



Photo: Jack Schlinkert

THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE Grantee Update

In October 2017, The Conservation Alliance invested \$700,000 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 18 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 2018. We will share final reports on all of our April 2018 grants in April 2019.

Final Reports from October 2017 Grantees



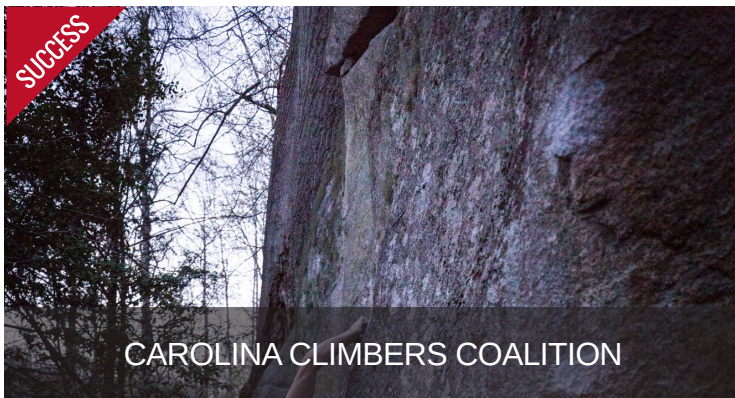
AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Our grant supported AW's *Wild Olympics Campaign* to designate 19 Wild and Scenic rivers and their major tributaries representing more than 450 river miles, and 126,000 acres of Wilderness that protects key watersheds on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. The group reports that legislation to secure the protections had a hearing in the Senate, but missed a key opportunity to include the bill in a package of lands bills that might come together after the elections. The initiative remains a top priority for Washington Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and Representative Derek Kilmer, and is in a good position to move in 2019 or 2020.



APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

AMC used our support for their *Campaign to Protect Katahdin Woods and Waters* to complete the Recreation and Land Management Planning for the new national monument in Maine, and secure lasting protection and recreational opportunities. The National Park Service has begun the formal planning process for the monument, but have only conducted initial meetings to date. Much of this planning work will take place in late 2018 and throughout 2019.



CAROLINA CLIMBERS COALITION

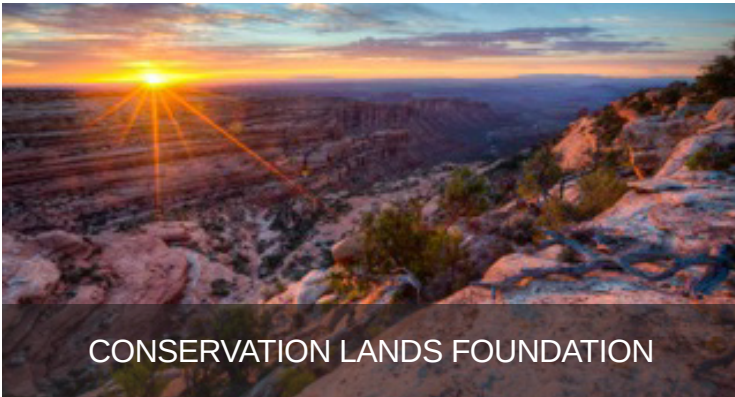
We supported CCC's *Buckeye Knob Acquisition Campaign* to protect access to the Buckeye Knob and Barn boulders (more than 500 boulder problems), and establish the first permanently protected bouldering area in the Boone, NC area. The group reports that they have successfully acquired Buckeye Knob, and now turn their attention to building sustainable trails to improve access to the area.

SUCCESS: 55 Acres and One Climbing Area Protected



CONSERVATION COLORADO

We supported Conservation Colorado's *Continental Divide Campaign* to pass the Continental Divide Wilderness and Recreation Act. On January 24, during the first Outdoor Retailer show in Denver, Representative Jared Polis and Senator Michael Bennet introduced the bill, which seeks to permanently protect 90,000 acres of public lands in Colorado, including Wilderness and the country's first National Historic Landscape at Camp Hale. Most of the issues that might prevent the bill from passing have been resolved, and the legislation is in a good position to move in 2019 or 2020.



CONSERVATION LANDS FOUNDATION

We supported CLF's *Defending Public Lands through Monument Management Planning Campaign* to uphold conservation standards through grassroots engagement on National Monument Management Plans for 7.5 million acres of National Conservation Lands protected during the Obama Administration. CLF is working with a network of grassroots organizations to ensure that local people are engaged in management planning for the new monuments, with a focus on new plans for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.



FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

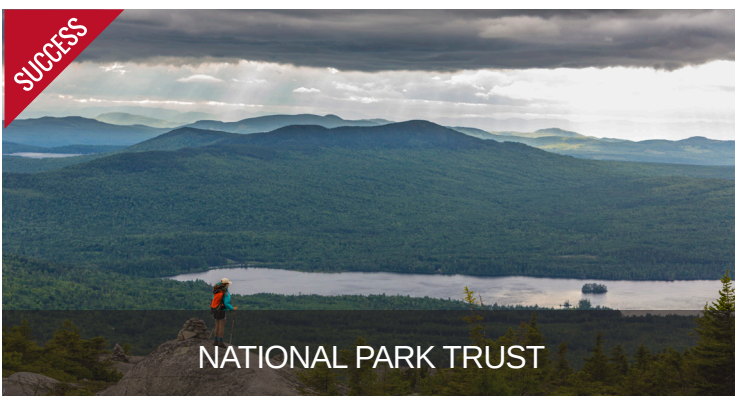
We funded FOCG's *Preserve the Wonder Campaign* to acquire eight unique properties, totaling 470 acres of land, in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. FOCG has acquired all eight properties, and is now working to build out trail infrastructure for the newly protected lands.

SUCCESS: 470 Acres Protected



MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

We funded MWA's *Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project* to permanently protect 83,000 acres of habitat for threatened and endangered species and for recreation, through Wilderness additions to the Mission Mountains, Bob Marshall, and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas. In February, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing for the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act, an important step in moving the legislation through Congress. MWA is optimistic that the bill will move in 2019 or 2020.



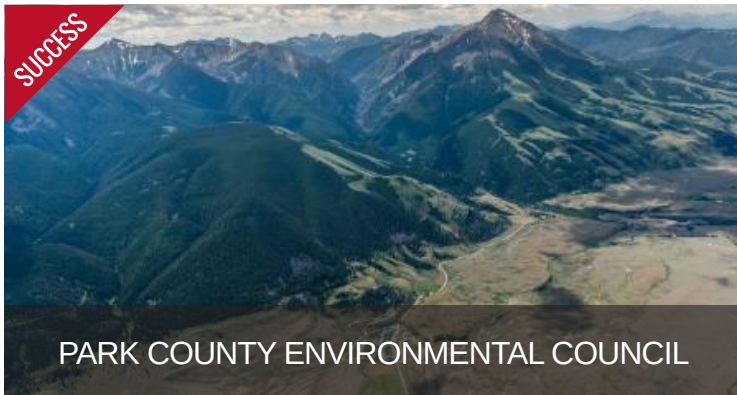
NATIONAL PARK TRUST

We funded NPT's effort to complete the first phase of the *Bald Mountain Pond Project*, a 1,495-acre land acquisition along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Maine. In partnership with Trust for Public Land, NPT completed the acquisition, and the groups are working to transfer ownership of this forestland to the National Park Service by the end of February, 2019.

SUCCESS: 1,495 Acres Protected



We supported ONDA's *Campaign to Secure Lasting Protections for Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands* to engage in federal agency resource management planning to protect one million acres of critical wilderness quality public lands in the Owyhee Canyonlands of eastern Oregon, close 50,000 acres to motorized travel, and modify 175 grazing allotments across 4.6 million acres of public lands. The public comment period for the draft plan opens in late 2018, and ONDA has trained hundreds of citizens to make impactful comments. Current plan alternatives would protect as many as 1.2 million acres and as little as 167,500 acres. BLM will finalize the plan in 2019.



We funded PCEC's *Protecting Wild Lands and Waters of Yellowstone Gateway Campaign* to protect the Yellowstone Gateway from the threat of industrial-scale gold mining by securing a permanent mineral withdrawal that prevents mining activity on 30,000 acres of National Forest lands in the Absaroka-Beartooth mountains. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed a 20-year prohibition on mining in the area. Senator Jon Tester and Representative Greg Gianforte have introduced the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act, which would make the prohibition permanent. That bill could be moved in a package of lands bills after the elections.

SUCCESS: 30,000 Acres Protected

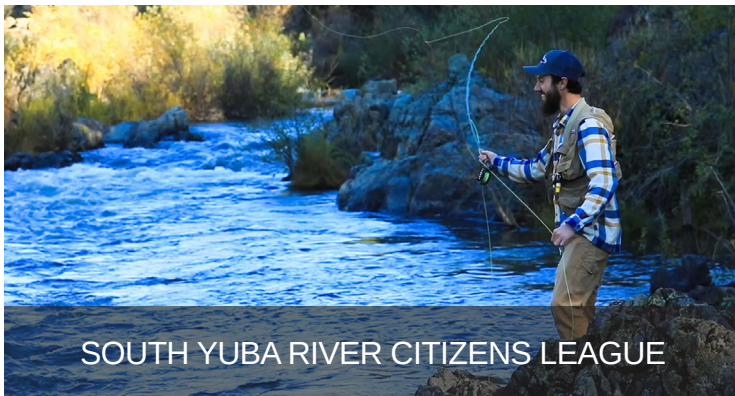


Our grant supported Potomac Conservancy's *White Horse Mountain Campaign* to permanently protect the 1,733-acre White Horse Mountain, one of the largest remaining forest tracts in West Virginia. The group successfully acquired the property and has transferred it to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources to be managed as a Wildlife Management Area with full public recreation access.

