



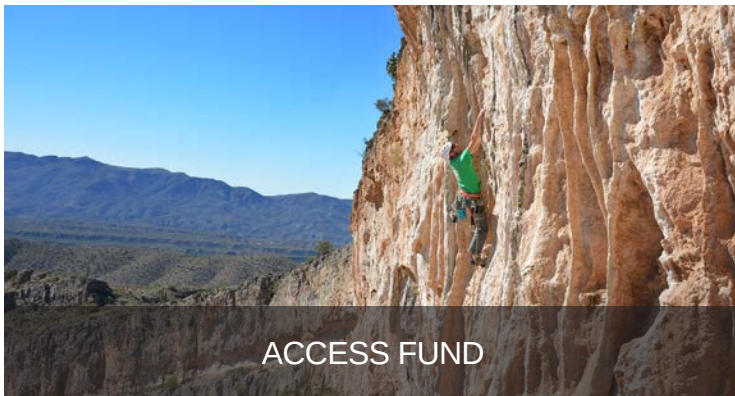
Photo: Earl Harper

THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
Grantee Update

In April 2016, The Conservation Alliance invested \$820,000 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 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 2016. We will share final reports on all of our October 2016 grants in October 2017.

Final Reports from April 2016 Grantees



We funded Access Fund's *Save the Homestead Campaign* to acquire 360 acres of threatened lands, improve recreational access, and secure permanent protection of the Homestead climbing area in central Arizona for a sustainable future of public access and human-powered recreation. AF acquired the property in 2015, and continues to raise funds necessary to designate and build a new access point and trailhead to support sustainable recreation at the Homestead. AF also hopes to transfer the property to a long-term owner – likely the BLM – that will keep climbing access open for future generations.



We supported AWL's *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge National Monument Campaign*, to secure a proclamation from President Obama that designates the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a National Monument. Despite receiving 1.8 million public comments in support of protecting the Arctic Refuge, President Obama did not designate the monument before leaving office. The campaign built a strong base of public support for this important landscape, which AWL will engage to defend the refuge from threats during the Trump Administration.



Our grant supported Audubon Alaska's *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Campaign* to convince President Obama to protect the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain by designating a 1.5-million-acre Coastal Plain National Monument before he left office in January, 2017. Leveraging its network of local chapters, Audubon brought the bird enthusiast and scientific communities together to advocate for protecting the Arctic Refuge. Though President Obama did not designate the monument, Audubon has now launched its *Arctic Defense Campaign* to ensure that Congress does not approve proposals to drill for oil in the refuge.



BHA used our funding for its *Protecting Steamboat Creek Watershed Campaign* to permanently protect Oregon's 104,000-acre Steamboat Creek watershed through passage of the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary Designation Act. BHA reports that the legislation moved out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year, but did not move through the House of Representatives. With coalition partners, BHA will work to move the legislation through Congress this year or next, focusing energy on building support among the angling community.



We supported CPAWS' *Protecting the Bay of Fundy Campaign* to designate Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the Bay of Fundy that will protect these waters from industrial development and exploitation. The Canadian government has agreed to protect at least ten percent of its oceans by 2020. CPAWS expects Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans to release a draft MPA plan this summer or fall, and is confident that several sites in the Bay of Fundy will be proposed for protection.



We funded CRWC's *Deadbeat Dam Removal Campaign* to restore 15 miles of free-flowing rivers by removing three obsolete dams in Vermont and New Hampshire. CRWC reports that the dam removal planning is on track to remove the three dams – Geer Dam and Cold Brook Dam in Vermont, and Clark Brook Dam in New Hampshire – in 2017.



These two Friends groups used our funding to support their *Gold Butte National Monument Campaign* to designate the Gold Butte National Monument and protect the region's rich archaeological treasures and outstanding backcountry recreational opportunities. President Obama designated the monument on December 28, 2016, permanently protecting 296,000 acres of land frequently considered "Nevada's portion of the Grand Canyon".

