

A TRIBUTE TO TWO GREAT MEN

Laird J. Lucas, Executive Director (Boise, Idaho Office)

As I age – as we all age – it’s hard to lose good friends. I am particularly saddened by the recent passing of two great men – Cecil Andrus and Gordon Younger.



Governor Cecil D. Andrus



The impact Cecil Andrus had on our state, and our country, is legendary. He died on August 24th, the day before his 86th birthday. That same day, a summer storm whipped through Boise with howling wind and pounding rain – as though Mother Earth herself were paying tribute to this great man.

Cecil Andrus was a rare Democrat in politically conservative Idaho – yet he served as our governor an unprecedented four times. He won his initial term opposing a molybdenum mine at Castle Peak in the Boulder-White Clouds. Midway through his second term, he became Interior Secretary under President Carter and helped establish the 1980 Alaska Lands Act, which protected over 157 million acres as national parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness. It is Cecil’s greatest national legacy.

An avid hunter, fisher and outdoorsman, Cecil was glad to leave Washington, DC. He returned to Idaho and won two more terms as governor. During that time, he blocked nuclear waste shipments to Idaho National Laboratory, which led to the landmark 1995 agreement requiring the Department of Energy to clean up and remove all radioactive wastes from INL by 2035. He stopped a coal power plant from being built just outside Idaho’s populous capitol city of Boise. He

was instrumental in passing bills to protect the Gospel Hump, Frank Church-River of No Return, and most recently the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness areas. His list of achievements goes on.

Cecil’s continued vigilance against DOE turning Idaho into a nuclear waste dumping ground is how he came to be a friend to all of us at **Advocates for the West**. We are honored to continue working with the Andrus family as his daughter Tracy steps in to finish the important work her father started.

Idaho is a better state for all Cecil did to protect it, and we are fortunate that his spirit lives on in the noble actions of the Andrus family.



Gordon Younger

Gordon Younger has been an important part of the **Advocates for the West** family for the past 15 years. He had a major

influence on my life and career, for which I am forever grateful. Gordon died on September 22nd at 79.

Gordon started out as a salesrepresentative for Boise Cascade. In 1967, tired of his employer saying “no” to his ideas, he launched his own corrugated box business – Seattle Packaging. He grew it into a major Northwest manufacturer now employing 500 people in four states. Gordon displayed entrepreneurial talent and business acumen that few possess – he took enormous risks at times, but they paid off.

I first met Gordon in the late 1990’s through Western Watersheds Project. WWP was trying to restore public lands by outbidding ranchers at auction for 10-year grazing leases. As a believer in free enterprise and competitive markets, Gordon was amazed to learn that the Idaho Land Board would not allow WWP to obtain the leases, even though they offered to pay more than the ranchers.

Gordon supported this work for several years, with numerous legal victories along the way. The Idaho Supreme Court ruled for us in four different cases, but finally we had to go to federal court – alleging civil rights violations by then-Gov. Jim Risch and other Land Board members – before we won the right

to hold conservation leases on state lands. We brought that case for Lazy Y Ranch, a nonprofit conservation ranch that Gordon created as part of our ongoing strategy, in which being nimble and aggressive were important traits. Traits that Gordon valued.

Another project Gordon relished involved the Ruby Pipeline, a natural gas pipeline proposed in 2010 to connect southwest Wyoming to the West Coast. The route would cut through key sage-grouse habitats in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and Oregon. We were gearing up for major court battles when the company’s lawyer reached out to ask: What would it take to avoid litigation?

The answer was: Establish over \$20 million in funds for voluntary grazing permit retirements to protect sage-grouse habitats. It’s a way for ranchers to benefit from federal grazing permits while helping restore the land – all at the expense of the energy industry. Gordon loved that.

