



Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center Molalla River in

THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
Grantee Update

In September 2018, The Conservation Alliance invested \$879,000 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 22 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 2019. We will share final reports on all of our April 2019 grants in April 2020.

Final Reports from October 2018 Grantees:

Adirondack Council: We funded Adirondack Council's *Campaign for the Raquette-Jordan Boreal Wilderness* to acquire 10,000 acres of New York's rare lowland boreal forest habitat, and upgrade natural resource protections for an adjacent 12,000-acre state-owned parcel to create a new 22,000-acre wilderness area. Thanks to ADK's engagement in the recreation planning process, 24 miles of roads in the Kildare Conservation Easement area will be off limits to ATVs beginning in 2021. The rest of the easement area will be limited to three months of public motorized access from June through August. The group is also celebrating the permanent protection of a 33,000-acre parcel adjacent to the project.

Audubon Alaska: We funded Audubon AK's *Protect the Arctic Refuge Campaign* to permanently protect the 1.5-million-acre Coastal Plain within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the people, wildlife and ecological systems. Audubon AK used our funding to complete a series of reports and subsequent communications highlighting the rich ecological and recreation values of the Arctic Refuge. On an advocacy front, Audubon AK's members were responsible for submitting 27,000 comments during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment period. Audubon AK and their partners also helped pass a bill through the US House of Representatives that repealed the provisions in the 2017 tax legislation that opened the Arctic to oil and gas leasing, though a similar bill is unlikely to move through the Senate.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – British Columbia: We funded CPAWS – BC's effort to collaborate with the Kaska Dena Nation to protect 2.5 million acres of lands in Northern BC as National Parks, Provincial Parks, and Indigenous Protected Areas. CPAWS reports two significant changes to the campaign during the last year: the size of the proposed protected area increased from 2.5 million to 9.6 million acres; and the proposed designation shifted to a Provincial Conservancy. CPAWS also secured formal support from each of the three B.C. Kaska communities for the protected areas, as well as support and funding from the Canadian federal government. The group will now focus their attention on working with the provincial government to complete the project by 2022.

Columbia Land Trust: We supported CLT's *Klickitat Canyon Conservation Campaign* to acquire the 3,900-acre Mt. Adams-Klickitat Canyon Conservation Phase III project area, completing the final phase of a 10,000-acre conservation project that benefits recreation, wildlife, and habitat connectivity along the Wild and Scenic Klickitat River in Washington. Earlier this year, CLT had the opportunity to increase the size of the acquisition by 1,000 acres. CLT is on track to raise the funds necessary to acquire all 5,000 acres included in Phase III of the project by the end of 2020. When the project is complete, 11,000 acres in the Klickitat Canyon will be permanently protected.

Conservation Colorado: We funded Conservation Colorado's *Continental Divide Campaign* to pass the Continental Divide Wilderness and Recreation Act, permanently protecting 96,000 acres of public lands in Colorado, including new Wilderness designations and the country's first National Historic Landscape at Camp Hale. Senator Michael Bennet and Representatives Joe Neguse introduced the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act in both chambers of Congress in January 2019. The CORE Act would protect 400,000 acres in Colorado, including the 96,000-acre areas outlined in the Continental Divide proposal. The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the bill in October.

Crested Butte Land Trust: We funded CBLT's *Long Lake Land Exchange Project* to protect 120 acres of open space along the eastern shore of Long Lake for recreational access and habitat protection and add 628 acres to the Gunnison National Forest. CBLT made significant progress toward the fundraising goal, and they are on track to complete the land exchange by the end of 2019. When the exchange is complete, 748 acres will be protected and open to the public.

Grand Rapids Whitewater: We funded Grant Rapids Whitewater's *Grand River Revitalization Project* to remove five low-head dams and restore 2.5 miles of regionally rare rapid habitat on the Grand River in Michigan. GRW is working with several regulatory agencies to navigate a complex permitting process. They have reached 85-percent of the fundraising goal and hope to begin work to restore the rapids on the Grand River in Summer 2021.

John Muir Land Trust: We funded JMLT's *Campaign to Save Almond Ranch* to acquire Almond Ranch, a 281-acre parcel that completes the 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail and 50-mile Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail, and connects 18,000 acres of protected open space for wildlife and recreation in California. JMLT is on track to complete the acquisition by the end of 2019, then make improvements to the property and open it to the public for recreational use.

