



ADVOCATES for the WEST
PO BOX 1612 | BOISE, ID 83701
www.advocateswest.org | 208.342.7024

CHRONOLOGY OF SUCCESS

February 2025

Crooker River Instream Flows (OR): Representing WaterWatch of Oregon, our staff attorney Andrew Missel successfully defended against ranchers’ attempt to invalidate a water right issued by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to ensure that flows in the lower Crooked River—all the way from Bowman Dam to Lake Billy Chinook—are protected for fish and wildlife. A state district court rejected the ranchers’ argument that OWRD lacked authority to issue the water right, but sent the matter back to OWRD to address a procedural issue.

January 2025

Ninth Circuit Confirms Trump BLM Issued Hundreds of Oil and Gas Leases Illegally: Just days before the second Trump administration began, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a sweeping decision in “Phase One” of our longstanding litigation challenging Trump BLM oil and gas leasing in sage-grouse habitats. The Court affirmed our district court victory holding that BLM wrongly shortened public comment periods and environmental reviews of oil and gas lease sales under Trump’s “energy dominance” agenda for public lands, and ordered the leases continue to be suspended pending BLM’s compliance with environmental laws. The decision affects 677 leases covering 900,070 acres of sage-grouse habitats sold by BLM in 2019 in Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah.

Landmark Agreement Reached to Protect Point Reyes National Seashore (CA): In January 2025, we signed a landmark settlement with the National Park Service (NPS), the Nature Conservancy (TNC), and numerous ranchers to phase out almost all commercial dairy and ranching operations on the Point Reyes National Seashore in northern California. The product of more than two years of intensive mediation led by our staff attorney Lizzy Potter, the settlement provided for NPS to adopt a revised management plan for the National Seashore that retires lands from commercial ranching as TNC conducts private transactions with the ranchers over the next year and a half to buy out their lease interests. Representing Marin-based Resource Renewal Institute along with Center for Biological Diversity and Western Watersheds Project, *Advocates for the West* initially sued in 2016 to force NPS to conduct its first-ever environmental analysis of ranching on Point Reyes and come up with a long-term management plan to protect its recreation and natural resource values, as the law requires. We sued again in 2022 after NPS, under the dictates of the Trump administration, approved ranching to continue indefinitely, in violation of the Point Reyes National Seashore legislation. The settlement resolves that lawsuit.

December 2024

Settlement in West-wide BLM Grazing Management Lawsuit: In September 2023, led by senior attorney Laurie Rule, *Advocates for the West* filed a sweeping lawsuit in D.C. federal court, challenging the Bureau of Land Management for its widespread delinquency in assessing

environmental conditions and addressing resource damage caused by overgrazing across vast stretches of the American West. A settlement was reached in December 2024 after the agency agreed to issue new policy guidance prioritizing environmental analysis on grazing allotments containing important natural and cultural resources and imperiled species, including sage-grouse habitat and allotments where domestic sheep and bighorns overlap.

Big Creek Airstrips, Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness (ID): At more than 2.3 million acres, the Frank Church Wilderness is the largest contiguous Wilderness in the lower 48 states. In June 2023, we filed suit to challenge the Forest Service’s decisions to maintain four unlawful airstrips in the Big Creek drainage within the Wilderness, which are used by hobby pilots. The Big Creek area 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. In December 2024, after argument presented by our new staff attorney Andrew Hursh, the U.S District Court rejected State of Idaho objections and approved our settlement with the Forest Service to close the airstrips to all but emergency use and monitor them moving forward.

October 2024

Caldwell Canyon Mine Settlement Reached (ID): Our staff attorney Sarah Stellberg reached a major settlement agreement with mining company P4 that will result in millions of dollars in payments and other significant measures to benefit the conservation of sage-grouse and other wildlife. P4—a subsidiary of Bayer AG, formerly Monsanto—agrees to contribute more than \$5 million to a trust fund for sage-grouse habitat restoration and conservation, more than \$2.4 million to acquire land to protect wildlife habitat connectivity, and \$300,000 for sage-grouse population surveys, along with operational restrictions of its Caldwell Canyon phosphate mine in southeast Idaho to minimize the mine’s impact on sage-grouse.

September 2024

Court Ruling Halts 5,000-well Converse County Oil and Gas Project: In a case led by Boise staff attorney Sarah Stellberg, we won a summary judgment ruling from the D.C. federal district court holding that BLM failed to assess likely groundwater impacts from a massive Wyoming oil/gas field development project, called Converse County, which would drill 5,000 new wells in the Powder River basin. The court halted further development of the project wells while the parties brief appropriate remedies.

August 2024

Sweeping Victory in Rangelands Pesticides Case: Our Oregon staff attorneys Andrew Missel, Hannah Goldblatt, and Lizzy Potter won a sweeping victory against the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) over the agency’s pesticide spraying on millions of acres in 17 western states to kill native grasshoppers and Mormon crickets. An Oregon federal court judge issued a decision siding with us on *all* claims that we pursued, holding that APHIS failed to adequately consider alternatives to the widespread use of pesticides. Greater sage-grouse, monarch butterflies, western bumblebees, and other species inhabiting western lands are already in steep decline and extremely vulnerable to harm from APHIS’s pesticide spraying.

July 2024

US Supreme Court Upholds Suction Dredge Mining Victory: In July 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court denied anti-federal gold miner Shannon Poe’s petition to review our 2023 U.S. Court of Appeals victory holding that Poe violated the Clean Water Act when he dumped suction dredge mining waste into the South Fork Clearwater River without a required pollution permit, and requiring Poe to pay a \$150,000 fine. Staff attorney Bryan Hurlbutt led this litigation for Idaho Conservation League through victories in the district and appellate courts.

June 2024

Snake River Clean Water Act Enforcement (ID): 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, Simplot’s Grand View feedlot discharges livestock waste to the Snake River, yet Simplot lacks any Clean Water Act permit regulating its discharges. So we sued in May 2023 to require a permit. In June 2024, we won an initial victory when the federal court denied Simplot’s motion to dismiss and allowed our lawsuit to proceed.

May 2024

Stibnite Mine Air Permit Reversed (ID): In May 2024, staff attorney Bryan Hurlbutt won an interim victory in our ongoing fight to stop Perpetua Resources’ proposed Stibnite Gold Mine on the edge of Idaho’s Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness and within the aboriginal homelands of the Nez Perce Tribe. The Idaho Board of Environmental Quality issued a decision invalidating Perpetua’s air pollution permit for the proposed mine, finding that the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) failed to follow Idaho air pollution rules designed to protect people from exposure to toxic and carcinogenic pollutants when it issued the permit. The permit is now remanded back to DEQ for further proceedings.

“Lands Between” Oil and Gas Leases Vacated (UT): Located between Canyons of the Ancients and Bears Ears National Monuments, the “Lands Between” region in southern Utah is by far the densest archaeological area open to oil and gas leasing on public lands in the United States, home to tens of thousands of archaeological sites considered sacred to many Native American peoples. After our prior rounds of challenges forced BLM to suspend and reevaluate the leases, the agency issued a decision in May 2024 cancelling 25 of the 28 parcels, totaling more than 40,296 acres.

January 2024

New Drilling in Sage-Grouse Habitats Blocked: *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.

November 2023

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (UT): In November 2023, we secured a major victory halting the proposed four-lane Northern Corridor Highway through Red Cliffs National

Conservation Area (NCA) in southwestern Utah—a stunning red rock wilderness home to the threatened Mojave desert tortoise. In the final days of the Trump administration, Interior Secretary Bernhardt approved a plan to punch the highway through the heart of the NCA, disregarding impacts to desert tortoise and other NCA values. Settlement of our D.C. litigation reversed that decision and requires new analysis by BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service.

October 2023

Oregon Spotted Frog (OR): In October 2023, we won a strong victory to protect the Oregon spotted frog within the Antelope Allotment of central Oregon’s Fremont-Winema National Forest. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service violated the Endangered Species Act when issuing a Biological Opinion that allowed cattle grazing within critical habitat for the frog, by failing “to consider whether the small frog population could sustain grazing-related impacts on top of potential climate change effects.” We anticipate this victory will result in finally ending grazing on the allotment’s sensitive fen and wetlands habitats for the frog.

September 2023

Settlement in Stibnite CWA Case Nets \$5 Million for Nez Perce Tribe (ID): Mining company Perpetua Resources will pay the Nez Perce Tribe \$5 million as part of a settlement agreement 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 Mine site east of McCall, Idaho. Perpetua (formerly Midas Gold) agreed to provide payments totaling \$4 million over a four-year period into a special fund to be used by the Tribe to support water quality improvement projects in the South Fork Salmon River watershed, and also reimburse the Tribe \$1 million for fees and costs incurred in the case. The settlement also acknowledges that the Tribe will continue to oppose Perpetua’s proposed mining plan for the site.

August 2023

Latest Victory over Grazing on Sonoran Desert National Monument (AZ): Our senior attorney Laurie Rule won a victory stopping livestock grazing authorizations in Arizona's Sonoran Desert National Monument. For the second time, a judge determined that the BLM relied on faulty information to justify livestock grazing on sensitive desert landscapes home to the Sonoran desert tortoise, the saguaro cactus, and rich in cultural resources, despite the agency’s records showing that moderate to severe damage to soils and vegetation from livestock still scar the Monument's fragile cactus forests, 10 or more years since the last cattle departed in some cases.

June 2023

Court Ruling Halts Caldwell Canyon Phosphate Mine (ID): In June 2023, we won a significant victory to protect sage-grouse when a federal judge vacated BLM’s approvals authorizing development of the Caldwell Canyon phosphate mine in southeastern Idaho, thus halting further development of the mine. This followed the court’s January 2023 decision holding that BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act 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 eastern Idaho sub-population is barely hanging on.

