YEAR IN REVIEW

We did it! After a decade-long initiative to bring about lasting change in the way our national forest lands are managed, Winter Wildlands Alliance and our members finally convinced the U.S. Forest Service to issue new national guidelines on snowmobile management.

Those guidelines came in the form of the 2015 Over-Snow Vehicle Rule which directs all National Forest Units that receive adequate snowfall to designate specific roads, trails and areas where snowmobiles are allowed and to publish the open areas on a map. All areas not specifically designated as open to snowmobiles will then be protected for quiet winter recreation, wildlife habitat and for the intrinsic value of pristine open spaces.

This landmark policy opens the door for all of us who value the solitude of wild winter places to have a say in how these places are protected for the future. It also means our real work – to bring about on-the-ground change – is just beginning. Winter Wildlands Alliance and our members are already engaging in winter management plans in California, Wyoming and Montana and we’re working with the Forest Service at the national and local levels to begin implementing the new Over-Snow Vehicle Rule on forests across the country.

To each of you who have supported Winter Wildlands through this effort I offer heartfelt thanks and admiration. All of us at Winter Wildlands Alliance look forward to working hand-in-hand to protect the winter spaces you love.

Keep Winter Wild!

Mark Menlove
Executive Director

FY15 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

During fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) Winter Wildlands Alliance and our members achieved the following in our work to promote and protect winter wildlands and a quality human-powered snowsports experience on public lands.

NATIONAL POLICY

• Obtained a new Federal Rule on Over-Snow Vehicle Management, which brings management of snowmobiles under the same guidelines used for all other off-road vehicles in all other seasons.

• Rallied more than 1,000 supporters to submit comments on the draft Over-Snow Vehicle Rule, resulting in a much-strengthened final rule which was released in January 2015.

• Met with Forest Service and Administration decision-makers in Washington D.C. including USDA Undersecretary of Agriculture and Deputy Forest Chief and their staff members to ensure timely implementation of the Over-Snow Vehicle Rule.

• Provided Forest Service Regional offices, grassroots groups and other organizations with a comprehensive review of winter recreation management on National Forest System lands.

• Met directly with national and regional leaders from the snowmobile community to work toward common ground and solutions in Over-Snow Vehicle Rule implementation.

• With Outdoor Alliance colleagues, met in Washington D.C. with land managers and elected officials on numerous public lands bills and programs.

• Advocated directly with Members of Congress, Administration decision-makers and Federal land management agency leaders on behalf of human powered winter recreation on public lands.

GRASSROOTS

• Hosted the Sixth Bi-Annual Grassroots Advocacy Conference in Golden, Colorado bringing together 70 winter advocacy leaders, outdoor business leaders, land management decision makers and representatives from the snowmobile community for three days of networking, mentoring and inspiration.

• Saw the release of two draft winter travel plans under the new OSV Rule: the Bitterroot draft plan designates more than one million acres of the 1.6 million acre-forest, including all recommended wilderness and wilderness study areas, as non-motorized. While smaller in scope, the Divide plan designates 68,400 acres of the 155,000-acre district as non-motorized in winter.

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ABOUT WWA
Winter Wildlands is a national non profit organization promoting and preserving winter wildlands and a quality human-powered snowsports experience on public lands.

Winter Wildlands Alliance
910 Main St, Ste 235
Boise, Idaho 83702
Phone 208.336.4203
info@winterwildlands.org
www.winterwildlands.org
• Welcomed new grassroots partners in Colorado, California, and Vermont – Silent Tracks, Friends of the Inyo, Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center, Tahoe Backcountry Alliance and Unplugged.

• With California partner, Snowlands Network, submitted “Skiers Alternatives” and substantive comments for winter travel plans on the Lassen, Eldorado, and Tahoe National Forests in California.

• Submitted substantive comments in support of winter wildlands and human-powered winter recreation for winter travel plans on the Helena and Kootenai National Forests in Montana.

• Participated in meetings and submitted comments on the revision of Forest Plans for the Flathead, Nez Perce-Clearwater, and Rio Grande National Forests as well as project-level planning including Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and the BLM’s Tres Rios field office.

• Worked with local partners and the Forest Service to organize and implement a citizen science wildlife monitoring project on the Helena National Forest.

• Continued representing backcountry skiing interests on the Payette Winter Forum, a multi-stakeholder collaborative in McCall, Idaho.

• With our Utah grassroots group, Wasatch Backcountry Alliance, participated in the Mountain Accord process and met directly with Utah ski area managers and ski industry leaders to work toward solutions that help Utah ski resorts remain viable and protect the remaining undeveloped lands of the Central Wasatch.

• Worked with Idaho conservation and recreation partners and members of the Idaho Outdoor Business Council to advocate for permanent protection of Idaho’s Boulder and White Clouds Mountains.

• Provided organizational assistance to the Idaho Outdoor Business Council.

**RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

• Published and distributed Best Management Practices for Forest Service winter travel planning.

