



2003-2023

20 YEARS

ADVOCATES FOR THE WEST

2023 Spring/Summer Case Notes



PARTNERSHIPS: THE FOUNDATION OF OUR WORK

Laird J. Lucas, Executive Director

Success is not a solo endeavor.

Advocates for the West's mission—to win for the West—endures because of our community of supporters and partners. As you may know, *Advocates for the West* is celebrating our 20th anniversary this year. Reflecting on this major milestone, I am struck most by the strength of relationships we have cultivated.

Our story is one of providing dedicated and strategic legal counsel, free of charge, to our large and growing list of partners and activists. But legal representation for the environment requires a high level of collaboration. We work closely with Tribes and staff of conservation organizations to obtain agency documents, assemble facts, and develop strong cases in defense of the West's clean air and clean water, treasured landscapes, and native fish and wildlife.

One of the partnerships of which I'm most proud is our work with the Nez Perce Tribe, or Nimiipuu people. I first met citizens and representatives of the Tribe in

the years following *Advocates for the West's* launch. Our paths crossed over our common interest to safeguard natural resources within present day Idaho and the aboriginal homeland of the Nez Perce, who have reserved the right to fish, hunt, gather, and pasture at traditional places in their 1855 Treaty with the United States.

As Senior Attorney Laurie Rule recounts on page 6, *Advocates for the West's* relationship with the Tribe flourished in the mid-2000s, over a shared desire to protect bighorn sheep in Idaho from the threat of disease transmission posed by domestic sheep. Scientific data and “friend of the court” assistance from the Tribe proved critical to our victories to protect this iconic species.

And then came the Big Oil “mega-loads.” In 2013, *Advocates for the West* teamed up with the Nez Perce Tribe and Idaho Rivers United to protect the Tribe's homeland and the Wild and Scenic Lochsa River corridor from massive shipments of oil refinery equipment bound for Canadian tar sands. This wild

heart of Idaho is beloved for its Native American culture, abundant fish and wildlife, world class recreation, natural beauty, and Lewis and Clark expedition history.

In a fight that spanned many years, we succeeded in blocking the mega-load shipments. Then we went on to partner with the Tribe in a lawsuit challenging the state of Oregon's Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401 water quality certification for the relicensing of the Hells Canyon Complex, reaching a favorable settlement in that case.

Advocates for the West and the Nez Perce are now partnering to challenge Perpetua Resources' ongoing illegal discharges of arsenic, cyanide, mercury, and other harmful pollutants into Idaho's East Fork South Fork Salmon River without a CWA permit at the Stibnite mine site. At the same time, we are fighting alongside the Tribe and our partners against Perpetua's proposal to open a massive gold mine at the Stibnite site adjacent to the Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness Area.

Today, the Nez Perce Tribe is integral to the organizational strength of *Advocates for the West*, with Mike Lopez, Senior Staff Attorney for the Tribe's Office of Legal Counsel, and Joel Moffett, a citizen of the Nez Perce and former member of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, serving on our board of directors.

I'm grateful for our partnership with the Nez Perce and other longstanding allies in conservation. Likewise, we would not be where we are without you, our supporters, standing by our side. These relationships are the cornerstone of *Advocates for the West's* success.

Thank you for making our work possible. We look forward to your partnership long into the future!

With immense gratitude,

Laird J. Lucas
Executive Director



Miguel Almeida Artwork

Advocates for the West

Board

- Eric Younger** (Ketchum, ID)
Chair
- Michael Lopez** (Moscow, ID)
Vice Chair
- Stephanie Parent** (Portland, OR)
Treasurer
- Gretchen Biggs** (Westerly, RI)
Secretary
- Deborah Ferguson** (Boise, ID)
Immediate Past Chair
- Rynda Clark** (Bend, OR)
- Deborah Clothier** (Seattle, WA)
- Paul Hill** (Stanley, ID)
- Joel Moffett** (Suquamish, WA)

