



# ADVOCATES for the WEST

2026 Spring/Summer Case Notes

River - Beginning - Rachel Teannlach

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# THE FIGHT FOR A JUST WEST CONTINUES—AND SO DO WE

*Laird J. Lucas, Executive Director*

Looking back 23 years ago, *Advocates for the West* was launched in the dark days of an administration whose threats to our public lands, water, wildlife, and communities were both daunting and many. Still, the threats we faced under George W. Bush's administration in many ways pale in comparison to what we're seeing from the second Trump administration.

A political climate such as this demands a defensive posture because the courts are our last bastion for hope. We're using the legal tools at our disposal to block, halt, and delay agency decisions attempting to brazenly privatize our public lands and resources, industrialize special places, and run roughshod over the most vulnerable human, wildlife, and plant communities.

In those fights, we're winning. As outlined in the pages that follow, we've won important victories over the last year challenging

industrial threats such as the NEXT Refinery in the Columbia River Estuary of Oregon, the Converse County Oil & Gas Project in Wyoming's Powder River Basin, and the Northern Corridor Highway through southwestern Utah's Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, among many others.

But major environmental battles loom.

Earlier this year, I announced my plans to retire this June as Executive Director of *Advocates for the West*. Having recently passed my 70th birthday, I feel deeply that this is the right time to turn over the leadership reins to the next generation of fierce environmental advocates—and I do so knowing that *Advocates for the West* is in strong shape, both financially and organizationally. Our staff are unmatched in their tenacity and nimbleness. Our board is dedicated and driven. I couldn't be more proud of the team we—all of our supporters, partners, board, and staff—have built. Together.

But I want to be clear that stepping aside as Executive Director does not mean I am somehow leaving the fray. After taking a short break to travel later this summer, I intend to continue working on key environmental litigation matters that remain close to my heart, in conjunction with our attorneys and client-partners—fighting to protect sage-grouse, salmon and steelhead, and many other species that call our public lands home.

As for the threats to the West brought on by the Trump administration, this storm too will pass. As we have done during the past decades as administrations and political winds shift, *Advocates for the West* will be well-positioned with a strong and growing team of attorneys and staff to go on the offensive—using our legal advocacy to foster lasting conservation. In spite of the challenges, we're growing partnerships to strengthen not only our legal battles but the broader conservation community.

*Advocates for the West* formed to bring innovation to the fore of pressing environmental legal battles. Your support has sustained our momentum in fighting for resilient western communities and ecosystems alike, promoting agency decision-making based on law and science.

As we carry out a thoughtful and forward-looking leadership transition, I will step away as Executive Director with deep confidence in *Advocates for the West's* potential. The best chapters are still ahead, and I know they will be written with the same integrity and purpose that have always defined our work.

With immense gratitude,



# A DANCE AT DAYBREAK, A BATTLE IN COURT: PROTECTING THE SAGE-GROUSE

Sarah Stellberg, Staff Attorney

Across the American West, there’s a landscape that stretches farther than the eye can see—rolling, silvery-green, and quietly alive. This is the Sagebrush Sea, a vast ecosystem that supports pronghorn migrations, shelters pygmy rabbits, and each spring hosts an ancient sunrise ritual: the mating dance of the greater sage-grouse.

But this iconic bird—and the ecosystem it represents—is once again at a crossroads.

In early March, *Advocates for the West* filed a new lawsuit challenging the 2025 sage-grouse plans, the third iteration of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans that govern management of millions of acres of sage-grouse habitat across the West. These 2025 plans are the latest Trump administration effort to eliminate critical habitat protections for the sage-grouse to further drilling, mining, and other disruptive activities in the bird’s remaining habitat. Our successful litigation halted a similar effort by the first Trump administration in

2019, and *Advocates for the West* is once again leading the charge against these latest rollbacks.

