



ADVOCATES
for the WEST

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

*Winning for the West's
natural treasures and wildlife.*

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Dear Friends,

2024 was a year marked by highs and lows. *Advocates for the West* won several landmark victories to protect our natural treasures and iconic wildlife while growing our base of support. And then came November 5, when we saw one of the most pro-industry, anti-environmental presidents in the history of our country elected to another term.



While we won many victories during and following Trump's first term to reverse some of the administration's worst policies and decisions, we must now defend those wins while fending off new threats against our public lands, clean air and clean water, fish and wildlife, and resilient human communities. And we will.

First, our formula works. We've now been through several presidential administrations, and have used law and science to halt bad decisions, reverse harmful policies, and promote lasting protections. The courts will be critical over the next four years to blocking the worst excesses of an administration hellbent on pillaging our public lands in the name of "energy dominance" and lining the pockets of extractive industries at the expense of special places and sensitive species. We've been here before.

Second, *Advocates for the West* is stronger than ever. Our legal tools are sharp, as evidenced by our many victories in the pages that follow. We're taking on bigger, more important cases to curb climate change and promote a just and thriving West. At the same time, our steady and sustainable growth has allowed us to remain nimble. We strike when threatened and under-represented ecosystems and species are most in need of keen legal strategy.

Third, we're in this together. A key part of our success over the past 22 years is our network of more than 80 client-partners, including conservation groups, Indigenous communities, and concerned community members who we've represented in court and worked alongside to protect and defend the West. As we've shown for more than two decades, strong alliances are critical to protect imperiled species such as sage-grouse and salmon, fight extractive industries from destroying culturally significant and ecologically important lands, and preserve the West's natural beauty and biodiversity for generations to come.

Our past and future wins are only made possible by a dedicated community of *Advocates for the West* supporters. You sustain our legal advocacy and hard-hitting litigation. Thank you! I am grateful to all of you who have been by our side over the years, and to those of you who've joined the fight more recently. You make *Advocates for the West* the leading public interest non-profit environmental law firm that we are today.

With immense gratitude,

Laird J. Lucas
Executive Director

Julia Cook Photography

Board

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Deputy Director

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Office Manager

Lizzy Potter
Staff Attorney

Laurie Rule
Senior Attorney

Will Shoemaker
Communications &
Engagement Director

Sarah Stellberg
Staff Attorney

Todd C. Tucci
Senior Attorney

Emily Whalen
Paralegal



By The Numbers

245 Million Acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and covered by the agency's Public Lands Conservation Rule, which places conservation on equal footing with extractive uses and we're defending from state and industry challenges.

7.7 Million Dollar amount mining company P4 agrees to pay under a settlement agreement we won for habitat restoration and connectivity to benefit sage-grouse and other wildlife.

150,000 Dollar amount of the fine, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, against gold miner Shannon Poe for violating the Clean Water Act (CWA) when he dumped suction dredge mining waste into Idaho's South Fork of the Clearwater River without a required pollution permit.

47,450 Minimum tons of manure generated each year at the Simplot Corporation's Grand View feedlot in Idaho, where we're challenging years of unlawful pollution discharges into the Snake River in violation of the CWA.

5,000 Number of oil and gas wells part of the Converse County Oil & Gas Project, which we halted until the BLM corrects major errors in its environmental review.

300 Unique bird species that inhabit northern Colorado's Pawnee National Grassland, where we're challenging the BLM's failure to protect the grassland from continued oil and gas extraction.

100 Feet above ground that F-15 fighter jets would be allowed to fly for subsonic flights over the Owyhee Canyonlands under an Air Force decision we're challenging to expand and intensify its military trainings there.

72 Length of stretch, in miles, of Oregon's Crooked River between Prineville Reservoir and Lake Billy Chinook where a legal challenge mounted by ranchers and irrigators would undermine the implementation of the Crooked River Act and delay legal protections for flows to protect fish that we seek to uphold.

25 Oil and gas leases cancelled—totaling more than 40,296 acres in the rich archeological expanse between Bears Ears and Canyon of Ancients National Monuments known as the "Lands Between" in southeastern Utah—in response to a 2023 settlement of our challenges.