Staff

- Kya-Xé Dudney**
Development Associate
- Hannah (Clements) Goldblatt**
Staff Attorney
- Bryan Hurlbutt**
Staff Attorney
- Chris Johnson**
Paralegal
- Laird J. Lucas**
Executive Director
- Andrew Missel**
Staff Attorney
- Aimee Moran**
Deputy Director
- Alexa Ochsner**
Office Manager
- Lizzy Potter**
Staff Attorney
- Laurie Rule**
Senior Attorney
- Will Shoemaker**
Communications & Engagement Director
- Sarah Stellberg**
Staff Attorney
- Todd Tucci**
Senior Attorney

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



“In 2013, we made the decision to move to Idaho to start our careers and family and to live more consistently with our value of spending time in the outdoors. Ten years later, our careers and family continue to expand (we’re expecting a baby boy next month!). Protecting the natural environment is more important than ever. We donate to *Advocates for the West* because of this organization’s long history of strategic initiatives that proactively safeguard the environment

we love and live in. We are incredibly thankful for the time we have spent camping, fishing, rafting, and hiking in pristine places like the Frank Church Wilderness, the Copper Basin, the Owyhees, and the greater western United States. We are grateful that our children are able to experience these places in their natural form and witness events like wild salmon migrating to their headwaters to spawn, meteor showers in incredibly clear skies, and feel the cold, clean water of our rivers and lakes. By investing in *Advocates for the West*, we can ensure that

future generations will have the same opportunities to cherish the beauty and wonder of Idaho’s outdoors that we’ve been so privileged to enjoy.”

KYLE AND CAROLINE DAVIS
BOISE, IDAHO



MAKE A LASTING GIFT FOR THE WEST. JOIN OUR LEGACY SOCIETY.

By naming *Advocates for the West* as a beneficiary in your estate plans, you are making a lasting commitment to defend and protect the West’s natural treasures, clean air and water, fish, and wildlife. All legacy gifts help *Advocates for the West* win for the West, today and for future generations.

If you have already included *Advocates for the West* in your estate plans, please let us know. Sharing your plan with us places you under **no obligation**, but it does enable us to say thank you and welcome you to our Legacy Society. If you wish to

be anonymous in your gift, we will gladly honor that wish.

Plus, *Advocates for the West* is pleased to now offer you FreeWill, the online platform that helps you create a free will or trust to support the causes you care about most. In 20 minutes or less, you can use their free, online tool to create your legal will and make a commitment to *Advocates for the West* that will last forever.

To learn more about *Advocates for the West’s* Legacy Society, including how to create a will using FreeWill,

please visit AdvocatesWest.org/legacy-society or contact Deputy Director Aimee Moran at amoran@advocateswest.org or (208) 342-7024 x205.





Advocates for the West began a journey to protect bighorn sheep on public land in 2007, and this effort has led to significant changes in public land management in Idaho to benefit wild sheep. These results are emblematic of much of our work because they arose in a variety of litigation contexts that included court victories, court settlements, and litigation pressure that forced agency action. Our bighorn sheep litigation in Idaho also launched *Advocates for the West's* longstanding partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe.

Domestic sheep carry a pathogen called *mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* that is benign to them. But when that pathogen is transmitted to bighorn sheep, it causes deadly pneumonia that can spread through a bighorn herd, quickly killing most of the population and causing high lamb mortality for years due to surviving ewes passing the pathogen to their lambs. Transmission occurs when the two species come into contact on the range, so grazing domestic sheep near bighorn populations is a recipe for bighorn die-offs.

We first brought this issue to court in 2007 over domestic sheep grazing on the Payette National

Miguel Almeida Artwork



ANATOMY OF A WIN: A PROVEN FORMULA FOR DEFENDING BIGHORN SHEEP

Laurie Rule, Senior Attorney

Forest in central Idaho. State and federal biologists had determined several grazing allotments were a high risk to bighorn sheep. Facing strong scientific evidence and facts and an Amicus, or “friend of the court,” brief filed by the Nez Perce Tribe supporting our cause, the Forest Service relented during the litigation and agreed to close five allotments on the forest. The grazing permittee did not appreciate that decision and converted the case into a challenge to the agency’s closure order. Now on the side of the Forest Service, we helped defend the closure and the Court upheld it, citing the ample scientific evidence supporting the need to keep the species separated.

