



2003-2023

**20 YEARS**

**ADVOCATES FOR THE WEST**

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*2023 Fall/Winter Case Notes*



# THE FUTURE OF FIGHTING FOR THE WEST

Laird J. Lucas, Executive Director

Celebrating our 20th anniversary this year, I have enjoyed reflecting on *Advocates for the West's* work—our victories, their impact, and the ever-expanding partnerships that fuel our litigation.

But major milestones are an opportune time to look to the future as well. While no one knows exactly what the future holds, *Advocates for the West's* innovative approach to law, science, and advocacy positions us well to meet and defeat a growing number of environmental threats to the West.

For instance, our pursuit of a wide array of cases to protect the imperiled sage-grouse is more than simple recognition that the iconic species is in trouble (it is!). It is a realization that by defending the grouse we are, in turn, protecting tens of millions of acres of the Sagebrush Sea and the more than 350 bird, fish, and wildlife species for which this vanishing landscape is home.

Bringing litigation in the areas of law and science where we excel drives our rate of winning or favorably settling 85% of our cases, even when the odds are stacked against us. As Staff Attorney Bryan Hurlbutt recounts on page 10, we have succeeded in stopping devastating mining activity in the face of a 150-year-old law that effectively gives companies carte blanche to mine on our public lands. In the process, we are fine-tuning our strategies to fight new and emerging mining threats.

As you'll read on page 9, Staff Attorney Lizzy Potter's work providing strategic and legal advice to grassroots environmental groups that lack access to legal counsel builds upon our long-standing model through which we offer legal services to Conservation Lands Foundation's "Friends" groups. Sometimes, success in public interest environmental law is about more than winning cases; it's about helping to empower people in their

fight to protect natural resources.

As part of *Advocates for the West's* commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice, we are working to more fully integrate our commitment into our legal program and our relationships with clients and partners. This includes exploring how an environmental justice lens might deepen the impact of our work to defend the West's public lands, water, fish, and wildlife.

Meanwhile, our Environmental Law Clerks, Interns, and Externs Program serves as a training ground for the next generation of leaders in environmental law, whom you can get to know by reading their bios in each installment of our Case Notes. Through the program, we host, train, and mentor students and recent graduates from environmental law schools and colleges across the United States. This work is critical to the future of our mission.

We're not alone in looking to the future. Your support is an investment in a more ecologically prosperous and biodiverse West—replete with clean air and clean water, healthy and abundant fish and wildlife populations, lasting protections for special places, and resilient communities. Winning for the West is not possible without you.

I'm excited to see what the future holds. Here's to another 20 years!

With immense gratitude,

## Board

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Senior Attorney
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- Sarah Stellberg**  
Staff Attorney
- Todd Tucci**  
Senior Attorney



## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

“I became acquainted with *Advocates for the West* in 2007 as a Nez Perce Tribal staff attorney working with *Advocates for the West* to protect bighorn sheep, a culturally-significant species to the Tribe, on federally-managed lands within the Tribe’s treaty territory. Since then, the Tribe has worked in close partnership with *Advocates for the West* on several cases, including stopping mega-loads on U.S. Highway 12, improving Oregon’s water quality certification for the Hells Canyon Complex relicense, challenging Idaho Department of Environmental Quality’s issuance of an air permit for the proposed Stibnite Gold Project, and securing funding for the Tribe to undertake needed water quality improvement initiatives in the South Fork Salmon River watershed caused by legacy pollution at the Stibnite and Cinnabar mine sites. In 2018, I joined the *Advocates for the West* board to continue to honor the Tribe’s partnership with *Advocates for the West*, and with my wife Jennifer, proudly support *Advocates for the West*’s mission to protect the wildlife and landscapes important to the Tribe and all of us now and for future generations.”

**MIKE LOPEZ**  
MOSCOW, IDAHO



## SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR THE WEST. DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT TODAY!

