



**ADVOCATES** for the **West** 2016 Spring/Summer Case Notes



# Defending Crown Jewels of our Wild and Scenic Rivers System

Laird J. Lucas  
Executive Director  
(Boise, ID office)



I moved to Idaho in 1993 to become a public interest environmental lawyer, leaving behind a career at a high-profile San Francisco law firm. I left because of my love for rivers. I was an avid whitewater kayaker back then, and Idaho was – and remains – the best whitewater state in the West. Being able to use my legal skills to fight for wild rivers in Idaho and the West is a dream come true.

For more than two decades, I have brought many cases to protect waterways in Idaho and other states. But none are more important than the battles we at **Advocates for the West** are currently waging to protect three crown jewels of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System – the Lochsa, Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers of northern Idaho.

These rivers are an unparalleled national recreational resource. Every spring and summer, boaters travel from around the United States to test their mettle on the expert-level rapids of the Lochsa and Selway. Anglers flock from throughout the Northwest to hook native trout, Chinook salmon, and steelhead. In summer, visitors and locals alike enjoy swimming in the rivers and camping and hiking in the corridor. Elk hunters arrive in fall, and winter sees snowshoers and cross-country skiers. And the corridor's hot springs are an attraction year round.

The rivers also have historic and cultural importance to the Nez Perce Tribe. They parallel sections

of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, a route that commemorates the flight of the Tribe from the U.S. Army in 1877 and overlays the ancient trail to the buffalo used by the Nez Perce since time immemorial.

Lochsa Wild and Scenic River Corridor – Roger Inghram



## Protecting The Lochsa and Middle Fork Clearwater From Big Oil “Mega-loads”

Since 2010, **Advocates for the West** has fought to protect these river jewels from efforts by Big Oil and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to create a new

industrial “high and wide” corridor using Highway 12 along much of the Middle Fork Clearwater and Lochsa Rivers to haul massive oil refinery equipment to the Canadian tar sands.

We challenged these mega-loads through state court and

administrative proceedings for two years – but it was only after we went to federal court to enforce the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that we got real traction against them.

We filed our first case in 2012, won our first and then second round of litigation in 2013, and have continued since then to fend off Big Oil. **Advocates for the West** and our clients have been in confidential mediation talks with the Forest Service for the last two and a half years, and we are hopeful that we can reach a long-term resolution.



The Selway and Lochsa Rivers flow west from the Bitterroot Divide and join together near Lowell, Idaho to form the Middle Fork Clearwater River. – Map by Conservation Geography

Meanwhile, Highway 12 remains closed by federal court order to further mega-loads in the Wild and Scenic River corridor.

## Salvage Logging Threats to Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater

Not only is the Forest Service failing to protect our Wild and Scenic Rivers from the industrial threats of Big Oil, but now it is authorizing salvage logging that threatens the rivers' fisheries, water quality, and the scenic and aesthetic beauty.

In August 2014, the Johnson Bar wildfire burned about 13,000 acres of Forest Service lands in the lower Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater. Some private and state in-holdings also burned, and the landowners decided to aggressively log their parcels under the guise of removing dead or dying hazard trees.

Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Forest Service has spent millions of dollars to acquire scenic easements on private properties to protect the rivers. The easements prohibit use of the properties for any commercial activities, and require Forest Service approval before any trees may be logged – except dead trees.

Without any public notice or environmental review, the Forest Service approved logging on three private parcels burned in the Johnson Bar fire. And it gave the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) permission to use a small spur road to log a state inholding along the Selway River.

We filed suit last summer to prevent IDL from using the Forest Service road in order to bulldoze a new

road straight up the steep walls of the Selway River canyon for its logging plan. The court granted an injunction barring use of the Forest Service road, citing the massive sedimentation threatened by the IDL proposal.

Just this March, the district court entered its summary judgment ruling, confirming that the Forest Service failed to consider the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and scenic easements in approving the proposal.