## THE 2015 PLANS: HOW IT BEGAN

The modern era of sage-grouse conservation took shape in 2015, when the BLM and Forest Service finalized their first comprehensive, range-wide plans to protect the greater sage-grouse species across roughly 70 million acres of public land.

Those 2015 plans were a response to the threat of Endangered Species Act listing for sage-grouse—prompted by successful *Advocates for the West* litigation over a proposed listing rule for the species.

Considered to be the largest landscape-scale conservation effort in BLM history, the 2015 plans established comprehensive protections for sage-grouse across public lands in 10 western states—identifying key habitats vital to conserving grouse populations and limiting industrial development in the highest priority areas.

The 2015 framework was not perfect, but it was a significant step forward for the species. And those protections supported a decision not to list the species under the Endangered Species Act—avoiding more sweeping regulatory consequences.

That balance did not hold for long. In 2019, BLM adopted weakening amendments to the 2015 plans to further Trump’s “energy dominance” agenda. *Advocates for the West* quickly brought litigation that prohibited BLM from implementing those 2019 rollbacks, sending the plans back to BLM for further analysis.

## WHAT CHANGED IN 2025?

BLM’s 2025 plans arrived at a critical moment for the species: amid the political shifts and courtroom challenges, greater sage-grouse populations have continued to decline, and their sagebrush habitat is vanishing at a rate of 1.3 million acres a year. But instead of reinforcing protections, the 2025 plans loosen them.

Key changes include:

- Eliminating no-development refuges in priority habitats.
- Rollbacks to critical safeguards that once limited oil and gas drilling, mining, and other disruptive activities in sage-grouse habitats.
- Reducing requirements for mitigation and restoration.

In short, the new framework shifts the balance decisively toward public lands development—at the expense of long-term ecosystem health.

## OUR LEGAL CHALLENGE TO THE 2025 PLANS

*Advocates for the West*’s new lawsuit argues that these 2025 plans heed politics over science, violate core land-use mandates, and weaken necessary sage-grouse protections at a moment when the species cannot tolerate further loss.

What’s at stake? The outcome of this case will shape the future of some 70 million acres of sagebrush habitat across the West. If the 2025 plans stand, they will accelerate the decline of the Sagebrush Sea ecosystem and hundreds of species like greater sage-grouse that depend upon this dynamic landscape. But if we win in getting the plans overturned, the case could restore stronger protections and reaffirm a more balanced, science-driven approach to public lands.

Fortunately, after more than two decades of courtroom battles to protect the greater sage-grouse, *Advocates for the West* is up to the task.

“I worked extensively as a citizen scientist on helping craft the original BLM greater sage-grouse management plan which was finalized for Colorado in 2015. That plan was a substantial compromise with input from a wide range of stakeholders designed to avoid listing this iconic species of the Sagebrush Sea while addressing the conservation of the bird and its habitat. In spite of implementation of that plan, the Colorado greater sage-grouse population has fallen by over two-thirds in the following 10 years. Yet the 2025 Colorado plan weakens key protections, such as no surface occupancy buffers around leks, their spring breeding grounds. Unless the plans are strengthened, I fear this keystone species of the Sagebrush Sea will disappear.”



Dr. Barbara Vasquez  
Cowdrey, CO  
CoChair, Board of Directors  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

**"CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL AND SERIOUS, AND WE DO NEED SOLUTIONS. BUT WE HAVE TO BE WARY OF LOFTY PROMISES ABOUT 'GREEN' OR 'RENEWABLE' INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS."**



NEXT would be the second largest “renewable” diesel refinery in the United States, but a report from our partners at Columbia Riverkeeper explains why NEXT is unlikely to be able to make large quantities of truly low-carbon fuel.

