

The Power of Tourism & Recreationists to Protect Ecosystems

Linda McMillan MBA

Deputy Vice-Chairman, Communications, IUCN - WCPA
Connectivity and Mountain Protected Areas Group

World Parks Congress
Sydney 2014





In the late 19th century

A Yosemite recreationist, citizen scientist, and writer, John Muir, became very concerned about the rapid loss of special mountain species he observed in that spectacular region, such as the Giant Sequoia trees.



THE STUMP AND TRUNK OF THE MAMMOTH TREE at sequoia

Showing the Gladden Party of Thirty-five Men, Barring out the Log of the Tree

So in 1892 John Muir collaborated with scientists and others who advocated in favor of mountain protection in the United States. They created the Sierra Club to awaken the public to the urgent need to protect special mountain species before they were completely destroyed. It was one of the first large-scale environmental preservation organizations in the world.

May 28, 1892, San
Francisco, CA

Sierra Club, Founded



They helped to inform the public about the need for protection for the outstanding and remarkable parts of the US—a very progressive idea!

In the 20th century

A tremendous amount of mountain protection success was achieved by effective collaborations between public lands managers and recreationists



Mountaineers John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt recognized the urgent need to protect mountains and their special species in fast-growing America. They achieved protection by collaborating with powerful recreationist groups such as hunters, fishermen, and mountain climbers.



In the 20th century

The result of Teddy's collaboration with mountain stakeholders from 1901 to 1909 in America:

- 150 national forests with 42 million acres (170,000 km²)
- 5 national parks
- 51 national wildlife refuges
- 18 areas of "special interest" such as the Grand Canyon



In the early 20th century - Europe

Austria's stunning Hohe Tauern National Park, the largest nature reserve in central Europe, owes its existence to the Austrian Alpine Club (OeAV) which in 1913 began quietly buying up the land in this area that includes Austria's highest peak, the *Grossglockner* (3,798m).



In the 1950s recreationists also collaborated to protect this area from exploitation of its rivers for electric power generation. This led the successful effort to preserve the area as a national park in 1971



In the early 21st century - Europe

Mountaineer and Protection Hero
Reinhold Messner lead the successful
effort to add the Dolomites as a UNESCO
World Heritage Site in 2009.



21st century Mountain Protection Heroes

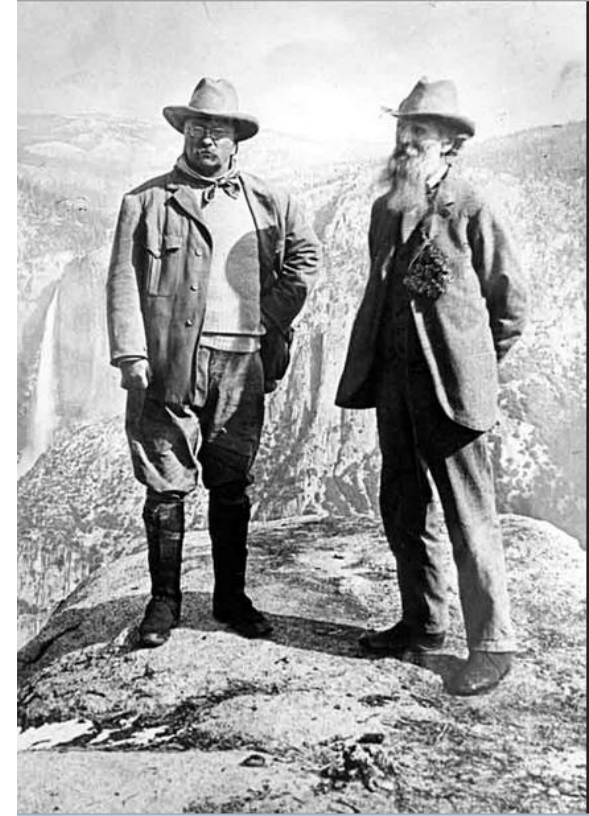


Yosemite climbers Yvon Chouinard and Doug Tompkins create huge new mountain protected areas in South America through their organization Conservación Patagónica





