

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
183 Lakeshore Drive South, Lake Quivira, KS 66217  
REPORT TO FRIENDS AND FELLOWS  
September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2007

During the past twelve months, the Foundation has supported 5 projects and programs with grants totaling \$10,400. One dealt with population, two with the preservation of ecosystems, one with natural area management and one with the publication of a book on environmental issues.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our many donors and the time and effort of our thirteen Trustees and officers who contribute to the Foundation's success.

### **Population**

Population Media Center (PMC), under the able leadership of William Ryerson, has been working in numerous countries to help stem the problem of overpopulation by adding TV and radio programs which encourage wise reproductive choices. They also emphasize the danger of AIDS transmission. They do this using sophisticated soap opera programming with local ethnic actors and topics. Currently, PMC has ongoing projects in Brazil, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Rwanda and the United States. They have recently completed projects in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and the Philippines. New projects are being developed in these countries as well as in China, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda and Vietnam. Possible future opportunities are being negotiated in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Tanzania. Once the programs are launched and deemed successful in each area, they can be turned over to local organizers and commercial backers in each country. These serial dramas have been found to be highly successful in terms of audience loyalty and in fostering changes in attitude towards family planning. Their most recent project is located in Rwanda where family planning and conservation values will be emphasized. The Foundation gave another donation of \$3,000 to this organization to continue their important work.

### **Preservation of Ecosystems**

Ecuador has lost 80 percent of its tropical cloud forest in recent years. As these forests are destroyed, remaining forests are fragmented and their flora and fauna are increasingly endangered. Reforestation of these areas will aid in the preservation of their unique biodiversity. Oliver Blakeman has initiated a project entitled "*From Fragments to Forests*" for the World Land Trust which will work alongside local people and students from Quito University to train local individuals and equip them with the ability to carry on ongoing monitoring programs essential for conservation of the area. They will learn sustainable forestry and reforestation techniques. Education of local children through school packs written in the local language will be distributed as well. The results of these efforts should have long-term benefits for the cloud forest ecosystem in Ecuador. The Foundation donated \$2,000 to the World Land Trust for this project.

The Western Land Exchange Project asked us to support further work which they have been involved in since 1997 to monitor federal land exchanges and promote reform in related federal policies. This project has been successful in greatly raising public awareness of land exchange issues and has succeeded in motivating changes in administrative policies in the US Forest Service and accomplished reform of the Bureau of Land Management appraisal practices. There are now a myriad of efforts underway to privatize public lands. The Western Lands Project is trying to protect public lands not just from ill-conceived land trades, but from virtually any form of privatization. They monitor federal land exchanges, sales, and giveaways as well as any project that would cede public control of land to non-federal entities. In furthering this mission, they will work to protect the environmental values of the forests and wilderness which comprise the majority of our public lands. Our Foundation granted \$3,000 to further their work.

### **Environmental Education**

Conservation Ink is an organization which is helping the Mongolian Parks Publishing Project to create maps and brochures for distribution to tourists and other travelers in the parks within the country. The sale of these publications will become self-sustaining and will also financially aid the parks to maintain caretakers for these unique areas. Over 6,000 photographs have been taken to document these remote areas showing major scenic attractions, historical/archaeological sites, cultural and tourism activities and nomadic communities. Mongolian versions of the map-guides will be published as well as guides for foreign travelers. Our Foundation gave an additional donation of \$1,000 to aid in the completion of this project.

### **Book on Environmental History**

The Foundation gave a seed grant of \$1,400 to The Forest History Society to help with a cross border cooperative effort to produce a book on Mexico's forests similar to their books entitled *American Forests: History of Resiliency and Recovery* and *Canada's Forests: A History*. The grant would aid in the writing and editing of a book to be entitled *Mexican Forests: A History*. The book will be used in educational programs with foresters, teachers, students, journalists, landowners, and others. Their previous book, *American Forests*, has reached at least 30,000 readers and is now in its fifth printing.

### **Reports on Earlier Grants**

The Conservation Fund received two grants totaling \$8,000 from our Foundation to support critical working landscapes throughout the Northeast. This group has succeeded in protecting over 250,000 acres within the boundaries of the Adirondack Park as well as helping to protect important working farms in Vermont's Northern Connecticut Valley. Easements have been obtained to keep these areas free from future development.

The organization “Keeping Track” received \$2,000 from the Foundation in 2004 for their mission of wildlife and habitat stewardship. This group’s Monitoring Program is a citizen science program devoted to conducting a track and sign survey of select, wide-ranging mammals in all four seasons. To date 1,300 people in over 100 communities in the U.S. and Canada have become active stewards in this project. Team members include amateur naturalists, professional land planners and natural resources personnel, teachers, hikers, hunters, farmers, foresters and businesspeople. The goal is to facilitate sound conservation planning, wildlife management, and land acquisition efforts. Keeping Track is in the process of bringing their model to a larger audience nationwide.

The John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute has prepared a “Report to U.S. Taxpayers” on the taxpayer losses from logging our National Forests. Our Foundation gave this project \$2,500 in 2003. The completed publication is subtitled “Protecting Our Federal Public Lands From Commercial Exploitation” and describes the financial balance sheet of government giveaways of lumber from our National Forests in 15 pages of detailed and well documented facts. One hundred years ago, the Forest Service was entrusted with the management of our National Forests. Most new logging proposals now claim to protect “forest health” from insects and diseases or to reduce the risk of wildfires. Neither of these new types of logging generally show scientific merit or are effective. Logging receipts are allowed by law to be kept by the Forest Service and are generally used to construct new roads for the logging industry. In addition, Congress has increased the annual direct appropriations for logging by almost \$100 million in the last 10 years, despite a reduction in products from 4 to 2 billion board feet per year. The taxpayers are indeed paying heavily for the logging industry to destroy large tracts of our National Forests.

Our grant to the Harvard Forest in 2004 has born fruit. *Wildlands and Woodlands* has been published and widely circulated. It proposes “a bold vision to add approximately 1.5 million acres to the state’s existing protected land base of one million acres – half the state of Massachusetts”. It has been enthusiastically received and has spawned a whole series of conservation activities. One of these, a landscape-level land protection project in north central Massachusetts, has already received funding to the tune of two million dollars.

### **Jeanette Siron Pelton Award**

Dr. Tobias Isaac Baskin received the Jeanette Siron Pelton award by the Botanical Society of America for his outstanding work in the field of Botany. This award of \$1,000 is given every other year from a special endowment fund in memory of Jeanette Siron Pelton to encourage younger investigators to pursue research in the field of experimental plant morphology. Dr. Baskin is currently Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts. His work has combined physiological, cytological, ultrastructural and genetic approaches to his studies of cell growth. He has made fundamental contributions to the understanding of how local cortical microtubule organization contributes to cell and ultimately organ growth in longitudinal and radial directions.

GRANTS: September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006

<u>Institutional Grants</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Conservation Ink	Additional support for its Mongolian Parks Project	2005	\$1,000
Forest Historical Society	To assist in writing and editing a book, <i>Mexican Forests: A History</i>	2005	\$1,400
Population Media Center	Institutional support	2005	\$3,000
Western Land Exchange Project	Additional support to promote federal land exchange reform	2005	\$3,000
World Land Trust	To help reforestation of tropical Cloud forests in Ecuador	2005	\$2,000