Mine proponent P4, a subsidiary of Bayer corporation, seeks phosphate ore from the mine to manufacture its infamous herbicide, Roundup.

Settlement Protects Bighorn Sheep in Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (WA): Led by staff attorney Lizzy Potter, *Advocates for the West* reached a settlement to protect nearly half of the wild bighorn sheep in Washington state from the threat of disease outbreaks posed by domestic sheep grazing. The Forest Service has long failed to require separation between bighorns and domestic sheep on allotments within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest that pose a high risk of disease transmission to bighorns. Under the settlement, the agency will complete a long-overdue environmental review to determine whether high-risk allotments should be closed.

May 2023

Appeals Court Victory Halts Grazing on Bar X Allotment (AZ): Our staff attorney Andrew Missel won a decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit halting cattle grazing in a pristine corner of Arizona’s Tonto National Forest just below the scenic Mogollon Rim. The Court held that the Forest Service made “serious errors” in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act in approving a plan to expand grazing on the Tonto National Forest’s Bar X allotment—including opening pastures that had been closed to grazing for nearly 40 years after cattle destroyed soil and vegetation and displaced wildlife such as deer, elk, and turkeys.

March 2023

Pinyon-Juniper Categorical Exclusion Rule Reversed: Led by our senior attorney Todd Tucci, *Advocates for the West* won a court-approved settlement agreement requiring the BLM to abandon a decision authorizing extensive destruction of native pinyon pine and juniper habitats across the American West without requiring prior analysis and public disclosure of possible environmental impacts. These projects could be up to 10,000 acres in size with no limit on the number the agency could approve. Pinyon-juniper forests provide important habitat for imperiled species such as the pinyon jay, which has experienced a population decline of up to 85% since the late 1960s.

January 2023

Caldwell Canyon Phosphate Mine Held Unlawful: We won a significant victory to protect sage-grouse when a federal judge held that BLM violated federal laws in authorizing development of the Caldwell Canyon phosphate mine in southeastern Idaho. The court’s January 2023 decision ruled that BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act 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 eastern Idaho sub-population is barely hanging on. Mine proponent P4, a subsidiary of Bayer corporation, seeks phosphate ore from the mine to manufacture its infamous herbicide, Roundup.

October 2022

Western Slope Oil and Gas Development Blocked: Staff attorney Lizzy Potter finalized a court-approved settlement preventing the Bureau of Land Management from issuing new oil and gas leases for nearly a million acres of public lands in the Uncompahgre region on the Western Slope of Colorado until it conducts a more thorough environmental analysis, amends its Resource Management Plan, and reconsiders the eligibility of lands open to oil and gas leasing—as well as protections for lands with wilderness characteristics and designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. We sued after Trump Interior Secretary Bernhardt approved a plan that

opened 95 percent of Bureau lands in the region to energy leasing while neglecting wilderness and other conservation values.

Sage Hen Logging Stopped: Staff attorney Bryan Hurlbutt won another settlement requiring the Forest Service to withdraw its approval of the massive, 20-year "Sage Hen Restoration Project" in Idaho's Boise National Forest. The project would have allowed building over 80 miles of roads and commercially logging over 18,000 acres of public lands around the popular Sage Hen Reservoir in Idaho's West Mountains, threatening imperiled bull trout in the area.

September 2022

Suction Dredge Mining Penalty: Following our June 2022 win over suction dredge mining by Shannon Poe on the South Fork Clearwater River, the district court imposed a \$150,000 fine against Poe and barred him from further mining until the penalty is paid and he gets a permit as required under the Clean Water Act (CWA). This is one of the largest CWA penalties *ever* against an individual in Idaho.

August 2022

Protecting the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area: Senior attorney Todd Tucci reached a settlement forcing the Bureau of Land Management to reconsider the compatibility of livestock grazing authorizations within Arizona's San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA)—a world-renowned biodiversity hotspot, home to more than 400 bird, 50 reptile and amphibian, and 80 mammal species. The settlement requires BLM to evaluate whether grazing is actually "conserving, protecting, and enhancing" the riparian habitat values the NCA designation is meant to protect; to take action to address ongoing trespass and unauthorized livestock use in the areas that are closed to grazing; and to examine impacts to numerous sensitive species.

July 2022

Court Settlement Protects Native Carnivores in Idaho: Senior attorney Laurie Rule secured a settlement agreement approved by the U.S. District Court judge to protect Idaho's native carnivores through a number of restrictions on wildlife-killing methods. The agreement with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services guarantees interim protections for native wildlife pending the completion of new environmental reviews of Wildlife Services' actions, required by the end of 2024.

June 2022

Massive Logging Projects Halted in Salmon-Clearwater Divide:

Staff attorney Bryan Hurlbutt won a major victory to protect biodiverse old growth forests on Idaho's Salmon-Clearwater Divide when the Idaho federal court issued a ruling halting two massive logging projects, "End of the World" and "Hungry Ridge." Approved by the Forest Service at the end of the Trump administration, 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, with huge clearcuts in old growth forests.

March 2022

Conglomerate Mesa Gold Mining Plan Stopped: Following years of advocacy by senior attorney Todd Tucci with Friends of the Inyo, Conservation Lands Foundation, and other allies, Canadian mining company K2 Gold publicly announced it was abandoning plans to conduct gold mining

exploration on Conglomerate Mesa—a spectacularly wild and remote area located in the Inyo Mountains near Death Valley National Park. The mesa contains Joshua Tree woodlands, precious and imperiled native plant species, and areas protected as Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

December 2021

Endangered Selkirk Caribou: In her first-ever federal court argument, our newest staff attorney Hannah Clements Goldblatt won a ruling denying a motion by Idaho snowmobile association seeking to lift an injunction entered a decade ago to protect winter habitats of endangered Selkirk caribou from habitat loss and disturbance caused by snow machines.

September 2021

Upper Willamette Salmon and Steelhead: In Oregon senior attorney Laurie Rule’s latest win in this major case challenging Army Corps of Engineers’ violations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in operating eight dams and reservoirs in the Upper Willamette Basin, US District Court in Oregon entered a “remedies order” requiring Corps to take multiple actions to protect threatened salmon and steelhead by modifying reservoir operations and dam releases.

Hells Canyon 401: Oregon staff attorney Lizzy Potter, working with board member and Nez Perce Tribe attorney Mike Lopez, finalized a settlement of the Tribe’s challenge to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s (ODEQ) Clean Water Act 401 certification for Idaho Power’s Hells Canyon dams. The settlement requires ODEQ to issue a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for methylmercury and mercury pollution in the Hells Canyon reach of the Snake River, and begin sockeye salmon reintroduction efforts in NE Oregon’s Wallowa Lake—a long-term goal of the Tribe.

August 2021

Sawtooth Diversions: Staff attorney Bryan Hurlbutt won a ruling from U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rejecting an appeal by Idaho irrigators seeking to challenge our district court victory ordering Forest Service to conduct ESA consultation over two dozen diversions in Idaho’s Sawtooth Valley that threaten imperiled salmon, steelhead and bull trout.

June 2021

Sage-Grouse Oil & Gas Phase II: In her latest win in this major case challenging the Trump Administration’s issuance of thousands of oil and gas leases in sage-grouse priority habitats, staff attorney Sarah Stellberg won a “Phase II” summary judgment ruling holding that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) violated environmental disclosure and review requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in approving 605 leases in Wyoming and Montana in 2018, ordering BLM not to allow further development of them.

BPA FOIA: In a precedent-setting victory over Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) duties to publicly disclose documents under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oregon staff attorney Andrew Missel won a federal court decision holding BPA violated FOIA in failing to produce records about its fish and wildlife costs and power contract negotiations with long-term wholesale customers, and ordering BPA to quickly produce the documents.

Protecting Clearwater River from Suction Dredging: Staff attorney Bryan Hurlbutt won a resounding decision from the Idaho federal court, holding that California suction dredge miner

Shannon Poe violated the Clean Water Act (CWA) on 42 separate days when he conducted illegal suction dredging on the South Fork Clearwater—habitat for ESA-listed salmon, steelhead and bull trout—in 2016, 2016 and 2018. Now the litigation will turn to what penalties Poe will have to pay and other remedies.

May 2021

Crooked River, Bureau of Reclamation settlement: Oregon senior attorney Laurie Rule reached a settlement with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to resolve our lawsuit over BOR’s failure to provide documents under FOIA over renegotiation of water storage contracts for BOR reservoirs on Oregon’s Crooked River, where Congress has required that water be allocated to protect instream flows and fisheries. Our FOIA litigation served as “the writing on the wall” that persuaded BOR to ensure the new contracts respect instream flow and fisheries directives.

April 2021

Victory over Sheep Station Ends Grazing in Centennial Mountains: In this case handled by Executive Director Laird Lucas, the Idaho federal court ruled in our favor holding that the U.S. Sheep Experimental Station—a domestic sheep industry “research” facility near Dubois, Idaho—violated the National Environmental Policy Act in releasing a final environmental impact statement that failed to address risks of domestic sheep grazing to bighorn sheep and grizzly bears, resulting in closure of the last domestic sheep allotments in the Centennial Mountains outside of Yellowstone National Park.

February 2021

Ruling Reverses Trump Rollback of Sage-Grouse Protections from Mining: In a strong victory won by staff attorney Sarah Stellberg, the US District Court in Idaho held that Trump BLM acted unlawfully in cancelling an Obama Administration proposal to withdraw 10 million acres of highest priority sage-grouse habitats from new mining claims, mostly in Nevada and Idaho. In response to the court ruling, the Biden Administration is now moving forward with the 10-million acres mineral withdrawal proposal.

