



# SIERRA CLUB

## HISTORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**1892** The Sierra Club is founded on May 28. John Muir elected first president. Club helps defeat proposal to reduce boundaries of Yosemite National Park.

**1893** First Sierra Club Bulletin issued. Thirteen million-acre Sierra Forest Reserve established with support of the Club.

**1897** Club urges strengthening of public forest policy and supports creation of additional national parks, including Grand Canyon. Club membership reaches 350.

**1899** Congress establishes Mt. Rainier National Park in response to efforts of the Sierra Club and other groups.

**1901** In the Club's first outing, William Colby leads 96 participants on a trip to Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, beginning a tradition of annual High Trips.

**1903** President Theodore Roosevelt visits Yosemite with John Muir.

**1905** State of California, through efforts of John Muir and others, returns Yosemite Valley to federal management.

**1907** Club opposes use of Hetch Hetchy Valley as a reservoir.

**1910** Glacier National Park established with Club support.

**1916** National Park Service created with support of Club and others.

**1919** Club supports Save-the-Redwoods League and protests threats to redwoods.

**1920** Club opposes proposal for major dams in Yellowstone National Park.

**1923** Club successfully opposes dam sites in Kings River region.

**1926** Club leads successful effort to enlarge Sequoia National Park. Congress adds Kern and Kaweah regions, including Mt. Whitney.

**1927** Aurelia Squire Harwood becomes the first female president of the Sierra Club.

**1940** Kings Canyon National Park established after long Club campaign.

**1947** Club succeeds in campaign to preserve San Geronio Primitive Area and works to protect Olympic National Park.

**1948** Club opposes construction of Glacier View Dam, which would have flooded 20,000 acres of Glacier National Park.

**1950** At the Club's urging, Grand Teton National Park enlarged to include Jackson Hole National Monument. The Atlantic Chapter becomes the first Club chapter outside of California.

**1953** 47,000 acres added to Olympic National Park at urging of Club and others.

**1955** The Club's first major touring exhibit, "This Is the American Earth," is organized.

**1956** Club participates in successful campaign to prevent dam construction in Dinosaur National Monument. Club membership reaches 10,000.

**1960** The Sierra Club Foundation is established. *This Is the American Earth*, the Club's first coffee-table book, is published. The Sierra Club's membership reaches 15,000.

**1962** Club assists in establishing Point Reyes National Seashore in California and Padre Island National Seashore in Texas.

**1964** Wilderness Act is passed by Congress after a long campaign by Club and others.

**1968** Club leads effort to create Redwood National Park and assists in successful fight to expand Land and Water Conservation Fund.

**1970** Efforts of Club and others lead to passage of National Environmental Policy Act and creation of Environmental Protection Agency. Sierra Club chapters extended to cover all 50 states. Club membership passes 100,000.

**1971** Opposition from Club and others helps defeat supersonic transport (SST) proposal. Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund established.

**1972** Congress passes major marine protection legislation with Club support. Water Pollution Control Act passed.

**1973** Club leads successful effort to open Highway Trust Fund to mass transit funding.

**1974** Club successfully lobbies to establish Big Thicket Preserve in Texas and Big Cypress Preserve in Florida.

**1975** Club persuades Congress to substantially enlarge Grand Canyon National Park and establish Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

**1976** The Sierra Club launches national Inner City Outings program to provide safe and fun wilderness trips for low-income youth and others who have limited access to the outdoors.

**1977** Club joins successful effort to strengthen Clean Air Act. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act passed.

**1978** Club leads successful campaign to add 48,000 acres to Redwood National Park and works to pass Endangered American Wilderness Act, which preserves 1.3 million acres.

**1979** Club participates in formulation of regulations for National Forest Management Act.

**1980** Ansel Adams receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom for "his efforts to preserve this country's wild and scenic areas." Adams served as a member of the Sierra Club Board of Directors from 1934-1971. Club plays leading role in passage of Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, adding 103 million acres of parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas. Superfund legislation passed.

**1981** Club and other groups gather more than a million signatures urging ouster of Interior Secretary James Watt. Club leads effort to block MX missile complex in the Great Basin region of Utah and Nevada.

**1982** Club helps block effort to weaken Clean Air Act.

**1983** Club wins suit blocking plans to drop 1.5 million acres from Bureau of Land Management wilderness inventory.

**1984** Club plays leading role in passage of legislation designating 6.8 million acres of wilderness in 18 states.

**1985** Club supports passage of strengthened Superfund and Clean Water Act reauthorizations. Club leads campaign to add sodbuster and swampbuster provisions to Farm Bill and establish a 40 million acre soil-conservation reserve.