Another of Gordon’s legacies is Greenfire Preserve on the East Fork Salmon River – a former ranch that he devoted to restoration

and conservation. The preserve is over 400 acres near the mouth of the East Fork Salmon River that supports salmon, wild horses, elk, moose and other wildlife. We helped Gordon retire the associated federal grazing permits to accomplish larger landscape restoration, including the Spud Creek allotment last year – the first permanent grazing retirement under the 2015 Boulder-White Clouds wilderness bill.

One of Gordon’s greatest gifts to **Advocates for the West** was connecting us with his son Eric, who has now served on our board for several years. An astute businessman himself, he spent several years as our Board Chair, leading us on a path of sustained growth and maturity. We are fortunate indeed to enjoy the guidance and support of two generations of the Younger family.

Gordon’s impact on **Advocates for the West** will live on. We will continue to seek innovative ways to use science and the law to leverage long-term protections for the West’s wildlife, waterways and public lands. I know Gordon would approve.

Thanks for everything, Gordon.

Wild Horses at Greenfire Preserve – Sean Bogle, WildLens

On October 12, *Advocates for the West* filed suit against Attorney General Jeff Sessions and the Department of Justice, seeking disclosure of unlawfully withheld documents demonstrating that President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke lack authority to vacate or shrink Bears Ears, Grand Staircase Escalante and all other national monuments.

Advocates for the West filed a Freedom of Information Act request in February seeking DOJ's legal analysis relating to the president's authority to withdraw, modify, or shrink national monuments under the Antiquities Act. In response, DOJ identified 12 documents – but refused to disclose them.

Our suit contends the agency is providing cover for Trump and Zinke by unlawfully withholding public documents establishing that they lack authority to eliminate or shrink any national monument.

Advocates for the West is working to force public disclosure of these documents so that we can all see what Trump and Zinke have in mind for our national monuments.

Sunrise at Hoodoos, Devils Garden in Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, UT – Laurens Hoddenbagh, Shutterstock

DEFENDING NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Opposing President Trump and Secretary Zinke's Plans for our Public Lands

Todd Tucci, Senior Attorney (Washington, DC Office)

Advocates for the West is continuing our work with partners to protect national monuments and other National Conservation Lands, threatened by President Trump and Interior Secretary Zinke.

In April 2017, President Trump ordered Secretary Zinke to review national monument designations dating back to 1996 and recommend “fixes” on up to 27 national monuments, including Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah, Gold Butte in Nevada, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon, and others.

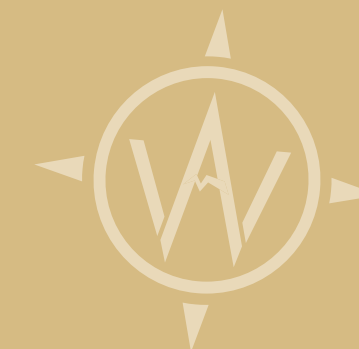
Secretary Zinke sought public comments on the value of these 27 national monuments, and recommendations on changes to ensure “appropriate use of Federal lands.” Of course, Zinke intended to set the stage for an unprecedented elimination of national monuments across the West – opening these landscapes to increased oil and gas development, coal mines, timber sales, utility rights-of-way, and other industrial uses.

Secretary Zinke did not expect, however, to receive over 2.8 million responses, with 98% supporting the continued protection of our national monuments. Despite this overwhelming public support, Secretary Zinke sent his recommendations to President Trump in September, while hiding them from the public.

But news of Zinke's recommendations leaked out, and they are not good. Zinke proposes President Trump eliminate vast portions of Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, Cascade Siskiyou and Gold Butte National Monuments. In total, Zinke would have Trump remove protections on over two million acres of monument lands.

In addition to protecting critical habitat areas, national monuments boost local economies through the multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation industry. Zinke's decision to sellout our national monuments to drilling, mining, logging, and other special interests would result in the loss of millions of acres of fishing, hunting, birding, hiking and other recreational lands.

