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ADVOCATES for the West

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



## Clients

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Bend Backcountry Alliance  
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Concerned Friends of the Winema  
Conservation Northwest  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Earthworks  
Friends of the Clearwater  
Friends of Living Oregon Waters  
Golden Eagle Audubon Society  
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Governor Philip E. Batt  
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Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Hells Canyon Preservation Council  
Idaho Conservation League  
Idaho Rivers United  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
The Lands Council  
Oregon Natural Desert Association  
Oregon Wild  
Project Coyote  
Resource Renewal Institute  
Selkirk Conservation Alliance  
Sierra Club  
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Western Watersheds Project  
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Winter Wildlands Alliance

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*Staff Attorney*

### Washington, DC Office

Todd Tucci  
*Senior Attorney*

## Dear Friends,

Thanks to the support of generous people like you, **Advocates for the West** is tackling – and winning – a wide array of environmental challenges across the West.

Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness Areas, National Parks – you help us fight for so many special places. Just a few from 2015 that stand out to me are: the Selway and Clearwater Rivers and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho; the Sycan River in Oregon; the Point Reyes National Seashore in California; and the Sonoran Desert National Monument in Arizona. These and many other jewels of our western public lands need our protection from mining, ranching and other corporate interests.

2015 was also a busy year for protecting imperiled species: sage-grouse, bighorn sheep, salmon and steelhead, and caribou are high profile, but we also fight for lesser-known species like the Oregon spotted frog, Chiricahua leopard frog, and Lost River sucker fish.

Thanks to your help, 2015 was a strong year for **Advocates for the West**. And 2016 will be even better. I hope you will continue to support us – and ask your friends to join our fight to save the West!

Thanks so much,



Laird J. Lucas | Executive Director



## What did your support help us achieve in 2015?

### **Protecting East Boulder Creek from Mining – October 2015**

After we sued the US Forest Service for unlawfully approving private gold mining exploration within sensitive wetlands on East Boulder Creek near the North Fork Salmon River, the agency required full site restoration and agreed any future mining activity must be subjected to public environmental review.

### **Progress for Idaho's Wildlife – August 2015**

In response to our February 2015 lawsuit, APHIS-Wildlife Services released a new draft Environmental Assessment for public comment. The agency is trying to bring its Idaho wildlife killing into compliance with NEPA, but refuses to acknowledge its predator killing programs have significant environmental impacts or adopt non-lethal control practices. We anticipate filing a new lawsuit against this rogue agency once it issues a final document in 2016.

### **Protecting the Selway Wild and Scenic River – July 2015**

We won a federal court injunction forbidding Idaho Department of Lands from bulldozing a 3-mile road up the steep canyons of the lower Selway River that would have forever marred the Wild and Scenic corridor and threatened massive erosion into endangered fish habitat.

### **Relief for Chiricahua Leopard Frog – June 2015**

A federal judge granted summary judgment in our latest round of litigation challenging corporate livestock grazing in critical habitat of the Chiricahua leopard frog in the Coconino National Forest of Arizona.

### **Victory for Endangered Selkirk Caribou – March 2015**

Following a 2005 case in which we won a closure order for snowmobile use in critical Selkirk caribou habitat in Idaho, a federal judge ordered US Fish and Wildlife Service to reconsider its 2013 decision to reduce by 90% its designation of critical habitat for the endangered caribou.



### **Safeguarding Sonoran Desert National Monument – February 2015**

In our second win to protect the Sonoran Desert National Monument in Arizona, the court held that BLM was “arbitrary and capricious” in using partial data to justify authorizing livestock grazing in the sensitive desert ecology of Monument lands.

### **Protecting Backcountry Winter Recreation – January 2015**

In response to our court victory, the Forest Service issued new regulations requiring all National Forests to conduct winter recreation planning to minimize snow machine threats to backcountry habitats and quiet winter recreation users.

## What's in Store for 2016?

### **Preserving Wild and Scenic Rivers**

**Sycan River:** We just filed a federal court complaint against federal agencies for approving livestock grazing that degrades bull trout habitat and recreational uses on the Wild and Scenic Sycan River in southern Oregon.