**1986** Club launches campaign to protect Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and California desert wilderness areas. Club membership tops 400,000.

**1987** Club leads successful effort to pass Michigan Wilderness and El Malpais National Monument and Wilderness bills. Club campaigns to reauthorize and strengthen the Clean Air Act.

**1989** Under pressure from the Club and other groups, the World Bank withdraws a \$500 million loan to Brazil that would have led to construction of 147 new dams and inundated large areas of the Amazon basin.

**1990** Clean Air Act reauthorized with Club leading the grassroots effort. Protection against acid rain, toxic air pollutants, and urban air pollution improved.

**1991** Club defeats Johnston-Wallop Energy Security Act, which would have opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil development. The Sierra Student Coalition, the student-run arm of the Sierra Club, is founded by Adam Werbach.

**1992** Club endorses a presidential candidate for the second time in its history. President Clinton and 76 percent of Club-endorsed congressional candidates win election. Club celebrates 100 years of protecting the environment.

**1993** A decade-long Club campaign pays off with final passage of the Colorado Wilderness Act, protecting more than 750,000 acres.

**1994** The Sierra Club successfully lobbies Congress to pass the California Desert Protection Act. More than seven million acres of new national park and wilderness areas are protected.

**1995** Club collects 1.2 million signatures on the Environmental Bill of Rights.

**1996** Club builds public support and political base that leads to the establishment of the 1.6 million acre Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument in Utah by President Clinton.

**1997** With strong support and political pressure from the Club, the EPA issues new regulations to reduce soot and smog pollution.

**1998** Club plays key role in supporting pro-environmental candidates, winning 38 out of 43 close congressional races.

**2000** Club's long-standing campaign pays off as President Clinton designates 328,000 acres of giant sequoia groves and surrounding forests as a national monument. Sierra Club forms Environmental Justice program to address overwhelming evidence showing that low-income communities and people of color bear disproportionate environmental burdens when it comes to pollution and health issues.

**2001** The EPA finally adopts standards to reduce the level of arsenic in drinking water after public outcry and criticism from the Sierra Club. Club membership reaches 700,000.

**2002** Club wilderness advocates secure protection for 500,000 acres of desert wildlands in southern Nevada. Club helps pass precedent-setting California clean car standards to combat climate disruption.

**2003** Club leads effort to defeat an anti-environmental federal energy production bill that would have subsidized a new generation of nuclear and coal-fired power plants. The Sierra Club's Environmental Justice program partners with the Zuni tribe to stop construction of the Fence Lake coal mine, saving the sacred Zuni Salt Lake in western New Mexico.

**2004** Club and allies block proposals to allow oil and gas development in Montana's Rocky Mountain Front and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Club also blocks attempt to lift moratorium on offshore oil leases for California, Florida, and the East Coast.

**2005** Club legal victory forces Bush administration to abandon plans for a logging project on the Grand Canyon's north rim. Club holds first-ever Sierra Summit — a national convention and exposition. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast with major devastation and loss of life. The Sierra Club works with Gulf communities on sustainable restoration. Sierra Club de Puerto Rico is formed as the Club's first Spanish-speaking chapter. Sierra Club de Puerto Rico works to gain protection for the island's Northeast Ecological Corridor — nesting ground for the endangered leatherback sea turtle.

**2006** Club lawsuit succeeds in protecting Giant Sequoia National Monument from Bush administration plan to allow commercial logging.

**2008** Club stops construction of 68 new coal-fired power plants. Club wins injunction to block wolf-killing in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The Club endorses Barack Obama for president.

**2009** Sierra Club successfully advocates for Omnibus Public Land Management Act — protecting more than two million acres of wilderness, three new national parks, and 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers — in largest public-lands conservation effort in 20 years. More than 200,000 kids discover the joy of the natural world through the Sierra Club's outdoor programs and Water Sentinels program.

**2010** The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign helps retire 80 of the country's 500 dirty coal-fired power plants and begin replacing them with clean energy. Over the past decade, Sierra Club chapters drive the establishment or expansion of renewable energy mandates in 28 states.

**2011** The Sierra Club wins a campaign to preserve one million acres around the Grand Canyon as off-limits to new uranium mining. In addition, the Club achieves the milestone of defeating 150 proposed new coal-fired power plants, and reaches 1.4 million members and supporters.

**2013** On February 13, Sierra Club President Allison Chin and Executive Director Michael Brune join dozens of environmental, civil rights, and community leaders from across the country for a historic display of civil disobedience at the White House, where they demand that President Obama deny the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline and address the climate crisis. Four days later, the Sierra Club and its allies take to the streets, hosting the largest climate rally in U.S. history at the Washington Monument.

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