Yet despite these rulings and the scenic easements, the Forest Service allowed clearcuts on several hundred acres of private and state lands that now mar the scenic beauty of the lower Selway River.

In our latest case, discussed in Legal Fellow Marc Shumaker's article, the Court cited these clearcuts in issuing a preliminary injunction barring the Forest Service from doing further logging on the Selway, under its own Johnson Bar Fire Salvage project.

Our suite of cases to protect the Lochsa, Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers from mega-loads and salvage logging have established important national precedent about the Forest Service's duties to protect Wild and Scenic River values. **Advocates for the West** will continue fighting to enforce the requirements of this remarkable statute and protect these crown jewels of the West. 🌿

# A Win to Protect Idaho Wild and Scenic Rivers

**Marc Shumaker**  
Legal Fellow (Boise, ID office)



I have spent much of my time over the last year at **Advocates for the West** forcing the U.S. Forest Service to follow its duties under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The bad news is that the Forest Service has been routinely ignoring its duties in administering post-fire salvage logging in the Lochsa, Selway, and Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic Rivers. But the good news is that we have won several recent decisions telling the agency that it is violating the law – which hopefully will bring the agency back into compliance with its Wild and Scenic Rivers Act obligations.

When Congress adopted the Act back in 1968, it stated that the Forest Service must place a “primary emphasis” on protecting scenic, aesthetic, and other values of Wild and Scenic river corridors. It also directs that those values must also be protected on public lands that “border upon” or “are adjacent to” the river corridors.

Following the 2014 Johnson Bar wildfire in the Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater drainages, the Forest Service proceeded on numerous fronts to authorize destructive post-fire salvage logging without heeding its Wild and Scenic Rivers Act obligations.

Last July, we won a preliminary injunction that stopped the Forest Service from allowing Idaho Department of Lands to bulldoze a new logging road in the Selway River’s designated Wild and Scenic corridor. This March, Judge Winmill again ruled in our favor on that case, holding that the Forest Service failed to consider Wild and Scenic values when it granted unfettered access on a forest road for the State’s massive clear-cutting and road building project.

Now we are in another battle with the Forest Service to ensure that Wild and Scenic values are protected on lands adjacent to the designated Wild and Scenic corridor. In March, we filed a new federal complaint over the Forest Service’s Johnson Bar Fire Salvage Project. The Forest Service’s stated purpose of this massive project is to provide logs for local sawmills – which directly contradicts the mandate to place a “primary emphasis” on preserving Wild and Scenic Values. The project’s road construction and salvage logging on burned and highly erosive mountainsides would not only damage Wild and Scenic values, but would also threaten designated critical habitat for endangered bull trout and steelhead.

On May 12, just four days before logging and road building were scheduled to begin, U.S. Magistrate Judge Candy Dale granted our

motion for preliminary injunction and prohibited the Johnson Bar Project from moving forward until our case is resolved.

In her decision, Judge Dale explained that we are likely to succeed on our claims that the Forest Service has failed to place

a primary emphasis on Wild and Scenic values or to protect lands that border upon or are adjacent to the river corridors, as required

by the Act. She also ruled that the Forest Service failed to fully evaluate the actual impact of the project on water quality and fisheries in light of new massive wildfires and clearcuts that occurred on the Selway after the Johnson Bar wildfire.

In the next phase of this case, we will be asking the Court to order the Forest Service to cure another long-standing violation of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: its duty to have a current and comprehensive river management plan. The current river plan was adopted back in 1969, and has never been updated. It is vital that the Forest Service take into account all the changes that have occurred since 1969 – including much increased visitor use, impacts of climate change, and new threats such as salvage logging and industrial “mega-loads” on nearby Highway 12 – to guide its future management decisions.