*Advocates for the West* provides winning legal services to our clients at no charge. This allows our partners in conservation to focus on what they do best rather than diverting their energies to addressing legal costs. Your support allows us to focus on what we do best: provide clients with free, top-notch legal representation for the environment.

A generous donor has offered us a \$25,000 matching gift challenge. Now through the end of the year, your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar! We hope you will join this anonymous defender of the West today and make a gift to *Advocates for the West*.

Thanks to you, we continue to fight—and win—for the West’s treasured public lands, water, fish, and wildlife. To give a gift today, please visit [AdvocatesWest.org/donate](https://AdvocatesWest.org/donate)

Tyana Arviso Photography

2023 Fall/Winter Case Notes



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE

“In 1973, a group of advocates from across the state realized that Idaho needed an effective statewide voice for conservation to protect the things that make Idaho special— clean air, clean water, vast public lands, and abundant fish and wildlife. From this love for Idaho, the Idaho Conservation League (ICL) was born.

50 years later, ICL has accomplished much on behalf of Idaho’s air, water, lands, and wildlife. We’ve grown from a single staff member in 1973 to over 30 dedicated conservationists across the state. With over 11,000 members, we’ve led efforts to preserve Idaho’s environment for current and future generations. With the help of amazing volunteers, supporters, and advocates, we’ve successfully navigated Idaho’s shifting political, economic, and social landscapes.

Just as Idaho’s landscapes encompass an amazing diversity, protecting it requires diverse approaches as well. That’s why ICL uses an array of tools to protect Idaho’s environment, including litigation. Some of the notable wins that *Advocates for the West* has helped make possible: holding miners responsible for ongoing pollution in the headwaters of the Boise River, South Fork Coeur d’Alene, Clearwater, and Big Wood Rivers; stopping a proposed mine in the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness; challenging water diversions in the upper Salmon River basin to protect bull trout; challenging harmful logging projects on public lands across the state; and helping protect wild salmon and steelhead habitat.

With the help of partners like *Advocates for the West*, ICL plays a critical role in protecting public lands, combating climate change, strengthening protections for clean air and water, and ensuring that salmon, steelhead, and wildlife can thrive.

Our mission is to protect the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the lands and wildlife you love. With passionate supporters and partners, we will continue to work to ensure the landscapes you hold dear remain pristine and will inspire generations to come. Read more about ICL at [idahoconservation.org](https://idahoconservation.org)”

**JUSTIN HAYES**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE

*Advocates for the West*

# INSIGHTS FROM OUR SENIOR ATTORNEYS



Todd Tucci and Laurie Rule

Advocates for the West Senior Attorneys Laurie Rule and Todd Tucci have been integral to the success of our organization over the last two decades. Part of the team of attorneys who left the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies to found *Advocates for the West* in 2003, Laurie and Todd's vision and leadership helped pave the way for the innovative approach to environmental litigation that is our mainstay.

From his job with a Boston law firm, Todd moved to Idaho in April 2001 to work with *Advocates*

for the West Executive Director Laird Lucas in pioneering new strategies for lasting protections of iconic species and special places throughout the West. A year later, Laurie—a former fish and wildlife biologist with the Forest Service—was nearing completion of a judicial clerkship and reached out to inquire about a job. What began as month-to-month legal work would later result in Laurie establishing *Advocates for the West's* Portland office.

Here, Laurie and Todd look back on their time winning for the West.

## What led you to become an environmental lawyer?

**LR:** My background was in biology and after college I worked as a fish and wildlife technician, doing field surveys for different species in the Pacific Northwest. Those jobs were seasonal jobs in various locations and after seven years, it was time to take the next step in my career. I heard about the environmental law program at Lewis & Clark Law School and based on what I had seen and learned during my survey work for the Forest Service and private contractors, I thought that sounded like a good route.