SUCCESS: 30,621 acres and 311 river miles protected

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center: We funded KS Wild's *Oregon Wildlands Campaign* to pass the Oregon Wildlands Act, which would protect 86,000 acres of federal land as Wilderness, designate 120,000 acres as National Recreation Area, and designate more than 135 miles of rivers and streams as Wild & Scenic in Oregon. In March 2018, the John Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act was signed into law. Portions of the Oregon Wildlands proposal were included in this legislation, including 30,621 acres of Wilderness, and protections for 311 river miles. Earlier this year KS Wild launched the Oregon Wildlands 2.0 campaign to protect the remaining wildlands included in the original bill. As a result, Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley introduced the Oregon Recreation and Enhancement Act in June to protect 260,000 acres in Southwest Oregon.

Montana Wilderness Association: We funded MWA's *Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project* that seeks to permanently protect 80,000 acres of habitat for threatened and endangered species, and for recreation, by expanding the Mission Mountains, Bob Marshall, and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas. Senator Jon Tester introduced the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act in June 2019. Following the introduction, MWA is now focusing on securing public support from Senator Steve Daines and Representative Greg Gianforte by increasing business pressure, public visibility, and citizen action.

National Wildlife Federation: We funded NWF's *Connecting the Upper Rio Grande Campaign* to secure administrative protections for 300,000 acres of public land in Colorado and New Mexico, a landscape that supports vast recreational opportunities and critical wildlife corridors. NWF reports that 260,000 acres of new protections are included in the preferred alternative identified in the Forest Management Plan Drafts for the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests. The final plan adoption is expected in Fall 2020.

Oregon Natural Desert Association: We funded ONDA's *Campaign to Secure Lasting Protection for Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands and Hart-Sheldon Landscape* to secure lasting protections for two million acres of wilderness quality public lands in the Hart-Sheldon and Owyhee Canyonlands of eastern Oregon. The project also seeks to close 50,000 acres to motorized travel, and modify 175 grazing allotments to improve ecosystem health and recreational opportunities across 7.8 million acres. Following a significant delay due to the government shutdown, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan was released in May 2019. ONDA worked with more than 30 organizations to generate comments and build support for conservation outcomes in this plan. ONDA is also pursuing a new legislative opportunity to protect millions of acres of public land in the Owyhee region. ONDA plans to engage the same group of advocates to generate comments about the Draft Lakeview Resource Management Plan when it is released in late 2019.

San Juan Citizens Alliance: We funded SJCA's *San Juan Mountains Wilderness Campaign* to protect 60,000 acres in Colorado's San Juan Mountains by expanding the Mt. Sneffels and Lizard Head Wilderness, designating McKenna Peak as the first desert wilderness area in southwest Colorado, and protecting the Animas River headwaters from future mining. Colorado Senator Michael Bennet and Representative Joe Neguse introduced the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act in both chambers of Congress in January 2019. The CORE Act would protect 400,000 acres in Colorado, including 60,000 acres of wilderness and special management areas in the San Juan Mountains. The House of Representatives passed the bill in October.

Save the Redwoods League: We funded the League's *Protecting the Giants of Giant Sequoia National Monument* effort to acquire the largest and last unprotected giant sequoia property in the world—a 522-acre property within California's Giant Sequoia National Monument that contains the fifth tallest tree in the world, 300 ancient giant sequoias and a swimming hole. After a successful public campaign launch in September, the League has raised 73-percent of the acquisition cost, and is on track to complete the transaction by the end of the year. Once the project is complete, the League will create a stewardship and public access plan, and eventually transfer ownership to the Forest Service for inclusion in Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Sierra Forest Legacy: We funded SFL's *Campaign to Protect Roadless Areas and Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Southern Sierra Nevada* to establish protections for ten new wilderness areas totaling more than 328,000 acres, Backcountry Management areas totaling 415,000 acres, and nine rivers totaling 121 miles as Wild and Scenic Rivers by participating in the planning process for California's Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. The forest planning documents released in June includes an alternative with ten new priority conservation areas and six new streams eligible for Wild and Scenic designation. SFL used our funding to engage a diverse group of stakeholders during the 90-day comment period that closed in September. The Forest Service is on track to adopt the final plans by the end of 2020.

SUCCESS: 1,790 Acres Protected

The Nature Conservancy of North Carolina: We funded TNC's *Citadel Tract, Black River Preserve Campaign* to acquire 1,790 acres of land adjacent to North Carolina's Black River, including wetland forest, longleaf pine forests, and some of the oldest bald cypress trees in the world. TNC reports they have acquired the 1,790-acre Citadel tract, and are working to restore forest health on the property. TNC's ultimate goal is to include the Citadel Tract in a new state park along the lower section of the Black River.