The Forest Service has been neglecting its management responsibilities and treating the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as an obstacle for far too long. We are determined to hold the Forest Service accountable and ensure that these irreplaceable resources are protected for future generations. 🌲



**The Forest Service must place a “primary emphasis” on protecting scenic, aesthetic, and other values of Wild and Scenic river corridors.**

A recent clearcut along the Selway River now mars the once-scenic landscape. Our recent victory halted similar plans from moving forward on other sites along north Idaho’s Wild and Scenic river.

# Partnering with ICL to Protect Idaho

**Bryan Hurlbutt**  
Staff Attorney (Boise, ID office)



**Advocates for the West** and the Idaho Conservation League have worked together for years to protect air, water, and wilderness throughout the great State of Idaho. We not only respond to threats as they arise, but we bring cases with ICL to secure better environmental protection throughout the State and for the long-term.

In recent years, we've taken this partnership to the next level. What follows is an overview of just some of the many projects we're working on with ICL.

## Wildlife Trapping: Settlement Secured to Protect Owyhee Wildlife

As prices for bobcat and other animal pelts have soared, there has been a corresponding increase in commercial trapping in Idaho. In Owyhee County in remote southwest Idaho, over 20,000 furbearing animals were reported trapped over the last ten years, and the actual number was likely much higher. We have been working with ICL to tighten trapping regulations, and in April we settled our appeal challenging BLM's management plan for the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness Areas. This win secures protection for wildlife from commercial trapping within the Wilderness.

## The Salmon River: "Navigability" Determination Likely Happening Soon

Idaho's Salmon River is one of the longest un-dammed rivers in the lower 48 states, and the river and its tributaries make up much of the best remaining habitat for Chinook salmon, steelhead, and other threatened fish species in the Columbia River Basin. But gravel mining and other harmful activities on the Salmon River slip through the regulatory cracks.

To correct this problem, we teamed up with ICL and filed a petition with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2014 asking the Corps to designate the river as a "navigable" river under the Rivers and Harbors Act. The Corps made an initial determination that the river is navigable, and we expect the Corps to make its final determination in the next few months. Once designated navigable, the Corps will have the regulatory authority it needs to work with federal fish and wildlife agencies to ensure fish are protected from gravel mining, suction dredge mining, water diversions, and other in-river activities.

## Mining: Cases to Keep New Mines Out of Special Places

We continue to represent ICL and other partners to stop new

mines from ever being built in two of Idaho's special places. In the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, we just finished briefing our case challenging the Forest Service's approval of the needlessly destructive Golden Hand exploration project, and will argue the case in Boise in June. In the Boise River watershed, we are in the middle of briefing our case challenging the Forest Service's approval of the CuMo exploration project. We expect court decisions this summer in both cases.

In April, we notified Atlanta Gold of further Clean Water Act violations from its mine exploration site in the Boise River headwaters. In 2012, we secured a major victory, holding the mining company accountable for more than 2,000 Clean Water Act violations. Unfortunately, the violations have continued, and we anticipate taking legal action soon.

## And That's Not All: More Work with ICL Underway

In addition to the projects above, **Advocates for the West** continues to work closely with ICL to clean up the Treasure Valley's air; improve water quality standards throughout the State; protect Lake Pend Oreille; improve restrictions on suction dredge mining; and take on outdated water diversions and new plans to divert more water from our already over-tapped streams. 🌱



Sacajawea's Bitterroot – Edna Rey-Vizgirdas



Idaho's Owyhee Canyonlands – Amy Haak

# Two Big Wins in Long-Running Cases

**Laurie Rule**  
Senior Attorney  
(Portland, OR Office)

## Victory for Bighorn Sheep

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals solidified protection of bighorn sheep in central Idaho. We first began working to protect the bighorn sheep populations of Idaho's Hells Canyon and Salmon



River Canyon in 2007. Conflicts between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep grazing

on public lands resulted in many die-offs within these bighorn populations due to respiratory disease transmitted by the domestic sheep.