**Highway 12 Mega-Loads:** We are in mediation with the Nez Perce tribe and the US Forest Service to reach a long-term management agreement for Highway 12 in the Lochsa/Clearwater Wild and Scenic River corridor. Depending on how the talks go, we are prepared to return to court to ensure lasting protections for this area from Big Oil's mega-loads.

**Johnson Bar:** We're launching a new challenge to protect the Selway and Clearwater Wild and Scenic River corridors from extensive and ecologically damaging Forest Service logging proposals.

### **Protecting Wildlife**

**Greater Sage-Grouse:** For over a decade, we've been at the center of the battle to protect sage-grouse and its critical habitat from a series of threats. The fight is ongoing, and will require significant attention in 2016 as we launch a suite of new cases to push federal agencies to protect sage-grouse from oil and gas development, livestock grazing, habitat fragmentation and other threats.

**Lost River Fish:** We're suing the US Forest Service for approving grazing on the Lost River watershed in Oregon's Klamath Basin, which harms critical habitat for the endangered Lost River and shortnose sucker fish.

**Oregon Spotted Frog:** We filed suit against the Bureau of Reclamation for the agency's negligent operation of the Wickiup and Crane Prairie dams on Oregon's Deschutes River. The operations harm Oregon spotted frog habitat and violates ESA.

**Idaho Wildlife:** We anticipate filing new lawsuits against APHIS-Wildlife Services for its egregious wildlife-killing programs in Idaho.

### **Defending Special Places**

**Kapka Butte:** We filed an appeal disputing the US Forest Service's decision to continue plans to construct a large parking area and sno-park at the base of Kapka Butte in Oregon, despite escalating disputes between backcountry recreationists and snowmobile users. The plan violates the National Forest Management Act and NEPA.

**CuMo Mine:** We filed a new lawsuit to stop a mining company's plans to build 10 miles of roads and drill more than 250 exploratory holes in the headwaters of the Boise River.

**Big Creek in Frank Church Wilderness:** We're challenging a mining company's plan to deploy bulldozers, dump trucks, and drill rigs inside the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho.

**Point Reyes National Seashore:** We are launching new litigation in San Francisco with the powerhouse law firm Kecker & Van Nest to require the National Park Service to protect the stunning wildlife and recreation values of the Point Reyes National Seashore from impacts of climate change and poorly managed livestock grazing.

### **Public Health & Safety**

**Spent Nuclear Fuel:** We're working with former Idaho Governors Cecil Andrus and Phil Batt to challenge DOE's plans to ship spent nuclear fuel to INL, contrary to the 1995 Settlement Agreement prohibiting such shipments. DOE also failed to provide satisfactory information in response to a FOIA request submitted by Governor Andrus.

**Snake River Pollution:** We filed a petition asking the EPA to revise the Total Maximum Daily Load of phosphorus and other nutrient pollutants from agricultural operations on Idaho's Hells Canyon stretch of the Snake River.

**Boise Air Quality:** We're petitioning the EPA to address growing air quality problems in Idaho's Treasure Valley, which is home to the capitol city of Boise – the state's largest city and one of the quickest growing cities in the Northwest.

**For more information on these and other exciting cases, please visit:**  
[AdvocatesWest.org/Cases](http://AdvocatesWest.org/Cases)