2024 Clients & Partners

American Bird Conservancy
Bears Ears Partnership
CalWild
Center for Biological Diversity
Columbia Riverkeeper
Concerned Friends of the Winema
Conservation Lands Foundation
Conserve Southwest Utah
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthworks
Friends of the Bitterroot
Friends of the Clearwater
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Golden Eagle Audubon Society

Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Hells Canyon Council
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Law Offices of Charles M. Tebbutt
Native Fish Society
Nez Perce Tribe
Northwest Environmental Defense Center
Oregon Wild
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
Public Justice
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

Resource Renewal Institute
Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association
Save the South Fork Salmon
Sierra Club
Snake River Waterkeeper
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
The Wilderness Society
WaterWatch of Oregon
Western Mining Action Project
Western Watersheds Project
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Watch
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

2024 Milestones



Advocates for the West is fighting dozens of legal battles to protect and defend the West's natural treasures, wildlife, and communities. Following are some of our landmark victories, new cases filed, and noteworthy milestones from 2024. For more information on these and other important cases, scan the QR code or visit AdvocatesWest.org/Cases



DEFENDING SPECIAL PLACES

Victory for Reform at Point Reyes National Seashore

For more than a decade, we've fought to protect northern California's Point Reyes National Seashore from industrial dairy and ranching operations that have led to overgrazing, soil erosion, conflicts with native tule elk, and degraded water quality. Settlement of our prior suit forced the National Park Service to come up with a long-term management plan to protect recreation and natural resources. In early 2025, in our second lawsuit, we reached a landmark agreement to prioritize ecological protection, wildlife conservation, and recreational access at Point Reyes—the only National Seashore on the West Coast. Under the agreement, 12 dairies or cattle ranches agreed to retire their leases in exchange for compensation from The Nature Conservancy, the Park Service will prioritize resource conservation on the vacated lease areas, and native tule elk will be allowed to roam freely across, and expand their numbers within, the National Seashore.

Victory to Protect Red Cliffs National Conservation Area

We secured a major victory to protect the stunning desert landscape of Red Cliffs National Conservation Area in southwestern Utah and critical habitat for the threatened Mojave desert tortoise. In 2021, we sued after the first Trump administration approved a plan to punch a four-lane, high-speed highway through Red Cliffs. We reached a settlement halting the highway, and requiring new analysis by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). In December 2024, the agencies applied that new analysis to deny the highway right-of-way. BLM and FWS determined the highway is a poor option for the St. George community because it would increase fire probability and frequency, result in permanent loss to designated critical tortoise habitat, spread noxious weeds and invasive plants, and adversely impact the highest number of cultural and historical resources of all alternatives considered.

Victory for the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness

At more than 2.3 million acres, Idaho's Frank Church Wilderness is the largest contiguous Wilderness in the lower 48 states. Last year we filed suit to challenge the Forest

Service for maintaining four unlawful airstrips in the Big Creek drainage within the Wilderness, which are used by hobby pilots. In December 2024, the court approved our settlement with the Forest Service requiring it to issue corrective management instructions that the four airstrips are only open for emergency and not recreational use, and to monitor future use of the airstrips.

Safeguarding a Sacred Cultural Landscape in Utah

Located between Canyons of the Ancients and Bears Ears National Monuments in southeastern Utah, the "Lands Between" region is by far the densest archaeological area open to oil and gas leasing on public lands in the United States. It is home to tens of thousands of archaeological sites considered sacred to many Native American peoples, including the Hopi, Zuni, Ute, Navajo and Pueblos of New Mexico. In response to settlement of our challenges to oil and gas leases issued in the Lands Between, BLM cancelled 25 leases totaling more than 40,296 acres because of the cultural resources they contain—a major win for this tremendously significant cultural landscape and for descendant communities across the region. We are now defending the lease cancellation against industry appeal.

Defending Wildlife in the Owyhee Canyonlands

The Owyhee Canyonlands of Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada feature miles upon miles of deep, rugged canyons and rolling sagebrush grasslands that support a rich diversity of wildlife. In February 2024, we filed suit challenging the U.S. Air Force's decision to expand and intensify its military trainings using F-15 fighter jets over Wilderness Areas and Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Owyhee Canyonlands. The Air Force's actions threaten key sage-grouse strongholds in these vast desert wildlands, as well as bighorn sheep and other wildlife, lowering the "floor" for military jets to train as low as 100 feet above ground level for subsonic flights, generating significant noise, visual intrusions, pollution in largely intact and quiet natural landscapes, and disturbing sage-grouse and other sensitive species.