To read the report, scan the QR code or visit: <https://bit.ly/4mzorQG>



## A FALSE CLIMATE SOLUTION, ON FAR FROM SOLID GROUND

Andrew Missel, Staff Attorney

Listen to this *great* idea: let’s destroy over 100 acres of wetlands next to the Columbia River Estuary and build a fuel refinery there! Doesn’t that sound great? Wait—there’s more! This area is highly prone to liquefaction, meaning that, in the event of a major earthquake, the soil will basically turn into a liquid. Doesn’t that seem like a great place to store over 40 million gallons of jet fuel, diesel fuel, and a bunch of industrial chemicals? Did I mention that it’s right next to critical habitat for more than a dozen populations of salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act? And did I mention that it’s also right next to a bunch of family farms?

Oh, wait, this is a terrible idea. That’s why we at *Advocates for the West*, along with our wonderful client-partners, are doing everything we can to stop it from becoming a reality.

The name of this terrible idea is the NEXT Refinery—a proposed “renewable” diesel refinery near Clatskanie, Oregon, right next to the Columbia River. The NEXT Refinery is marketed as a climate-friendly solution that will turn used cooking oil, animal tallow, and the like into diesel fuel; in truth, NEXT will get most of its feedstock from purpose-grown seed oils, which have substantial carbon costs of their own. Plus, NEXT will emit over 1 million tons of greenhouse gases each year, pollute local waterways, and generate nearly 100,000 tons of solid waste annually. And NEXT is a disaster waiting to happen in the event of an earthquake. NEXT is a false climate solution—a superficially green project that looks dirtier and dirtier the closer you look.

We’re working on a couple different fronts to stop the NEXT Refinery. First, we filed a case in federal court

in 2024 to force NEXT to go through “Section 408 Review” with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the federal Rivers and Harbors Act—a process that will help ensure that NEXT does not damage the levee that protects the family farms and residents in the area from flooding. We’ve had great success in that case, defeating a motion to dismiss filed by the Corps and forcing NEXT to scramble to try to avoid Section 408 Review. We are confident that NEXT will not succeed in its attempts to avoid Section 408 Review, and we are hopeful that review could effectively stop the NEXT project in its tracks.

Second, we sued the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in state court last year, challenging its issuance of a Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the NEXT Refinery. A section 401 certification is supposed to ensure that a project

complies with all state water quality standards. But for NEXT, DEQ failed to properly account for the adverse effects of the refinery on drainage and irrigation systems in the area—systems that local family farmers, including one of our client-partners in the case, rely on. If we are successful in that case, it would throw a big wrench in NEXT’s plans.

Climate change is real and serious, and we do need solutions. But we have to be wary of lofty promises about “green” or “renewable” industrial projects. When you look more closely, a lot of those promises are about as solid as the ground at the NEXT site in an earthquake.



# SALMON AND THEIR RIVER ARE WORTH MORE THAN GOLD

Andrew Hursh, Staff Attorney

American Rivers, Center for Biological Diversity, Earthworks, Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Rivers United, Nez Perce Tribe, Save the South Fork Salmon, Western Environmental Law Center

Partners

Idaho’s wild Salmon River country is some of the West at its best, with a rich natural heritage and a human history of stewardship and conflict shaping the landscape. Alongside our supporters and partners, *Advocates for the West* plays an integral part in that story. Recently, we’ve been striving to protect the South Fork Salmon River watershed from industrial mining.

This rugged area is a refugia for dwindling species like wolverine, whitebark pine, and bull trout. It’s where Chinook salmon make one of the world’s longest runs to spawning grounds, braving nearly 900 river miles and climbing over 6,000 feet to a place called “Stibnite” where an old mine pit ultimately blocks passage. It’s the homeland of the Nez Perce Tribe, who continue a deep cultural and subsistence relationship with the land and work hard to steward the recovery of salmon and other species.

The geography of Tribal sovereignty here displays the scars of past mining as well; it was in a late-nineteenth-century gold rush that the U.S. broke treaty commitments and shrank the Tribe’s reservation to about 10% of its former area. The Stibnite site arose in that period, and miners grabbed the readiest gold in short order. The namesake rock “stibnite” also contains antimony, a rare metal mined here during World War II for its use to harden munitions.