November 2020

Forest Service FOIA Settlement: Staff attorney Lizzy Potter reached a settlement agreement requiring the Forest Service to provide documents about livestock grazing on National Forests in Idaho and Oregon requested under the Freedom of Information Act, which regional offices had unreasonably obstructed.

September 2020

Air Force Violated NEPA in Boise Urban Training Project: Magistrate Judge Candy Dale ruled in favor our clients—several Boise residents and Great Old Broads for Wilderness—finding that the Air Force failed to adequately address potential noise and other impacts from its proposed urban warfare training exercises in Boise and other southern Idaho cities, ordering the Air Force to prepare a full EIS.

August 2020

Major Win for Willamette Salmon and Steelhead: The U.S. District in Oregon issued a sweeping ruling in our favor, holding that the Army Corps of Engineers is violating several requirements of the Endangered Species Act in failing to modify its management of numerous dams and

reservoirs in the Upper Willamette River basin, which imperil Willamette runs of salmon and steelhead. The litigation will now move into the remedies phase.

May 2020

EPA Releases Temperature TMDL for Columbia/Snake Rivers: The Environmental Protection Agency finally released its plan under the Clean Water Act to address high water temperatures in the Columbia and lower Snake Rivers that harm salmon and steelhead, in response to our recent court rulings in federal district and appellate courts.

Kilgore Mine Approval Revoked: The Idaho federal court reversed Forest Service approval of the Kilgore Mine gold exploration project in the Centennial Mountains between Idaho and Montana, based on legal violations the court found in its 2019 summary judgment decision.

March 2020

Settlement Restricts Idaho Wolf Killing, Bans Use of M-44 Cyanide Bombs: Building on two recent court victories challenging USDA Wildlife Services' predator killing programs in Idaho, we reached a court-approved settlement agreement prohibiting the federal agency from conducting wolf killing in Idaho wilderness areas and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, and banning use of M-44 cyanide bombs in Idaho, for several years while it conducts a full environmental review.

February 2020

Victory Against Trump's "Energy Dominance" Agenda!: An Idaho federal judge ruled that Trump's BLM violated the law in adopting policy changes to exclude the public and decrease environmental reviews of onshore oil and gas leasing, and set aside over 670 oil and gas leases that BLM approved in 2018 across 1 million acres of sage-grouse habitats in Wyoming, Montana and Nevada. This victory alone reversed one-quarter of the oil and gas leases issued by BLM under Trump's "energy dominance" agenda for public lands management.

Fracking Leases Blocked in Arizona: A settlement agreement in our federal litigation suspended BLM oil and gas leases on 4,200 acres of public land in Arizona's Little Colorado River valley, until federal agencies complete reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historical Preservation Act.

Colorado Sage-Grouse Stop Oil and Gas Leases: In response to our legal challenges, Colorado BLM withdrew 8,700 acres of sage-grouse habitat from planned oil and gas leasing. Our October 2019 injunction against the Trump Administration's rollback of sage-grouse plans has now forced BLM to withdraw 392,670 acres of sage-grouse habitats across the West.

Devil's Corral Protected: Responding to our opposition, the Idaho Department of Water Resources dismissed an attempt by a developer to resurrect a 1980 water right application to de-water Devil's Corral, a natural spring tributary to the Snake River above Shoshone Falls.

January 2020

Stibnite Mine CWA Violations: Idaho federal district judge Winmill denied Midas Gold Corp.'s motions to dismiss or stay our Clean Water Act case for the Nez Perce Tribe. The case seeks to hold the Canadian mining promoter responsible for unlawfully discharging pollutants from eight different "point sources" at the Stibnite Mine site, on the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon

River, outside Yellow Pine, Idaho. The river is key habitat for imperiled salmon and steelhead, within the Tribe's ancestral fishing grounds. Midas Gold seeks to avoid CWA liability by claiming it will eventually clean up mining pollution after conducting new extensive gold mining at the Stibnite site, ignoring the long-term degradation it will cause.

December 2019

Lethal Hot Water in Columbia/Snake Rivers: In December 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit handed us a sweeping victory, affirming that EPA has a duty under the Clean Water Act to address hot water temperatures in the lower Snake and Columbia Rivers, which are lethal to migrating salmon and steelhead. The hot temperatures are primarily caused by the long reservoirs behind dams on the rivers, and exacerbated by climate change. EPA will now have to weigh in on the growing debate about the true costs of the lower Snake River dams and whether they should be removed to benefit Idaho salmon and steelhead.

Kilgore Mine: Also in December 2019, the Idaho federal court held that the Caribou-Targhee National Forest failed to evaluate potential impacts to ground water and surface water from the Kilgore Mine exploration project, which proposes to construct new roads and drill dozens of bore holes in seeking to promote a new gold mine in the Centennials Mountains—the “High Divide” linking Yellowstone National Park to wilderness and roadless areas in Idaho and Montana that are vital for migrating grizzly bear and other sensitive species.

October 2019

Blocking Bernhardt Sage-Grouse Plan Rollbacks: In October 2019, US District Judge Winmill granted us a preliminary injunction that blocked BLM from implementing changes in sage-grouse land use plans covering 51 million acres in seven western states. The changes— spearheaded by Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, the former oil and gas lobbyist—were intended to weaken protections of the highest value sage-grouse habitats and allow extensive new oil and gas, mining and other industrial development. The court's order reinstates 2015 sage-grouse plans adopted under the Obama Administration which—while far from perfect—protect key sage-grouse habitats and require mitigation when development is allowed in them.

Suction Dredge Mining, SF Clearwater River: US Magistrate Judge Bush denied a motion to dismiss our Clean Water Act case for Idaho Conservation League against Shannon Poe—a leader of the “American Mining Rights Association”—for unlawfully conducting suction dredge mining on the South Fork Clearwater River in several recent years with a CWA permit. Poe claims he has “constitutional” rights to suction dredge without any federal permit. The court's ruling now opens the door for discovery and then trial on our case against Poe.

Arizona Oil and Gas Leases Suspended: In response to our lawsuit, BLM decided to “suspend” oil and gas leases it awarded in the Little Colorado River watershed without adequate analysis of environmental impacts, and will do further analysis.

September 2019

Atlanta Gold Contempt: US Magistrate Judge Bush ruled that mining company Atlanta Gold Inc. remains in contempt of court for failing to meet requirements of its Clean Water Act permit and prior orders to clean up pollution discharges at its mining site near Atlanta, Idaho.

August 2019

Bears Ears Oil and Gas Leases Suspended: After we and other challenged dozens of oil and gas leases issued by the BLM near the Bears Ears national monument in southeastern Utah—one of the richest archeological landscapes in the country—the agency determined to suspend the leases while performs additional analysis of their potential adverse impacts.

July 2019

Oregon Hatcheries: We reached an out-of-court settlement with the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife over ongoing Clean Water Act violations at ODFW fish hatcheries across the State of Oregon. Under the settlement, the ODFW hatcheries will improve their pollution clean-up measures before discharging to Oregon streams and rivers, and obtain updated Clean Water Act permits within a set schedule.

Antelope Allotment: In this fourth round of litigation seeking to protect Oregon spotted frogs and their sensitive fen habitats on the Fremont-Winema National Forest of south/central Oregon, our preliminary injunction motion forced the US Forest Service to reduce grazing authorized for 2019 by over 90% while the agency tries to comply with its duties under the National Forest Management Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Environmental Policy Act.

June 2019

Sawtooth Valley Diversions: US District Judge Winmill ruled in favor of us and our client Idaho Conservation League that the Sawtooth National Forest is violating the Endangered Species Act in delaying for more than 20 years its evaluation and improvement of two dozen outmoded irrigation diversions in the Sawtooth Valley of central Idaho, which block streams and de-water habitat for Idaho’s imperiled salmon, steelhead and bull trout.

Upper Willamette Dams: The US District Court in Oregon issued a ruling in this case challenging the Army Corps’ Endangered Species Act violations in failing to improve fish passage and provide adequate flows for endangered salmon and steelhead at several old Corps’ dams in the Upper Willamette River watershed. The court held we could properly provide declarations from fisheries experts who previously worked on the Upper Willamette Project, and found we are likely to prevail on our ESA claims. The court has set expedited briefing to resolve those claims in the next year.

May 2019

Bernhardt Sage-Grouse Plan Rollbacks: The US District Court granted our motion to amend an existing sage-grouse case in Idaho to challenge the Interior Department’s March 2019 decision—approved by David Bernhardt, the former oil and gas industry lobbyist—to weaken BLM sage-grouse plans across 50 million acres in seven western states. The plan rollbacks are intended to advance Trump’s “energy dominance” agenda for public lands by opening up important sage-grouse habitats to oil and gas and other energy development. We filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction to halt the plan rollbacks, which remains pending in the federal court.

April 2019

Protecting Idaho Wolves: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a strong opinion reversing the negative decision by now-retired Idaho district judge Lodge, and upheld our clients’ “standing” to challenge USDA Wildlife Service’s wholly inadequate analysis of

environmental impacts and alternatives to its Idaho wolf control actions. Those actions include killing wolves deemed a threat to livestock, but also a new “expanded” mission of gunning down wolves in the Lolo and Selway zones at the request of Idaho to supposedly help elk and deer populations. Growing science shows such wolf control actions have little benefit but are highly controversial, warranting full evaluation through an Environmental Impact Statement. In response to this and other litigation, Wildlife Services is now preparing a full EIS for its Idaho predator control actions, including wolves.

December 2018

BPA Ratemaking Intervention: Marking a new phase of our efforts to publicize the high costs of lower Snake River dams—ecologically and economically—we were granted intervention in the 2018-2020 Bonneville Power Administration’s rate adjustment hearing, to represent Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Rivers United and Columbia Riverkeeper.