**TT:** During a very brief stint subbing in as a commercial fisherman off Australia's West Coast, I experienced the fleecing of the ocean and the impacts of industrialization of the oceans on the native wildlife. That experience led me to the Ocean Wildlife Campaign in Washington, D.C. back in the '90s, where I began to appreciate the imbalance in power between industry and the environment. Fighting to restore this balance, and fighting for wildlife and wild places, comes pretty naturally to me, it turns out.

## How would you describe your specialty as an environmental defender?

**LR:** Because environmental law is based largely on written legal briefs, my strong writing skills have served me well. I think my scientific background helps me analyze the facts and science at issue in a case, and explain in a legal brief how those facts violated the law in a way that a judge can understand.

**TT:** Preparation. When I was interviewing with Laird Lucas back in 2001, I told him one of my goals was always to be the most prepared lawyer in court. Preparation is the key to success, in my judgment, and that means a lot of weekends, late nights, and early mornings.

## What is your most memorable court victory?

**LR:** It is a tie between my woodland caribou case and my Willamette River salmon and steelhead case. Both involved significant legal victories under the Endangered Species Act that resulted in substantial changes on the ground to benefit the species. The Willamette case is special because it is in my backyard, while the

caribou case was special because it involved a bench trial—one of only two trials I have had during my time at *Advocates for the West*.

**TT:** My work challenging livestock grazing in the Jarbidge Resource Area of southern Idaho two decades ago was memorable for two reasons. First, convincing a federal court to close an entire resource area—some 2.1 million acres—to livestock grazing was an enormous lift, and we really amassed an overwhelming record demonstrating the adverse impacts of grazing across the landscape. Yet, in the face of immediate and overwhelming Congressional attention and opposition, we were not able to hold this injunction, and we had to settle for less than a total closure. For me, this case is a perfect example of how our robust litigation strategy must be paired with equally vigorous public relations, legislative, and administrative advocacy strategies.

## What species or special place are you most proud of protecting?

**LR:** I am most proud of my work

protecting bighorn sheep from diseases transmitted by domestic sheep. I have had a series of cases in Idaho over this issue that have resulted in closure of almost all federal domestic sheep grazing allotments in Idaho that were a high risk to bighorn sheep. These closures have led to rebounding bighorn populations in many areas, including Hells Canyon and the Salmon River Canyon.

**TT:** Slickspot peppergrass, an endemic and disappearing native plant found only in southwestern Idaho. After almost a decade, and four or five separate lawsuits, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finally listed slickspot peppergrass as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. After zealously advocating for the protection of a native grass, advocating for everything else seems almost easy....

## What is your favorite place to visit in the West, and why?

**LR:** I don't have one particular favorite place in the West but my favorite type of place to visit is a

high alpine lake basin accessed by several days of backpacking. Some of my top spots from prior trips are Grand Teton National Park, Eagle Cap Wilderness in northeast Oregon, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California.

**TT:** The public lands of central Idaho—for the fish, the mountains, the solitude, and the memories.



**“Advocates for the West has been working with the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Bitterbrush Broads and Bros chapter of central and eastern Oregon, in a partnership that works toward effective conservation for our public lands and waters. Advocates for the West gives us legal expertise and guides our chapter to make the best use of our advocacy and ‘boots on the ground’ work. We will continue our work with Advocates for the West on livestock grazing and forest planning and project work to best protect our riparian areas and streams, mature and old growth forests, and native fish and wildlife species and their habitats.”**



**Amy Stuart**  
*Bitterbrush Broads and Bros Leadership Team  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness*

*Tyana Arviso Photography*



## PARTNERSHIPS TO PROTECT THE WEST TAKE MANY FORMS

*Lizzy Potter, Staff Attorney*

Serving our client-partners is my favorite part of my job. As attorneys providing free legal services for the environment, *Advocates for the West* represents conservation organizations, Native American Tribes, and concerned citizens—who are all passionate about a wide range of special places and natural resources across the West. They fight tirelessly to protect those public treasures and the people who depend upon them.