Our significant success resulted in the closing of parts of the Payette National Forest, Nez Perce National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management's Coeur d'Alene District to domestic sheep

grazing in order to prevent disease transmission to bighorns using those same lands.

The largest closures occurred on the Payette National Forest, with the Forest Service finally deciding to close almost 70% of the forest to domestic sheep grazing in order to protect the native bighorn populations. The Idaho Wool Growers Association was not happy with the Forest Service's decision, and challenged it in Federal Court. We intervened to help defend the Forest Service's decision, and the U.S. District Court of Idaho upheld the decision. But the Wool Growers persevered and appealed the District Court's ruling to the Ninth Circuit.

In a decision issued on March 2, 2016, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court, upholding the closures on the Payette National Forest. The Ninth Circuit discussed the thorough analysis by the Forest Service, which described the wealth

of scientific evidence about disease transmission between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep and the need to keep the two species separated to protect bighorn populations.

This ruling not only solidifies the closures on the Payette National Forest but also reaffirms the need to keep these species separated on public lands across the West to prevent continued die-offs within bighorn populations.

*Advocates for the West is proud to announce victories in two cases that are the culmination of many years of work.*

## Protection for the Sonoran Desert National Monument

In another recent win, the U.S. District Court of Arizona ruled in our favor and overturned the Bureau of Land Management's flawed grazing analysis conducted for the Sonoran Desert National Monument. The southern Arizona monument was designated in 2001 and contains a diverse array of plants, birds and wildlife, including the Sonoran desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep.

We first got involved trying to protect this special place in 2008, when we sued the BLM for failing to complete a management plan for the Monument; settlement of that case resulted in a new plan issued in 2012. That plan, however, contained a deeply flawed analysis that determined much of the Monument could continue to be grazed by livestock without damaging the

diverse plants and wildlife there.

We challenged that grazing analysis and the Arizona Court agreed with us, finding that BLM's analysis was not supported by the data or rational explanations. The Court, however, gave BLM another opportunity to provide the missing explanations in a supplemental report.

After another round of briefing, the Court issued a second ruling on March 31, 2016 that found the supplemental report still did not provide the necessary support for BLM's analysis, and ordered BLM to complete a brand new grazing compatibility analysis.

We will continue to fight to protect this beautiful desert ecosystem, and ensure that BLM's management is based on sound science and protection of resources. 🙌

### 2016 CLIENTS

Audubon Society of Portland  
Bend Backcountry Alliance  
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Concerned Friends of the Winema  
Conservation Northwest  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Dr. Clait E. Braun  
Earthworks  
Friends of the Clearwater  
Friends of Living Oregon Waters  
Golden Eagle Audubon Society  
Governor Cecil D. Andrus  
Grand Canyon Trust  
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  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
Predator Defense  
Project Coyote  
Resource Renewal Institute  
Selkirk Conservation Alliance  
Sierra Club  
The Wilderness Society  
Western Watersheds Project  
WildEarth Guardians  
Wild Wilderness  
Wilderness Watch  
Winter Wildlands Alliance



Bighorn Sheep – Sarah Jessup



# Busy Days at the Oregon Office

**Lizzy Zultoski**  
Staff Attorney (Portland, OR office)

The Oregon office has been working at full tilt throughout the winter and spring on five major cases in Oregon and California.



## Fighting for Frogs, Fish, and Fens in Oregon

In March, we filed our summary judgment brief over livestock grazing on the Antelope Allotment on the Fremont-Winema National Forest – the latest chapter in this ongoing case. In an earlier round of this litigation, Senior Attorney Laurie Rule won a terrific summary judgment ruling that the Forest Service’s grazing authorizations on this allotment were unlawful. This new filing argues that federal

*As a result of our litigation, the federal agency altered the operation of the dams to protect frogs during their critical spring breeding season.*

agencies have taken inadequate steps to protect the threatened Oregon spotted frog and rare fens from harm due to livestock grazing. Given the staggering history of legal violations, ecological damage, and unauthorized grazing on this allotment, we have asked the Court to issue a ruling to halt or modify grazing this year.