A similar pattern occurred a few months later when we challenged an allotment on the Nez Perce National Forest. After presenting the Court with evidence of recent bighorn sheep sightings on the allotment, the Forest Service again did an about-face and closed the allotment. We then helped defend that closure order against the permittee’s challenge, and

the Court upheld it. In both cases, our litigation pressure—backed by strong facts, science, and the Nez Perce Tribe’s support—was enough to force the agency to take action.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) did not learn from the Forest Service and proceeded to continue authorizing domestic sheep grazing on an allotment in the midst of the closed Payette allotments. Due to a telemetry study by the Nez Perce Tribe that documented movement of bighorn sheep on and around the allotment, *Advocates for the West* pursued litigation over that

“THESE RESULTS ARE EMBLEMATIC OF MUCH OF OUR WORK BECAUSE THEY AROSE IN A VARIETY OF LITIGATION CONTEXTS THAT INCLUDED COURT VICTORIES, COURT SETTLEMENTS, AND LITIGATION PRESSURE THAT FORCED AGENCY ACTION.”

allotment, with the Nez Perce Tribe again providing significant assistance as a “friend of the

court.” BLM did not back down, claiming that “best management practices” such as extra herders and guard dogs would keep domestic sheep and bighorn sheep separated. The Court did not buy that theory and issued an injunction immediately closing the allotment. The Forest Service and BLM kept all of those allotments closed while the agencies worked on long-term plans for them; and several years later

those long-term plans resulted in permanent closures. Bighorn sheep populations in Hells Canyon and

along the Salmon River have begun to rebound.

Additional telemetry studies continued to add to our knowledge about movement of bighorn sheep, which led to our final lawsuit in Idaho over a grazing allotment on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. This new data convinced a judge to temporarily close the allotment, and the parties then settled the litigation by agreeing that the Forest Service would not authorize domestic sheep to graze that allotment unless and until it completed a full environmental analysis. The agency has yet to begin that analysis, and we believe any future grazing of domestic sheep there is highly unlikely.

This recital of our bighorn work in Idaho shows how court decisions, settlements, and mere litigation pressure can all result in on-the-ground protections. And their success came from strong science, excellent experts, and a great coalition of supportive partners. We are now utilizing this proven formula to defend bighorn sheep in other parts of the West.



SAVING SAGE-GROUSE IS CRITICAL TO SAFEGUARDING THE WEST

Will Shoemaker, Communications & Engagement Director

It should be no surprise that protecting remaining sagebrush habitats is critical to the survival of the imperiled sage-grouse. At the same time, preserving the vanishing sagebrush ecosystem is also critical to the environmental health and wellbeing of the West.

In January 2023, we won a major victory in our case challenging the Caldwell Canyon phosphate mine in southeastern Idaho which would destroy breeding and nesting grounds for the small and declining East Idaho Uplands sage-grouse population. Chalk up the strong ruling by the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho to another victory for sage-grouse. The Court held that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) failed to adequately assess the mine’s impacts to sage-grouse habitat and connectivity.

Our recent Caldwell Canyon win is just the latest in a long string of *Advocates for the West* victories to protect sage-grouse and other species in a sensitive and dwindling

ecosystem. The charismatic sage-grouse evolved within the vast sagebrush expanses that once covered 250 million+ acres of the American West and Canada. Known as the Sagebrush Sea, this landscape is home to more than 350 sensitive wildlife and plant species. For over 1.6 million years, the sage-grouse survived and thrived in the high desert landscapes of the Sagebrush Sea. But now agriculture, energy development, mining, roads and powerlines, plus weed invasions and wildfires accelerated by a changing climate all threaten to render this bird extinct.

Sage-grouse play a critical role within their native ecosystem—indicators of a healthy, intact sagebrush habitat. So, preserving sage-grouse benefits myriad other species—from pygmy rabbits to pronghorn antelope to Lahontan cutthroat trout. And the sagebrush ecosystem itself also plays a critical role in combating climate change. When healthy sagebrush landscapes are overtaken by

invasive species such as cheatgrass or wash away from erosion due to wildfire or drought, carbon stored in the soil is released. Keeping sagebrush ecosystems intact thus serves as a natural climate solution.