As mining often goes in the American West, a series of mining companies exploited the Stibnite site and then departed, leaving significant ecological damage. But the area today retains wild resilience. That’s in large part because Americans improved our laws protecting the environment and public lands—the tools of our trade like the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. Just over the ridge from Stibnite lies the vast Frank Church–River of No

Return Wilderness, congressionally protected in 1980.

Yet some outmoded laws, like the 1872 Mining Law, remain on the books. And the story today can be all too familiar—a lust for gold at Stibnite again threatens the area and Nez Perce Tribal resources. A start-up company called “Perpetua Resources” seeks to capitalize on public lands and profit under the nineteenth-century Mining Law at the expense of the forests, waters, air, and fish and wildlife.

Perpetua makes a rosy sales pitch about improving the present site with mitigation to follow its destructive gold grab. But its promises are belied by the reality at similar large mines and by obvious ecological problems. Our partners include conservation groups with expertise in mining impacts and the species and systems at risk, and they see the reality of the threat. The hope that a future generation of actors will deliver best-case clean-up conditions 50-

100 years from now, despite easily foreseeable issues like climate change and after prioritizing Perpetua’s financial benefit, represents a bad bargain.

The company also touts a dishonest narrative about the remaining antimony recoverable at Stibnite. Gold profits predominate Perpetua’s plans, but it trumpets the mine as a military imperative—despite it containing a paltry fraction of future antimony demand and deposits of questionable munitions grade.

*Advocates for the West* is hard at work to enforce the law and set the record straight on Stibnite, fighting on numerous legal fronts. Beginning in 2019, we represented the Nez Perce Tribe in a suit over Perpetua’s unpermitted water pollutant discharges and secured millions of dollars for the Tribe’s environmental stewardship. Since 2022, on behalf of the Tribe and conservation group client-partners, we’ve been fighting the mine’s

state air quality permit, which unlawfully papered over issues with arsenic-laden dust. Since 2024, we’ve raised challenges regarding Idaho’s water quality certification and water pollutant discharge permitting for the mine. Since 2025, we’ve been litigating a complex case against the Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over their approvals for the mine across federal public lands.

Although the language in Perpetua’s corporate copy pretends otherwise, the hammer in Stibnite litigation is poised to fall soon. And we’re in it for the long-haul to protect the West’s irreplaceable Salmon River country from suffering again the mistakes of the past.

**“AS MINING OFTEN GOES IN THE AMERICAN WEST, A SERIES OF MINING COMPANIES EXPLOITED THE STIBNITE SITE AND THEN DEPARTED, LEAVING SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE. BUT THE AREA TODAY RETAINS WILD RESILIENCE.”**

Bend – Rachel Teannalach  
*Advocates for the West*

## Victory to Defend Red Cliffs National Conservation Area in Utah

In March, *Advocates for the West* won an important victory blocking ground-disturbing activities associated with construction of the Northern Corridor Highway through the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area near St. George, Utah. The D.C. federal court granted our motion for an injunction prohibiting the Utah Department of Transportation from starting construction-related activities that would cause irreparable harm to the threatened Mojave desert tortoise, also finding that our lawsuit is likely to succeed in showing the highway approval is unlawful.

The injunction followed our February 2026 filing of a new suit challenging the Trump Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) reapproval of the high-speed four-lane highway through Red Cliffs. Abandoning their previous scientific findings, the BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a decision reversing a December 2024 rejection of the same proposal. In addition to harming the Mojave desert tortoise, the proposed Northern Corridor Highway would damage iconic red rock landscapes, disrupt treasured

outdoor recreation opportunities, and set a dangerous precedent for congressionally protected public lands across the U.S.