We are also challenging another major threat to the Oregon spotted frog: the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s operation and maintenance of the Wickiup and Crane Prairie dams on the Deschutes River in Central Oregon. As a result of our litigation, the federal agency altered the operation of the dams to protect frogs during their critical spring breeding season.

Although the Court did not order additional management changes



this year, we are entering mediated settlement discussions this spring and anticipate heading to trial next fall to demand stronger protections for this imperiled species.

We also have two cases challenging livestock grazing in key habitat for bull trout and Lost River and shortnose sucker fish throughout more than 15 grazing allotments in the Fremont-Winema National Forest. Senior Attorney Laurie Rule and I spent the winter and spring briefing our bull trout case, and recently argued the issues before the Court during a hearing in Medford. The Court expects to issue a ruling in June 2016, before grazing on key allotments begins. We file our opening brief in our sucker fish case in June, and hope to have a ruling well in advance of the 2017 grazing season.



Point Reyes National Seashore – Karen Perry

## Point Reyes National Seashore

In February 2016, Executive Director Laird Lucas and I partnered with Jeffery Chanin from the powerhouse

litigation firm Keker & Van Nest in San Francisco to file a major case in the Northern District of California against the National Park Service over its management of the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Our case challenges the agency’s failure to comply with important procedural duties before authorizing livestock ranching throughout the Seashore. This includes updating a General

Oregon Spotted Frog – Oregon Zoo




Impacts of grazing on Point Reyes – Hank Perry

Management Plan for the entire Seashore, assessing the environmental impacts of ranching, and determining whether ranching impairs the natural resources of this incredible public land.

Beef and dairy ranching at the Seashore is highly unusual for public lands, as the owners or operators of more than a dozen livestock companies are year-round tenants of the Seashore. They rent

Aerial support provided by LightHawk

sprawling residential compounds for their families and employees along with expansive commercial facilities – generating large amounts of animal manure and conducting significant agricultural activities.

This case is moving quickly to prevent the agency from issuing a ranching-focused management plan before taking a comprehensive look at the needs of the Seashore and the public through an updated General Management Plan. 

# Update on the Battle for Sage-Grouse

**Todd Tucci**  
Senior Attorney  
(Washington, DC office)

Over the past several months, *Advocates for the West's* work protecting habitat and populations of greater and Gunnison sage-grouse has shifted from seeking to improve the federal agencies' management plans through advocacy and persuasion, to teeing up management plans, implementation and listing decisions for litigation to ensure that sage-grouse get the protection they deserve.

The decisions we're reviewing come from all corners of the federal bureaucracy, including usual suspects like the BLM, Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as USDA-Wildlife Services, EPA and others. *Advocates for the West* sees a target-rich environment for forcing improvements on the ground. Here is how we intend to win.

## 1. Challenge Unlawful ESA Listing Decisions

We have teed up litigation challenging the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service's decision to forgo protecting the Gunnison sage-grouse as an endangered species, and the Service is already on its heels in this case. We recently asked a federal court to force the Service to disclose tens of thousands of pages of emails, notes, and other correspondence it wrongly withheld about its decision process.

We believe these internal agency documents will show the Service allowed political considerations to kill its earlier proposal to list Gunnison sage-grouse as an endangered species, which violates the Endangered Species Act. In a recent rebuke, the district court ordered the Service to go back and review its refusal to disclose these documents. We will continue to fight to require the Service to fully inform the public over the role politics – and not science – played in its Gunnison sage-grouse listing decision. At the same time, we continue to review and assess a

challenge to the Service's decision to refuse all protections for the greater sage-grouse.

## 2. Improve Protections in Land Use Plans

We recently launched one the largest public lands cases in history – challenging agency refusal to adopt adequate sage-grouse protections on 70 million acres of public lands in the American West.