CHALLENGING INDUSTRIAL THREATS ON PUBLIC LANDS

Victory Halting Massive Wyoming Oil and Gas Project

The massive Converse County Oil and Gas Project in the Powder River basin of Wyoming threatens the survival

of sage-grouse and birds of prey, and is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants. The fossil fuel implications of the project are so large that by year ten, it would result in 69.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually—the same level of carbon pollution as 15 million cars each operating for a year. We won a significant court victory in October 2024 halting the 5,000-well project until the BLM corrects major errors in its environmental review.

Defending Idaho's South Fork Salmon River Watershed

Mining company Perpetua Resources proposes to construct three open pit mines and a towering mine waste dam in Idaho's South Fork Salmon River watershed, on the edge of Idaho's Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness and within the aboriginal homelands of the Nez Perce Tribe. The proposed Stibnite Gold Mine threatens Tribal interests, clean air, clean water, public health, fish and wildlife, and world-class recreation. Representing the Tribe and others, we won an interim victory in our ongoing fight to stop the proposed mine in May 2024, when the Idaho Board of Environmental Quality invalidated Perpetua's air pollution permit, which would have allowed the mining company to emit massive amounts of arsenic-laden dust in quantities that exceed state law limits designed to protect the public. We have also appealed a CWA Section 401 water quality certification issued by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to Perpetua for the proposed Stibnite Gold Mine, and partnered with a coalition of conservation groups and experts to submit objections in fall 2024 over the Forest Service's draft decision approving the massive gold mine.

Standing up for Colorado's Pawnee National Grassland

Northern Colorado's Pawnee National Grassland is home to burrowing owls, swift foxes, and supports more than 300 other unique bird species. In June 2024, we sued the BLM for failing to protect shortgrass prairie in the National Grassland from continued oil and gas extraction. In issuing drilling permits, BLM erroneously claims to lack authority to consider harms to wildlife, air and water, dark skies, or the aesthetic of the grassland because the federal minerals would be extracted by horizontal fracking from wells built on private or state lands. Oil and gas extraction in and around the area also contributes to ozone pollution in Colorado's Front Range, which since 2004 has consistently exceeded ambient air quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Defending Bureau of Land Management's Public Lands Conservation Rule

During summer and fall 2024, *Advocates for the West* took legal action to oppose lawsuits brought by Alaska, North Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, and industry challenging the BLM's recently finalized Public Lands Conservation Rule, which received overwhelmingly public support. The rule

adopted new tools to promote conservation and mitigation, advancing efforts to conserve intact, healthy ecosystems and restore degraded public lands further threatened by climate change. Our interventions in the four different state and industry lawsuits seek to defend the common-sense management of our public lands.

Fighting Mine Exploration in the Boise River Headwaters

Idaho Copper is seeking approval from the Forest Service to construct up to eight miles of new roads, clear 122 drill pads, and drill 250 exploration holes on National Forest lands near Grimes Creek in the Boise River headwaters. The company hopes to find sufficient copper and molybdenum to excavate one of the largest open-pit accessible molybdenum mines in the world—all within the Boise River watershed. The exploration site is upstream of half of Idaho's population and threatens sensitive species such as the great grey owl, American goshawk, and wolverine. In 2012 and 2016, *Advocates for the West* won victories blocking the project due to the Forest Service's failure to adequately assess the risks that extensive drilling pose to groundwater and the project's threats to Sacajawea's bitterroot—a rare and imperiled plant whose population is largely located within the project area. This year, we partnered with a coalition of conservation groups and experts to draft and submit objections to the Forest Service's latest draft decision approving mine exploration.



RESTORING RIVERS AND FISHERIES

Victory for Rivers and Streams throughout the U.S.

In July 2024, we won a major victory for rivers and streams throughout the United States when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the requirement that suction dredge miners must obtain a Clean Water Act (CWA) permit before engaging in the destructive activity. The Supreme Court rejected a petition to review our prior wins holding that gold miner Shannon Poe violated the CWA when he dumped suction dredge mining waste into Idaho's South Fork of the Clearwater River without a required pollution permit, and requiring Poe to pay a \$150,000 fine—the largest CWA citizen suit penalty ever levied in Idaho against an individual. The South Fork Clearwater is a State Protected River and provides critical habitat for salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and other sensitive species.