Since about two-thirds of remaining sage-grouse habitats are on BLM and Forest Service lands, the fate of sage-grouse is inextricably linked with how our federal public lands are managed in the West. *Advocates for the West* has succeeded in protecting this iconic species on the following fronts:

- We helped prompt the Obama administration to adopt new sage-grouse conservation plans in 2015 for BLM and Forest Service lands in 10 western states. These plans identified 67 million acres of priority sage-grouse habitats for increased protection from energy and other development impacts.
- We won a strong victory when the Court ruled the Trump BLM acted unlawfully in cancelling

an Obama administration proposal to withdraw 10 million acres of the highest priority sage-grouse habitats from new mining claims.

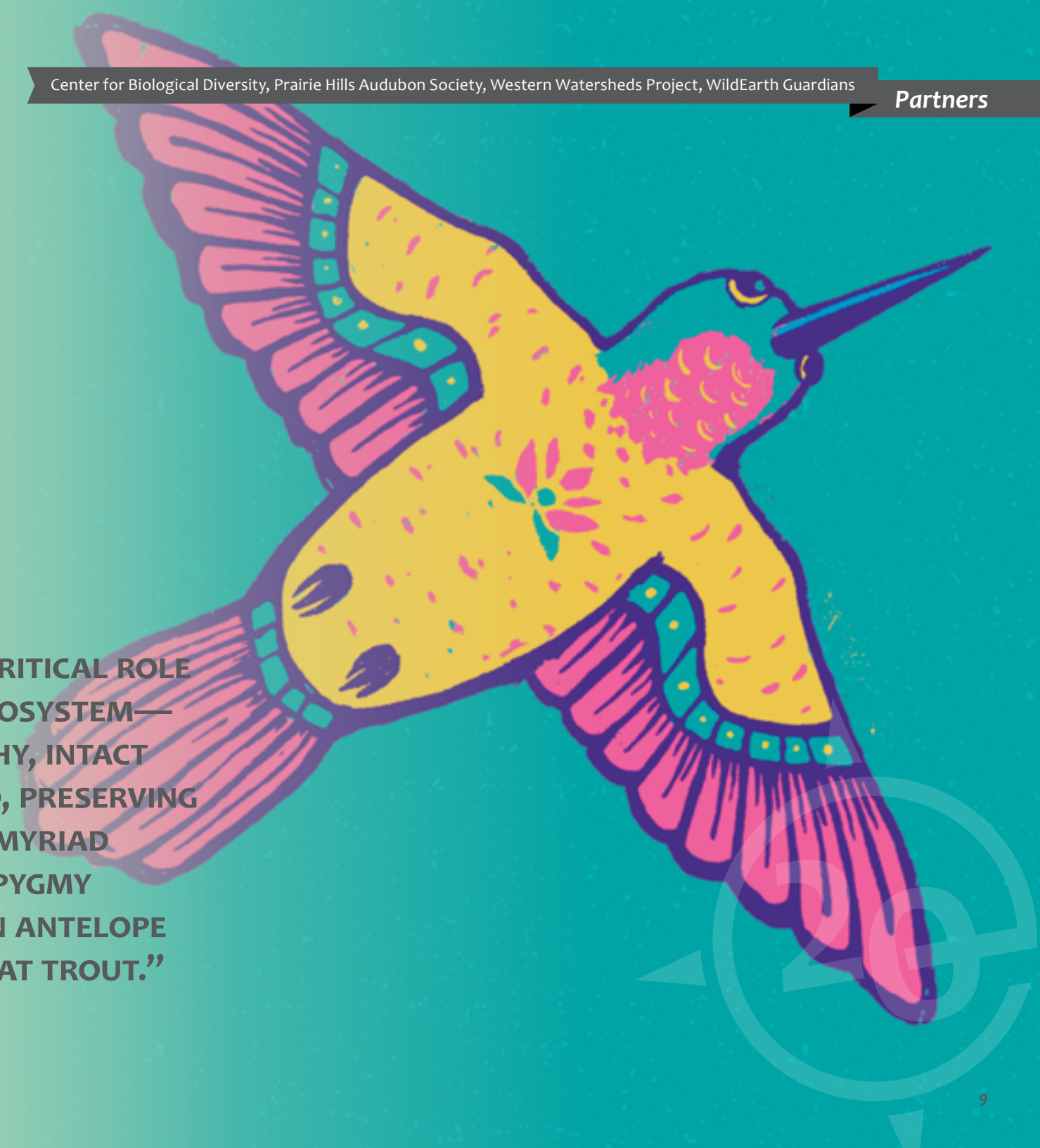
- Now, the Biden administration is undergoing a land use planning process spurred by our litigation to promote landscape-scale protections for sage-grouse habitats, and we will continue working with our partners to ensure the Obama sage-grouse plans are made even stronger.