In February, we filed a new suit in Idaho federal court challenging 98 BLM and Forest Service land



*Idaho's Sagebrush Sea – Pixie Merrick*

use plan amendments across ten western states. Despite a massive planning effort that included 15

Environmental Impact Statements, the agencies failed to look at what sage-grouse needs to survive human threats and climate change across its range. The amended plans also fail to implement the best available science and the government's own expert recommendations – and thus will not ensure the survival of greater sage-grouse into the foreseeable future.

We and our conservation allies are not trying to scrap the new plans entirely; instead, we are seeking to build on them and require the agencies to adopt more robust, scientifically supported sage-grouse conservation measures.

## 3. Reverse Unlawful Implementation-Level Decisions

*Advocates for the West* is also moving forward with targeted challenges to agency decisions that undermine key sage-grouse habitats and populations in many states. For example, we are challenging a BLM decision to chop, mow, and poison 120,000 acres of “decadent sagebrush” in sage-grouse habitat around Nevada's Cave Lake without first examining the failure of other recent treatments in the surrounding area. The district court found these other projects reduced sage-grouse habitat to “dust” for

the next 25-120 years, but the court still refused to stop BLM's plans, so we are appealing.

We are also lining up a challenge to an EPA decision to allow Wildlife Services to use a highly toxic avicide, DRC-1339, across the public lands of southern and southeastern Idaho to kill ravens – supposedly to help sage-grouse populations. Use of this deadly toxin may result in secondary poisoning of domestic pets and other non-target species.

Finally, we are starting to see the first series of BLM grazing decisions implementing the new land use plans, and our initial review shows that BLM is failing to adhere to even the inadequate conservation measures in these revised plans.

Over the coming months, we will be busy working to keep BLM honest and ensure that all agency decisions adopt the necessary measures to protect and enhance dwindling sage-grouse habitat and populations. 🙏



*Greater Sage-Grouse – Tom Reichner*

# Cornering Wildlife Services in Idaho

**Talasi B. Brooks**  
Associate Attorney (Boise, ID Office)

...Wildlife Services has never analyzed how its wolf-killing, combined with all the other wolves trapped and shot, is affecting the Idaho population.



We were appalled when Wildlife Services gunned down 21 wolves in northern Idaho’s Lolo zone earlier this year — again. These wolves added to 259 wolves killed as of April 1, 2016 during the 2015-16 hunting and trapping season, in Idaho alone. New science consistently shows that killing wolves at this magnitude only harms the wolf population and does nothing to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts. In light of these developments, we decided to take another look at Wildlife Services’ most recent environmental analysis for its Idaho wolf-killing activities.



What we found was, a lot has changed since Wildlife Services last analyzed its Idaho wolf-killing protocol, in March 2011. Soon after the agency issued its wolf Environmental Assessment, wolves were removed from protection under the Endangered Species Act and returned to state management. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) instituted a new wolf hunting and trapping season with liberal bag limits.

IDFG also began drafting elk management plans that called for large reductions in wolf populations where elk populations weren’t big enough to allow for the kind of hunting opportunities IDFG wants to provide. One of those places is the Lolo zone, which is also located within and adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. IDFG is also exploring targeting wolves in the adjacent Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness for removal. Together, the Selway and the Frank comprise some of the best and most secure habitat for the Northern Rockies wolf population.

Since delisting, the wolves Wildlife Services kills each year (at least 72 in 2015) add to hundreds of wolves killed by hunters and trappers. But Wildlife Services has never analyzed how its wolf-killing, combined with all the other wolves trapped and shot, is affecting the Idaho population. Instead, it relies on IDFG to maintain a “sustainable” wolf population. But an important new study notes that IDFG adopted a new wolf counting method in 2006, which led to the largest population estimates ever — the year they began using it. How reliable are IDFG’s wolf population estimates for ensuring healthy populations are conserved?

