



View from Blackmon Peak in the Boulder-White Clouds, Idaho

© Kris Franklin

Boulder-White Clouds Protected Forever

A VICTORY MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN THE MAKING

On August 7, President Obama signed the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act into law. A victory more than 30 years in the making, this legislation permanently protects a wild area of Idaho called Boulder-White Clouds—a stunning region containing high alpine ecosystems that provide rich wildlife habitat and a rugged landscape for those seeking backcountry adventure.

The Boulder-White Clouds is a key area within the High Divide landscape—an integral connector between the central Idaho and greater Yellowstone regions, two of the wildest, most intact ecosystems in the lower 48 states. These 275,000 acres just east of the existing Sawtooth Wilderness comprise delicately-balanced habitat for eight of Idaho's big-game species, including Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mountain goat, elk, moose and antelope. Rare and sensitive predators also roam these mountains such as the wolverine, gray wolf, lynx and mountain lion. Permanent protection of the Boulder-White Clouds keeps intact this important habitat in the face of a changing climate.

For thousands of years, salmon and steelhead have journeyed from their birth streams in the Boulder-White Clouds down to the Pacific Ocean—one of the longest salmon migration routes in the world—where they mature into adults before returning to spawn in their natal streams. The area is beloved by hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers. The many high mountain lakes and hundreds of miles of trails make this region one of Idaho's premier backcountry hiking destinations.

“Today Idahoans can celebrate that the future of the wild Boulder-White Clouds area is secure and that its treasured lands and wildlife habitat will be preserved for generations to come.”

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The Wilderness Society President
Jamie Williams hiking in Linville
Gorge, N.C.

DEAR WILDERNESS SOCIETY SUPPORTER,

The Wilderness Society has always taken a collaborative and long-term approach to conservation, and we have several victories to celebrate this fall.

The permanent protection of the Boulder-White Clouds on Aug. 7 stands as a testament to the importance of these values. This incredible victory came as a result of more than 30 years of work to safeguard this irreplaceable landscape. As a result, Idahoans in nearby communities will benefit from clean water sources, wildlife will continue to thrive and all Americans will be able to experience the unspoiled beauty of this spectacular region for generations to come.

The Wilderness Society, working with a broad coalition of partners, also played a leading role in the designation of two landscape-scale monuments: Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California, and Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada.

As we celebrate these victories, we continue to stand vigilant by proactively safeguarding many other landscapes. We thank all of you who have taken time to send a message to Congress to protect places that are too wild to develop and encourage you to continue sending this important message to your elected officials.

Thank you so much for your support. You played a crucial role in making these wonderful victories possible and we are grateful to have your support in our continued fight to protect our public lands.

Sincerely,

Jamie Williams

BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS *continued*

generations to come," said Craig Gehrke, Idaho Director with The Wilderness Society. "The Boulder-White Clouds is a place that few people can even imagine exists—truly rugged country that defines the essence of wild America. Congressman Mike Simpson has succeeded in working through gauntlet after gauntlet on this bill, bringing together communities and his colleagues in Congress to help them find common ground. We at The Wilderness Society are proud to have been part of that rigorous, often challenging and utterly rewarding process."

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) first introduced legislation to protect the area in 2004, but The Wilderness Society staff and our members have been actively working to protect the Boulder-White Clouds since the late 1970s. As a result, Americans can rest assured that this unique and irreplaceable landscape is permanently protected.



Salmon and steelhead journey from their birth streams in the Boulder-White Clouds down to the Pacific Ocean—one of the longest salmon migration routes in the world—where they mature into adults and return to spawn.

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HOT ISSUES: TOO WILD TO DRILL

Across the country, the push to drill is sending oil and gas development deeper into our wildest, most beloved public lands. Help protect these six amazing places by telling the Department of the Interior to save our wildest lands from oil and gas development. Take action and read the full Too Wild to Drill report at wilderness.org/toowildtodrill.



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ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, AK

In 2015 alone, more than a half-dozen bills to open the refuge to drilling have been introduced.

DESOLATION CANYON, UT

Some of the most prized wilderness-quality lands in the lower 48 states are still open to oil and gas drilling.



© Hillebrand USFWS

BADGER-TWO MEDICINE, MT

Decades-old illegal oil and gas leases continue to threaten these Blackfeet holy lands at the doorstep of Glacier National Park.



© Peter Hart

THOMPSON DIVIDE, CO

If illegally-issued leases are allowed to be developed, they will bring substantial and irreversible changes to this wild region of the American west.



© Tony Bunum

BEARS EARS, UT

Despite the wealth of cultural resources and recreation opportunities, extractive industries are pushing to exploit the Bears Ears region of southeastern Utah.



© Greg Owens

GRAND JUNCTION, CO

A proposed Resource Management Plan for the region has left many wilderness-quality lands open to oil and gas leasing or unchecked off-road vehicle use.



© Josh Ewing

WILD PLACES

MONUMENTAL VICTORIES FOR CONSERVATION



© Andrew Fulks

On Friday, July 10, President Obama officially designated three new national monuments. The Wilderness Society and our members played a significant role in urging Obama to use his executive power under the Antiquities Act to protect these national treasures.

"In the absence of action from the House and Senate to move legislation forward, President Obama's proclamation permanently protects these areas, enabling more Americans to experience their natural and cultural wonders and providing a boost to local economies," said The

Wilderness Society President Jamie Williams. "Bedrock conservation laws like the Antiquities Act help American communities build strong ties to our public lands and cultural resources and this law should be vigorously defended from current attempts to weaken it."

BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument comprises 330,780 acres of the California Coast Ranges in northern California. It is a rare wild gem nestled in oak woodlands just 100 miles from the Bay Area and Sacramento. A popular recreation spot with clear creeks, open meadows and snow fields, the new monument will better protect a wide range of native wildlife, including Tule elk, bald eagles, osprey, river otters, and multiple species of dragonflies and butterflies that thrive in the lush forests.



Basin and Range National Monument, Nev.

© Tyler Roemer, courtesy of the Conservation Lands Foundation, flickr

BASIN AND RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

The new Basin and Range National Monument, a 704,000-acre area in Nevada just a two-hour drive from Las Vegas, represents some of the country's last undisturbed mountain ranges and valleys in the southern portion of the Great Basin ecosystem. Basin and Range is beloved by

Nevadans and visitors from throughout the country who come to hike, camp, hunt, bike, climb, and explore art and cultural sites.

WACO-MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Waco-Mammoth site in Texas contains one of the largest known North American concentrations of

Pleistocene mammoth fossils and will become the latest addition to the National Park System. Halfway between Dallas and Austin, the 107-acre site was discovered in 1978 and contains at least 24 mammoths, most of which were infant or young mammoths that perished in a catastrophic flood while being protected by adult members of the herd.



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SHELL ABANDONS PLANS TO DRILL IN ARCTIC OCEAN

On Sept. 28, Shell announced that it will abandon oil exploration in Alaska's Arctic Ocean for the foreseeable future. This means that Alaska's northern coastal villages and marine mammals will be safe from major offshore oil spills and other oil development-related impacts. Shell made the decision to suspend offshore exploration in Alaska after failing to find commercially viable quantities of oil during this summer's drilling.

"Drilling in the Arctic Ocean is high risk for the environment and financially," said Lois Epstein, a licensed engineer and arctic program director for The Wilderness Society. "Shell's announcement is very good news for the marine environment, sensitive coastal lands and the Arctic communities that would be devastated by a major oil spill. Hopefully, this means that we are done with oil companies gambling with the Arctic Ocean, and we can celebrate the news that the Arctic Ocean will be safe for the foreseeable future."



WILDERNESS AND YOU JUAN MARTINEZ

© Photo courtesy of Juan Martinez

Juan Martinez climbing the Grand Teton in Grand Teton National Park, Wyo.

On a clear day in South Central Los Angeles, the neighboring San Gabriel Mountains feel so close you can almost touch them. But as a teenager growing up in the shadow of the Los Angeles riots, Juan Martinez considered these mountains beyond reach.

In his neighborhood, gangs were the providers of food and security, and by age 15 he was well on his way to becoming a gang member. Finally, he was issued an ultimatum: either stay in school detention or join Eco Club. Martinez chose the latter, and with a box of jalapeno seeds he found himself digging in the dirt in a small, previously unnoticed plot of land next to the football field. "I decided to prove to my mom that I could do something good by growing the best jalapenos in history, and in the process I was tricked. I started to worry about photosynthesis, pH balance and soil irrigation systems," he recalls.

Martinez started paying better attention in the classroom and later that year he earned a scholarship to the Teton Science Schools in Wyoming. It would be his first opportunity to see the night stars, hear the roar of a free-flowing river and sleep in his own bed.

One assignment included a community service project to remove fence posts at the home of Mardy Murie, conservationist and widow of former Wilderness Society president Olaus Murie. At day's end, the students were invited by Mardy—who was nearly 100 years old at the time—to have tea and cookies on the porch. Martinez says, "It wasn't until years later that I realized I had shaken the hand of a conservation hero and stood in that iconic place where conversations launched the movement to protect America's wilderness."

It was a transformative experience for Martinez. "Ever since then I've been dedicating my life to helping people understand that our nation's conservation legacy can transfer to every individual. A child may not ever go to the Grand Tetons, but he or she can have that same kind of experience in an urban park or right down the street in a community garden." In 2008 he collaborated with Richard Louv, author of the *Last Child in the Woods* and co-founder of the Children and Nature Network, to develop the idea for a Natural Leaders Network, a national training program for diverse, young leaders around conservation, outdoor recreation and community leadership. Today he travels

WIN-WIN PLAN ENACTED FOR 67 MILLION ACRES OF GREATER SAGE GROUSE HABITAT

The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management recently released their final conservation plans for the vast sagebrush habitat in the American West, a rugged but fragile ecosystem home to approximately 350 wildlife species. These plans, knitting together local, state and federal perspectives, cover 67 million acres of public land, an area roughly the size of Nevada. This is a tremendous success because the federal conservation strategy developed for the greater sage grouse is the largest landscape-level conservation effort ever undertaken, and sets a new standard for conservation planning. The federal plans, along with state and private conservation efforts, will reduce threats to the greater sage grouse by 90 percent.



© Bob Wick, BLM

“We applaud the work of the federal agencies, state and local governments, industry, hunters, ranchers and conservationists to develop these plans to conserve the greater sage grouse and to sustain America’s vast sagebrush ecosystem and the hundreds of wildlife species that call it home,” said Jamie Williams, The Wilderness Society President.

JUAN MARTINEZ *continued*

the country on behalf of the Children and Nature Network to conduct these trainings in 46 states and 203 communities, affecting an average of 300,000 individuals a year. “By meeting communities where they are and empowering individuals to get outside, we can help them understand the role they play in conserving public lands—whether it is advancing national monument campaigns, helping cities create green and open spaces, or urging support for important conservation programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund,” says Martinez.

Martinez is also a National Geographic Emerging Explorer and a North Face Ambassador for Outdoor Engagement, and just this year he joined The Wilderness Society’s Governing Council. He is excited to work alongside many of his early mentors and lend his passion and experience to helping the organization focus on the challenge of building the constituency for conservation. He is also working to help other communities replicate the success of the 2014 national monument campaign to protect the San Gabriel Mountains—a place he now considers his own.



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