## Victory to Protect Wildlife, Clean Air in Wyoming

This February, we won a victory halting for the second time the massive, 5,000-well Converse County Oil & Gas Project in Wyoming's Powder River Basin. A federal district court ruled that the BLM did not follow the law when it approved the project, finding that the agency failed to properly study reasonable alternatives that might reduce environmental harm—such as slowing the pace of drilling or requiring stronger measures to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

The Court granted *Advocates for the West's* motion for summary judgment as well as our request to vacate key approval documents, sending them back to the agency for a more thorough environmental review and halting the approval of any new drilling permits that rely on those documents. The decision requires BLM to revisit the project with a fuller examination of how development could affect air quality, climate, wildlife, and other

natural resources—and whether less harmful options are available.

## Victory to Protect Bighorn Sheep in Colorado

In April, a Colorado federal judge reinforced a major conservation victory for bighorn sheep on the Rio Grande National Forest. The Court granted a motion to remand the decision to create the Wishbone Allotment back to the U.S. Forest Service, requiring thorough assessment of disease transmission risks before domestic sheep grazing can be authorized on the allotment. The Court's remand ensures that domestic sheep will remain off the allotment unless the Forest Service can prove it's safe for bighorns, which is unlikely.

The remand follows the May 2025 decision by the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, holding that the Forest Service unlawfully disregarded scientific evidence and arbitrarily altered the results of its disease "Risk of Contact" modeling when it approved domestic sheep grazing on the Rio Grande National Forest near Creede, Colorado in 2018. The Forest Service had approved the creation of the Wishbone

domestic sheep allotment in close proximity to bighorn sheep core habitats despite concluding in 2013 and 2015 that contact with domestic sheep posed a high level of disease risk to the area's bighorn sheep populations.

## Safeguarding Clean Water, Rivers in Idaho

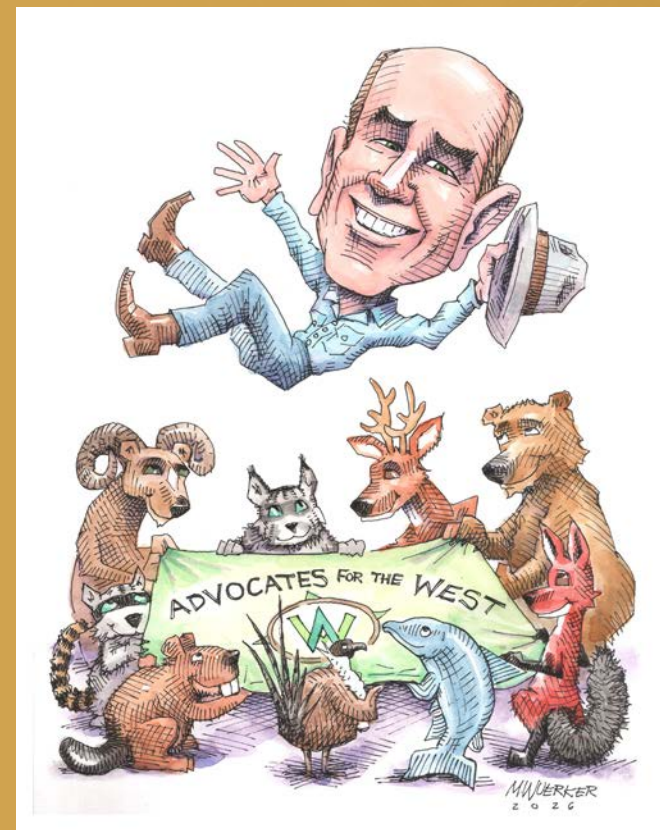
Also in April, *Advocates for the West* and our partners' pressure prompted the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to file litigation against the cities of Burley and Rexburg over ongoing violations of the federal Clean Water Act at wastewater treatment plants they operate. DEQ's action comes after we and our partners filed notices of intent to sue both cities for the same violations which threaten to make rivers in Idaho unsafe for fishing and swimming.