Challenging Feedlot Pollution in Idaho's Snake River

The Snake River is a source of drinking water as well as an important site for recreation and fishing—activities that are threatened by continued agricultural pollution. The river contributes to Idaho's \$3.7 billion tourism industry, which employs more than 45,800 Idahoans and generates \$475 million in local, state, and federal tax revenues. But the Snake

River in southern Idaho is threatened by ongoing agricultural pollution, including from Simplot Corporation's Grand View feedlot—one of the largest feedlots in the country, with a capacity of up to 150,000 cattle and generating nearly 50,000 tons of manure each year. We won an initial victory in our lawsuit challenging decades of unlawful pollution discharges into the Snake River at the Grand View feedlot. A federal court judge denied Simplot's motion to dismiss in June 2024, allowing our lawsuit to proceed to discovery and trial.

Fighting to Protect the Columbia River Estuary

Area residents and farmers in the lower Columbia River have long raised concerns about the impacts from a proposed, so-called “renewable diesel” refinery on the system of levees and dikes that prevent flooding and provide irrigation near Clatskanie, OR. In May 2024, we filed a lawsuit challenging the Army Corps of Engineers for unlawfully determining that no permit is required under the Rivers and Harbors Act for NEXT Renewable Fuels' proposal to construct a diesel fuel refinery and rail yard nearby and store a million barrels of diesel and jet fuel adjacent to the Columbia River. This proposed refinery in the heart of the Columbia River Estuary would pose a significant environmental threat to the surrounding area and the river, polluting the air and water, negatively impacting local family farms, creating conditions for a catastrophic spill, and harming Endangered Species Act-protected salmon and steelhead due to an increase in barge traffic.

Safeguarding Flows for Fish in Oregon's Crooked River

The Crooked River is one of Oregon's crown jewels, winding through Smith Rock State Park and miles of wilderness canyons, and providing habitat for redband trout and steelhead. Yet area ranchers and irrigators mounted a legal challenge that would undermine the implementation of the Crooked River Act and delay legal protections for flows to protect fish in a 72-mile stretch of the Crooked River between Prineville Reservoir and Lake Billy Chinook. In 2024, we intervened in a state court water rights case to defend Oregon Water Resources Department's decision, challenged by the ranchers and irrigators, granting a permit to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to release water from Prineville Reservoir to support fish in the lower Crooked River.

Advocating for Equitable Treatment of Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife

Once numbering in the millions, salmon and steelhead populations have plummeted since construction of the four Lower Snake River dams in southeastern Washington from which the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) sells hydropower. Yet seeking to hold down power rates, BPA in recent years has “flat-lined” its fish and wildlife mitigation spending, causing serious problems for Tribes and agencies seeking to restore salmon and steelhead in the Columbia basin. This year, we filed challenges to BPA's decisions to spend a small fraction of hundreds of millions of dollars

in surplus revenues in 2022 and 2023 on fish and wildlife projects, violating the Northwest Power Act's mandate that federal agencies must manage the Columbia basin hydropower system to provide “equitable treatment” to fish and wildlife, along with power. The meager share dedicated to fish and wildlife is a serious failure, as urgently needed salmon and steelhead recovery projects continue to go underfunded and most wild populations of these fish in the Northwest slide closer to extinction.



PROTECTING ICONIC WILDLIFE

Victory for Pollinators and Native Wildlife

In August 2024, *Advocates for the West* won a significant victory against the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) over pesticide spraying on millions of acres in 17 western states to kill native grasshoppers. APHIS's pesticide spraying harms the health of native ecosystems and threatens pollinators and insects that support a rich diversity of plants and wildlife. Greater sage-grouse, monarch butterflies, western bumblebees, and other species that inhabit western grasslands are already in steep decline and are extremely vulnerable to harm from APHIS's pesticide-spraying program. The federal district court found that APHIS violated the law by focusing only on reactively spraying pesticides to suppress grasshoppers, and that the agency “ignores any pest management techniques other than the application of pesticides.”

Victory to Protect Wildlife in Idaho

After winning two court victories over BLM's approval of the Caldwell Canyon phosphate mine in southeastern Idaho, we reached a settlement agreement with mining company P4 in August 2024 that will result in millions of dollars in payments and other significant measures to benefit the conservation of sage-grouse and other wildlife, while improving the proposed mine. P4 (a subsidiary of Bayer AG, formerly Monsanto) agreed to contribute more than \$5 million for sage-grouse habitat restoration and conservation, \$2.4 million to acquire land to protect wildlife habitat connectivity, and \$300,000 for sage-grouse population surveys, along with operational restrictions to minimize the mine's impact on sage-grouse.