November 2018

Triumph Mine/ID: The US District Court gave final approval to our settlement with the State of Idaho in this case for Idaho Conservation League, alleging ongoing Clean Water Act violations from the abandoned Triumph Mine on the East Fork Big Wood River, near Sun Valley. The settlement requires Idaho agencies to obtain a CWA permit, increase monitoring of toxic discharges to the river and wetlands, and begin treating those discharges.

October 2018

Columbia/Lower Snake Temperature TMDL: US District Judge Martinez in Seattle federal court granted summary judgment in our favor in this Clean Water Act case for Columbia Riverkeeper and several other groups, ordering EPA to end years of unlawful delay by issuing a “temperature TMDL” – Total Maximum Daily Load – to address lethally hot water temperatures in the Columbia and lower Snake Rivers that have caused significant harm to imperiled salmon and steelhead in recent years.

Mogollan Rim/AZ: We reached settlement with US Forest Service to rescind its recent grazing permits that unlawfully reopened grazing on a large area of the Tonto National Forest in the scenic Mogollan Rim area of the Colorado Plateau. The Forest Service closed the area to grazing in the 1970’s after it found significant degradation to streams, soils, and fish and wildlife habitat. Representing local landowners, we quickly challenged the Trump Administration’s attempt to reopen the area without public involvement or environmental review.

September 2018

Sage-grouse Oil and Gas Leasing: In sharp rebuke of the Trump Administration’s “energy dominance” agenda for public lands, Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Ronald Bush of the District of Idaho issued a Preliminary Injunction in our favor, blocking the Zinke Interior Dept. from excluding public involvement and reducing environmental reviews of oil and gas leases across 67 million acres of greater sage-grouse habitats. The injunction resulted in BLM withdrawing over a million acres of proposed oil and gas leases slated for auction in December 2018.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse ESA Listing: The U.S. District Court in Colorado rejected state and industry challenges to the 2014 Endangered Species Act listing of Gunnison sage-grouse as a “threatened” species and designation of critical habitat. Pursuant to our prior settlement in the

same litigation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will proceed to develop a recovery plan for the imperiled bird.

July 2018

Conglomerate Mesa Mine Exploration/CA: In response to our protest, BLM backed off approving a gold mine exploration project on Conglomerate Mesa, a wild and remote area of the Inyo Mountains in the Eastern Sierras, near Death Valley National Park and Owens Valley.

June 2018

Wildlife Services Idaho Predator Killing: Chief Judge Lynn Winmill of Idaho district court issued a summary judgment decision agreeing with us that USDA Wildlife Services violated NEPA in failing to thoroughly address its aerial gunning of coyotes, raven poisoning, and other Idaho “predator damage control” actions which indiscriminately kill native wildlife across Idaho each year.

May 2018

Idaho Transportation Department Motor Oil Dumping: We settled this Safe Drinking Water Act case against the Idaho Transportation Department, requiring it to close and clean up 75 motor oil disposal sites at ITD facilities around the state, which threaten groundwater contamination and were supposed to be closed and de-commissioned a decade ago.

Snake River/Devils Corral Water Right: We won a favorable decision in May from a hearing officer with the Idaho Dept. of Water Resources rejecting a decades-old application to appropriate all the water in Devil’s Corral Springs, near Shoshone Falls on the north side of the Snake River, based on lack of adequate and timely public notice and opportunity to object under Idaho’s public interest requirement for new water rights.

April 2018

Coeur d’Alene River/Galena Mine: In April 2018, we reached an out-of-court settlement with U.S. Silver over ongoing Clean Water Act permit violations at the Galena Mine in the Silver Valley of northern Idaho, under which U.S. Silver promised to cure its violations and pay for supplemental environmental projects.

February 2018

Wildlife Services FOIA: We successfully settled a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) case against Wildlife Services for its failure to timely and fully respond to three different FOIA requests about its Idaho predator killing activities.

December 2017

Quiet Winter Recreation: In response to the federal court lawsuit we filed in November 2017, the Boise, Payette and Bridget-Teton National Forests withdrew winter motorized travel maps they issued this fall – with no environmental analysis or public input – allowing snowmobiles and other “over-snow” motorized vehicles access into sensitive wildlife habitats and areas prized by cross-country skiers and other quiet winter recreationists.

November 2017

Bighorn Sheep: In our latest win for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, U.S. Magistrate Judge Candy Dale of the U.S. District Court for Idaho issued an emergency injunction prohibiting the

Caribou-Targhee National Forest from allowing turn-out of two large bands of domestic sheep from winter grazing on the Snakey & Kelly Canyon allotments to prevent transmission of fatal disease to bighorns. The Court rejected the Forest Service's argument that the grazing was needed to conduct research as part of the Forest Service's Sheep Station that causes numerous wildlife conflicts in the Centennial Mountains.

September 2017

Protecting Boise River: In our latest victory against mining pollution in the Boise River, we won a ruling holding Atlanta Gold Corp. in contempt of court for continuing to illegally discharge arsenic and lead from an historic adit near the Middle Fork of the Boise River. The court found that Atlanta Gold violated the Clean Water Act 567 times in the past 5 years, and ordered the company to clean up its act and to pay a \$502,000 penalty.

August 2017

East Fork Salmon River: Following pressure from our East Fork Salmon River litigation (below), the Sawtooth National Forest permanently closed the 45,000-acre Upper East Fork allotment through a willing buyer/willing seller retirement of the grazing permit under the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness Act.

July 2017

Point Reyes National Seashore: After months of confidential negotiations, we finalized a court-approved settlement with the National Park Service and local ranchers to improve management of this unique and beloved national treasure. The agency agrees to conduct a comprehensive environmental review to study impacts of ranching on the Seashore, and determine whether (and to what extent) beef and dairy operations will be allowed at Point Reyes in the future. This will be a public process and must determine whether ranching is compatible with the overriding requirement that environmental and recreational values not be impaired.

East Fork Salmon River: Court-approved settlement of our 2016 lawsuit results in 2 years' closure of the Upper and Lower East Fork allotments on the East Fork Salmon River – together totaling about 100,000 acres of sensitive lands – while the Forest Service conducts monitoring and environmental analysis to assess livestock impacts to listed fish habitat.

May 2017

National Conservation Lands: We represented Conservation Lands Foundation, Conserve Southwest Utah, and The Wilderness Society in winning dismissal by the Interior Board of Land Appeals of an appeal seeking to punch a new highway and utility lines through the Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Areas in southern Utah.

February 2017

Salmon and Steelhead: *Advocates for the West* filed the first lawsuit in the nation against newly-appointed EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for failing to follow the Clean Water Act in developing a plan to reduce heat temperature sources (mainly dams) in the lower Snake and Columbia Rivers, that are lethal to imperiled salmon and steelhead.

January 2017

Wild and Scenic Rivers: Under a settlement reached after nearly four years of mediation, our long-standing litigation blocking Big Oil mega-loads from using US Highway 12 was resolved

through settlement, under which the Forest Service instructed Idaho Transportation Department not to permit further mega-loads within the Wild and Scenic corridor along the Middle Fork Clearwater and Lochsa Rivers.

November 2016

Under our 2016-2010 Strategic Plan, we hired Idaho native Kendra Kenyon, PhD., as our new Director of Strategic Partnerships to help expand our network of clients, partners and supporters, and boost our fund development and communications capabilities.

October 2016

In a high profile case over water management in the Deschutes River basin in Oregon, we reached a successful settlement with the Bureau of Reclamation requiring Endangered Species Act consultation over its operation of the Wickiup and Crane Prairie reservoirs for impacts on imperiled Oregon spotted frogs, and established minimum flow and other interim protections.

September 2016

US Magistrate Judge Clarke in the District of Oregon ruled in our favor that the Forest Service violated its own Forest Plan requirements in continuing to authorize livestock grazing that harms sensitive fens and wetlands occupied by the Oregon spotted frog on the Antelope Allotment of the Fremont-Winema National Forest, and recommended closure of 68,000 acres to further grazing until the Forest Service has developed better protections.

August 2016

Ruling in our favor in a Freedom of Information Act case brought on behalf of former Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus, the US District Court held that Dept. of Energy violated FOIA and its own “public interest” regulations in heavily redacting document relating to proposed shipment of spent nuclear fuel to Idaho National Laboratory.

U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill ruled that the Forest Service was arbitrary and capricious in approving use of heavy equipment and hundreds of truck trips into the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness of central Idaho to allow mining exploration at the Golden Hand site near Big Creek.

July 2016

In our second legal victory against the proposed CuMo mine in the headwaters of the Boise River, Senior US District Judge Lodge ruled that the Forest Service violated NEPA and NFMA in failing to obtain and analyze the status of a rare imperiled native flower – Sacajawea’s bitterroot – which will be impacted by the proposed mining exploration activities; and remanded for further data gathering and analysis.

In a high profile decision, US District Judge Sandra Armstrong in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California denied the government’s motion to dismiss our case challenging the National Park Service’s failure to adopt a comprehensive General Management Plan and supporting EIS for the Point Reyes National Seashore. Judge Armstrong agreed with us that the Park Service’s delay of more than 40 years in adopting a General Plan constitutes an “unreasonable delay” that could be enforced through our litigation.

Following our victory winning a preliminary injunction in May 2016, the US Forest Service withdrew the Johnson Bar Salvage Project proposing extensive logging in the Wild and Scenic River corridor along Idaho's famed Selway River.

June 2016

Responding to our petition on behalf of Idaho Conservation League, the US Army Corps of Engineers formally re-designated Idaho's iconic Salmon River as a "navigable" river, thus providing for federal regulation of gravel mining and other threats to the river.

May 2016

US Magistrate Judge Candy Dale in the District of Idaho granted a preliminary injunction halting the Forest Service's Johnson Bar salvage logging project which threatened massive clearcuts in the Selway Wild and Scenic River corridor and sedimentation into imperiled fish habitat.