Wild and Scenic Rivers



Protecting Wildlife



Public Health & Safety

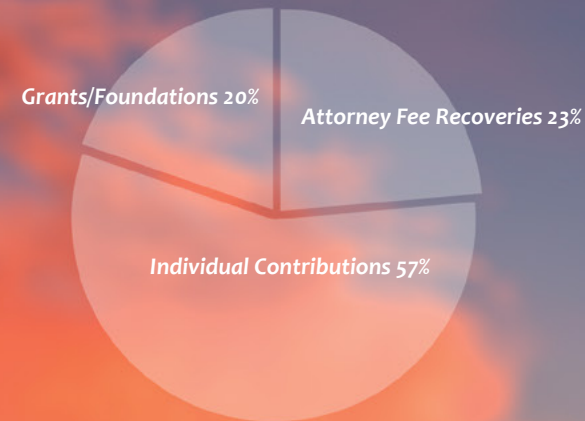


Defending Special Places

## Financials January-December, 2015

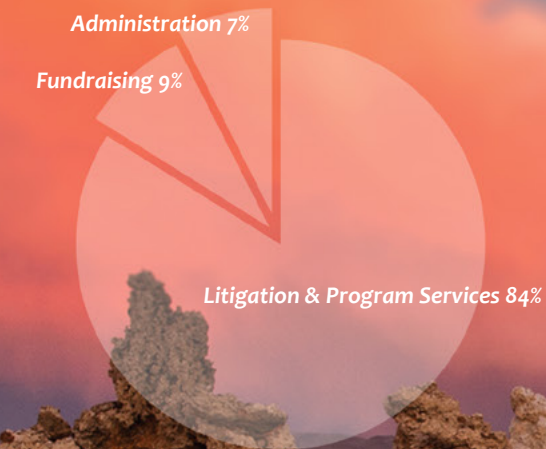
### Income

Individual Contributions	\$ 531,209
Attorney Fee Recoveries	\$ 221,049
Grants/Foundation	\$ 183,000
<b>Total Income*</b>	<b>\$935,259</b>



### Expense

Litigation & Program Services	\$789,586
Fundraising	\$ 80,408
Administration	\$ 69,299
<b>Total Expense*</b>	<b>\$939,293</b>



\*Unaudited financial results; subject to revision.

**Advocates for the West** is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If you have questions regarding our financial information, please contact Executive Director Laird Lucas: 208.342.7024 x201 / [llucas@advocateswest.org](mailto:llucas@advocateswest.org)

## Winning For The West

As a supporter of **Advocates for the West**, you understand the important role of litigation in preserving and protecting our precious Western public lands and wildlife.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, since our founding in 2003 Laird and his bright team of attorneys have fought – and won – over 50 landmark cases, setting the bar high for environmental protection in the West.

**Advocates for the West's** list of clients gets bigger every year, which is a true testament to the stellar work of our attorneys. More partner groups means a bigger caseload – working with former Idaho Governors Cecil D. Andrus and Philip E. Batt to keep new nuclear waste out of Idaho; teaming up with Huey D. Johnson of Resource Renewal Institute to protect California's Point Reyes National Seashore from grazing degradation; Earthworks joining with a group of longtime clients to defend the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness from a destructive mining proposal; and more.

**Just over 84% of our annual earnings go directly toward our casework.** When you make a gift to **Advocates for the West**, you are funding the defense and protection our public lands and wildlife.

The future of **Advocates for the West** is big and bright, and we'd like you to be a part of it! Make a gift today and see the results of your generosity as **we win for the West**.

With gratitude,

Anna Demetriades | Director of Development & Communications

## Donors

A special thank you to our donors! This list represents all who supported *Advocates for the West* in 2015.

*\*Names marked with an asterisk are members of the Sagebrush Society – our monthly giving club.*

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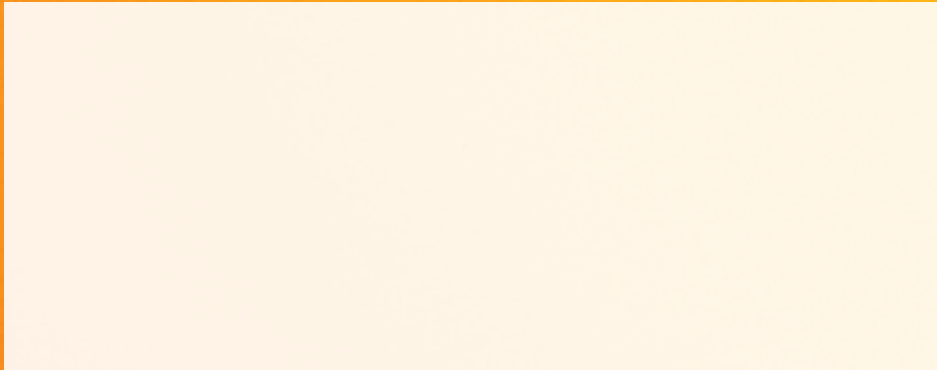
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