Defending Our Wins to Safeguard Sage-Grouse

Advocates for the West won landmark victories in February 2020 and June 2021 in our sweeping case challenging thousands of Trump-era oil and gas leases in sage-grouse habitats. Our wins held unlawful more than one-quarter of all Trump BLM oil and gas leases issued in the lower 48 states, covering over a million and a half acres of sage-grouse habitats. In January 2024, we won a ruling denying an oil company's request to drill new wells on one of the leases covered by our wins, and blocking BLM from approving new drilling on those leases through permit extensions. We also

2024 Milestones

blocked the first Trump administration from weakening the more protective 2015 Obama federal land use plans for sage-grouse, and our victories spurred the Biden administration to launch a new BLM land use planning process. We joined our allies in pushing for stronger protections after the draft Biden plans, released in March 2024, fell short of what's needed to stem the bird's downward population spiral.

Pushing to Protect Bighorn Sheep

Domestic sheep carry a pathogen that, when transmitted to bighorn sheep, causes deadly pneumonia in bighorns and reduces lamb survival rates for years. The pathogen is especially deadly because bighorns and domestic sheep are mutually attracted to each other. There is no cure or vaccine. Over the years, *Advocates for the West* has won significant protections for bighorn sheep, setting strong legal precedent which we are now using to push for more bighorn sheep protections across the West. Based on the science showing disease transmission risks, we filed an appeal challenging a Rio Grande National Forest decision to graze domestic sheep within the habitat range of bighorn herds,

centered on the Wishbone Allotment near Creede, CO. The Forest Service failed to analyze recent telemetry data from Colorado Parks and Wildlife that clearly shows extensive movement of bighorn sheep near the new allotment.

Protecting Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana's Centennial Valley was established by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1935 to protect the largest wetlands complex in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Refuge is home to trumpeter swans, grizzly bears, sage-grouse, and more than 100 other species of birds. In May 2024, we filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for continuing to permit harmful livestock grazing on the Refuge. Despite long-standing recognition of grazing's harmful impacts to the Refuge's abundant wildlife, FWS continues to renew commercial grazing permits that rely on a nearly three-decade-old environmental analysis while refusing to conduct meaningful monitoring, evaluation, or adjustments to the grazing program.

JOIN US TO MEET THE MOMENT

Advocates for the West provides our winning legal services to our client-partners at no charge. This is only made possible thanks to our amazing community of supporters (you!).

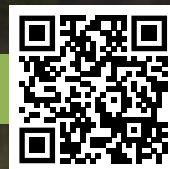
We are rolling up our sleeves for the challenges ahead. With your help in the coming year, we will build upon our past victories beating back some of the worst Trump pro-industry policies and actions. We've been here before, and are more ready than ever to put law and science to work defending western landscapes and natural resources from an environmentally-unfriendly administration.

If you are inspired by the work you read about in these pages, we hope you'll consider what partnership looks like for you in 2025 and beyond, and how you

can fortify our efforts for the big work ahead. Visit AdvocatesWest.org/Donate or scan the QR code to make a gift today. Or visit the "Ways to Give" tab on our homepage to learn about different ways to partner with us.

We know that our steadfast community of advocates will once again rise to the occasion, doubling down on your support when the West needs it most. Thank you. Together, we will continue to fight—and win—for the West's natural treasures and wildlife.

DONATE



TODAY!



Advocates for the West is beyond fortunate to have a large and growing community of supporters—like you!

Over the years, we've built this mighty community of support in myriad ways—by fighting for special places and sensitive species that you care deeply about; through friends introducing their friends to our work; at events we host and participate in, among others.

My favorite community-building stories are the ones we least expect. One example is a current supporter who was introduced to *Advocates for the West's* work after picking up our Annual Report that a donor left in the waiting room of their dentist's office!

These connections are critical to our work. In fact, as free lawyers for the environment, individual contributions are typically our largest source of financial support. Most years, more than half of our budget is made up of personal gifts, and those made in memory or honor of someone. This allows us to provide our winning legal services to our client-partners at no charge. Thank you!



