



New monument protects rare wild landscape in Maine

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ON AUGUST 24—the eve of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service—President Obama designated more than 87,000 acres of woods in the Katahdin region of Maine as a national monument and as the newest unit of the Park Service.

With the famous mountain by the same name as a backdrop, the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument conserves the great “continuousness of the forest,” as Henry David Thoreau described this land that falls along the East Branch of the Penobscot River east of Baxter State Park.

Maine’s North Woods is one of the largest tracts of undeveloped and unprotected wildlands in the eastern United States. This new monument will help connect and protect the integrity of the larger North Woods ecosystem that includes vital habitat for moose, bear, lynx and Atlantic salmon—all of which require large ranges to maintain viable populations—as well as some rare and endangered plants and insects.

Remarkably, these newly protected lands represent the efforts of a private citizen, Roxanne Quimby, co-founder of the Burt’s Bees company who donated the land to the public estate. Over the past decade and a half, Quimby has purchased thousands of acres in the North Woods, mostly from timber companies, and donated more than 87,000 acres to the National Park Service for the monument. The generosity of the Quimby family’s donation follows in the spirit of other conservation leaders like John D. Rockefeller and Percival Baxter who gifted lands that became Acadia National Park and Baxter State Park, respectively. The new national monument will guarantee for future generations an opportunity to canoe and fish the rivers, streams and ponds; hike or mountain bike through miles of trails; or cross-country ski deep into the heart of this incredible landscape.

The Wilderness Society, with the help of our members, was proud to be a part of the coalition that led the charge in rallying support for the new monument across the state of Maine, as well as nationally and with the Obama administration. The full spectrum of The Wilderness Society’s expertise—advocacy, communications, science

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The Wilderness Society President Jamie Williams with his son Ben in Shining Rock Wilderness, North Carolina.

DEAR WILDERNESS SOCIETY SUPPORTER,

The recent designation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine was a timely victory on the eve of the National Park Centennial this year. Now, the people of Maine and the entire country have a new national monument that will guarantee for future generations the opportunity to benefit from this incredible landscape.

This victory could not have been accomplished without the engagement of The Wilderness Society along with regional and national partners, and without the support of members like you.

We are applying the same leadership to see through the designation of numerous other landscapes as national monuments, including the Bears Ears region in southeast Utah, the Gold Butte region in Nevada and the California Coastal National Monument expansion. Each of these places has a unique story that tells an important part of our history. In protecting more lands and waters, we not only honor the diversity of Americans who have contributed to this country, we are protecting the important lands that nature and people need to thrive in the future.

As we look towards the future, the protection of these places is more important than ever. Maintaining resilient ecosystems in the face of climate change is only made possible by protecting large, connected landscapes where species can roam and migrate. Leading scientists like Harvard biologist and naturalist Dr. Edward Osborne Wilson, who we honored with the Robert Marshall Award in September, are challenging us to think bigger in protecting continental-scale wildlife corridors if we are to succeed in helping nature adapt in a warming world.

Your incredible support makes all of this work possible. Thank you for your passion and dedication to protecting America's wildlands. I hope you'll each take time this fall to get outside and experience the wonders of nature!

Sincerely,

Jamie Williams
President

MONUMENT PROTECTS LANDSCAPE IN MAINE *continued*

and public policy—were brought to bear in this campaign, culminating in one of the greatest community organizing efforts in the history of Maine conservation. More than 1,200 people turned out in support of the national monument at a public meeting organized by Senator Angus King and the National Park Service last May 16th, and at a congressional field hearing organized by opponents, supporters outnumbered opponents five to one. The overwhelming show of support at these two public meetings were indeed the turning points in the campaign.

“Preserving this wild area will help Mainers throughout the state continue to enjoy the freedom to hike, canoe and fish, along with other outdoor traditions that have been part of our natural heritage for many generations,” said Jeremy Sheaffer, Maine state director for The Wilderness Society.



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PRESIDENT:
Jamie Williams

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Questions or comments?
Please contact
Jamie Clark at
Jamie_Clark@tw.s.org



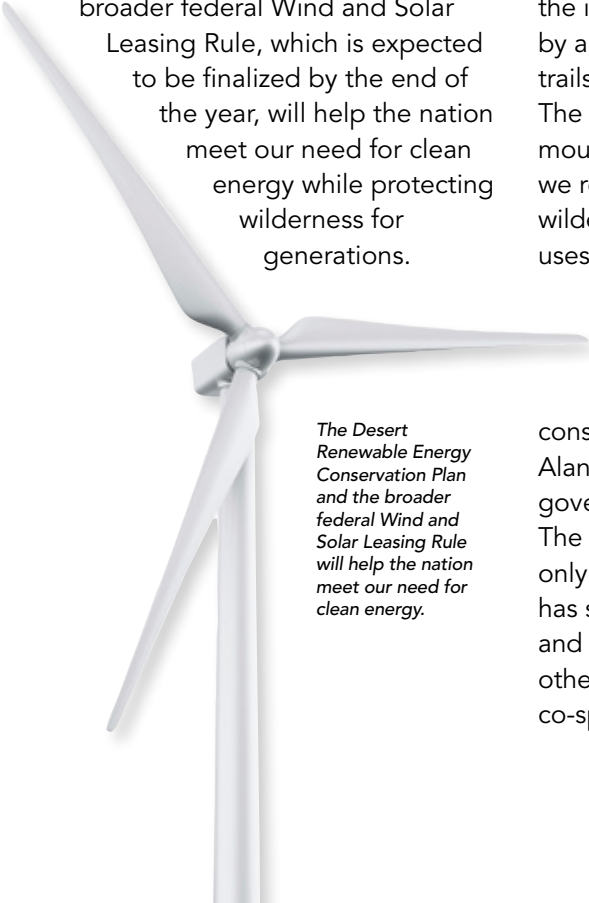
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bbb.org/charity