Following a year-long planning process, our Board of Directors adopted a new 2016-2020 Strategic Plan to guide our expansion and focus our activities on protecting public lands, wildlife and clean water across the American West.

April 2016

U.S. District Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt in the District of Arizona issued a second ruling holding that BLM failed to adequately evaluate the adverse impacts of livestock grazing in the Sonoran Desert National Monument, ordering BLM to conduct new land health and environmental analysis to determine whether grazing should be eliminated to protect the Monument's fragile ecology.

March 2016

U.S. District Judge Lynn Winmill issued a final ruling in our favor holding that Forest Service violated its duties to consider and protect Wild and Scenic River values before authorizing State of Idaho to conduct road building and logging within the Selway River corridor.

Bringing to a close five years of advocacy by Senior Staff Attorney Laurie Rule, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed that the Forest Service properly closed domestic sheep grazing allotments in the Payette National Forest to protect Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from threats of fatal diseases, rejecting sheep industry challenges.

February 2016

In our largest public lands case to date, *Advocates for the West* filed suit in the District of Idaho challenging the BLM and Forest Service's failure to conduct range-wide evaluation of greater sage-grouse conservation needs in the face of climate change and other threats.

We filed another notable new lawsuit in San Francisco federal court, teaming with litigation powerhouse Kecker & Van Nest, to challenge the U.S. Park Service's decades-long failure to assess livestock grazing impacts on the Point Reyes National Seashore.

October 2015

Our federal court litigation challenging improper mining exploration in wetlands and endangered fish habitat along East Boulder Creek (near North Fork Salmon River) was dismissed favorably

after the Salmon-Challis National Forest agreed not to approve such mining in the future without environmental review and public involvement, and to require restoration of the exploration site.

July 2015

In case brought for Idaho Rivers United to protect the Selway Wild and Scenic River, US District Court grants our request for preliminary injunction to prohibit State of Idaho from using Forest Service road for irresponsible road building and logging project that threaten massive sedimentation into Selway River.

Laird J. Lucas resumes position as Executive Director of *Advocates for the West*, and is again named a “Mountain States Super Lawyer” for environmental litigation.

June 2015

Federal Judge Wallace Tashimi grants summary judgment for us in latest round of our litigation challenging corporate livestock grazing in critical habitat of Chiricahua leopard frog in the Cocino National Forest of central Arizona.

March 2015

Senior attorney Laurie Rule wins ruling from Idaho district court reversing Fish and Wildlife Service’s arbitrary and capricious decision to reduce designated critical habitat for endangered Selkirk mountain caribou by hundreds of thousands of acres in northern Idaho.

Former Idaho Governors Cecil Andrus (Dem) and Phil Batt (Rep) engage us to challenge Dept. of Energy plans to ship commercial spent nuclear fuel to Idaho, contrary to 1995 Settlement Agreement they negotiated to prohibit such shipments.

February 2015

In our second major win to protect the Sonoran National Monument in Arizona, U.S. District Court holds that BLM was “arbitrary and capricious” in selectively using partial data to justify authorizing livestock grazing in the sensitive desert ecology of Monument lands.

January 2015

Complying with the district court order in our litigation for Winter Wildlands Alliance, the U.S. Forest Service adopted a final rule requiring winter travel planning on all National Forests in order to protect resources and reduce conflicts caused by snowmobiles in backcountry settings.

December 2014

Resolving our “notice of intent to sue” over water quality standards for fish consumption, we reached a favorable settlement with the EPA. The settlement ensures that inadequate water quality standards in Idaho will be revised to better protect people from exposure to dangerous toxins.

November 2014

Representing Defenders of Wildlife, we brought hard-hitting federal court litigation that forced Bureau of Land Management to rescind its approval of a special recreation permit for a vocal Idaho anti-wolf group to stage a competitive wolf and coyote killing contest across 3.1 million acres of BLM lands in eastern and central Idaho over the next five years.

October 2014

In our long-standing effort to protect salmon, steelhead and bull trout from harmful impacts of public-land irrigation diversions, we reached a settlement with US Forest Service. The agency has agreed to complete Endangered Species Act consultations over 100 potentially fish-killing water diversions on numerous streams in Upper Salmon River watershed of central Idaho and make sure they have fish-screens and that water use is metered.

September 2014

Senior attorney Todd Tucci won another victory from US District Court in Idaho, holding that BLM misconstrued a congressional “grazing rider” to avoid enforcement of environmental standards. This will assure new environmental review of dozens of grazing permits in southern Idaho.

We also sent USDA Wildlife Services a “notice of intent to sue” letter over its violations of National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act in its Idaho “predator management” programs which uses aerial gunning, trapping and poisoning to kill thousands of coyotes and other wildlife in Idaho each year.

August 2014

In response to ongoing legal pressure from *Advocates for the West*, US Fish and Wildlife Service finally issued a decision to list the Oregon spotted frog under ESA. This listing will have positive impacts on important Oregon habitat that has been heavily over-grazed in the past.

June 2014

In response to a federal court lawsuit we filed for Idaho Conservation League challenging the Golden Meadows mining exploration project in critical salmon and steelhead habitat in Idaho’s South Fork Salmon River watershed, the Forest Service abruptly withdrew its approval of the project instead of facing our litigation challenges.

May 2014

Under pressure from *Advocates for the West*, the federal agency USDA Wildlife Services backed down from its plans to use State of Idaho funds to poison and shoot ravens across southern Idaho as a means of purportedly helping greater sage-grouse from predation.

March 2014

US Ninth Circuit Judge Tashima, sitting by designation in the District of Idaho, agreed with us that Payette National Forest properly closed “high risk” allotments to domestic sheep grazing in order to protect Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, rejecting challenges brought by Idaho Woolgrowers Association; we intervened to defend the Forest Service’s closure decision.

February 2014

Over the course of the last 14 years, *Advocates for the West* has won 5 separate suits highlighting the importance of an ESA listing for slickspot peppergrass – a delicate flowering plant found only in sagebrush steppe regions of southwest Idaho. Finally in 2014, US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing slickspot peppergrass as threatened.

September 2013

In another of our cases seeking to protect quiet backcountry winter recreation from impacts of increasingly powerful snowmachines, we reached a settlement requiring Forest Service to prepare environmental impact analysis of snowmobile trail grooming actions on Plumas, Tahoe, Eldorado, Stanislaus, and Lassen National Forests of California – all renowned recreation sites for snowshoers, cross country and backwoods skiers, as well as being key habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

Our legal pressure caused the collapse of a proposed wind development project on Steens Mountain in Oregon – a jewel of the West. The development would have compromised migratory routes and breeding areas for sensitive species such as bighorn sheep, golden eagles and Greater sage-grouse.

August 2013

Partnering with the Nez Perce Tribe, we won a federal court injunction ordering Forest Service to close Highway 12 to Big Oil mega-loads through the Wild and Scenic River corridor along the Lochsa and Clearwater Rivers of central Idaho, after State of Idaho permitted a General Electric subsidiary to haul more massive loads without Forest Service approval.

April 2013

Just weeks after filing a new action to protect bull trout in the Little Lost River watershed in central Idaho, the Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service closed down nearly all allotments in question until further research is done to assess impacts of grazing on sensitive fish habitat.

We reached a favorable settlement in a case protecting wild salmonoids in Camas Creek, a tributary of the Middle Fork Salmon River in Idaho. US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries withdrew flawed ESA consultations and agreed to prepare a new assessment of livestock grazing damages on Camas Creek.

March 2013

Senior attorney Laurie Rule scored a major victory for our client Winter Wildlands Alliance when U.S. Magistrate Judge agreed with us that Forest Service was arbitrary and capricious in excluding over-snow machines from travel planning requirements on all National Forests.

February 2013

US Chief Judge Winmill issued a ruling in our long-standing Highway 12 mega-loads battle, agreeing with us the U.S. Forest Service has authority to enforce the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and other federal requirements to protect scenic and esthetic values from mega-loads impacts.

US Magistrate Judge Ronald Bush in Idaho issued a decision ruling in our favor on challenges to Forest Service grazing decisions in Idaho, Wyoming and Utah for failing to conduct environmental analysis of impacts on wilderness, sensitive species, and riparian areas.

Following litigation by us and others, and substantial public outcry, Ada County Commissioners determined to withdraw from proposed Dynamis municipal garbage incinerator at Ada County landfill.

November 2012

Wrapping up five years of litigation in San Francisco federal court over a huge case brought by Senior Staff attorney Laurie Rule with top-flight law firm Kecker and Van Next, we won final judgment holding that Forest Service violated federal law in not assessing environmental impacts of livestock grazing in sensitive species habitats on five National Forests in California.

October 2012

After our Idaho Water Fellow Bryan Hurlbutt filed a state court lawsuit challenging the Idaho Land Board's grant of a lease for suction dredge mining on the Salmon River of central Idaho, the applicant abandoned the lease, giving us a complete victory.

August 2012

In another case aimed at protecting water quality in the Boise watershed, federal judge Edward Lodge held in our favor that the Forest Service failed to study groundwater hydrology and potential impacts of the proposed CuMo Mine, ordering new studies and environmental review. This ruling delays exploration work at what is being called one of world's largest potential open pit molybdenum mines.

July 2012

In a strongly worded decision – emphasizing that “water is the West's most precious resource” and keeping Idaho waters clean of toxic pollution is “a critical public interest that profoundly outweighs a company's bottom line” – the US Magistrate Judge Mikel Williams ordered Atlanta Gold Corp. to pay \$2 million in penalties for its Clean Water Act violations and to install adequate treatment facilities to prevent further pollution of the Middle Fork Boise River.