Warmly,

Aimee Moran
Deputy Director

Supporter Spotlight

"In today's world of political chaos, abundant misinformation, and direct hostility to environmental stewardship, supporting *Advocates for the West* is the way forward to combat the mistruths and help bring a better balance to our environment. *Advocates for the West* has proven their effectiveness on a multitude of environmental issues and has made a difference, improving all our lives."

Mark and Tara Joffe
Boise, ID



Legacy Society

What is the legacy you want to leave for the West? You can help protect the West's special places for generations to come. Joining our Legacy Society is as simple as naming *Advocates for the West* as a beneficiary in your will or estate, either with a specific amount or a residual gift after your heirs have received their distributions.

Additional ways to make a legacy gift include from retirement accounts, life insurance, real estate, securities, and charitable remainder trusts. 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. Scan the QR code to learn more, or visit AdvocatesWest.org/Legacy-Society

Scan for



more info!

2024 DONORS

In an effort to reduce our reliance on natural resources, and pare down the size of this ever growing publication, we decided with this Annual Report to recognize donors, foundations, and businesses that made financial and in-kind contributions to *Advocates for the West* in 2024 in a list on our website. We could not accomplish our work without you at our side. Thank you for your generosity!

To view the list of 2024 donors, scan the QR code or visit AdvocatesWest.org/2024-Recognition-List



Scan here for the list!

In Memoriam

The following members of our conservation community passed on in 2024 and will be deeply missed. This list is complete to the best of our knowledge; we sincerely apologize for any oversights.

Carolyn Bowler	Shira Kronenberg
Donald Bressler	Pat Peek
Margaret Gilleo	Lucy Schott
Jim Hartsoe	Chuck Wells
Ken Jackson	Irene Wright
Bonnie Janssen	Erin (Hasler) Yturri

Volunteers & Experts

The following supporters gave generously of their time and expertise in 2024, helping *Advocates for the West* achieve success on the ground and in the courts. Thank you!

Lily Beck	Kate Lowry
Alison Beck Haas	Hannah McEntee
Amanda Brady	Randy Morris
Kristen Bruce	Sadi Mosko
Natalie Chavez	Eric Mount
Jack Connelly	Lauren Noeker
Rich Domingue	Martha Ripple
Jane Dunbar	Rick Ripple
Kim Eckman	Roger Rosentreter
Cindy Eubank	Kirk Schroeder
Joanie Fauci	Lynda Squire
Linda Hardee	John Stellberg
Jim Henken	Will Tiedemann
Brad Heusinkveld	Susan Valiquette
Stephani Hilding	Ian von Lindern
Steve Jakubowics	James Wade
Carrie Jones	Meridian Wappett
Michelle Kelly	Paula Warren
Prairie Kirk	Kayla Wilcox
Maggie Larsen	Ethan Yarish
Mary Logan	

Law Clerks, Externs, & Interns

Advocates for the West is an important training ground for the next generation of leaders in environmental law and advocacy. Through our Environmental Law Clerks, Externs, and Interns Program we host, train, and mentor students and recent graduates from leading environmental law schools and colleges across the United States. Participants receive high-quality mentoring and boots-on-the-ground litigation experience. The program is a springboard to a successful career in public interest environmental law and advocacy and is critical to the future of our mission.

We host two paid law clerks each summer, in addition to fall, spring, and summer externs and summer communications and engagement interns. *Advocates for the West* thanks our 2024 law clerks, externs, and interns, who contributed their time and talent to our work. We wish them success in their pursuits!



2024 summer law clerks Lara Andenoro and Sierra Meggitt

Lara Andenoro
University of Colorado Boulder

Ian Connolly
Lewis & Clark Law School

Sierra Meggitt
University of Colorado Boulder

Luke Keeney
Columbia Law School

Leonardo Aleksander Ryan
Boise State University Andrus Scholar

FINANCIALS

January 2024 - December 2024

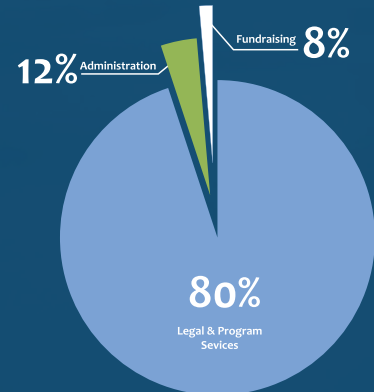
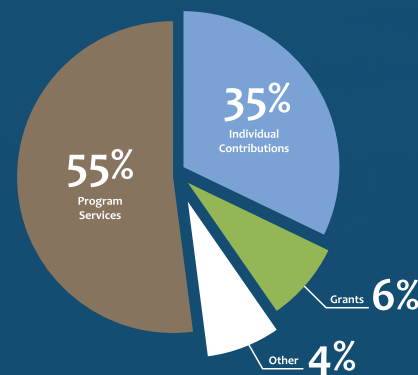
Income