HOT ISSUES

CLEAN ENERGY MILESTONES REACHED

2016 may go down in history as the year the U.S. turned the corner in producing clean, renewable energy on public lands. About one percent of our nation's wind and solar energy is currently produced on federal land, and there are hundreds of thousands of acres that could be safely developed to produce carbon-free energy. The Wilderness Society has labored on two important initiatives nearing the final stages of completion this year that take a more modern approach to energy development, where we both increase the development of clean energy and avoid wildlife and wildlands conflicts. These initiatives, The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, which was finalized in September, and the broader federal Wind and Solar Leasing Rule, which is expected to be finalized by the end of the year, will help the nation meet our need for clean energy while protecting wilderness for generations.



The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and the broader federal Wind and Solar Leasing Rule will help the nation meet our need for clean energy.



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BIKING BILL "PEDALS" CONFLICT, GUTS WILDERNESS ACT

This fall, The Wilderness Society and other national conservation and recreation groups met with U.S. Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill to ensure that a proposed bill to weaken the Wilderness Act does not gain traction. Senators Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) introduced a bill called "The Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Areas Act" (S. 3205) that would undermine the intent of the Wilderness Act by allowing mountain bikes on trails in wilderness areas. While The Wilderness Society supports mountain biking on public lands, we remain opposed to opening up wilderness areas to mechanized uses. "This is a cynical attempt to undermine one of our nation's bedrock environmental laws and drive a wedge between the recreation and conservation communities," said Alan Rowsome, senior director of government relations for lands at The Wilderness Society. To date, only Senator Jeff Flake (R-Arizona) has signed on to support the bill and we are working hard to keep other members of Congress from co-sponsoring it.

FIRST NATIONAL MARINE MONUMENT IN ATLANTIC OCEAN

In September, the Obama Administration announced conservation protections for important ocean habitat off the coast of New England. The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument will protect 4,913 square miles of marine ecosystems around a series of four deep-water seamounts and three canyons in Georges Bank, about 150 miles southeast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Cold-water coral communities like these are rare and provide food, spawning habitat and shelter for many fish and invertebrate species. Many fish around the canyons and seamounts reproduce infrequently, making their populations extremely vulnerable to overfishing; and trawling can damage the coral beds on which a variety of species rely. Climate change also poses a host of new threats. Permanent protection for New England's coral canyons and seamounts will help improve the ocean's health and shield these unique areas from harm.

#OurWild



**“Wild places define
who we are.”**

JAMES HOLT
Nez Perce tribal member

The water, land, fish and wildlife of northern Idaho are more than just a part of the Nez Perce culture; they define who we are. I have been a traditional Nez Perce fisherman since I was a child. Our sacred relationship with salmon has been a constant in my life and in the life of my people, despite the trials that we have faced, and those faced by the fish. Through it all, the exhilaration of catching fish has been the same for me as it was for the Nez Perce who first greeted—and fed—Lewis and Clark’s expedition.

It’s the same exhilaration that I see in the eyes of our children as I teach them these traditional ways. The weight of a fish in your net, the force of the water on your legs, the smell of the clear mountain air—this is the experience of a landscape unhindered by the influences

of the modern world, and it is ingrained in our spirits. The public land grab movement wants to put a “No Trespassing” sign between my children and their history. It wants to put a fence between every other group of Americans and their wild places, so that no other families can forge the sacred connection to the rivers and mountains I was lucky enough to be born with. It wants to take the water, the salmon and every sacred piece of publicly accessible land, and put it into the hands of people who are responsible only to their pocketbooks, not the American people or our heritage. That’s why I’m lending my voice to protect “Our Wild” with The Wilderness Society. Now is the time for all Americans to stand up for our history, our memories, our passions and our children’s future. Let’s make sure the rivers and salmon keep calling us.

#OurWild



“Our wild places
must live on.”

BECKY EDWARDS,
Mother and Adventurer

I know I've made my mistakes as a parent, but what I'm most proud of is when my daughter runs up to me and says 'Mama, let's go on an adventure!' I made a conscious decision to raise my daughter with Yellowstone in her backyard and the Bridger Mountains in the front. We escape busy work weeks by ambling up the trail and adding sticks and rocks to our refined collections of both. We live here because of a grand affection for wild places, wild critters and open spaces—spaces I found I must protect for my sake and for hers.