Our client-partners are numerous and run the gamut in size, focus, and structure. We represent some of the biggest conservation groups around, like the Center for Biological Diversity that has more than 1.7 million supporters and members across the globe. We also help small, local groups like the Concerned Friends of the Winema, a southern Oregon-based grassroots group of about a dozen members who intimately know the Fremont-Winema National Forest in south-central Oregon and work to protect it.

Smaller groups like this possess a wealth of local knowledge and deep

connections that are invaluable in our advocacy efforts. But often, these groups lack the resources to retain attorneys on staff to evaluate and respond to threats to their mission. This can hamstring groups who must navigate federal land management planning processes without legal advice, or prevent them from identifying solutions to complex environmental problems in their backyard. This can lead to discrepancies in who has access to justice based on the wealth and power of an organization.

To help address this issue, we teamed up with the Conservation Lands Foundation at the beginning of the Trump administration to provide legal services to their dozens of local “Friends” groups across the West. These groups are devoted to protected lands under the Bureau of Land Management’s jurisdiction and are often run by all or mostly volunteers.

With Senior Attorney Todd Tucci spearheading this work, *Advocates for the West* has led a series of “know your rights” trainings to teach groups how to track and

participate in federal agency decision-making processes; fielded countless inquiries about emerging threats; provided strategic advice about advocacy options; and when necessary, filed lawsuits to protect their rights. We believe this work has been effective and helped center new and often more diverse voices that are sometimes missing in public lands disputes.

After relocating back to Bend, Oregon a few years ago, I discovered a similar need for legal services in central and eastern Oregon. There are a small number of public interest environmental attorneys who live and work east of the Cascades, and I may be the only one who focuses on federal issues and litigation. While there are some environmental attorneys in western Oregon who serve Eastside groups and communities, most do not. This is unfortunate given what a substantial and spectacular portion of our public lands and imperiled wildlife are located on the dry side of the Cascades. Plus, living and recreating in an area can make it easier to connect with the people, places, and resources at stake in

public lands disputes.

To help fill this gap, I am working to better support local groups with strategic and legal advice. Much of my work to date has been with the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, who have a robust local chapter dubbed the Central Oregon Bitterbrush Broads. This formidable group are all volunteers but spend a considerable amount of time ground-truthing extractive activities on public lands, submitting comments on livestock grazing permits and timber sales, and suing when necessary. Since they are all volunteer and lack access to their own legal counsel, I have helped advise them during regular planning meetings, strategy retreats, and field trips. This work has been meaningful and fun thanks to the Broads’ lighthearted yet urgent approach to advocacy.

Moving forward, *Advocates for the West* looks forward to continuing this work addressing pressing legal needs in central and eastern Oregon communities and beyond. Rural areas and underrepresented communities deserve no less.



# SHARPENING OUR LEGAL TOOLS TO DEFEND THE WEST FROM DESTRUCTIVE MINING

*Bryan Hurlbutt, Staff Attorney*

When I joined *Advocates for the West* in October 2011, we were in the middle of litigation aimed at stopping two proposed mines in the headwaters of Idaho’s Boise River: the Atlanta Gold and CuMo mines. My colleagues warned me that it’s hard to stop mines. This is due in large part to the Mining Law of 1872, which federal agencies interpret as giving them essentially no choice other than to say “yes” any time a mining company wants to mine on our public lands. But my colleagues also pointed out the critical importance of these cases.

The American West is littered with mining waste from tens of thousands of historical mines. Gold rushes and mining booms displaced Indigenous communities, degraded and destroyed fish and wildlife habitat, and left behind messes that continue polluting to this day. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that mining has contaminated streams in the headwaters of more than 40 percent of watersheds in the West.

The West’s mining booms are not over. From Idaho’s “Silver Valley,” to its “Phosphate Patch,” to its “Cobalt Belt,” and many places in between, our public lands in the Gem State face the threat of new mines. Even today, a “modern” and regulated large-scale mine will still destroy a huge swath of habitat, leave behind lasting scars, and threaten hundreds of years of contamination.