For five years and counting, the plants have failed to comply with pollution limits set in their Clean Water Act permits. The Burley-Heyburn Industrial Park plant discharges industrial wastewater to the Snake River, upstream of popular recreation areas like Lex Kunau Park. The Rexburg plant discharges municipal wastewater to the South Fork

of the Teton River. While Idaho DEQ is primarily responsible for enforcing wastewater discharge permits in Idaho, history shows the agency repeatedly allows facilities to violate their permits and discharge excess pollution for years without any serious action until a conservation group steps up.

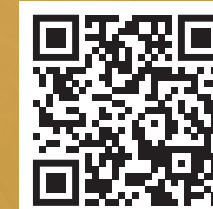


To learn more about our victories and active cases, visit: [AdvocatesWest.org/cases](https://AdvocatesWest.org/cases)



## A LASTING LEGACY

*Advocates for the West* sends our heartfelt gratitude to our founding Executive Director, Laird Lucas, for more than 23 years of vision, grit, and good humor that helped build this organization from the ground up. Laird's leadership leaves a lasting legacy, as this cartoon by Matt Wuerker, nationally recognized political cartoonist and Laird's close friend, proves.



To honor Laird and fortify our future, visit [AdvocatesWest.org/donate](https://AdvocatesWest.org/donate) or scan the QR code to make a tax-deductible gift today.

## STAFF NEWS



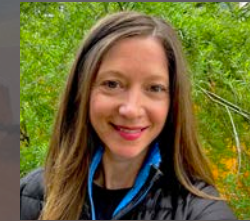
### WELCOME EMMA CARSCALEN *Development Associate*

Emma (she/her) joined *Advocates for the West* in May 2026. She is a proud University of Idaho alum (Go Vandals!) with degrees in Spanish and International Relations, enjoying coursework related to public health, political science, Indian law, and Tribal sovereignty. Emma completed her MSc in Global Health Policy at the London School of Economics, where she explored environmental determinants of health and climate-health interactions.

She brings a background in national and international environmental advocacy focused on nature-based climate solutions, conservation, and equitable health policies. During her time in Washington, D.C., Emma interned in the U.S. House of Representatives and worked on the environment portfolio at The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Outside of the office you can find Emma baking banana bread with her family, backpacking to alpine lakes, or reading while snuggling her dog Lucy.

## BOARD NEWS



### WELCOME MARLA FOX

Marla (she/her) is an attorney with Environmental Advocates, a small law firm headquartered in San Francisco, California. She represents environmental and community groups in litigation designed to advance conservation and environmental protection.

Marla grew up in Minnesota and fell in love with wildlife and the outdoors after spending her childhood summers at a cabin on a lake in Northwest Wisconsin. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and lived in Japan for one year while teaching English.

Marla moved to Oregon to attend Lewis & Clark Law School. After law school, she worked at the Northwest Environmental Defense Center doing public interest environmental



### WELCOME PETER GRUBB

Peter (he/him) grew up in a family of educators that camped, traveled, and advocated for nature. He spent the year after high school studying French in Paris, hitchhiking across North Africa and working on a Kibbutz in Israel. He attended St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland to study the Great Books of the western world. After his sophomore year, he got a job as a whitewater rafting guide in West Virginia, an experience that changed his life.



### WELCOME JANETTE BRIMMER

Janette returns to the board after wrapping up a pressing legal case for Earthjustice. Read Janette's full bio at [AdvocatesWest.org/advocates/janette-brimmer](https://AdvocatesWest.org/advocates/janette-brimmer)

enforcement litigation. Marla then became a Staff Attorney at WildEarth Guardians, working to protect wild places and wildlife across the West. She also taught undergraduate courses in environmental law at Lewis & Clark College, and an undergraduate course on climate change law at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Marla's work at the Northwest Environmental Defense Center and WildEarth Guardians often led her to co-counsel with or be a client-partner of *Advocates for the West*. She is excited to continue collaborating by joining *Advocates for the West's* board. Her other board service has included Play Frontier, the Northwest Environmental Defense Center, and the Washington State Bar Association's NW Lawyer Editorial Committee. In her spare time, Marla enjoys trail running and exploring the Pacific Northwest with her husband, son, and their two pups.

