

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION
183 Lakeshore Drive South, Lake Quivira, KS 66217

REPORT TO FRIENDS AND FELLOWS
September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010

Dear Friends,

This has been a hot year world-wide with many record-breaking storms. The Gulf of Mexico has suffered the worst oil spill in history. As a whole, the human race has not heeded the warnings of our scientific community that we must take better care of our planet or face a bleak future. For the past 58 years, the Conservation and Research Foundation has attempted to put our fingers in the proverbial dam, funding projects which our Trustees, all of whom have scientific backgrounds, deem scientifically or environmentally important. The task before us has never been more monumental and more urgent. Our Foundation will continue to fund as many worthwhile environmental projects as our finances permit. We hope that there will be political consensus that will enable steps to be taken worldwide to espouse the many environmental issues our Foundation has long been addressing including overpopulation, global warming, protection of fragile habitats and stewardship of our earth, air and water resources. The choices we make will be critical to our survival and may often require personal sacrifices.

We wish to share with our supporters the progress which some of our recently funded projects have made. We are proud to commend our grantees for their dedicated efforts on our behalf. We also wish to thank our Trustees for donating their valuable time and expertise and our loyal donors for helping to fund our projects.

Population

The Conservation and Research Foundation has been concerned with global overpopulation for many years. As scientists, our Trustees view this issue as key to many of the problems we face today including climate change, famine and wars fought over access to water and arable land. For the past ten years, we have been staunch supporters of Population Media Center's (PMC) efforts to bring women's health care and reproductive information to many parts of the world. Their broadcasts with soap-opera format dramas in local languages with regionally appropriate story-lines have been hugely popular. PMC has documented the effectiveness of this approach to bring women to local clinics for help with family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention.

PMC-Ethiopia has now celebrated ten years and 740 episodes of its radio serial dramas and other programs such as traveling stage plays, workshops and printed materials. Ethiopia is the second most populous country in sub-Saharan Africa and one of the poorest developing nations. PMC has strongly focused on the Somali and Afar

regions including the introduction of workshops for religious leaders to encourage social change.

PMC has been active world-wide, while focusing on Africa. New areas they are exploring for future programs include the Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, India, Cameroon, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and Uganda. Ongoing projects in Senegal, Rwanda and Mali have gained financial support from USAID and the United Nations. PMC has recently branched out to include climate issues, endangered species and eco-tourism in their programs. Our Foundation provided \$7,500 to PMC in 2009.

Preservation of Ecosystems

Over the years, the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) has pioneered efforts to educate the public about alternative energy for individuals, industry and the military. One of its current projects has been termed “off-coal”, a sequel to its earlier efforts to find valid alternatives to oil as a major energy source. Both oil and coal produce large amounts of carbon dioxide, a major cause of global warming. RMI’s emphasis is on reducing energy demand through resource efficiency as well as increased use of non-polluting renewable resources such as wind and solar power. They have instigated formal meetings with electric utilities to present their research on how best to achieve low carbon electric systems for specific territories. Smart cars with electrified motors and city-wide readiness for charging plug-in hybrid vehicles are also current priorities for RMI. Because buildings consume 38.5% of all energy in the world and are responsible for 34% of all global carbon dioxide emissions, RMI is working on retrofitting buildings including the Empire State Building in NYC which will reduce its energy consumption by 40%. Our Foundation provided \$5,000.00 in support to RMI in 2009.

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) received a grant of \$500 in 2009 toward their efforts to establish a fund to support the West Grand Lakes Community Forest in Maine. Their mission is to contribute to the conservation and exemplary management of the area’s 350,000 acres of forests and waters.

The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) received a grant of \$500 to support their work on seabird rehabilitation from damage of ongoing oil spills. Since 1968, they have treated more than 86,000 oiled, injured or abandoned African penguins and other vulnerable seabirds.