June 2012

Ruling from the bench in another bighorn sheep case brought by Senior Attorney Laurie Rule, US District Judge Winmill granted our motion for an injunction ordering the Forest Service to close “high risk” sheep grazing allotments on the Payette National Forest to protect Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. The Court held that an appropriations “rider” sponsored by Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson did not allow the Forest Service to backtrack on its plans to close the allotments.

March 2012

News reports that ExxonMobil was disassembling large cranes at the Port of Lewiston confirm that the Big Oil company has abandoned its plans to ship over 200 mega-loads of oil sands refining equipment along the Lochsa/Clearwater wild and scenic river corridor.

February 2012

In another legal victory by Senior Attorney Todd Tucci to protect greater sage-grouse, Chief US District Judge B. Lynn Winmill held that BLM violated federal law in failing to address cumulative impacts of livestock grazing on over 300,000 acres of public lands in the Owyhee Canyonlands of southern Idaho.

January 2012

In this Clean Water Act enforcement case led by staff attorney Kristin Reuther, US District Court in Idaho ruled in our favor holding that Atlanta Gold Corp. is liable for thousands of violations of the Clean Water Act from its discharges of arsenic and lead into the Middle Fork Boise River.

US Ninth Circuit Judge Wallace Tashima, sitting by designation in the District of Arizona, granted summary judgment in our favor, holding that U.S. Forest Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act in authorizing livestock grazing in the last remaining habitat of the Chiricahua leopard frog in Arizona's Cocino National Forest.

December 2011

Based on our September 2011 victory (see below), we just filed a Motion for Remedies asking the U.S. District in Idaho to order BLM to undertake data collection and analysis adequate to study sage-grouse populations and habitats in Craters of the Moon, Idaho and Pinedale, Wyoming, while protecting critical winter and spring sage-grouse habitats from adverse effects of energy development and livestock grazing.

November 2011

Advocates for the West awarded "Conservation Group of the Year" by Friends of the Clearwater, a Moscow, Idaho conservation group.

October 2011

In a big victory for our clients and everyone who cares about preserving the wild and scenic Clearwater/Lochsa corridor from Big Oil mega-loads, ExxonMobil publicly announced it is sending its Kearl Tar Sands mega-shipments via different routes than Highway 12 in Idaho.

US Supreme Court rejected a ranching industry appeal of our win in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, reversing the Bush Administration's 2006 rules that would reduce public involvement and weaken environmental protections on grazing management across 160+ million acres of public lands in the American West. As a result of our court victories, the 1995 Rangeland Reform regulations remain in effect.

September 2011

In a groundbreaking victory in one of the largest environmental law cases ever filed – challenging BLM land use plans for over 25 million acres of public lands in sage-grouse range around the West – we won a federal district court ruling that BLM violated NEPA and FLPMA in adopting Resource Management Plans for the Pinedale Field Office in Wyoming and Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho. U.S. District Court Judge Winmill ruled that BLM unlawfully failed to consider how energy development, livestock grazing, and other actions will adversely impact greater sage-grouse.

August 2011

On Wyoming's Green Mountain Common allotment – one of the largest unfenced areas in the West – an administrative law judge with the Dept. of Interior granted our motion to prevent BLM from constructing dozens of miles of new fencing, which pose adverse harms to sage-grouse, pronghorn antelope, and much other wildlife.

July 2011

U.S. District Court in Oregon issued a strong ruling in our favor, protecting sensitive plants and wildlife in Oregon's Chemult Ranger District from newly-authorized cattle grazing. The area contains a unique expanse of wetlands that provide habitat for rare plants, mollusks, and the Oregon spotted frog. Many of these species, which are designated as U.S. Forest Service

sensitive species because of their rare status and declining numbers, were just discovered in these wetlands in the last few years. The court ruled that the U. S. Forest Service violated the National Forest Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

June 2011

We wrapped up a two-week evidentiary hearing and briefing before an Idaho Transportation Dept. hearing officer in our challenge to ITD's approval of over 200 "mega-loads" by ExxonMobil Corporation, which would be shipped up the winding canyons of Highway 12 along Idaho's wild and scenic Clearwater and Lochsa Rivers. Our administrative challenges have succeeded in blocking almost all Big Oil mega-loads up Highway 12 to date.

May 2011

Clean Water Act case filed against Atlanta Gold Corp. for exceeding pollution limits on arsenic discharges from historic mining site on Middle Fork Boise River.

April 2011

Challenge brought before U.S. Court of Appeals to Spring Valley Wind Project, which was approved by BLM without a detailed environmental impact statement to authorize industrial wind farm in eastern Nevada, only four miles from the most important bat case in the Great Basin region and within sage-grouse habitat.

March 2011

Representing Idaho Rivers United, we filed first federal court litigation over Big Oil mega-loads proposed to be hauled up Highway 12 along the Lochsa and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers, based on Forest Service's violations of Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

February 2011

On the eve of trial over its baseless allegations against our clients, WWP and Valley Sun LLC, BLM drops proposed decision to cancel grazing permit for the Greenfire Preserve on the East Fork Salmon River, which has been held for restoration and conservation over the last decade.

January 2011

Decision by US District Judge Edward Lodge holds that BLM violated federal law in issuing grazing permits for Grouse, Rock, and other allotments in Pahsimeroi valley of central Idaho; and faults BLM for not studying impacts on bull trout and sage-grouse, and for not evaluate "no grazing" or "reduced grazing" alternatives.

In separate Pahsimeroi litigation, settlement was reached with US Forest Service and BLM to conduct new consultation under Endangered Species Act over livestock grazing and other land management impacts on salmon, steelhead and bull trout. Settlement also imposes interim management restrictions to protect streams from livestock impacts.

December 2010

Through a 2-day "contested case hearing" before a state hearing officer, we challenged initial "mega-loads" approved by Idaho Transportation Department to be hauled up Highway 12 along the Lochsa and Clearwater Rivers.

November 2010

Idaho Supreme Court held that Idaho Transportation Dept. must follow “contested case” proceedings before authorizing Big Oil mega-shipments of massive refining equipment up Idaho’s scenic Highway 12, along the Lochsa and Clearwater Rivers.

October 2010

Idaho federal court approved our settlement with U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, requiring those agencies to conduct Endangered Species Act consultation over land management actions affecting salmon, steelhead and bull trout in the Lemhi River watershed of central Idaho, and establishing interim management restrictions.

September 2010

U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed our prior district court victory, holding that Bush Administration violated federal laws in seeking to gut environmental protections against livestock grazing damage on 160 million acres of public lands managed by BLM.

Idaho district court held that BLM violated Freedom of Information Act in refusing to provide the names and addresses of livestock grazing permittees on public lands. These two cases were featured in a New York Times editorial (10/3/10) applauding the decisions as restoring the “public interest” in grazing management on western lands.

August 2010

Following our successful litigation to protect Hells Canyon bighorn sheep from fatal diseases transmitted by domestic sheep grazing on public lands, US Forest Service permanently closed key allotments to sheep grazing on the Payette National Forest.

Representing local business owners and residents, we won state district court ruling blocking Idaho Transportation Dept. from approving permits for massive oil refining equipment to be hauled up Idaho’s wild and scenic Lochsa and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers, based on ITD violations of its own regulations.

July 2010

Idaho federal court ruled that BLM failed to study impacts to wilderness values from reopening grazing and constructing new fencing in the Burnt Creek Wilderness Study Area, located near Mt. Borah in the Pahsimeroi watershed.

Settlement brokered by *Advocates for the West* creates an innovative \$15 million Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Fund to retire livestock grazing on a willing seller basis along the route of the Ruby natural gas pipeline in key sage-grouse habitats in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon.

June 2010

Interior Dept. administrative law judge grants stay of BLM determination to cancel grazing permits held for Greenfire Preserve in central Idaho, where Western Watersheds Project has been seeking to restore cattle-damaged habitat, after we demonstrated that BLM was motivated by bias against WWP and cancelled the permits unlawfully.

May 2010

Stay granted by federal administrative law judge blocked BLM from constructing over 30 miles of new fencing in Green Mountain Common in southwestern Wyoming – one of the largest unfenced areas remaining in the lower 48 states, and sage-grouse stronghold – based on science showing that fencing causes grouse mortality from collisions and disturbs sage-grouse nesting and brood rearing.

April 2010

Federal lawsuit filed for Idaho Conservation League to enforce Clean Water Act requirement that State of Idaho must protect water quality from degradation.

Washington state district court rules that livestock grazing in Asotin State Wildlife Area is wholly unsupported by science and reverses 2009 state grazing lease.

US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit ruling affirms that irrigation district cannot claim ownership of Middle Rio Grande Project in New Mexico, which was constructed over a half century ago using federal funds.

March 2010

In response to our prior litigation, US Fish and Wildlife Service determined that ESA listing of greater sage-grouse is “warranted” in light of habitat threats and population losses, but that listing is “precluded” by other priorities. We immediately filed suit in the District of Idaho to challenge this “precluded” determination.

February 2010

Settlement requires BLM to limit livestock grazing in Sonoran Desert National Monument in Arizona, and issue final determination of whether grazing is compatible with Monument purposes within 18 months.

US District Judge Winmill issues ruling declining to enjoin Idaho Fish and Game Department from landing helicopters in Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness to collar wolves during March 2010, but strongly warns the U.S. Forest Service against approving future operations.

December 2009

In a major victory in our battle to prevent gold mining operations in the Boise watershed, Snake River Basin Adjudication court ruled for us that the Atlanta Mine could not revive long-unused water rights, and that a 2008 “mining forfeiture exemption” statute is unconstitutional if it is interpreted to allow resurrection of such rights. Following that ruling, the Atlanta Mine withdrew its SRBA water rights claims.

US District Court for the District of Idaho ruled that BLM violated its own grazing regulations by failing to impose mandatory terms to protect streams, uplands, and fish and wildlife habitat on the 70,000-acre Nickel Creek allotment in Owyhee Canyonlands.