SUCCESS: 1,725 Acres Protected



We supported Save the Waves' *Campaign to Approve Baja California's First State Park* to permanently 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. The group reports that they are close to securing the 143-acre park, but are working through a slow approval process.



SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

SYRCL used our funding for its *Campaign to Stop Centennial Dam on the Bear River* to stop the Centennial Dam and protect the last six miles of publicly accessible free flowing river on California's Bear River, which includes 2,200 acres of fish and wildlife habitat, a culturally significant Native American landscape, countless swimming holes and a six-mile whitewater kayak run. In incremental progress, the group defeated a proposal to provide \$12 million in public funding for the dam, and forced a delay in the environmental impact analysis of the project.



THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

We funded Pew's *Northwest California Mountains and Rivers Campaign* to designate 330,000 acres of land as Wilderness and 450 river miles as Wild and Scenic in Northwest California, and secure administrative protections for at least 100,000 acres of BLM lands. Congressman Jared Huffman introduced legislation for the protections into the House, and the campaign is working to get Senator Kamala Harris to introduce companion legislation in the Senate.



VERMONT LAND TRUST

We funded VLT's *Richmond Town Forest Project* to acquire a 428-acre forest located one mile from the village center. VLT completed the 428-acre acquisition and created the Richmond Town Forest in March, 2018. A vital stretch of forestland and outdoor recreation opportunities in one of Vermont's most important blocks of contiguous wildlife habitat is now permanently protected for future generations to enjoy.

SUCCESS: 428 Acres Protected



WASHINGTON WILD

WW used our support for its *North Cascades and Puget Sound Headwaters Campaign* to protect intact 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. WW reports that the campaign is on track, and is focusing on developing a legislative proposal to enshrine the protections. Their emphasis is on building relations with key stakeholders including Native American tribes, businesses, and recreation groups.



Our grant supported WSC's *Elliott Forest Campaign* to ensure strong conservation measures are adopted for Oregon's Elliott State Forest, and to permanently protect 40,000 acres of high-priority habitat and recreation areas. WSC reports that the State Land Board has delayed management decisions, which also delays an expected public stakeholder process. WSC will monitor the process, and activate its group of forest advocates when appropriate.



Y2Y used our support for its *Bighorn Wildland Campaign* to permanently protect 2.7-million acres in Alberta's Bighorn Wildland, a landscape connecting Canada's iconic Jasper and Banff National Parks, and the protection of 1.4-million acres of adjacent lands as Public Land Use Zones to restrict harmful uses in sensitive areas. The Alberta provincial government has indicated that at least 1.2 million acres of the area could be protected by the end of 2018 as part of a Canadian commitment to protect 17 percent of the country's terrestrial lands and waters by 2020.

Notable Updates from April 2018 Grantees



We funded CWC's *Northwest California Mountains and Rivers, and Central Coast Wild Heritage Campaigns* to designate 570,909 acres of new wilderness and 644 miles of wild and scenic rivers; restore over 500,000 acres of public lands damaged by clearcutting and other development; designate 34,882 acres in two new scenic areas; and establish a new recreation trail in California. The campaign reached a significant milestone in July when Representative Jared Huffman introduced the Northern California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act for the first time. This bill seeks to designate 317,000 acres as Wilderness and 480 river miles as wild and scenic, and restore 729,000 acres of public lands.



We supported MVCC's *Methow Headwaters Campaign* to permanently protect 340,079 acres of Washington's Methow Headwaters region from industrial-scale mining. After a two-year environmental assessment process, the US Forest Service recommended a 20-year mineral withdrawal for the 340,079 Methow Headwaters region. MVCC is hopeful the Forest Service will finalize 20-year administrative protections will be finalized before the end of 2018.



We funded NMW's *Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters* to ban mining on 234,328 acres surrounding the Boundary Waters, protecting the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (1.1 million acres), Voyageurs National Park (218,200 acres), and Canada's Quetico Provincial Park (1,180,000 acres) from sulfide-ore copper mining pollution. The Boundary Waters campaign experienced a significant setback in September when the Trump Administration opened public lands on the edge of the Boundary Waters to copper mining exploration and development. The group will shift their focus toward challenging additional mineral prospecting and leasing decisions.