TO SEE VIDEOS ABOUT
#OURWILD AND LEARN HOW
YOU CAN TAKE ACTION VISIT
WILDERNESS.ORG/OURWILD

The dangers of privatizing public lands are real. Just within the last twelve months, legislation has been proposed numerous times that would sell off those parks, trails, backpacking haunts and elk hunting grounds so cherished by families across America. As parents to the next generation of bird watchers, elk buglers and trout stalkers—we won't let that happen. Our wild places must live on, for our kids and theirs. Join us. Speak out about those wild places YOUR family holds dear. Write your senators and congressmen today and tell them your children's wild backyard isn't for sale. Together, our voices—even the tiny human variety—are loud. Make yours heard today. For more information or to get involved visit wilderness.org/ourwild.



Murray Cohen (right) with his children Jimmy and Yenny, and his wife Sharon (from left).

WILDERNESS AND YOU

MURRAY COHEN

Photo courtesy of Murray Cohen

Point to any backroad on a map of southeast Utah, and there's a good chance that Murray Cohen can tell you where it leads. A lifelong Westerner based in Denver, Colo., Murray has been exploring the region's magnificent scenery since 1978 when he and a friend chanced upon it. "We saw the La Sal Mountains and headed for them, and we've been going back to hike and camp ever since," he explains. "When you're out there, there's a spiritual connection with the land, a connection with something greater than ourselves."

Traveling the West to find inspiration and renewal in wild landscapes keeps this small business owner, husband and father of two grounded. "For me, I can just be in a beautiful place and be happy." Murray's appreciation for accessible public lands propelled him to become a member of The Wilderness Society in 1990 with a

gift of \$50. "When I saw how the organization was preserving these incredible tracts of land, I wanted to join the fight," he recalls.

As Murray and his wife Sharon engaged with Wilderness Society staff on specific campaigns, like those protecting

Colorado's Spanish Peaks Wilderness in 2000 and Browns Canyon National Monument in 2015, they increased their annual support as *Advocates for Wilderness*. Then, in early 2016, Murray's ears pricked during a conversation with Southwest Regional Director Scott Miller about the mounting threats to one of his favorite destinations in Utah, the 1.9-million-acre archeological hotspot known as

Bears Ears. He immediately went to work on an op-ed in favor of the proposal to designate the fragile area as a national monument. "It wasn't hard to write, because I truly feel that it is an amazing place worthy of protection."

"The Wilderness Society, through all of your efforts – and now I say our efforts – has done a remarkable job of preserving so many unique places. It's important to me that we give what we can to support this work."

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E.O. Wilson Receives the Robert Marshall Award:

This September, The Wilderness Society honored Harvard biologist and naturalist Dr. Edward Osborne Wilson with the Robert Marshall Award, our highest award given to a private citizen who has devoted long-term service to the fostering of an American land ethic. Dr. Wilson has spent the past five decades deepening our understanding of the natural world and importance of biodiversity conservation. At the awards dinner held in Boston, Dr. Wilson was interviewed by Steve Curwood, host of the radio show *Living on Earth* about his newest book, *Half Earth*. In *Half Earth* Wilson asserts that we must save half of the planet's land and water if we are to give species the best chance of



E.O. Wilson (middle) receives the Robert Marshall Award from The Wilderness Society President Jamie Williams (left) and Governing Council member Bill Cronon (right).

adapting to climate change and reduce the rate of extinction. Wilson's call to action has elevated the importance of conservation in the 21st century, and spurred a new conversation on the importance of protecting large connected landscapes throughout the country for nature, and for people.

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MURRAY COHEN *continued*

Simultaneously, the Cohens took a closer look at their charitable contributions and decided to step up with a series of gifts to boost both the general support needs of The Wilderness Society as well as the Bears Ears National Monument campaign. In doing so, they triggered the first qualifying gift for the Robert W. Wilson Challenge Grant, which confers matching funds to leverage significant gifts to the organization. Murray notes that the opportunity was too good to pass up: "The Wilderness Society, through all of your efforts – and now I say our efforts – has done a remarkable job of preserving so many unique places. It's important to me that we give what we can to support this work."

Our President's Circle members make contributions of \$25,000 or more each year and have personal access to our brightest conservation leaders and opportunities to travel with The Wilderness Society. And thanks to the extraordinary support of the Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust, new members of our President's Circle may be eligible to have their incredible generosity matched dollar for dollar! To learn more, please contact Andrea O'Brien at 202-429-2626 or andrea_obrien@tws.org.



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One of the best ways to support The Wilderness Society and our critical work to protect America's natural heritage is through a gift of stock. Making a gift of appreciated stock, bonds or mutual funds is simple and offers valuable financial benefits under current tax laws. To learn more please call **202-429-2626** or go to **www.wilderness.org/stockgifts**



The Wilderness Society
1615 M St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
www.wilderness.org
1-800-THE-WILD

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