November 2009

Idaho State Land Board approves new regulations that – for the first time – allow conservation leases of state trust lands. The regulations were adopted after ten years of litigation, in which

courts repeatedly held that the Land Board violated constitutional requirements by discriminating against conservation applicants for state leases.

October 2009

After Senior Staff Attorney Todd Tucci won four court rulings against it, US Fish and Wildlife Service finally determined to list Slickspot peppergrass as a “threatened” species under the Endangered Species Act. This rare desert flower is found only in southern Idaho, and is nearing extinction due to impacts of grazing and other human actions.

In the latest of several rulings won by Staff Attorney Laurie Rule, the U.S. District Court enjoined BLM from allowing domestic sheep grazing on the Partridge Creek allotment along the Salmon River, to protect bighorn sheep from fatal diseases spread by domestic sheep grazing on public lands. The court also rejected recent Idaho legislation – procured by the sheep industry – that required Idaho Fish and Game Dept. to reach deals allowing sheep grazing to continue without protecting bighorn sheep.

August 2009

Advocates for the West filed several new cases against the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies to protect salmon, steelhead, bull trout and sage-grouse in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi River drainages in the upper Salmon River basin of central Idaho.

July 2009

Court-approved settlement requires BLM to rescind August 2007 “categorical exclusion policy” under which BLM purported to authorize itself to avoid conducting environmental reviews when renewing grazing permits and approving vegetation treatments across the American West. This settlement complements our court victories enjoining BLM from gutting its grazing regulations to exclude the public from most grazing decisions.

June 2009

Under a new court-approved stipulation, US Fish and Wildlife Service is required to determine in February 2010 whether greater sage-grouse should be listed as an endangered or threatened species under the ESA, following publication of new science monograph on sage-grouse.

May 2009

Ruling by US District Judge B. Lynn Winmill affirms the propriety of our major lawsuit – filed in Idaho federal court – over BLM land use plans in six western states for failure to address sage-grouse needs (see below). The court held that we properly challenged BLM’s failure to consider cumulative impacts of global climate change and other threats to sage-grouse across its range.

April 2009

On behalf of Idaho Conservation League, we finalized a settlement with the US Environmental Protection Agency to resolve its violations of the federal Clean Water Act in reviewing State of Idaho water quality standards for arsenic and other toxic pollutants.

March 2009

In a companion case to the BLM land use plan litigation, *Advocates for the West* filed a second major new lawsuit for WWP challenging more than 600 BLM grazing permits, energy leases,

and other land management actions in Idaho and Nevada for failing to address cumulative impacts on the Great Base “core” sage-grouse population.

Under court-approved settlement, ESA litigation is resolved against U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the critically-endangered woodland caribou in the Selkirk Mountains of northern Idaho and Washington. The prior court injunction that we won – prohibiting motorized winter recreation use in most of the caribou recovery zone – will remain in place until the agencies adopt a new, lawful plan; and the federal government agreed to pay substantial attorney fees and litigation costs in the settlement.

February 2009

Following a two week trial, US District Court issued a detailed 80-page ruling documenting how livestock grazing harms sage-grouse populations and habitat; and issued an injunction ordering BLM to cease “grazing-as-usual” in the Jarbidge Field Office of southern Idaho, to protect sage-grouse and other sensitive species following the massive Murphy Complex fires.

Staff attorney Kristin Ruether won a state court ruling that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife unlawfully granted a permit for livestock grazing on a state wildlife refuge that is home to the small remaining sage-grouse populations in central Washington.

January 2009

In one of our largest cases, *Advocates for the West* represents WWP in challenging a suite of BLM land use plans for failing to address greater sage-grouse needs and habitat requirements. Approved in the last years of the Bush Administration, these plans allow rampant energy development, off-road vehicle use, and livestock grazing across 34 million acres of public lands in Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, California, and Montana.

September 2008

In response to our legal pressure on behalf of clients Idaho Conservation League and The Wilderness Society, U.S. Forest Service issued an emergency closure order to protect Meadow Creek – a major tributary to the Selway River, and candidate Wild and Scenic River – from off-road vehicles, which are damaging soils and fisheries habitat.

August 2008

Ruling from Interior Dept. Administrative Law Judge throws out BLM grazing permits on 800,000 acres of public lands in Kemmerer District of southwestern Wyoming, based on BLM’s failure to study cumulative adverse effects of grazing and oil and gas development on sage-grouse.

May 2008

U.S. Magistrate Judge Mikel Williams ruled that Fish and Wildlife Service again acted unlawfully in withdrawing ESA protection for slickspot peppergrass, a rare Idaho desert flower. This is the fourth ruling that our Senior Staff Attorney Todd Tucci has won since 2003 rebuking the Service for not listing the plant under the ESA.

March 2008

Settlement requires Forest Service and BLM to conduct environmental analysis of impacts on many sensitive species from continued operation of a “sheep research station” in the Centennial Mountains near the Idaho-Montana border.

February 2008

U.S. District Court refuses to allow Fish and Wildlife Service to withdraw from a stipulation it reached with us, requiring that the next ESA listing decision on greater sage-grouse must await upcoming scientific reviews and include public comment. Effect of the decision is to deprive Bush Administration from again allowing politics to trump science in the ESA listing process for sage-grouse.

December 2007

In another nationally significant victory, U.S. District Judge Winmill reversed the January 2005 decision by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service not to list Greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act. The Court ruled that the Bush Administration wrongly allowed politics to trump science, and remanded for a new listing decision. *WWP v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, 535 F. Supp. 2d 1173 (D. Idaho 2007).

November 2007

In our latest court victory to protect Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, US District Judge B. Lynn Winmill ordered that the Allison-Berg allotment near the Salmon River be closed to sheep grazing this year – rejecting rancher challenges to the science showing that domestic sheep grazing on public lands transmit fatal diseases to bighorn.

October 2007

In a 120-page ruling after a four week trial, an Administrative Law Judge with the Department of Interior agreed with us that BLM violated range management science and allowed unacceptable ecological harm in authorizing livestock grazing on the 72,000-acre Nickel Creek allotment in southwestern Idaho. This ruling may affect dozens of allotments around the West, where BLM has similarly allowed excessive grazing to imperil wildlife habitats and water quality.

September 2007

US District Court (Judge Lodge) reversed Fish and Wildlife Service’s rejection of our client’s Endangered Species Act listing petition for the pygmy rabbit – North America’s smallest rabbit, which is imperiled by declining sagebrush habitat in Idaho and other states. The court ruled that the Service misapplied the ESA’s standards for evaluating listing petitions; and gave the agency 90 days to issue a new determination.

Following up on our prior injunctions to protect endangered Selkirk Mountains woodland caribou from snowmobile impacts in the Idaho Panhandle, the Colville National Forest in eastern Washington agreed to alter its winter recreation plan to strictly limit motorized access to caribou habitat on that neighboring forest.

August 2007

After we filed a new injunction motion aimed at protecting Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in Hells Canyon and the Salmon River, U.S. Forest Service and permittees agreed to close a “sheep driveway” through bighorn habitat on the Payette National Forest this fall.

Settlement under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires BLM to disclose public documents about grazing management in Nevada without charging costs of searching for and copying the documents, when BLM wrongly claimed that our non-profit client was engaged in “commercial” activities.

July 2007

Settlement of Clean Air Act lawsuit requires EPA to evaluate air quality impacts of emissions from Potlatch pulp mill in Lewiston.

June 2007

In a scathing decision, U.S. District Court holds that Bush Administration violated several federal laws in adopting new regulations for grazing on 160 million acres of public lands, finding that the new regulations would gut environmental protections and eliminate public involvement.

May 2007

Our lawsuit and injunction motion forced Forest Service to close “high risk” sheep allotments in Hells Canyon and Salmon River Canyon to protect Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from coming into contact with domestic sheep, which transmit fatal diseases to the bighorns.

April 2007

Advocates for the West filed federal court brief detailing Bush Administration’s political interference in preventing Greater Sage Grouse from being protected under the Endangered Species Act, despite precipitous population losses caused by habitat losses from grazing, oil and gas, agriculture, weed invasions and other threats.

March 2007

Idaho Public Utilities Commission issued two good decisions for energy efficiency in Idaho, approving plans to allow Idaho Power to “decouple” its rates from efficiency savings, and setting efficiency performance incentives. Our contract attorney Bill Eddie worked closely with NRDC and Northwest Energy Coalition to develop these proposals.

February 2007

Following a trial in which we presented expert evidence about the harms that snowmachines cause to the endangered woodland caribou in the Selkirk Mountains, we won a sweeping court ruling holding that the Idaho Panhandle National Forest is violating “jeopardy” and “take” requirements of Endangered Species Act in failing to regulate winter motorized recreation in woodland caribou habitat. The court also issued a new injunction which expands the closure of caribou habitat we won through preliminary injunctions in fall 2006.

December 2006

After two years of negotiations led by *Advocates for the West*, Idaho Power Company and our client NW Energy Coalition filed an agreement with the Idaho PUC to boost energy conservation

and efficiency efforts in Idaho. The agreement is designed to “de-couple” Idaho Power’s rates from conservation efforts, by providing it more assurance that the costs of providing electricity will be covered even if customers use less electricity. A related program offers financial rewards to the Company for excellent performance in beating conservation targets.

October 2006

Adding to our December 2005 victory closing certain snowmobile trails, we won an expanded federal court injunction barring snowmobile use in most of Caribou Recovery Area in Selkirk Mountains of northern Idaho, to protect endangered woodland caribou from increasing motorized recreation impacts.

After Bush Administration flouted prior order, federal court directs Fish and Wildlife Service to issue final rule to protect Slickspot peppergrass – a rare desert flower found only in southern Idaho – under the Endangered Species Act by January 2007.