Working to protect sage-grouse brings people together. Western Watersheds Project (WWP) is one of our earliest and strongest allies stretching back to the very start of *Advocates for the West* two decades ago, and WWP is a central figure in our work to protect the Sagebrush Sea. In addition to the aforementioned victories, our wins in partnership with WWP and the Center for Biological Diversity have held unlawful more than one-quarter of all BLM oil and

gas leases issued under the Trump administration in the lower 48 states—covering over a million and a half acres of key sage-grouse habitats.

These victories are key to preserving a critical ecosystem of the interior West. But work remains. If we’re going to save sage-grouse and the Sagebrush Sea, working together with our allies is more important than ever.

“SAGE-GROUSE PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE WITHIN THEIR NATIVE ECOSYSTEM—INDICATORS OF A HEALTHY, INTACT SAGEBRUSH HABITAT. SO, PRESERVING SAGE-GROUSE BENEFITS MYRIAD OTHER SPECIES—FROM PYGMY RABBITS TO PRONGHORN ANTELOPE TO LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT.”



Miguel Almeida Artwork

Advocates for the West

“ADVOCATES FOR THE WEST IS INTEGRAL TO DEFENDING AND PROTECTING OUR NATION’S PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS AND A VALUED PARTNER TO THE CONSERVATION LANDS FOUNDATION AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE WEST. THE STAFF OF ADVOCATES FOR THE WEST REPRESENT A UNIQUE MODEL. THEY ARE HIGHLY SKILLED ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERS WHO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING TO AND WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES—REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE WHO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE FOR THE FUTURE.”



Danielle Murray
Senior Legal and Policy Director
Conservation Lands Foundation

Miguel Almeida Artwork



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT’S “MULTIPLE USE, SUSTAINED YIELD” FOLLY

Todd Tucci, Senior Attorney

Fewer phrases cause more dismay among environmental litigators than “multiple use and sustained yield.” This concept—formally adopted as the management standard for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) western public lands in the 1976 Federal Lands Policy and Management Act—requires the agency to utilize and manage public lands and various resources in a balanced manner to meet the present and future needs of the American people.

But this mandate has been contorted by BLM to protect the Lords of Yesterday—the phrase coined by western scholar Charles Wilkinson to include the coal, oil and gas, mining, and grazing industries that have traditionally dominated the western landscape. Under this “multiple use and sustained yield” guise, BLM continues to prioritize resource extraction on our public lands, and courts have largely refused to second guess the agency, finding that this mandate “breathes discretion at every pore.” There is a different way.

Indeed, Congress has demanded a different approach, including on specific conservation lands like the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA), the Red Cliffs NCA, and the other 900+ units covering nearly 35 million acres designated by Congress as National Conservation Lands. On these national treasures, Congress has required BLM to manage to “conserve, protect, and enhance” the outstanding cultural, recreational, natural, ecological, and scientific values sprinkled across these lands. This standard means that BLM must only permit uses which promote the conservation, cultural, and recreational values for which these lands were protected by Congress. Yet, BLM continues to allow the Lords of Yesterday almost free rein over our National Conservation Lands.

For example, although Congress created the Red Cliffs NCA to “conserve, protect, and restore” the threatened Mojave desert tortoise and its critical habitat in southwestern Utah, BLM has

recently approved a four-lane, high-speed highway through the NCA and tortoise habitat. Similarly, BLM has recently approved continued livestock grazing within the nationally-significant riparian areas and wildlife habitat in the San Pedro Riparian NCA, despite BLM’s own admission that grazing is degrading the habitat and riparian areas. Despite the mandate to “conserve, protect, and enhance” this area, BLM provides only cancer for the cure to what is spoiling these National Conservation Lands.

