newly acquired parcels as motor-free Wilderness areas.

SUCCESS: 20,494 Acres Acquired



CLF used our funding to support national monument campaigns in the California desert (*Mojave Desert Trails and Sand to Snow*); *Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands*; and to expand the *California Coastal National Monument*. On February 12th, President Obama designated Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments, permanently protecting 1.8 million acres of BLM land in the California desert. The three monuments connect Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve to create the second largest protected landscape in the world.

SUCCESS: 1,800,000 Acres Protected



We funded TDLT's *Save Donner Climbing Campaign* to acquire 11 acres around Donner Summit's Black Wall, and open the area to hikers and climbers that access the crag via trails that link to the Pacific Crest Trail. TDLT reports that the property was acquired on December 15. They anticipate the formation of a local climbing organization to steward the property and work with local land managers.

SUCCESS: 1 Climbing Area and 11 Acres Acquired



We funded TPL's *Ascutney Mountain Conservation Project* campaign to permanently protect 1,581 acres of critical forest habitat, non-motorized trails, and drinking water resources on and around Vermont's Ascutney Mountain. TPL acquired Ascutney Mountain Resort in December and transferred the property to the 1,112-acre West Windsor Town Forest. A conservation easement was placed on the entire 1,582 acres.

SUCCESS: 1,582 Acres Protected