He founded ROW Adventures in 1979 as a whitewater rafting company, but his love for history and humanity soon inspired international tours in the Mediterranean region. Today, the ROW Family of Companies offers active nature-focused and cultural trips locally and around the world with an emphasis on small groups and sustainable travel ethics.

Peter has served on the boards of Idaho Rivers United, Spokane's Center for Justice, and the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association. He guides about 40-50 days each year, on rivers, trails, and seas around the world.

# SPRING & SUMMER LAW CLERKS, EXTERNS, & INTERNS



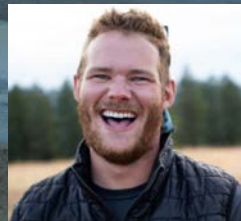
**MARÍA JOSÉ ARAGÓN** — *Spring Extern*

María José (she/her) is an LL.M. candidate at Columbia Law School (Class of 2026) and a qualified Mexican attorney with over five years of experience in environmental, ESG, and transactional law. Prior to Columbia, she worked at Galicia Abogados in Mexico City, where she advised on complex cross-border transactions and regulatory matters involving infrastructure, energy, natural resources, and sustainability, including solar, wind, and green hydrogen projects. Her practice encompassed environmental due diligence in mergers and acquisitions, permitting, water and wastewater regulation, and ESG compliance. María José is the founder of Borderless Legal Counsel, A.C., a pro bono NGO, and has led and participated in numerous pro bono initiatives supporting NGOs and environmental conservation projects. Her interests include pro bono advocacy, environmental sustainability, traveling, golfing, and reading novels.



**JOSEPHINE BLATNY** — *Summer Law Clerk*

Josephine (she/her) is a rising third-year law student at Lewis and Clark Law School. After her first year of law school, she clerked with California Coastkeeper Alliance where she assisted the organization in enforcing the Clean Water Act through industrial stormwater pollution litigation. This past year, she was involved with Animal Law Review, Students for International Environmental Law, Student Bar Association, and Disability Allied Law Students Association. She was named a NEXUS Scholar in 2025 for her commitment to working on both natural resources and animal welfare issues. Prior to law school, Josephine attended college at Nebraska Wesleyan University and majored in Political Science and English. In her free time, Josephine enjoys hiking, camping, baking, and reading for fun.



**MITCH CUTTER** — *Summer Law Clerk*

Mitch (he/him) is a rising second-year student at Harvard Law School. During his first year, he worked as a Research Assistant with the Environmental and Energy Law Program, tracking regulatory and legal developments related to the Endangered Species Act, National Monuments, National Marine Sanctuaries, and oil and gas drilling on U.S. Forest Service lands. Mitch is also involved with the Harvard Environmental Law Review, the Environmental Law Society, the Native American Law Students Association, and the Harvard Mediation Program. Prior to law school, Mitch worked for the Idaho Conservation League as a Salmon & Energy Strategist, frequently collaborating with *Advocates for the West* on litigation efforts to protect and restore wild salmon and steelhead to the Pacific Northwest. Mitch attended Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington and majored in Biology. Outside of work, Mitch loves river trips, skiing, small venue concerts, looking at maps, and doing the New York Times crossword puzzles every day.



**ANDREW HAYDEN** — *Summer Law Clerk*

Andrew (he/him) is a rising second-year law student at UCLA School of Law. During his first year, he served as a representative board member for the Environmental Law Society and contributed to the Veterans' Justice Project through the El Centro Pro Bono Program. Prior to law school, Andrew studied Biology at Stanford University, where his coursework deepened his commitment to environmental advocacy. He interned at the Conservation Law Foundation and the Marine Conservation Institute, and worked as a shorebird technician for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. These experiences shaped his interest in pursuing a career in environmental law. Andrew enjoys hiking, surfing, and reading about wildlife and public lands.



