



Photo: Aaron Theisen

## THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE Grantee Update

In October 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 12-month final report. These reports play a key role in helping us determine the return on our investment.

Following is a summary of the progress these grantees have made with our funding. At the end of this summary are several exciting updates on work we funded in April 2017. We will share final reports on all of our April 2017 grants in April 2018.

## Final Reports from October 2016 Grantees



ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB

We funded ADK's Forever Wild Follensby Campaign to permanently protect 17,643 acres and ten river miles in the Adirondack Forest Preserve by convincing the State of New York to acquire the 14,600-acre Follensby Pond Parcel, and the 3,043-acre Sargent Ponds Wild Forest parcel, and add them to Adirondack Park's High Peaks Wilderness. ADK reports that the purchase of the Follensby Pond tract has been delayed by other state land acquisition processes, but that the project should move to completion in 2018.



AMERICAN RIVERS

We funded AR's North Cascades Nooksack Wild and Scenic River Campaign to permanently protect 110 river miles and more than 35,000 acres of riverside lands of Northwest Washington's upper Nooksack River system to benefit fish and wildlife species, and world-class recreation. AR reports that they will merge their river-protection effort with a broader coalition to develop a proposal for new Wilderness and river protections throughout the North Cascades. AR will launch their vision for new the Wild and Scenic Rivers campaign in November, 2017, and the coalition will release a public Wilderness and rivers proposal by late summer 2018.



AMERICAN WHITewater

American Whitewater used our support for its 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. Legislation that would secure these protections has been introduced into both the House and the Senate, and its Congressional supporters are looking for a vehicle to move the bills. Meanwhile, AW is building stronger local support for the bill by demonstrating the economic benefits to land and river protection.



APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

We supported ATC's Bald Mountain Pond A.T. Landscape Protection Campaign to protect the 6,000-acre Bald Mountain Pond and surrounding forestlands in Central Maine, and to improve public recreation access to Bald Mountain Pond and to a five-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail. Despite some challenges securing federal funding for the purchase, phase one of the project is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2017, and phase two by the end of 2018.



CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY-QUEBEC

We funded CPAWS-Quebec's Magpie River Campaign to permanently protect 395,370 acres in Quebec's Magpie River watershed, a whitewater river recognized worldwide, but threatened by hydroelectric development. CPAWS reports that Hydro-Quebec has abandoned its plans to dam the Magpie, removing the primary obstacle to permanent protection for the river. The group will now focus its efforts on convincing the Quebec government to formally protect the Magpie.



COLUMBIA LAND TRUST

CLT used our support for its Klickitat Canyon Forest Conservation Project to complete the 3,200-acre Klickitat Canyon acquisition, the second phase of a 5,600-acre project protecting forestland of high importance for recreation, wildlife, and habitat connectivity along the Wild and Scenic Klickitat River, Washington State's longest undammed river. The acquisition faced minor delays in 2017, but is on track to receive \$3 million in funding from Washington State, leading to the project's completion in June, 2018.



CONSERVATION COLORADO

We funded Conservation Colorado's Continental Divide Campaign to secure landscape-scale Congressional protection for conservation and recreation on 60,000 acres in Colorado's central Rocky Mountains. The project's Congressional champions have not yet re-introduced legislation for the protections, as they work to resolve some issues with stakeholders. Conservation Colorado hopes to see both House and Senate legislation soon.



CONSERVATION LANDS FOUNDATION

CLF received our support for its 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. President Obama expanded the Coastal National Monument in January, permanently protecting 6,200 acres between Mendocino and San Luis Obispo Counties.

**SUCCESS: 6,200 Acres Protected**



CONSERVATION RESOURCE ALLIANCE

We funded CRA's Free Flowing Maple River Campaign to remove the Lake Kathleen Dam on Michigan's Maple River, and restore the Maple's overall riverine system. CRA reports that the dam's owner is committed to the project, and they are working through the logistics of dam removal and restoration. DRA expects the removal to be complete by the end of 2018.



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAK WILDERNESS

We funded Friends' Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Campaign to secure congressional Wilderness designation for 13,900 acres of public land in the Scotchman Peaks area of Idaho. Idaho Senator Jim Risch introduced legislation that would protect the landscape last year, and plans to re-introduce the bill before the end of 2017.



LAND TRUST FOR TENNESSEE

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 Cumberlands 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: 686 Acres and One Climbing Area Protected**



MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

MWA used our support for its Blackfoot-Clearwater Stewardship Project to protect 83,000 acres for outdoor recreation, and habitat for threatened and endangered species by securing additions to the Mission Mountains, Bob Marshall, and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas in Montana. Montana Senator Jon Tester introduced a bill for the protections in March, and the effort has broad support from local elected officials, timber companies, mountain bikers, and snowmobile enthusiasts. MWA is now working to secure the support of Senator Steve Daines, which would help move the bill through the Senate.



**NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTANS FOR WILDERNESS**

We supported NMW's Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness through the withdrawal of 243,000 acres in the Superior National Forest from the federal mineral leasing program before President Obama left office in January 2017. The group reports that Obama issued a two-year prohibition on mining activity, and refused to renew existing mining leases in the area. The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture also initiated a process to consider a 20-year ban, which is now being challenged by mining advocates in Congress.



**OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION**

ONDA used our funding for its John Day Wilderness 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 is working on two separate legislative efforts: the 17,000-acre Cathedral Rock/Horse Heaven bill; and the 60,000-acre Sutton Mountain proposal. The former has faced significant challenges and is now on hold, but Sutton Mountain is on track. ONDA expects Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley to introduce legislation for the area by the end of 2017.



**PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

PCTA used our support for its Trinity Divide Conservation Project to acquire 10,600 acres of wild lands that include 17 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail and the headwaters of four rivers, and open public access to alpine lakes, trout streams, campsites and mountain meadows that are currently on closed private lands. PCTA reports that funding for Phase 1 of the project is secure, and Phase 2 is the top priority for the Forest Service in its 2018 Land and Water Conservation Fund request. The entire project is on track for completion in 2019.



**SIERRA CLUB - SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER**

We supported Sierra Club's Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Campaign to establish the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, permanently protecting a 140-mile stretch of California's Central Coastal waters. Sierra Club reports that a formal nomination for the sanctuary has been submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and enjoys strong local support. Given the change in government, the proposal is unlikely to move forward over the next three years. The nomination will remain active for five years, so the group will continue to build support in anticipation of a better political landscape down the road.



SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

SUWA used our support for its Colorado Plateau Master Leasing Plan Campaign to protect up to two million acres of the Colorado Plateau from energy development. The group helped secure a 946,000-acre Master Leasing Plan (MLP) under the Obama Administration that imposes common sense restrictions on oil and gas extraction in southern Utah. Since then, SUWA has engaged in oil and gas lease planning to halt proposed leasing in Nine Mile Canyon, near Zion National Park, Desolation Canyon, and Hideout Canyon.



THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

We funded TOF's Loreto Park Project to secure a decree by the Mexican government to permanently protect 5,000 acres in Loreto through the creation of a national park. TOF reports that they have built strong local support for the transfer of the acreage to the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), which is the first step toward permanent protection. Once the land transfer is complete, TOF will work with the CONANP to nominate the area to become a new national park.



WASHINGTON WILD

Washington Wild used our support for its North Cascades Puget Sound Headwaters Initiative to permanently protect forested watersheds, salmon spawning streams and recreational opportunities on the west slope of the North Cascades in Washington State through a combination of new Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River designations. A formal coalition working toward these protections is up and running, and leaders in Washington's Congressional delegation have given them the approval to develop a formal proposal that would inform future legislation.



YELLOWSTONE TO YUKON CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

We supported Y2Y's Bighorn Wildland Campaign to permanently protect Alberta's Bighorn Wildland, a one-million-acre landscape that connects the eastern flanks of Canada's Jasper and Banff National Parks. Leveraging the Canadian federal government's commitment to protect 17 percent of its lands by 2020, Y2Y has organized strong support for protecting the Bighorn, and is now proposing a larger protected area of more than 2.5 million acres. The proposal is now the top priority for both the federal and Alberta provincial governments.

## Notable Updates from April 2017 Grantees



We supported TNC's Black River Cypress Swamp Campaign to permanently preserve 410 acres of land along the Black River, including approximately 150 acres of old-growth cypress swamp forest and mature bottomland hardwoods. The group acquired the 410-acre Squire Tract, and it is now part of the 3,200-acre Black River Preserve. The group hopes to transfer the land to the State of North Carolina to become part of a new state park.

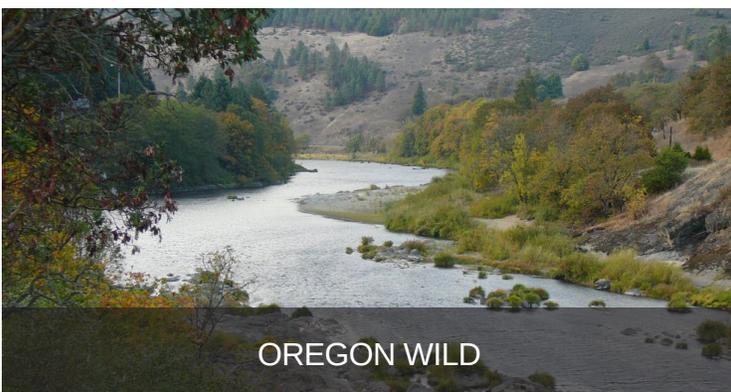
**SUCCESS: 410 Acres Protected**



We funded AWL's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Defense Campaign to defend the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling, and lay the foundation to permanently protect the area in the future. Bills to designate more than 1.5-million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as Wilderness were introduced into both houses of Congress in April, 2017 by Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) and Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA). AWL is also working with a large coalition to keep drilling in the Arctic Refuge out of the final budget bill.



We funded CWC's Northwest California Mountains and Rivers & Central Coast Heritage Protection Campaigns to pass two bills covering public lands on California's North and Central coasts that together protect 608,500 acres of new wilderness and 690 miles of wild and scenic rivers; establish two new recreation trails; restore more than 500,000 acres of damaged public lands; and designate 34,500 acres in two new scenic areas. The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (CCHPA) was introduced by Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA) and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) in October, 2017. The CCHPA would designate 245,000 acres of wilderness, create two scenic areas encompassing 34,882 acres, and designate 159 miles of wild and scenic rivers.



We funded Oregon Wild's Oregon Rivers Campaign to seize the opportunity at the state level to protect iconic and threatened Oregon rivers as State Scenic Waterways, while continuing to build a pro-conservation base of support amongst key decision-makers and the public. Oregon Wild reports that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department announced that they will consider the Nehalem River for a State Scenic Waterway designation, followed by the South Umpqua River. This is a critical first step toward reviving Oregon's State Scenic Waterway evaluation process.