Working with Conservation Lands Foundation and its 80+ Friends groups, together with our long-standing collaboration with Western Watersheds Project, Center for Biological Diversity, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife and other allies, *Advocates for the West* has been leading efforts to encourage BLM to abandon its default “multiple use and sustained yield” management scheme on National Conservation Lands, and update its approach to prioritize conservation,

cultural, and recreational values over the Lords of Yesterday. As you may expect, this work can be grinding and frustrating at times—and anyone who has dealt with BLM knows it can be more stubborn to change than a 2-year-old holding a lollipop at dinnertime.

But *Advocates for the West* and our conservation allies are primed and ready for this fight. Our public lands deserve it. Congress has demanded it. And the preservation of rich cultural resources and biodiversity depend on it.



CASE UPDATES

VICTORY FOR IDAHO'S SALMON-CLEARWATER DIVIDE

Advocates for the West received affirmation of our June 2022 victory to protect old growth forests on Idaho's Salmon-Clearwater Divide—a mountainous, forested ridge rising between the Salmon River and the South Fork Clearwater River containing important habitat for fisher, salmon, steelhead, and grizzly bears, among other at-risk species. The U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho upheld our prior win, denying the Forest Service's motion to amend the decision. The Forest Service approved the End of the World and Hungry Ridge logging projects in 2021. Together the projects would have resulted in logging over 40 square miles to generate more than 317 million board feet of timber over the next 10 years.

VICTORY FOR "THE LANDS BETWEEN" IN UTAH

We reached a settlement safeguarding an unprotected archaeological expanse between Bears Ears and Canyons of the Ancients National Monuments from oil and gas development. Dubbed the "Lands Between," the area contains tens of thousands of sites considered sacred to many

Indigenous peoples. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is now required to invite consultation from Tribes for whom historic properties in the area are culturally significant as part of a new review under the National Historic Preservation Act; consider a "no leasing" alternative cancelling two Trump-era oil and gas lease sales that our lawsuit challenged; and examine the effects of leasing decisions on threatened and endangered species.

VICTORY FOR NATIVE PINYON-JUNIPER HABITATS

Pinyon-juniper woodlands provide important habitat for native and imperiled wildlife species such as mule deer and pinyon jays, the latter of which has experienced a population decline of more than 80% since the late 1960s. Yet, the so-called "Pinyon-Juniper Categorical Exclusion Rule," approved at the end of the Trump administration, allowed the BLM to destroy entire pinyon-juniper forests without requiring prior analysis and public disclosure of possible environmental impacts. This included projects up to 10,000 acres in size with no limit on their number. Our favorable settlement requires the agency to abandon this irresponsible policy.

PROTECTING THE SNAKE RIVER FROM FEEDLOT POLLUTION

The Snake River south of Boise, ID is a source of drinking water as well as an important site for recreation and fishing—activities threatened

by continuing agricultural pollution. We filed a lawsuit challenging J.R. Simplot Company and Simplot Livestock Company over years of unlawful pollution discharges from the Grand View Feedlot into the Snake River in violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Simplot's Grand View Feedlot is one of the largest Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in the country, with a capacity of up to 150,000 cattle. Extensive water quality sampling shows the feedlot routinely discharges waste that contains high levels of fecal coliform and E. Coli bacteria, among other pathogens and pollutants, all of which end up in surface and drinking water.

FIGHTING CLEAN WATER ACT VIOLATIONS IN IDAHO

Advocates for the West filed a CWA citizen enforcement suit against mining company U.S. Silver for unlawful discharges of arsenic, lead, and other pollutants at the Galena Complex Mine in the Silver Valley of north Idaho. U.S. Silver has a history of repeated water pollution violations at the mine. In 2018, we reached a settlement agreement over U.S. Silver's prior CWA violations. After a period of better performance, U.S. Silver committed more than a thousand new CWA violations from January 2022 through February 2023—violations that are likely to continue without our litigation.