**BROOKE HELSTROM** — *Spring Extern*

Brooke (she/her) is a second-year student at Lewis & Clark Law School. After her first year of law school, Brooke was a Summer Associate at Crag Law Center in Portland. At Lewis & Clark, Brooke is a source checker and Ninth Circuit Review member for Environmental Law Review, co-director of the Animal Legal Defense Fund student chapter, and board member and project coordinator for the Northwest Environmental Defense Center. Prior to law school, she was the litigation assistant for Earthjustice's Northern Rockies office in Bozeman, Montana. Before Earthjustice, she was the Stewardship Manager for the Gallatin Watershed Council, where she engaged in all aspects of nonprofit operation. She also led local conservation efforts such as building beaver dam analogs, measuring stream discharge, and planting lots of willows. She has a master's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Southern California. Brooke enjoys looking at the stars, bikepacking, and saving spiders from untimely deaths.



**NINA LEIMAN** — *Summer Law Clerk*

Nina (she/her) is a rising second-year student at the University of Virginia School of Law. Nina is president of UVA's Lambda Law Alliance and serves on the Virginia Environmental Law Forum executive board. She is a member of the Virginia Journal of Social Policy & the Law's editorial board and a Law & Public Service Fellow. During her first year of law school, Nina completed pro bono projects with the Chesapeake Legal Alliance and the ACLU of Delaware. Nina holds a Bachelor of Arts from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, where she majored in Global Studies with a concentration in Human Rights & Social Justice and minored in studio art. Nina spent three years between college and law school living in northern California and working at a healthcare-focused investment firm. In her free time, Nina enjoys backcountry skiing, ambitious hikes, printmaking, and finding new places to set up her hammock.



**CLAIRE SALLEE** — *Andrus Scholar Summer Intern*

Claire (she/her) is a rising senior at Boise State University, majoring in Environmental Studies with minors in Legal Studies and Criminal Justice. She is originally from Omaha, Nebraska, and loves to spend time outside trying new things. Her love for the environment was cultivated from a young age as she grew up in northern California and moved to the Midwest, providing the opportunity to appreciate and live in diverse landscapes. Nebraska offered unique environmental experiences with its sandhills and vast cropland. Claire spent her spring semester interning in Washington, D.C., through the Boise State School of Public Service Program. Claire is excited and honored to work with *Advocates for the West* this summer, and is looking forward to hands-on environmental advocacy and to experience litigation firsthand. In the future, she hopes to pursue a career centered around the environment, its intersection with people, and their fundamental rights.



ADVOCATES for the WEST

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Permit No. 100



## FEATURED ARTIST: **RACHEL TEANNALACH**

Rachel Teannalach is a Boise-based landscape painter working primarily in oils. Originally from northern New Mexico, Teannalach earned a Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude in Fine Arts from Scripps College (Claremont, California). She also studied at the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland, and Art Centers International in Florence, Italy. After college Teannalach lived in Marin County, California for six years before making her home in Idaho in 2008. Teannalach's style is characterized by bold, untouched brushstrokes that evoke the emotional quality of landscape. She is known for both her small scale "tinyExpanse" daily paintings, as well as her large scale landscapes. She frequently engages in collaborations with conservation organizations, supporting efforts to preserve the lands she loves to paint. Teannalach is currently represented by Capitol Contemporary Art in Boise and Echo Arts in Bozeman.



Through the end of this year, enter the keyword **ADVOCATES** when purchasing Rachel's work and 20% of your purchase will be donated back to *Advocates for the West* in honor of our founding Executive Director Laird Lucas's retirement. To purchase, scan the QR code or visit [www.etsy.com/shop/tinyexpanse](http://www.etsy.com/shop/tinyexpanse)



*Gila Wilderness from Cosmic Campground – Rachel Teannalach*

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