The Ocean Foundation: We funded TOF's *Nopoló Park Project* to acquire 5,000 acres in Loreto, Mexico as Nopoló Park, protecting local freshwater resources, vitalizing community-based ecotourism and sustainable economic development initiatives. TOF is working to secure a formal commitment from the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas to establish Napolo Park. Turnover in key government offices resulted in significant setbacks during the grant period, but TOF is optimistic that Nopolo Park will be established by the end of 2019.

The Trust for Public Land: We funded TPL's *Pōhue Bay Project* to acquire 16,456 acres, including 5.5 miles of shoreline, at Pōhue Bay on Hawai'i Island, and add them to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The appraisal is complete and TPL has raised approximately 80 percent of the funds necessary to complete this complex transaction. TPL is working with the landowner and the National Park Service to finalize the details of the transaction. They hope to complete the project in 2020.

Washington Wild: We funded WA Wild's *North Cascades and Puget Sound Headwaters Campaign* to permanently protect forested watersheds, low elevation old-growth forests, salmon spawning streams, and recreational opportunities on the western slope of the North Cascades in Washington State by designating new Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. WA Wild, in partnership with the Cascades Coalition, used our funding to cultivate relationships with local Tribes and other key stakeholders from the conservation and recreation communities. The group made progress toward mapping proposed Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River boundaries, and they hope to launch a public campaign and work toward bill introduction in 2020.

Western Rivers Conservancy: We funded WRC's *Nason Ridge Project* to acquire the Nason Ridge Property, protecting 3,714 acres and two miles of Nason Creek, permanently preserving recreation access, and native fish and wildlife habitat adjacent to Lake Wenatchee State Park in Washington's North Cascades. WRC is on track to acquire Nason Ridge in partnership with the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. WRC also reports that Chelan County has committed to being the long-term steward of the Nason Ridge property after the acquisition is complete.

SUCCESS: 1,400 Acres and 2.3 Miles Protected

Whatcom Land Trust: We funded WLT's *Skookum Creek Campaign* to acquire more than 1,150 acres and 2.3 miles along Washington's Skookum Creek, a major tributary of the South Fork Nooksack River, as a recreational resource for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. WLT completed the Skookum Creek acquisition in January 2019, permanently protecting 1,250 acres, 2.3 miles of creek and the 150-acre Duck Pond. The Skookum Creek acquisition was WLT's largest campaign in the organization's 35-year history.

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative: We funded Y2Y's *Campaign to Protect Alberta's Bighorn Region* to protect 2.7-million acres in Alberta's Bighorn region through the creation of a Wildland Provincial Park and other conservation designations that connect the eastern slopes of Canada's iconic Jasper and Banff National Parks. In November 2018, the Alberta government proposed new protected areas in Bighorn Country totaling 988,000 acres. Unfortunately, the protected areas were not established before the provincial election in April 2019. Following the election, Alberta's new leadership announced they would not be moving the Bighorn proposal forward.

Interim Report Summaries

American Whitewater: We funded two of AW's western rivers campaigns that seek to designate 19 Wild and Scenic rivers and their major tributaries representing more than 450 river miles, and 126,000 acres of new Wilderness on Washington's Olympic Peninsula; and stop the Temperance Flat Dam and flooding of the 7,000-acre Joaquin River Gorge Recreation Area in California. Congressional champion Rep. Derek Kilmer and Senator Patty Murray introduced Wild Olympics legislation in May 2019. The legislation enjoys broad support and is well-positioned to move through Congress. AW is also working in California to build grassroots support for their effort to stop the Temperance Flat Dam while they wait for the Bureau of Reclamation to release the feasibility report and environmental impact statement.

American Rivers: We funded AR's *Protecting Western Montana's Last Best Wild Rivers* campaign to protect 76 rivers, 655 river miles, and 209,600 acres of riverside lands in the Custer Gallatin and Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forests in Montana by securing administrative protections and passing legislation. The group reports that the Forest Service has released draft management plans for both forests, identifying these rivers as eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. Senator Jon Tester is expected to introduce the Montana Headwaters Security Act, which would permanently protect most of these eligible rivers.

California Wilderness Coalition: We supported CWC's *Northwest California Mountains and Rivers and Central Coast Wild Heritage Campaigns* to pass two bills that protect 561,909 acres of new Wilderness and 639 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, restore more than 729,000 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. CWC reports that both bills have been introduced into the House and Senate, and that the Central Coast bill should receive a House floor vote in November.