SUCCESS: 296,000 Acres Protected



GCWC used our funding to support their *Protect the Grand Canyon's Watershed Campaign* to designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument and protect 1.7 million acres surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. Though President Obama did not designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, the campaign created national and regional awareness of the values and threats to wildlands on the unprotected rims of the Grand Canyon.



We supported HILT's *Kona Cloud Forest Protection Campaign* to acquire and permanently protect a 10-acre parcel in the Kona Cloud Forest. HILT reports that they successfully purchased the parcel, and are now working to add another 60 acres to the sanctuary on Hawaii's big island.

SUCCESS: 10 Acres Protected



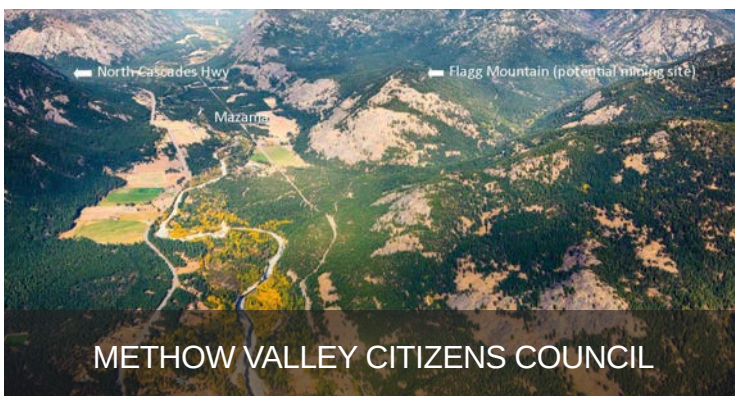
KS Wild used our funding to support its *Kalmiopsis Wild Rivers Campaign* to protect more than 100,000 acres of public land and 107 miles of wild rivers in southwest Oregon from future mining threats. KS Wild reports that on January 13, the Obama Administration approved a 20-year prohibition on all mining activity, protecting the watersheds around Rough & Ready, Hunter, and Baldface Creeks. KS Wild now turns its attention to passing legislation that will make these prohibitions permanent. Bills have been introduced into both the House and Senate.

SUCCESS: 100,000 Acres and 107 River Miles Protected from mining



LCLT used our funding for its *Whitehall Cliffs Conservation Project* to acquire the 65-acre Whitehall Cliffs parcel, connecting the protected areas of the Green Mountain National Forest and the Adirondack Park, and creating a canoe-to-cliff-top trail. LCLT completed the acquisition in March, and now turns its attention to planning and implementing a new trail network for the area.

SUCCESS: 65 Acres Protected



We funded MVCC's *Methow Headwaters Campaign* to secure a mineral withdrawal for 340,000 acres of Forest Service land in the headwaters of the Methow Valley, protecting the upper Methow Valley from the threat of industrial-scale mining. The Council reports that they received a formal commitment from the Forest Service to consider a 20-year administrative mineral withdrawal. At the same time, Senator Maria Cantwell has introduced legislation in the Senate that would permanently put the area off limits to any mining activity. MVCC will work to push both administrative and legislative efforts forward.



We supported NAEC's *Brooks Range Conservation Campaign* to protect nearly 30 million acres of wildlands and rivers flowing from Alaska's Brooks Range to the Yukon watershed through BLM's Central Yukon and Bering Strait Western Interior Plans. Special designations will eliminate crucial access options for mining and oil and gas drilling, and protect 1.3 million acres of land in the Central Yukon. NAEC reports that the BLM planning process has been slowed by bureaucratic delays, giving the group more time to focus on building grassroots support for protections from residents in the Fairbanks area.



ONDA used our grant for its *Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument Campaign* to secure a national monument designation for nearly two million acres of wildlands and river canyons in Southeastern Oregon. Though President Obama did not designate the Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument, the campaign raised the profile of the Owyhee landscape, and made eventual protection more likely.