• Published a revised and updated report, Winter Recreation on National Forest Lands, providing a comprehensive overview of the status of winter recreation management on National Forest Lands. The report, broken out by national forest unit and region, includes total acres and miles of groomed winter trails open and closed to winter motorized use as well as annual snowmobile, cross-country ski and snowshoe visits for each forest where over-snow recreation occurs.

• Worked with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and Vermont Backcountry Alliance to develop a set of Leave No Trace guidelines for backcountry snowsports.

• Presented at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference on the new OSV Rule.

**EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

• The WWA national SnowSchool program engaged more than 29,000 participants across 55 sites, with 55 percent of the students qualifying as underserved and 60 percent having never been on snowshoes before!

• Established 5 new SnowSchool sites reaching new communities in Utah, New York, Michigan, Minnesota and Maryland.

• Piloted an innovative project designed to transform the SnowSchool learning experience from a 1-2 day event into a fun 4-month science project. WWA encapsulated the project in a new activity guide that was distributed across the SnowSchool network.

• Provided 7 free on-snow science education training events to SnowSchool educators across the country.

• The Tenth Annual Backcountry Film Festival toured 98 cities worldwide, raising more than $150,000 to benefit local outdoor education programs, advocacy efforts, avalanche centers and the purchasing of winter equipment.

• Two new Ambassadors, Kt Miller and Doug Stoup, joined WWA’s Ambassador corps working to provide a critical link between Winter Wildlands Alliance and the winter backcountry community.

• Hosted our 4th annual Day of Action on the Jedediah Smith Wilderness, working with the Forest Service to install boundary markers on the edge of the Jedediah Smith Wilderness.

• Worked with Powderproject.com to promote a new online mapping tool to provide better data to local land managers on those areas most important to backcountry skiers and other human-powered recreationists.

• Presented to the Idaho State Snowmobile Association Board of Directors regarding WWA’s aspirations for solution-oriented winter travel planning and invited Idaho State Snowmobile Association and other regional and national snowmobile representatives to speak to the WWA Grassroots Advocacy Conference.

**continued on next page**
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Following are the audited Winter Wildlands Alliance financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2015 as presented by Harris & Co. P.A. Certified Public Accountants. For more information please email info@winterwildlands.org or call (208) 336-4203.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**ASSETS**

**CURRENT ASSETS**
- Cash & cash equivalents $198,065
- Inventory $1,500
- Prepaid Expenses $6,232
- Total Current Assets $205,797

**FIXED ASSETS (equipment, less depreciation)** $1,187
- Deposits $660
- Total Assets $207,644

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**
- Accounts Payable $13,850
- Accrued payroll liabilities $15,347
- Total Current Liabilities $29,197

**NET ASSETS**
- Unrestricted $141,234
- Temporarily restricted $37,213
- Total Net Assets $178,447
- Total Liabilities and Net Assets $207,644

**TOTAL REVENUE: $564,152**

Grants $372,332 (66%)
Contributions $290,950 (52%)
Special Events $52,579 (9%)
Membership dues $18,102 (3%)
Investment Income $147

**TOTAL EXPENSES: $563,192**

Education Programs $158,494 (29%)
Public Policy Programs $185,186 (32%)
Fundraising $32,760 (6%)
Administrative $68,148 (12%)
Constituency Building $118,604 (21%)
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANK YOU!

WWA thanks our supporters, volunteers and board members for their commitment and dedication to our work promoting and protecting the human-powered winter experience. WWA is grateful to our more than 9,200 members and supporters. We are proud and grateful to list the individuals, foundations and partners who contributed $100 or more during fiscal year 2015.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS, PARTNERS AND FOUNDATIONS

10 Barrel Brewing
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The Winter Wildlands Alliance Board of Directors met three times during the fiscal year: October 11, 2014; January 24-25, 2015; June 18, 2015.

STAFF

Mark Menlove, Executive Director
Hilary Eisen, Recreation Planning and Policy Coordinator
Brittany Jones, Program Administrator
Kerry McClay, National SnowSchool Director
Keli Bell, Outreach and Events Coordinator

GRASSROOTS GROUPS

Alaska
Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition
Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks
Tsalteshi Trails Association
California
Friends of the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center
Friends of the Inyo Snowlands Network
Tahoe Backcountry Alliance
Colorado
Colorado Mountain Club
Crested Butte Nordic Council
Friends of Berthoud Pass
High Country Conservation Advocates
Friends of the Rougg Backcountry
Mountain Area Land Trust
Silent Tracks
Western Slope Conservation Center
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Idaho Conservation League
Nordic and Backcountry Skiers Alliance of Idaho
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Montana Wilderness Association
Montanans for Quiet Recreation
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Eagle Cap Nordic Club
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Wasatch Backcountry Alliance
Vermont
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El Sendero
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The Mountaineers
Spokane Mountaineers
Wyoming
Friends of Pathways
Togwotee Pass Backcountry Alliance
Wyoming Wilderness Association

WINTER WILDLANDS ALLIANCE FY15 ANNUAL REPORT

January 24-25, 2015; June 18, 2015.

BoArD oF DIrEctorS

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Erik Lambert