Fortunately, our litigation succeeded in stopping (at least for now) the Atlanta Gold and CuMo mines and protecting the Boise River. Through those cases, we set precedents, learned lessons, and honed strategies we’ve been able to replicate. From the proposed Golden Hand Mine in the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness to the Kilgore Mine in the Centennial Mountains in the Greater Yellowstone, we have continued working with our client-partners to keep big mines out of cherished places and sensitive habitats in Idaho.

Today, we are deep in the fight to protect the South Fork Salmon River watershed from the threats posed by Perpetua Resources’ Stibnite Gold Project—a massive gold mine in the headwaters of the South Fork east of McCall, Idaho.

The area is part of the aboriginal homelands of the Nez Perce Tribe who have reserved the right to fish, hunt, gather, and pasture at traditional places in their 1855 Treaty with the United States. The South Fork Salmon River watershed is a stronghold for salmon and steelhead recovery, especially in the face of climate change. The South Fork is also a wild area of largely intact forested mountain habitat that helps link the heart of the Salmon-Selway-Bitterroot ecoregion to the east with the Hells Canyon and Blue Mountains ecoregions to the west.

Using the tools and strategies we’ve developed over the last 20 years, we are fighting for the South Fork Salmon River. In August, we reached a favorable settlement

in which Perpetua will pay the Nez Perce Tribe \$5 million over ongoing pollution discharges into the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River. We are also in the middle of a case representing the Nez Perce Tribe and the Idaho Conservation League challenging the air quality permit for the proposed mine. And as Perpetua seeks the many other permits needed before it can start mining, we are and will continue working with our partners to oppose the mine.

**“THE AMERICAN WEST IS LITTERED WITH MINING WASTE FROM TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HISTORICAL MINES. GOLD RUSHES AND MINING BOOMS DISPLACED INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, DEGRADED AND DESTROYED FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND LEFT BEHIND MESSSES THAT CONTINUE POLLUTING TO THIS DAY.”**

## GRATITUDE TO TRUE NORTH FOUNDATION FOR 16 YEARS OF SUPPORT!

Since 2007, True North Foundation has generously funded our work challenging threats posed by mining in Idaho and across the West. With True North Foundation preparing to close in 2024, we send our deepest gratitude for a long and successful partnership. We never could have achieved numerous victories halting destructive mining activity without True North Foundation’s support!

*Tyana Arviso Photography*

# CASE UPDATES

## VICTORY TO PROTECT ARIZONA'S SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT

*Advocates for the West* won a significant victory when, for the second time, a federal judge determined that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) relied on faulty information to justify livestock grazing on fragile desert landscapes within Sonoran Desert National Monument. The BLM based its analysis of livestock impacts, and its decision to allow grazing, on the flawed premise that livestock don't travel more than two miles from water sources. The judge also found that the agency lowered the bar for determining whether the plants found in the Monument were harmed by livestock grazing. The 150,000-acre Monument is located just west of Phoenix and is home to significant archeological and historic sites as well as the saguaro cactus, Sonoran desert tortoise, and other rare and sensitive plants and animals.

## COURT BLOCKS GRAZING ON PORTION OF ARIZONA'S TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in our favor that

the Forest Service made "serious errors" in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in approving a plan to expand cattle grazing on the Tonto National Forest's Bar X allotment—including opening pastures that had been closed to grazing for nearly 40 years. The Court also found that in relying on "significant misstatements and errors" during its environmental review to support the grazing decision, the agency prevented the public from fully understanding and commenting on the grazing plan's impacts. Nestled in a ponderosa pine forest below the scenic Mogollon Rim, the area is beloved by hikers, anglers, and other recreationists, and by local residents as a quiet place to enjoy nature.