On April 1, 2016, Associate Attorney Talasi Brooks and co-counsel Kristin Ruether of Western Watersheds Project hand delivered a letter and CD advising Wildlife Services of new information that it must consider to ensure its activities do not harm Idaho’s wolf population. Wildlife Services still has yet to respond. 🐾



Wolf pup and mother – Josef Pittner

## Staff News

### Leadership Changes

#### Welcome New Board Members

We are pleased to announce that **Advocates for the West** recently welcomed two outstanding new board members to our team.

**John Lamson** is the Executive Vice President at Resource Media. He is a seasoned communications strategist with 23 years of experience in advocacy, elections and higher education. Prior to joining Resource Media, John served as an Assistant Dean at Cornell University. He earned a BA in English from the University of Notre Dame. John lives in Boulder, CO with his wife and two boys.



**Amy Haak** is the founder and Executive Director of Conservation Geography, a Boise nonprofit that provides science-based analytical support to conservation organizations working in the West. For the past 10 years she has worked as a conservation scientist with Trout Unlimited. Amy has a BA in geography from Dartmouth College and an MS and PhD in geography with a minor in conservation biology from the University of Idaho.



#### Farewell to Laura Hampikian

Although we’ll miss her bright spirit and upbeat presence at our Boise office as our



Operations Manager, **Advocates for the West** wishes Laura the very best in her new role as Development Director at the Discovery Center. Best of luck and thanks for everything, Laura!

#### Welcome Aries Bergstrom

**Advocates for the West** is pleased to announce Aries Bergstrom as our new Operations Manager. You may remember reading about Aries in our fall newsletter – she joined the Boise team last August as our administrative intern. When Laura announced her new career path, Aries had already proven herself to be a strong addition to our staff and is a perfect fit for the position. Welcome to the staff, Aries! 🐾



#### Intern With Us!

**Advocates for the West** loves to give bright environmental law students an opportunity to work alongside our outstanding attorneys. Here’s what Brian Stephens from the College of Law at University of Idaho had to say about his recent internship with us:

“Coming to **Advocates for the West** reminded me why I love the environmental world. It’s complex, challenging, and filled with great people.

I learned about arguments and drafting by reading and proofing from very talented lawyers. I was assigned a great project involving the Clean Water Act. I also learned how complex administrative procedure could be under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). And I was able to experience the great relationships **Advocates for the West** has built with other environmental nonprofits.

It has been a fun ride and has reaffirmed my commitment to the environmental field. As I told a law professor when he asked about my experience: It’s been a pretty priceless way to wrap up law school.”



Intern Brian Stephens on an Owyhees field trip with Staff Attorney Bryan Hurlbutt

Are you or someone you know interested in a legal internship with us? Find out more about our program at: [advocateswest.org/volunteer](http://advocateswest.org/volunteer)

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## A Note From Former Governor Cecil D. Andrus

*Governor of Idaho 1971-1977 and  
1987-1995 and U.S. Secretary of the  
Interior under President Jimmy  
Carter from 1977 to 1981.*

I have been working with Laird Lucas and **Advocates for the West** for over a year now to protect Idaho from plans by the Department of Energy to dump an undisclosed amount of commercial nuclear waste in our precious state. We just recently filed a new round of litigation in our Freedom of Information Act case challenging DOE's decision to hide critical information from the public regarding its plans for Idaho National Laboratory.

As a client and a supporter of **Advocates for the West**, I can say with enthusiasm – Laird Lucas and his bright team of attorneys get the job done right.

It's been a true pleasure to work with Laird on this important case. I have experienced firsthand his tremendous attention to detail and creative litigation strategies, and

I can plainly see that Laird and his team care deeply for the wellbeing of Idaho and its residents.

I hope you will join me in supporting **Advocates for the West**. This group does everything in their power to keep federal agencies honest and protect the irreplaceable natural beauty of the West.

*Former Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus looks out over the Boise foothills near his home – Charlie Litchfield/Idaho Press Tribune*