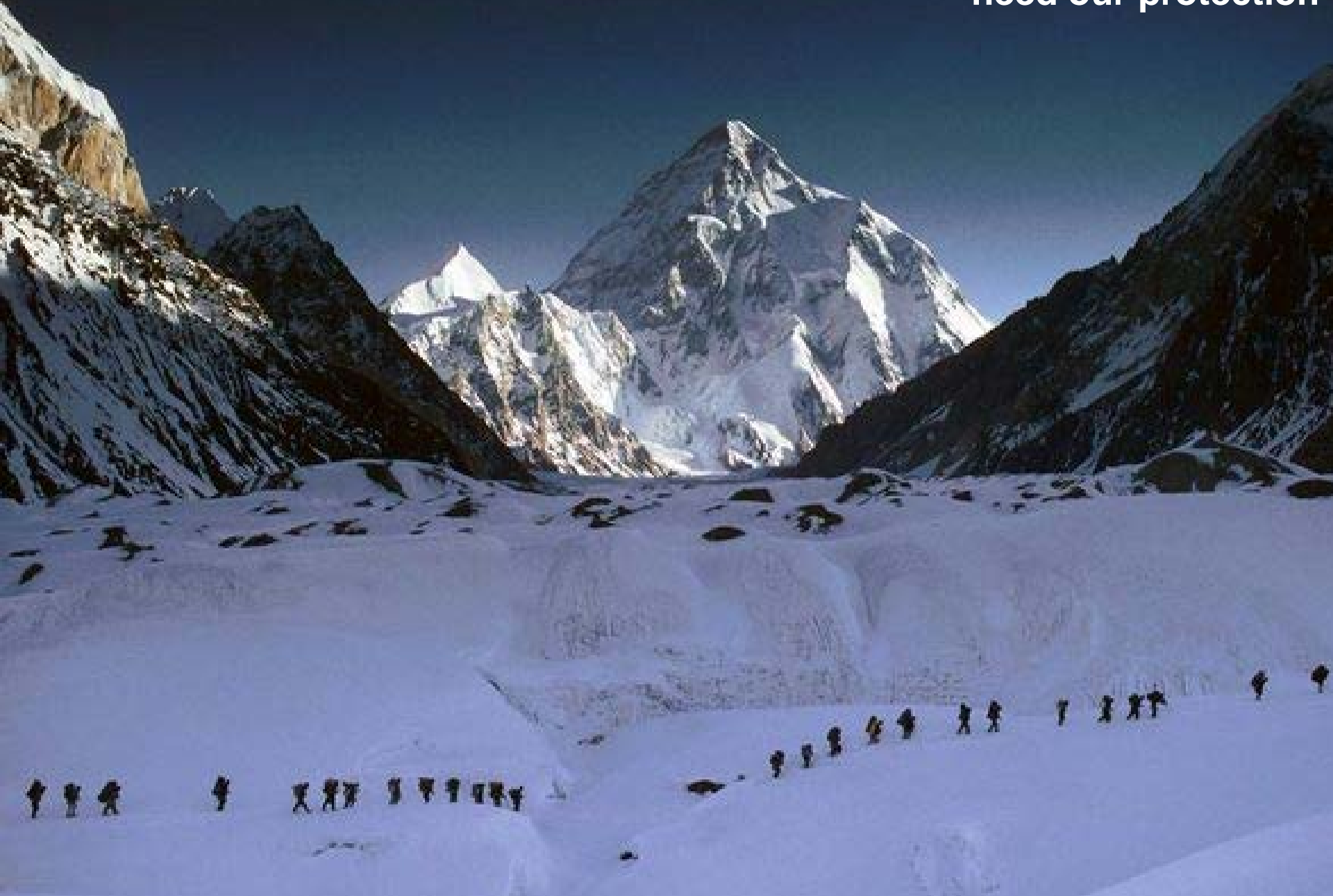
Recreationists are historically World Class Mountain Protection Heroes



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892



**Mountains around the world
need our protection**



Protected areas: KEEP THEM **HEALTHY**
THEY'LL KEEP YOU **HEALTHY**



Protected areas: genetic storehouses which promise a healthier future for the planet and its peoples. Let's make a promise to them too.

B e n e f i t s B e y o n d B o u n d a r i e s

<http://wpcg.iucn.org>