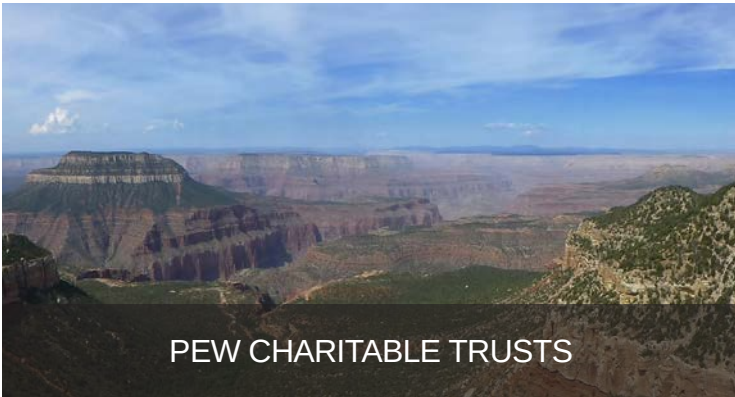
We funded SOC's *Wasatch National Monument Campaign* to implement the "Mountain Accord Agreement" by January 2017 through comprehensive legislation. The Mountain Accord is a stakeholder collaboration that was established to make critical decisions and implement solutions to preserve the Central Wasatch and ensure its long term vitality. Utah Congressman Jason Chaffetz introduced legislation last year that would protect 80,000 acres of public lands through wilderness and national monument designations, and land exchanges. SOC anticipates the bill will be re-introduced this year.



SMWC used our funding for its *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Expansion Campaign* to expand the existing Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument by more than 47,000 acres. President Obama expanded the monument on January 12, resulting in a 114,000-acre protected area that includes more than 5,000 acres in California.

SUCCESS

SUCCESS: 47,624 Acres Protected



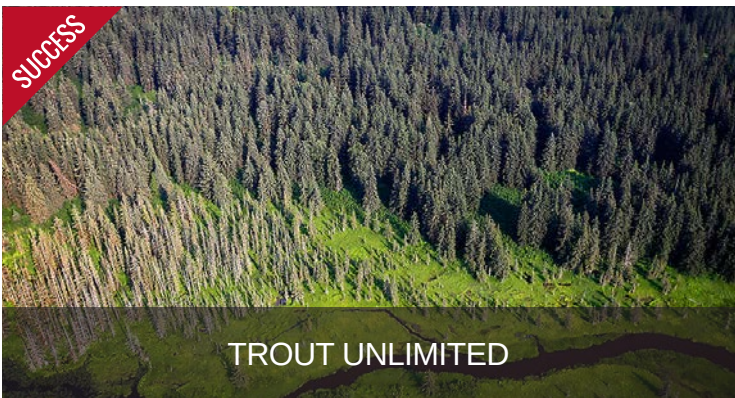
PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

We funded Pew's *Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Campaign* to designate a national monument protecting 1.7 million acres in the Grand Canyon watershed through a presidential proclamation prior to the end of 2016. Though President Obama did not make the monument designation, the campaign succeeded in educating the public about this special place, setting it up for protection when future opportunities arise.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

We funded TWS's *Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument Campaign* to designate a 1.8-million-acre Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument before he left office in January, 2017. Though President Obama did not designate the monument, the campaign raised the profile of the Owyhee Canyonlands, and made eventual protection more likely. Through the course of the campaign, Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley introduced legislation to prohibit any mining activity in the region, further elevating the profile of this important landscape.



TROUT UNLIMITED

Our grant supported TU's *Protecting the Tongass Campaign* to permanently protect 1.9 million acres of the best remaining salmon and trout habitat in the Tongass National Forest, and a shift in management of, and funding for, the area to focus on fish first. TU participated in the management planning process for the Tongass, which concluded in 2016. In December, the Forest Service released its new management plan for the Tongass, which prohibits old-growth logging on 1.9 million acres of land, protecting 77 watersheds important for fish populations.