The Western Lands Project has received enthusiastic support from our Foundation for its efforts to keep public lands public. In 2009, we awarded this group \$5,000 in general support for a number of their initiatives as a watchdog and educational source to expose public land exchanges and sales. Their multifaceted strategy includes project monitoring, analysis of impacts to the environment, and mounting legal challenges when laws and procedures are subverted as well as working to reform policies harmful to the public interest. As an example of their efforts, in Idaho they intervened in a proposed

exchange of 28,000 acres of National Forest land to Western Pacific Timber in exchange for 39,000 acres of clear-cut forest. Their proposed resolution would result in the outright purchase of the clear-cut forest areas without sacrificing the region containing old growth timber and clean water streams. For more fascinating insight into this group's efforts, see their website at: www.westernlands.org. Western Lands Project is currently instigating a "Solar Done Right" effort to encourage solar installations on built-environments instead of sacrificing huge areas of fragile desert ecosystems for solar installations currently proposed for public lands.

Environmental Education

The Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Loon Conservation Program, which received \$4,000 from our Foundation in 2008, has completed their report on long-term mercury contamination in terrestrial wildlife of New York and Pennsylvania. Their interactive educational unit on the impact of mercury and other pollutants on Adirondack loons is now available for use in high school programs as well as to the general public.

Dr. Stanley Cheren has led his Nueva Salud project in Guatemala for the past three years, volunteering his time and creative energies to set up health care facilities including latrines and installing stoves in individual huts for indigenous villagers. His efforts have resulted in better health for the entire village as well as serving as a demonstration project for surrounding villages and the central government which has been collaborating on the project.

Reports on Earlier Grants

The Conservation Fund received \$2,000 from our Foundation in 2008 for its program of land preservation and public education. In 2009, it celebrated twenty years of service, saving a total of 6.3 million acres of land for future generations. Its recent role in the preservation of Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina allows this 2,456 acre scenic area to be permanently protected.

The Nature Conservancy's Vermont Chapter celebrated 50 years of conservation in 2010. The chapter received two grants of \$2,000 each in 2007 for their North Pawlet land purchase and Clayplain forest restoration projects respectively. The Clayplain Forest restoration project continues a multi-contract agreement with federal agencies to plant more than 76,000 trees in the area. They now plant hundreds of trees each year to restore the clayplain and floodplain forests with stock grown at the Conservancy's nursery. We salute them for their sustained efforts to protect 183,000 acres of forests, wetlands, uplands and waterways in every county of Vermont. Their current initiatives include fighting invasive species and conserving Lake Champlain's biological diversity.

GRANTS: September 1,2009 to August 31, 2010

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Amigos Bravos</u> , Friends of the Wild Rivers. Brian Shields, Ex. Dir.	2009	\$2,000
<u>Coldwater Corals</u> Covering costs of speaking tour	2009	\$500
<u>Connecticut River Council</u> Thermal pollution of the Connecticut River due to nuclear power plant cooling	2009	\$1,000
<u>Downeast Lakes Land Trust</u> . Operational support for land stewardship, education and research projects.	2009	\$500
<u>Gund Institute</u> Agroecology education in Dominica	2009	\$500
<u>Nueva Salud</u> , Dr. Stanley Cheren. Project to create comprehensive village-level health care and disease prevention in remote isolated villages in Guatemala	2009	\$5,000
<u>Population Media Center</u> (PMC) – Institutional program support. TV and radio broadcasts on family planning, AIDS education and environmental issues in 50 countries	2009	\$7,500
<u>Rocky Mountain Institute</u> (RMI). Their “off-coal initiative”	2009	\$5,000
<u>SANCCOB</u> , Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds. Rescue, rehabilitation and conservation of sea birds.	2009	\$500
<u>Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management</u> , Punta Gorda Town, Belize.	2009	\$1,000
<u>Western Lands Project</u> . This watchdog organization dedicated to exposing governmental exchanges and sales of public lands.	2009	\$5,000
<u>Vernal Pools in Vermont</u>	2009	\$1,000
	Total	<u>\$29,500</u>