## PHOSPHATE MINE HALTED IN SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

*Advocates for the West* won a major victory to protect sage-grouse when a federal judge fully vacated a set of approvals by the BLM authorizing development of the Caldwell Canyon phosphate mine in southeastern Idaho. That ruling followed the Court's prior decision holding that BLM violated NEPA and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act by failing to

adequately assess environmental harms, including harms to vital habitat for the imperiled sage-grouse, of which the small East Idaho Uplands population is barely hanging on. Phosphate from the Caldwell Canyon mine was slated to be used by P4, a subsidiary of Bayer AG—formerly Monsanto—in manufacturing glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup brand products. Glyphosate is the most widely used pesticide in the world and has been linked to cancer in humans and harm to more than 1,600 of the plants and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act.

## NEZ PERCE TRIBE WINS \$5 MILLION IN STIBNITE MINE CLEAN WATER ACT SUIT

Mining company Perpetua Resources will pay the Nez Perce Tribe \$5 million as part of a settlement agreement reached over ongoing pollution discharges into the headwaters of the East Fork South Fork Salmon River. The settlement resolves a 2019 Clean Water Act (CWA) lawsuit filed by *Advocates for the West* and the Tribe's Office of Legal Counsel challenging the illegal discharge of arsenic, cyanide, mercury, and other pollutants, without a CWA permit,

from mining adits and waste piles at the proposed Stibnite Gold Project site east of McCall, Idaho. Under the terms of the settlement, the Tribe will continue to oppose Perpetua's proposal for a massive new gold mine—including three open pit mines and a towering mine waste dam—on the edge of the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness. The area within and surrounding the proposed mine is part of the aboriginal homelands of the Tribe over which the Tribe has treaty-reserved fishing, hunting, gathering, and pasturing rights.

## VICTORY TO PROTECT OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE BIGHORN SHEEP

The Forest Service has authorized domestic sheep grazing in high-risk allotments within Washington's Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest despite knowing about the threat of disease transmission to bighorn sheep as far back as 2010. Domestic sheep carry a pathogen that, when transmitted to bighorn sheep, causes deadly pneumonia in bighorns and reduces lamb survival rates for years. *Advocates for the West* reached a settlement requiring the agency to finally address this threat impacting nearly half of the wild bighorn sheep in Washington state. Under

the terms of the settlement, the Forest Service will complete a long-overdue environmental analysis to determine whether high-risk allotments should be closed.

## VICTORY TO RESTORE BEARS EARS, GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENTS

A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit brought by the state of Utah challenging President Biden's use of the Antiquities Act to restore Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. The Monuments were designated by Presidents Clinton and Obama and are located on land sacred to many Indigenous peoples. But President Trump moved to slash the size of both Monuments and opened up parts of them for mining, oil/gas drilling, and other development. For years, *Advocates for the West* has assisted Conservation Lands Foundation in defending the Monuments.

## DEFENDING IDAHO'S FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS

At more than 2.3 million acres, the Frank Church Wilderness is the

largest contiguous Wilderness in the lower 48 states. *Advocates for the West* filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service challenging the agency's unlawful decisions to improve and expand four locations in the Big Creek drainage within the Wilderness, which are used by hobby pilots. Big Creek is popular for hikers, backpackers, and river rafters, and provides important habitat for a wide variety of native wildlife, all impacted by this aircraft intrusion in Wilderness. The Forest Service has documented that a person in the Big Creek area—and the wildlife there—can often encounter up to 30 low-flying airplanes in a single day. Our lawsuit seeks to permanently close these unlawful airstrips.



To learn more about all of our cases to protect public lands, water, fish, and wildlife throughout the West, please visit [AdvocatesWest.org/cases](https://AdvocatesWest.org/cases)

## BOARD NEWS



### WELCOME LELEI COYLE

A lifelong outdoor enthusiast, Lelei and her husband, Chris, moved from Connecticut to Boise, Idaho in 2014 looking to raise their three sons in a place that offered an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the mountains, open spaces, and a community that values shared access to public land.