SAFEGUARDING AIR, WATER, WILDLIFE IN WYOMING

We filed a motion to halt further development of the massive Converse County Oil & Gas Project in the southern Powder River basin of Wyoming. The project includes drilling 5,000 new wells, threatening the survival of sage-grouse and raptors and creating serious air quality impacts throughout the region. The fossil fuel implications of the project are so large that by year ten, it will result in 69.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually, the same level of carbon pollution as 15 million cars operating for a year apiece.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR VICTORIES AND ACTIVE CASES, PLEASE VISIT: [ADVOCATESWEST.ORG/CASES](https://advocateswest.org/cases)

Miguel Almeida Artwork

BOARD NEWS



WELCOME RYNDA CLARK

Rynda fell in love with wild places at a young age in New Mexico, fishing small streams for native trout and camping under shimmering aspens in the light of a full moon. She earned a master's degree in Public Administration which led to her career at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. There, in her role as Director of Continuing Medical Education, she guided physicians in planning and implementing medical education programs for their peers.

Upon retiring, Rynda and her husband chose to live in Bend, OR, where the blue skies, forests, mountains, and high desert speak to her every day. Rynda was introduced to the Great Old Broads for Wilderness in 2013. She and other advocates founded a chapter of the Bitterbrush Broads in central Oregon, and Rynda was invited to join the national board of the Great Old Broads in 2016. She co-chaired the board for 5 years during a period of rapid organizational growth. Rynda joined the *Advocates for the West* board in December 2022. When not working, she spends her time with her children and grandchildren in wild places.

STAFF NEWS



WELCOME CHRIS JOHNSON PARALEGAL

Chris is a native Idahoan who graduated from Borah High School, College of Western Idaho, Boise State University, and attended University of Idaho College of Law. He is dedicated to applying his knowledge and expertise for the stewardship of the state he loves as well as the larger West. He joined *Advocates for the West* in December 2022.

Academically, Chris studied business, biology, sociology, political science, and law. During undergrad, he took environmental science electives where his passion for stewardship blossomed. His passion grew as he transitioned into the legal field working as support staff for Perkins Coie, Powers Farley, and the Idaho Board of Medicine. Chris has spent the majority of his legal career working as a paralegal supporting attorneys in complex civil defense litigation. Chris lives a typical Idahoan lifestyle, spending his free time fishing, camping, skiing, hiking, and disc golfing.

LAW CLERKS, EXTERNS, & INTERNS



SARA AJETI
Summer Law Extern



currently the President of University of Idaho's Environmental Law Society, a teaching assistant, a research assistant, a student ambassador, and the incoming Lead NREL Editor for the Natural Resources and Environmental Law edition of the Idaho Law Review. Sara received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Boise State University and a master's in Natural Resources from University of Idaho. After working for a time in banking compliance, Sara decided to begin her law school career. In her free time, Sara enjoys skiing, mountain climbing, mountain biking, and reading.

Sara is entering her third year at University of Idaho College of Law. After her first year of law school, Sara interned at the Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division where she worked in the Natural Resources Section. She is



CASEY HELLMAN
Summer Law Clerk



Casey is a rising third year student at Georgetown University Law Center. She previously interned at Friends of the Columbia Gorge, worked as a research assistant for the Georgetown Environmental Law and Justice Clinic, and externed at the Environmental

Protection Agency. On campus, she has been the president of the Georgetown Green Campus Alliance, a member of the Environmental Law Society, and is currently the Managing Editor of Development of the Georgetown Environmental Law Review. Casey graduated from Wesleyan University in 2019, where she double majored in Government and Romance Languages. After graduation she worked as a Language Intern at the United Nations and an English teacher in France. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with her dog back home in New York, reading, and learning how to sew her own clothes.



CHAD KENNON
Spring Law Extern



advance the use of non-animal testing techniques that could supplant the reliance on lab animals that are used for respiratory and cosmetic product testing. After his first year of law school, Chad interned at the Federal Trade Commission where he worked on antitrust issues. Chad attended the University of Florida where he gained undergraduate degrees in Biology and Economics. As a past Eagle Scout, he loves camping and all things nature. In his free time, Chad enjoys sailing, exploring, dancing, and mead brewing.

