

History of Accomplishments

Highlights of Sierra Club History from 1892–2008

1892 Sierra Club 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 and Mt. Rainier. Club membership reaches 350.

1899 Congress establishes Mt. Rainier National Park in response to efforts of the 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.

1914 John Muir dies December 24. Club conducts last outing to Hetch Hetchy Valley.

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.

1935 Club supports legislation to establish Olympic and Kings Canyon National Parks.

1940 Kings Canyon National Park established after long Club campaign.

1947 Club succeeds in campaign to preserve San Geronimo Primitive Area, and works to protect Olympic National Park and Jackson Hole National Monument.

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.

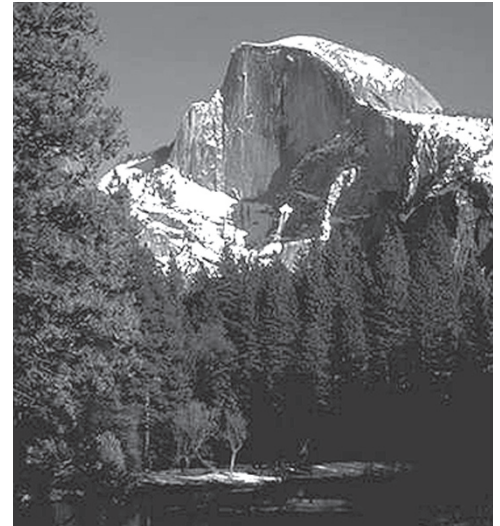
1955 *This Is the American Earth*, the Club's first major touring exhibit is organized.

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* (by Ansel Adams and Nancy Newhall), the Club's first Exhibit Format book, is published.

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

1964 Wilderness Act establishing National Wilderness Preservation System 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 every state in the U.S. 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.



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"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." — John Muir

1976 Club successfully lobbies for passage of an "Organic Act" for the Bureau of Land Management, improving protection for 341 million acres under BLM management. Toxic Substances Control Act passed.

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 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 1 million signatures urging ouster of Interior Secretary James Watt. Club leads effort to block MX Missile complex in Great Basin.

1982 Club helps block effort to weaken Clean Air Act.

1983 Club wins suit blocking plans to drop 1.5 million acres from BLM 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 & Wilderness bills. Club campaigns to reauthorize and strengthen Clean Air Act.

1988 Congress reauthorizes the Endangered Species Act, adds parts of 40 rivers in Oregon to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and designates new wilderness in Alabama, Oklahoma and Washington.

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.

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.

1992 Club endorses a presidential candidate for the second time in its history. President Clinton and 76% 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 3/4 million acres.

1994 In a monumental victory the Club successfully lobbies Congress to pass the California Desert Protection Act. More than 7 million acres of new national park and wilderness areas are protected.

1995 Club collects 1.2 million signatures on the Environmental Bill of Rights and mobilizes thousands of citizens in support of environmental protection.

1996 Club builds public support and political base which 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.

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

1999 Club helps convince President Clinton and Vice President Gore to initiate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and review that could result in the permanent protection of the last remaining 60 million acres in our national forests.

2000 Club's long-standing campaign pays off. President Clinton designates 328,000 acres of giant sequoia groves and surrounding forests as a national monument.

2001 The EPA finally adopts standards to reduce the level of arsenic in drinking water, after public outcry and criticism from the Sierra Club and other environmental groups. 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 global warming.

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.

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 oil leasing off 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.

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

2007 Club encourages Congress to pass a Renewable Energy Standard that requires utilities to produce 15% of their power from clean, renewable energy by 2020.

2008 Club continued its string of successes, stopping construction of 68 new coal-fired power plants. Club wins injunction to block wolf-killing in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.