SUCCESS: 1.9 Million Acres Protected



UTAH DINE BIKEYAH

UDB used our funding for its *Bears Ears National Monument Campaign* to protect up to two million acres in southeast Utah as the Bears Ears National Monument. Under the unified leadership of five Tribes and with the support of conservation allies, the campaign succeeded when President Obama designated Bears Ears National Monument on December 28, 2016, protecting 1.35 million acres, and preserving thousands of Native American cultural sites and access to world-class outdoor recreation.

SUCCESS: 1.35 Million Acres Protected



WALLOWA LAND TRUST

WLT used our funding for its *East Moraine of Wallowa Lake Conservation Campaign* to permanently protect the iconic 3,000-acre East Moraine of Wallowa Lake, providing public access for outdoor recreation, protecting wildlife habitat and natural resources, and allowing sustainable working lands of farms, forests and rangeland. WLT reports that the first phase of the campaign will be complete when it acquires a key, 52-acre parcel this summer. The trust holds an option agreement to purchase another 1,791-acre parcel, which they will eventually convey to Wallowa County by early 2019, and WLT plans to secure conservation easements on another 470 acres on the moraine.



WESTERN COLORADO CONGRESS

WCC received funding in March 2015 for its *Colorado Canyon Country Protection Campaign* to protect 25,000 acres of canyon country wild lands and 200 miles of wild rivers and streams in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Uncompahgre management area of Western Colorado. The group reports that in response to the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) released last June, they submitted comments about Wild and Scenic eligibility for sections of the Dolores and San Miguel rivers, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the Uncompahgre Plateau area, and oil and gas leasing in the North Fork Valley. The group is hoping for a final RMP by the end of 2017.



WINTER WILDLANDS ALLIANCE

WWA used our funding for its *Northern Sierra Winter Recreation Campaign* to protect critical wildlife habitat and high-value human-powered winter recreation landscapes across the Northern Sierra, and develop balanced winter management plans on the five national forests. WWA reports that they played a key role in determining how these management plans will be developed, which will benefit nonmotorized winter users. All five management plans are now underway.

Notable Updates from October 2016 Grantees



We funded American Whitewater's *Wild Olympics Campaign* to permanently protect 19 Wild and Scenic Rivers and their major tributaries totaling more than 450 river miles, and to designate 126,000 acres of new Wilderness areas that protect key watersheds on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. The group reports that congressional champions Senator Patty Murray and Representative Derek Kilmer introduced legislation to designate 450 river miles as Wild and Scenic and 126,000 acres as Wilderness in March, 2017.



We funded Land Trust for Tennessee's *Denny Cove Acquisition Project* to acquire Denny Cove, a 686-acre property with world-class rock climbing in the South Cumberland landscape, and to add the property to Tennessee's state park system. The group reports that the property was acquired and successfully transferred to Tennessee's South Cumberland State Park in December, permanently protecting 686 acres and 150 established climbing routes.

SUCCESS: 1 Climbing Area and 686 Acres Protected



We funded MWA's *Blackfoot-Clearwater Stewardship Project* to protect 83,000 acres of habitat for outdoor recreation, and for threatened and endangered species, by securing additions to the Mission Mountains, Bob Marshall, and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas in Montana. The group reports that Senator Jon Tester introduced the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act in March, 2017.



We funded CLF's *National Monuments Campaign* to convince President Obama to expand the California Coastal National Monument with the addition of the Coast Dairies, Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area, Trinidad Head, Lighthouse Ranch and the Lost Coast Headlands properties; and to build the local support needed to protect nearly two million acres in Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands as a National Monument. President Obama added six new areas, totaling 6,230 acres, to the California Coastal National Monument in January, 2017. The expanded monument provides on-shore public access to the Monument while protecting important coastal resources for current and future generations to enjoy.

SUCCESS: 6,230 Acres Protected