Chad is continuing his second year at Columbia Law School. Before entering the legal field, Chad had been a respiratory biologist for the Institute of In Vitro Sciences where he worked to



MAGGIE LARSON
Summer Intern



Maggie is entering her third year at Boise State University where she is seeking a bachelor's degree in Communication and Environmental Studies. She also participates on the Boise State track and field team. Having

grown up in rural Minnesota, Maggie has always had an appreciation for the outdoors. She was fortunate enough to live on a lake, and most summers you could find her somewhere outside. This appreciation has grown immensely with her move to Idaho. Because of her appreciation for the outdoors, Maggie has her eyes set on a career in environmental law. Outside of her love for all things natural and her participation in track, Maggie spends time reading, doing crafts, snowboarding, and climbing.

Miguel Almeida Artwork

LAW CLERKS, EXTERNS, & INTERNS



ELLIE MALTBY
Summer Law Clerk



Ellie is a rising third year law student at the University of Chicago. After her first year of law school, Ellie interned at the Abrams Environmental Law Clinic at University of Chicago where she worked on a Clean Water Act enforcement case. Additionally, Ellie works as a research assistant to

Professor Joshua Macey, exploring various topics related to energy markets. Ellie is also a Comment Editor on the Legal Forum journal, the Treasurer of the Environmental Law Society, and a representative for the Public Interest Law Society. Prior to law school, Ellie attended Carleton College in Northfield, MN and majored in American Studies and Educational Studies. Upon graduating, she moved to Helena, MT and served as an AmeriCorps member at Montana Legal Services Association. In her free time, Ellie enjoys long-distance running, hiking, choral music, and crossword puzzles.



HANNAH MATHIESON
Spring Law Extern



Hannah is entering her third year at UC Davis School of Law. After her first year of law school, Hannah interned at Prisoner Legal Services where she worked in San Francisco jails to bring legal aid to incarcerated people. She is presently the Co-Chair

of the Environmental Law Society, an Executive Editor for *Environs*, UC Davis's environmental law journal, and competes on several moot court competition teams. Hannah attended Lewis and Clark for undergrad, with majors in Political Science and History. Upon graduation, she lived and worked in Japan, just north of Tokyo. She then returned to the U.S. and began working at Princeton University. Missing home, she returned to her home state of California to begin her law school career. In her free time, Hannah enjoys embroidery, hiking, playing Dungeons and Dragons, and watching movies.

western rivers led her to pursue law school to advocate for protecting these important places. Meridian has worked at Sierra Club Utah and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. She has also run communications and environmental policy for a congressional campaign and helped write and pass bi-partisan climate change legislation in Utah. Meridian currently sits as the Chair of her school's Environmental Law Group and works with various environmental nonprofits in Montana and Idaho as an advocate and educator. In her free time, you can find Meridian climbing peaks with her dog, rafting Idaho's rivers with friends and family, and catching sunrises and sunsets with her camera.



MERIDIAN WAPPETT
Summer Law Extern



Meridian is entering her second year of law school at Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana. Meridian grew up in northern Idaho and graduated from Utah State University with a degree in Conservation and Restoration Ecology and Natural Resources Pre-law. Her background recreating and guiding on



ADVOCATES for the WEST

PO Box 1612 | Boise, ID 83701 | info@advocateswest.org | 208.342.7024

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boise, ID
Permit No. 100



FEATURED ARTIST: MIGUEL ALMEIDA

Miguel Angel Almeida is a Boise-based artist and muralist. He works both traditionally and digitally. His work is a reflection of growing up as a first generation Mexican American in Idaho. Miguel's art style is a combination of colors inspired by Mexican folk art and heavy line work to create a graphic style. His color palette is largely influenced by the pueblos and towns that he grew up seeing in Mexico when visiting his grandparents at their home in southern Zacatecas. Miguel has worked with numerous clients, including the City of Boise, Idaho State Museum, Chocolate Skateboards, Calexico, Push & Pour, Google/DLR Group, and many more. His work can be found at miguelalmeidaiillustration.com