Before earning her B.A. from Denison University with a degree in English and Psychology, Lelei spent her summers engaging with the outdoors on numerous leadership courses and became an Outward Bound instructor for the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School. In the years before moving to Idaho, Lelei was also an elementary school teacher, a high school lacrosse coach, sat on the board for the Wilton Library, and helped chair numerous local events for charitable causes.

When she moved to Boise, Lelei continued to pursue volunteerism and community engagement. She currently serves on the board for Idaho Business for the Outdoors, helped lead the 2023 Senior Gift Campaign for Bowdoin College, sits on the leadership team for the Idaho Botanical Garden's Expansion Project, and works closely with other local organizations that are environmentally and community focused.

She can often be found hiking, camping, skiing, biking, and sharing various exciting outdoor adventures with her family and friends.



### WELCOME ELAINE FRENCH

After a career in educational policy research and development, Elaine pursued a volunteer career in conservation. She served as board member and chair of the Idaho Conservation League and the Idaho chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Elaine served on the boards of the Andrus Center for Public Policy and the National Council of the Land Trust Alliance and is now on the board of the League of Conservation Voters.

Her activism has also encompassed other areas. She was a member of the board of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, the Stanford Center for Research on Women and Gender, the San Jose Museum of Art, the Peninsula Bridge program, and the Cleo Eulau Center.

Elaine is president of her family foundation, which funds environmental, reproductive rights, and educational efforts. A graduate of Wellesley College, she holds graduate degrees from Harvard, San Jose State University, and Stanford.

As residents of Ketchum and Picabo, Idaho, Elaine and her husband John are deeply involved in the protection of Silver Creek and its watershed. They donated a conservation easement on their Picabo ranch and have worked on riparian restoration as well as regenerative agriculture. They sponsor several scholarships and a fellowship in environmental studies at Harvard.

*Tyana Arviso Photography*

## STAFF NEWS



### WELCOME SOPHIE HACKETT

Development Associate

Sophie joins *Advocates for the West* as Development Associate with a background in nonprofit development, social media, and writing.

Sophie is passionate about working toward a climate resilient future, and advocating for special places and their inhabitants. Based in the Boise office, Sophie is excited to facilitate opportunities for people to invest in their values and vision.

Sophie holds a B.A. in English from the University of Puget Sound in Washington, and currently lives in Nampa, Idaho, where she grew up. When she's not at work, you can find Sophie arranging bouquets from her flower garden, playing music with her band, and hiking and biking Idaho with her husband, Alex, and their dog, Murphy.

## LAW CLERKS, EXTERNS, & INTERNS



### ABBIE MCCENEY

Fall Law Extern

Abbie is entering her third year at Lewis & Clark Law School. Abbie grew up in Colorado and graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont with a degree in Environmental Studies and Geography.

Prior to law school, Abbie worked as a complex litigation paralegal in Seattle and as an advocate for migrant farmworkers with Colorado Legal Services. During her time in law school, Abbie participated in Earthrise Law Center's environmental law clinic, was a Clean Water Group project coordinator for Northwest Environmental Defense Center's Clean Water Group, and is currently a co-managing editor of the Environmental Law Review. After her second year of school, Abbie interned at the Colorado Attorney General's Office in the Natural Resources and Environment Section.

In her free time, Abbie enjoys cycling, trail running, crosswording, and a weekly soup night with friends.





ADVOCATES for the WEST

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## FEATURED ARTIST: TYANA ARVISO

Based in the high desert of Colorado, Diné artist Tyana Arviso uses photography to interpret her visual perspective. Self-taught with seven years of experience as a professional photographer, Tyana has collaborated with various publications and brands. Tyana highlights the beauty of the Southwest, from vast vistas to desert flora. She loves telling a story with her camera and relishes the unforgettable moments she experiences while out shooting. Her work can be found at [tyanaarviso.com](http://tyanaarviso.com)