September 2006

In second injunction over new BLM grazing regulations, US District Court bars Bush Administration from implementing regulations that would gut ecological requirements for grazing on public lands, and give ownership of range projects to ranchers.

August 2006

US District Court in Idaho issues nation-wide injunction barring Bush Administration from implementing new BLM regulations that would eliminate public involvement in grazing decisions on nearly 200 million acres of public lands. Livestock industry sought the new regulations to rescind prior Clinton Administration “rangeland reforms” that increased public involvement and set minimum ecological requirements for public lands grazing.

July 2006

State district court reverses a subdivision near the Teton River due to inadequate protection of open space. This is the second time the same court reversed this project (procedural violations were to blame the first time).

Litigation filed in Idaho federal court challenges Bush Administration’s refusal to protect Greater Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act. Results of the litigation could have impacts on public lands management – including energy development, grazing, and other activities – across the West.

June 2006

After ruling that Forest Service must assess “capability” of public lands to sustain livestock grazing (see February 2006 entry), Idaho federal court issues injunction to prohibit sheep grazing on sensitive allotment in Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

May 2006

Settlement with US Fish and Wildlife Service requires agency to respond to listing petition seeking to protect Sharp-tailed Grouse under Endangered Species Act.

April 2006

In response to our threatened litigation, Nevada state agencies and mining companies agree to improvements aimed at reducing mercury emissions from major northern Nevada gold mines, which are among the largest sources of mercury pollution in United States.

After winning initial court victory over innovative legal theory – that Forest Service is wrongly authorizing grazing on Spud and Marco Creek allotments in Upper Salmon basin, even though fences and spring developments are non-functional – we reached settlement requiring agency to close portions of allotment, conduct monitoring, and prepare new environmental analysis.

March 2006

Following two week trial, Dept. of Interior Administrative Law Judge reversed BLM grazing decisions for 500,000 acres in northern Nevada grazed by Barrick Goldstrike, for failure to study impacts on sage grouse, Lahontan cutthroat trout, and other values. Interim settlement following this victory requires Barrick to rest the majority of the allotment from grazing during 2006; negotiations are continuing over long-term resolution.

February 2006

Won precedent-setting decision from Idaho federal court, holding that Forest Service must assess “capability” and “suitability” of public lands for livestock grazing on a site-specific basis, thus reversing sheep grazing decisions for four allotments in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Culminating a process launched by our prior Clean Air Act litigation and settlement against a proposed mega-dairy, Idaho Board of Environmental Quality adopted rules setting new permitting requirements to reduce air pollution from large dairies. The first of their kind in their nation, the rules are expected to improve air quality protections at dozens of Idaho mega-dairies.

January 2006

Clean Water Act settlement commits major Idaho milk processor to improved waste management, and nets \$35,000 for wetlands and water quality improvement projects in southern Idaho waterways.

Notice of intent to sue letter blocks U.S. Forest Service from authorizing helicopter landings in Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in central Idaho, to dart and collar wolves.

December 2005

Federal district court in Spokane issues injunction barring Forest Service from grooming trails for snowmobile access to critical winter habitat for Mountain Caribou – the most endangered mammal in the lower 48 states – in the Selkirk Mountains.

November 2005

US District Judge James Parker enters final judgment in Rio Grande Silvery Minnow v. Keys, ruling that Bureau of Reclamation has broad discretion to manage Middle Rio Grande Project dams and water releases to preserve river flows for endangered fish, and approving settlement with Albuquerque to set aside permanent water storage for river flows.

October 2005

Settlement reached in Clean Water Act case against Atlanta Gold Company requiring clean up of mine adit leaking high levels of arsenic to the Middle Fork Boise River, and setting aside \$25,000 for water quality improvement projects.

Settlement reached with ranchers and BLM to reduce grazing levels, establish management restrictions, and implement mandatory monitoring of livestock grazing on 28 allotments in Jarbidge Resource Area, to protect sage grouse and other wildlife.

September 2005

In response to Advocates' work in a rate case, the Idaho PUC ordered Boise's water utility to prepare a new comprehensive water conservation plan.

August 2005

Federal court holds that BLM violated NEPA and FLPMA in doubling grazing for Simplot Livestock and other corporate ranchers on Jarbidge Resource Area.

Another court ruling rejects effort by Idaho politicians and ranchers to prevent the listing of slickspot peppergrass (a rare Idaho desert flower) under Endangered Species Act.

July 2005

Lawsuit and injunction motion force BLM to withdraw proposed grazing regulation rollbacks, intended to weaken environmental protections and public involvement in grazing management.

June 2005

Settlement requires Fish and Wildlife Service to finally determine whether to list Montana fluvial Arctic grayling under the Endangered Species List by April 2007.

Clean Water Act settlements net \$30,000 for water quality and wetland habitat projects in the Mid-Snake; and protect Clearwater River near Lewiston.

May 2005

Court rules that BLM violated NEPA in approving large flagstone mine within the Wild and Scenic corridor of the upper Salmon River.

April 2005

Two separate federal court injunctions halt timber sales proposed to log 50 million board feet of old growth forest in Clearwater basin.

Settlement with BLM requires comprehensive analysis of grazing impacts and protections for streams on 2.5 million acres of public lands in northern Utah.

March 2005

Historic agreement between conservation groups and City of Albuquerque provides permanent storage for 30,000 acre-feet of water to maintain river flows in the Middle Rio Grande, while launching new programs for farmers and Albuquerque residents to contribute further water.

Settlement requires U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether North American pygmy rabbit deserves protection under Endangered Species Act.

U.S. District Court rules that Air Force violated Freedom of Information Act in refusing to disclose documents relating to its efforts with ranchers and State of Idaho to avoid listing of Slickspot peppergress (a rare desert flower) under the ESA.

February 2005

Setting national precedent, settlement reached with Idaho dairy industry to establish Clean Air Act regulatory process for new dairies, with “emissions factors” stipulated on dairy releases of ammonia and other pollutants.

January 2005

Staff attorney Sara Eddie helped broker multi-party settlement over interim Hells Canyon Hydropower Complex project operations, to lessen impacts on salmon and steelhead

December 2004

Idaho district court injunction requires BLM to conduct ESA consultation over six “test case” diversions on public lands in Upper Salmon basin, for impacts on endangered fish.

November 2004

Final settlement in Snake River Basin Adjudication establishes minimum flows and federal reserved water rights in all Idaho’s Wild and Scenic Rivers.

September 2004

Landmark victory requires mega-dairy in southern Idaho to obtain Clean Air Act permit and regulate emissions of hazardous pollutants.

Federal court rules that BLM violated National Environmental Policy Act in issuing grazing permit to rancher in Upper Pahsimeroi basin.

August 2004

Federal court orders BLM to study grazing impacts to sage grouse and other sensitive species on 1.5 million acres of federal lands in northern Nevada.

July 2004

Settlement over Weiser feedlot protects neighbors’ water supply and Snake River.

June 2004

Federal court injunction bars increased grazing in Jarbidge Canyonlands despite 2004 legislative “rider” procured by livestock industry.

Separate injunction orders cows removed from Lower East Fork allotment in Boulder-White Clouds mountains to stop degrading high altitude lakes and streams.

May 2004

Settlement bars USDA from spraying poisons across southern Idaho for second year.

Idaho PUC starts investigation of major rate design changes for Idaho Power to promote energy efficiency, and orders \$1.2 million in new conservation spending for low-income customers, as part of general rate case.

Executive Director Laird Lucas profiled as one of the nation's top environmental lawyers in *High Country News*.

March 2004

In precedent-setting victory, federal court rules BLM must regulate historic irrigation diversions in Upper Salmon basin to protect salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

Two suits force BLM to provide documents and waive fees under FOIA over grazing management and hiring rancher consultants to promote grazing in Owyhee Canyonlands.

January 2004

Lawsuit forces BLM to rescind unlawful settlement with rogue rancher Frank Robbins and closes 50,000 acres to grazing in Bighorn Basin, Wyoming.

Under threat of suit, major Idaho dairy is first in its industry to report hazardous emissions of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide under Superfund law.

December 2003

Won state court rulings reversing two major housing development projects that would degrade sensitive wetlands and wildlife habitat near Teton River.

November 2003

Settlement requires Forest Service to conduct environmental reviews and improve stream protection on dozens of grazing allotments in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada.

October 2003

First-ever ESA injunction barring irrigation diversion in Upper Salmon to protect bull trout.

August 2003

Notice letter to Bureau of Reclamation over Upper Snake reservoirs and impacts on salmon promote talks brokered by Sen. Mike Crapo.

July 2003

Settlement agreement prohibits federal agencies from aerially spraying poisons across southern Idaho to "control" Mormon crickets; USDA will use bait instead. Federal court litigation prevents new cyanide mill next to Frank Church Wilderness.

June 2003

Idaho PUC approves "net metering" program allowing PacifiCorp customers to install small-scale solar and wind energy systems. Executive Director Laird Lucas honored as "Environmental Hero" by The Wilderness Society.

May 2003

Grazing permit for northern Nevada held invalid for failure to conduct environmental review.

April 2003

Won injunction against wolf killing in Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Second injunction closes BLM allotments to protect bull trout and rare plants in southern Idaho.

March 2003

Injunction halts federal/state project to kill foxes, coyotes, badgers and other alleged “sage grouse predators” across southern Idaho.

Consent decree with Idaho Power under Clean Water Act over illegal fill below Bliss dam requires \$86,000 to establish a new wetland to restore water quality in mid-Snake River.

January 2003

Advocates for the West begins operations. Executive Director Laird Lucas named “Idaho Environmental Leader of The Year” by United Vision for Idaho.

For more information on these and our many other cases, check our website:

www.AdvocatesWest.org

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