Individual Contributions	\$ 1,367,112.00
Grants	\$ 232,000.00
Program Services	\$ 2,129,390.00
Other	\$ 164,368.00
*Total Income	\$3,892,870.00

Expense

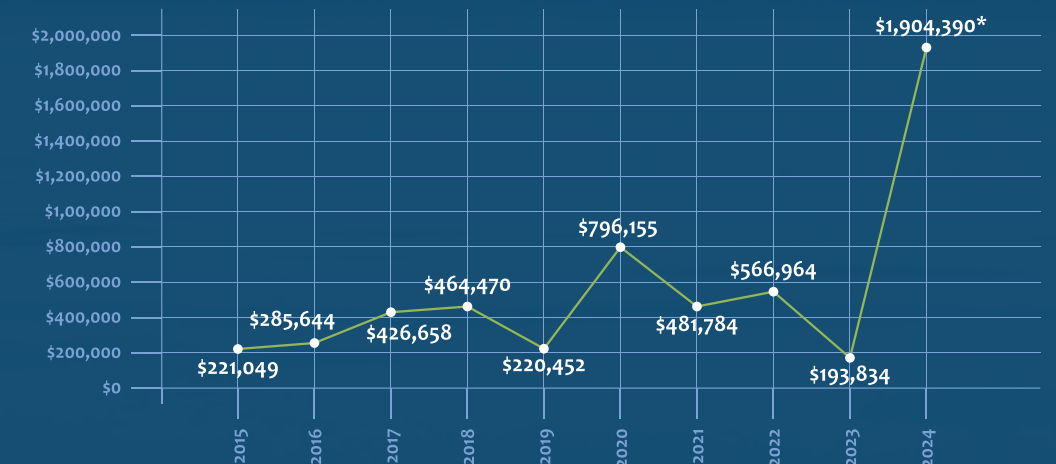
Legal & Program Services	\$ 2,161,862.00
Fund Development	\$ 216,186.00
Administration	\$ 324,280.00
*Total Expense	\$2,702,328.00

*Unaudited financial results; subject to revision.



Fee and Cost Recoveries

*Unaudited financial results; subject to revision.



As free lawyers for the environment, *Advocates for the West* sometimes can recover our attorney fees and litigation costs from the losing party after we win a case. But as shown on graph above, these recoveries—which are our largest source of Program Services income—are highly variable from year-to-year. Also, it usually requires years of litigation before we receive them.

That's where you come in. Most years, individual contributions are our largest source of revenue, ensuring financial stability despite year-to-year variations in other revenue sources. For instance, while we received more than \$1.9 million in fee and cost recoveries in 2024, we received nearly one-tenth of that amount in the year before. The boost in 2024 revenue is needed to restore our financial reserves depleted by our 2023 year-end deficit resulting from the limited recovery of attorney fees and costs that year.



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Permit No. 100



FEATURED ARTIST: JULIA COOK



Julia Cook is a wildlife photographer and conservationist based in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of Wyoming. Growing up less than an hour from Yellowstone National Park, Julia developed a love for nature at an early age, eventually leading her to pick up wildlife photography as a creative outlet. Julia graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2023 with a B.S. in Environment and Natural Resources and a B.A. in History, with human wildlife conflicts and the history of conservation practices in Yellowstone being a particular area of focus throughout her studies. Now working full time as a wildlife photographer, Julia spends most of her free time in the field photographing various species of wildlife, though grizzly bears are a favorite. Julia's overall goal in photography is to capture impactful images of native wildlife to promote wildlife conservation while inspiring others to spend meaningful time in nature. Julia's work can be found online at www.littlelightningnature.com

FEATURED ARTIST PROGRAM

Advocates for the West's Featured Artists Program serves to promote western artists and their work while highlighting the special places and iconic species that we fight to protect. Through these partnerships, we seek to elevate artists whose captivating photography, paintings, and illustrations demand action to protect the West's natural treasures.

When you're finished reading this publication, pass it on to someone who shares your love for the West!

Julia Cook Photography