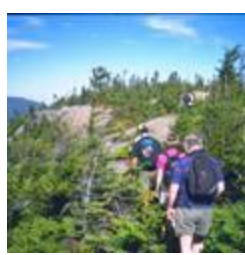




In October 2007, The Conservation Alliance invested \$450,000 in grassroots conservation organizations. Each grant went to a project working to secure permanent protection for a specific threatened wild place. We direct organizations to use our funding over the course of a 12-month period. At the end 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.

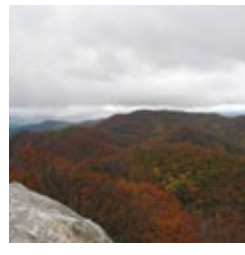
On October 1, we received 17 final reports. Following is a summary of the progress our grantees have made with our funding. At the end of this summary are several exciting updates on work we funded in April 2008. We will share final reports on all of our April grants in May 2009.



Adirondack Mountain Club: We supported ADK’s “Save the Trails” Campaign to address the impacts of illegal motorized recreation in Adirondack Park. With our support, ADK succeeded in securing a new policy that caps snowmobile trails in the park at 848 miles. Prior to the policy, there was no limit to the number of trails, and during negotiations, motorized users pushed for a minimum cap of 1200 miles.



Alaska Wilderness League: In the face of an unprecedented push to open public lands in America’s Arctic to oil and gas development, AWL succeeded in defending the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other sensitive areas from development. One key success was halting proposed surface drilling in the Teshekpuk Lake area. AWL looks forward to working with a new administration with hopes of securing permanent protection for the Refuge.



Appalachian Trail Conservancy: ATC made solid progress toward its goal of acquiring the 12,000-acre Rocky Fork tract in Tennessee. The conservancy has raised \$18.5 million toward its \$40 million goal to complete the progress. ATC will close on the property in December, and will then go to work raising the remaining \$22 million. The Conservation Alliance funded this project for a second time in October, and looks forward to celebrating a significant victory when ATC completes the fundraising effort.



California Trout: CalTrout announced that PacifiCorp has agreed to remove the four dams on the main stem of the Klamath River to improve salmon and steelhead habitat. This agreement comes after years of negotiations about how to deal with the dams, which block access to more than 300 miles of fish habitat. The agreement came on the heels of an agreement between conservation groups – including CalTrout – and Klamath Basin farmers to determine water allocations and instream flows once the dams are removed.



Clayoquot Solutions Steering Committee: In its campaign to protect the watersheds of British Columbia’s Clayoquot Sound, the CSSC succeeded in building consensus among the province’s First Nations to secure new protections for the area. Progress included drafting a proposal for a Tribal Park for the Clayoquot River Valley.



Colorado Environmental Coalition: CEC made great progress in its campaign to protect the wild backcountry of Rocky Mountain National Park and Dominguez Canyon. Legislation to protect 250,000 acres of Wilderness in the park, and a 200,000-acre Dominguez Canyon National Conservation Area moved through the US Senate, and is awaiting final consideration from Congress. If the bill does not pass this year, it will likely move in early 2009.



Friends of Allegheny Wilderness: FAW continued its effort to secure wilderness protection for 55,000 acres of public land in Pennsylvania. After making significant progress in building strong public support, the Congressman representing the area, and who would carry legislation to protect the lands, unexpectedly announced that he would retire at the end of 2008. This setback put the campaign in Limbo as FAW builds a relationship with the incoming Congressional representative.



Friends of the River: We supported FOR's effort to secure new Wild and Scenic River designations for streams in California. FOR played a key role in building public support for efforts to protect 31 miles of streams in Riverside County, and 51 miles of streams in the Eastern Sierra. These protections are now included in a legislative package awaiting action in the US Congress. If the bill does not pass this year, it will likely move in early 2009.



Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center: KS Wild used our support to build support at the local level to protect the tributaries of the Rogue River in Oregon. That local organizing led to legislation in the House to protect 143 miles of streams. The bill had a hearing in the House in September, and is likely to pass the full Congress in 2009. KS Wild also successfully stopped the proposed Kelsey-Whisky timber sale, which would have opened 55,000 acres of forest habitat in the Rogue watershed to logging.



Montana Wilderness Association: MWA spent much of 2008 organizing local support for new wilderness designations on public lands in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. MWA is a key member of a partnership that is working to find common ground among many stakeholders to determine future management of the forest. A member of Montana's Congressional delegation will likely introduce legislation to implement the partnership proposal that would protect more than 500,000 acres of wilderness in 2009.



Oregon Wild: After many years of work, Oregon Wild is on the verge of success in its effort to protect 125,000 acres of wilderness on Mount Hood. Our funding helped the group build public support for the protections. Legislation for the protections is now part of a legislative package awaiting final action in Congress. If the bill does not pass this year, it will likely move in 2009.



Save Our Wild Salmon: Much of the past eight years SOS has fought to restore wild salmon populations throughout the Columbia River Basin. The group has led legal efforts to halt Bush administration proposals that undermine salmon recovery. SOS is optimistic that a district court judge will impose a tough injunction on the Bush administration's salmon plan, and that legislation will be introduced in 2009 that authorizes a package of salmon recovery initiatives including removal of the four Lower Snake River dams.



Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance: Over the past year, SUW has worked to protect Utah's redrock landscapes from off-road vehicle use and road development. Through the BLM management planning process to determine ORV travel plans in sensitive wild areas, SUWA advocated for and won BLM recognition that 2.8 million acres of land have "wilderness character." The group also succeeded in its effort to close Recapture Wash to ORV use, citing damage to cultural resources.



The Wilderness Society-Idaho: TWS is leading the effort to protect 500,000 acres of land and 300 miles of rivers in Idaho's Owyhee Canyonlands. The group used our grant to build local support for these protections. Senator Mike Crapo is leading the effort to protect these special places through Congressional legislation. The Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act is now part of a legislative package awaiting final action in Congress. If the bill does not pass this year, it will likely move in 2009.



Utah Rivers Council: URC used Conservation Alliance funding to build support in Utah for new Wild and Scenic River designations throughout the state. In its early stages, the campaign has generated broad support for new river protections. Moving forward, URC will work with the Forest Service and BLM to ensure that their new management plans include recommendations that key rivers be protected, and build a foundation for a legislative effort to codify river protections.



West Virginia Wilderness Coalition: WVWC succeeded in moving legislation through the House that would protect more than 37,000 acres of wilderness in the Monongahela National Forest. The bill is also included in a Senate package that is awaiting final consideration. If the bill does not pass this year, it will likely move in 2009.



Western Colorado Congress: We supported WCC's effort to protect the Dominguez Canyons on Colorado's Western Slope. The group succeeded in building local support to protect a 212,000-acre National Conservation Area and grant permanent wilderness protection for more than 65,000 acres in Big and Little Dominguez Canyons within the NCA. Colorado's Congressional delegation introduced legislation to secure the protections. The bill is now part of the legislative package awaiting final action in Congress.

Interim Updates from April 2008 Grantees:



Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society: CPAWS reports great success in the effort to expand the boundaries of Nahanni National Park Reserve. In late 2007, CPAWS announced that the Canadian government gave interim protection to 7 million acres, essentially the entire South Nahanni watershed, and announced its intention to make the protections permanent by the end of 2008. CPAWS came close to final victory just before a federal election was called in August. Final action must now await the election results. The federal government extended its interim protection for the watershed for two additional years. Meanwhile, federal Environment Minister John Baird announced that the headwaters of the South Nahanni River would be temporarily protected to enable the creation of a new national park. This interim protection would protect an additional 1.8 million acres in the greater Nahanni watershed.



Colorado Wild: We supported Colorado Wild's Friends of Wolf Creek Campaign to protect a critical wildlife corridor and recreational destination from a misguided commercial development on a private inholding surrounded by public lands at Wolf Creek Pass. A Colorado Wild lawsuit overturned Forest Service authorization for two roads across public land to access the proposed development. The court ordered the Forest Service to withdraw its approval, and conduct a new Environmental Impact Statement that thoroughly considers the impacts of the development before making any access decision. Colorado Wild is now working to facilitate a buyout or exchange of the property to restore the entire Wolf Creek Pass area to public ownership.



Greater Yellowstone Coalition: We supported GYC's effort to protect 1.2 million acres of public land in the Wyoming Range from oil and gas development. After years of GYC building public support for the protections, Wyoming's Congressional delegation has introduced legislation to withdraw the Wyoming Range from potential new oil and gas leases. The bill is now part of a legislative package awaiting final action in Congress. If the bill does not pass this year, it will likely move in 2009.



Nevada Wilderness Project: NWP reports progress in its effort to protect 560,000 acres in Clark County, including a 200,000-acre Gold Butte wilderness, and a 360,000-acre National Conservation Area adjacent to the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. Legislation for these protections were introduced in the House and will likely move in 2009.



Northern Alaska Environmental Center: NAEC has used our support to fight a proposed land exchange that would enable the federal government to open portions of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development. NAEC reports that their efforts generated enough public pressure on the US Fish and Wildlife Service to delay its decision on the exchange until after the Bush administration leaves office. The group is confident that the proposed land exchange will face much stronger scrutiny under the new Obama administration.



Oregon Natural Desert Association: After years of hard work, ONDA has made important progress in its effort to protect the Badlands and Spring Basin, two wildlands in Oregon's high desert. In June, Senator Ron Wyden introduced legislation to protect these two areas. The bills are now part of a legislative package awaiting final action in Congress. If the bill does not pass this year, it will likely move in 2009.



Trust for Public Land-Maine: TPL's Mahoosuc Conservation Campaign has made important progress with our support. Since April, TPL has completed three key land acquisitions in the Mahoosuc region of Maine, totaling 9,000 acres.



WaterWatch: WaterWatch reports that, this summer, Gold Hill Dam, on the mainstem of Oregon's Rogue River, was removed, and Elk Creek Dam, a passage barrier on a Rogue tributary critical to salmon and steelhead, was notched. In addition, the pumping plants that will replace Savage Rapids Dam are almost complete and dam removal will commence in 2009. This exciting progress caps many years of work advocating for improvements to the management of the Rogue River to benefit fish populations and whitewater recreation.