SUCCESS: 13.8 Million Acres Protected

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Yukon: We funded CPAWS-Yukon's *Protect the Peel Campaign* to protect rivers, mountains, valleys and all of the wildlife that call it home in the Peel River Watershed, located in northeast Yukon Territory through joint collaboration with Yukon First Nations, conservation groups, and Yukon Government. CPAWS reports that the First Nations reached an agreement with the Yukon Government to protect 13.8 million acres of the watershed, preserving 83 percent of this spectacular landscape.

SUCCESS: 300 Acres Protected

Forterra: Forterra used our support for its *Maloney Creek and Forest Campaign* to acquire 300 acres of mature and old-growth forest and more than one mile of riparian habitat in Washington to avoid habitat loss and fragmentation, promote watershed quality and take steps to mitigate the effects of climate change on critical habitat. The group reports that they completed the acquisition on September 30, and are now working to expand the trail network on the property.

SUCCESS: 340,079 Acres Protected

Methow Valley Citizens Council: We supported MVCC's *Methow Headwaters Campaign* to permanently protect 340,079 acres of Forest Service public land from industrial-scale mining. Congress passed legislation in March that secures these protections.

SUCCESS: 880 Acres Protected

Oregon Desert Land Trust: ODLT used our support for its *Diablo Mountain Inholding Acquisition Campaign* to acquire 880 acres of private land to consolidate public land ownership in the surrounding 253,071-acre Diablo Mountain and Summer Lake area for the benefit of wildlands and wildlife conservation, recreation, and public access in Oregon. ODLT completed the acquisition, adding to its existing holdings in the area.

SUCCESS: 17 River Miles Protected

Oregon Wild: OW used our funding to support its *Oregon State Scenic Waterways Campaign* to protect Oregon's Nehalem River as a State Scenic Waterway in 2019 and generate momentum for the State Scenic Waterway process to be used as an effective tool in protecting the next round of Oregon's rivers. The group reports that they succeeded in securing scenic waterway designation for 17 miles of the Nehalem, and are now working to add additional rivers to this protected system.

SUCCESS: 99,653 Acres Protected

Pacific Rivers Council: We funded PRC's *Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary Campaign* to pass through Congress to pass a bill permanently protecting Steamboat Creek as a cold-water refuge for wild salmon and steelhead. That bill passed in March, establishing the nearly 100,000-acre sanctuary.

SUCCESS: 30,000 Acres Protected

Park County Environmental Council: We supported PCEC's *Yellowstone Gateway Campaign* to permanently prevent industrial mining on 30,000 acres of public lands in the Absaroka Beartooth mountains on the border of Yellowstone National Park, and purchase existing private claims to secure lasting public access to prime recreational area on these National Forest lands. Congress passed legislation in March that permanently protects these lands, and PCEC is now working to purchase the pre-existing mining claims.

SUCCESS: 442 Acres Protected

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation: RMEF used our funding for its *Falls Creek-Rocky Mountain Front Access Acquisition* to acquire 442 acres and transfer ownership to the US Forest Service to protect wildlife habitat, and secure permanent public access to the Falls Creek Trail and more than 26,000 acres of public land. RMEF completed the purchase in July.

SUCCESS: 4.6 Acres and 1 Climbing Area Protected

Texas Climbers Coalition: We funded TCC's *Medicine Wall Campaign* to acquire the 4.6-acre property known as Medicine Wall, and to establish new parkland and ensure public access to approximately 40 climbing routes. The group reports that they have completed the acquisition, and are working to complete an access trail to the crag.

SUCCESS: 19,200 Acres Protected

The Nature Conservancy-Colorado: TNC-Colorado used our funding to support the *Fisher's Peak Ranch Project* to acquire the 19,200-acre Fisher's Peak Ranch and transfer it to public ownership within five years. TNC reports that they completed the acquisition, and secured a commitment from Colorado Governor Jared Polis to convert the property into the state's second largest state park as early as 2021.

SUCCESS: 866 Acres Protected

West Virginia Land Trust: We funded WVLT's *Buy the Moon Project* to permanently protect 866 acres adjacent to 20,000 acres of public land in West Virginia's Appalachian Mountains for public recreation and habitat conservation, including the scenic Moon Rocks mountain biking area. WVLT completed the purchase in August, preserving this important recreation and conservation area.