Advocates for the West is working closely with our partners to defend against Trump's unprecedented attack. We just signed an agreement with Conservation Lands Foundation to provide it and its many “friends” groups around the West with legal advice and representation in this urgent matter. Together we are preparing to challenge any rollbacks of national monument protections in the courts, using local people and experts who can tell the true story of the value of these conservation lands. Trump has yet to act on Zinke's recommendations, but we are ready for the fight.



QUIET WINTER LANDSCAPES

Protecting Winter Wildlife Habitats and Backcountry Recreation

Laurie Rule, Senior Attorney (Portland, Oregon Office)

Advocates for the West is continuing our fight to protect vulnerable winter wildlife and non-motorized winter recreationists from the impacts of snowmobiles. Our latest suit against the Forest Service challenges winter travel maps published by three National Forests that adopt decades-old snowmobile use designations rather than completing new winter travel plans.

Through a previous lawsuit, **Advocates for the West** forced the Forest Service to revise its travel management rule, requiring regulation of snowmobile use on National Forest lands through winter travel planning. Winter travel plans must designate the areas and trails open to snowmobile use, and must minimize impacts to wildlife, natural resources, and other recreationists.

However, the new Travel Rule contains an exception that allows forests to skip winter travel planning if they have prior decisions that designated snowmobile use areas and took public comment on those designations. As a result, the Payette and Boise National Forests in Idaho and the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming published travel maps that adopted snowmobile designations made more than 25 years ago. These old designations closed small areas of each forest, leaving large swaths open to snowmobile use.

Advocates for the West is challenging the three winter travel maps for violating the Forest Service Travel Rule as well as other environmental laws. The maps allow outdated designations to

continue without considering new science showing that as snow machines have become more powerful, operators are driving deeper into more remote areas and intruding farther into recommended wilderness and wilderness study areas. This increases impacts to wildlife such as Canada lynx, wolverine, and grizzly bears, and escalates conflicts with cross-country and backcountry skiers.

Our aim with this suit is to force the Forest Service to complete analyses that take current information and circumstances into account to minimize impacts to resources and users, creating safer winter habitat for wildlife and more opportunities for those who enjoy quiet winter recreation. 



POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

Victory for Tule Elk and the Public

Lizzy Potter, Staff Attorney (Portland, Oregon Office)

Advocates for the West recently scored another big victory for Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County, California. In July 2017, we entered into a landmark court-approved settlement with the National Park Service and ranchers who intervened in the case.

The federal government paid millions of dollars to acquire private ranches within the Seashore back in the 1970's, and allowed existing ranching to continue on a temporary basis. Yet until our lawsuit, the Park Service intended to approve new 20-year ranching leases, despite the fact that commercial ranching interferes with habitat for endemic tule elk and

other wildlife, and impedes public recreation.

Under our settlement, the Park Service now must consider – for the first time in the nearly 50-year history of the Seashore – whether to continue authorizing year-round dairy and beef ranching and associated residences through an amendment to its General Management Plan. It also requires the Park Service to spend the next four years taking public comment and issuing the first-ever Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze impacts of ranching on the natural resources, wildlife, and recreation at the Seashore. As part of the EIS process, the Park Service must expressly evaluate no ranching and reduced ranching as alternative options for the future of the Seashore.

This process provides for significant public input, allowing all who care about the future of Point Reyes several opportunities to submit comments and attend public meetings. Our settlement helps ensure powerful special interests do not continue to force the Park Service to ignore federal land management laws and cut the public out of important decision-making processes for lands that belong to all of us.

We are grateful to the legendary Huey D. Johnson, founder of Resource Renewal Institute, who spurred us into action on this issue; and to powerhouse San Francisco attorney Jeff Chanin of Kecker, Van Nest, & Peters, who assisted us in this case.

Advocates for the West looks forward to working with our partners over the next four years to ensure the magnificent coastal lands of the Seashore are protected for the inspiration and benefit of current and future generations. 



WILDLIFE SERVICES

Taking a Rogue Federal Agency to Task for Killing Wildlife

Talasi B. Brooks, Staff Attorney (Boise, Idaho Office)



In May 2017, **Advocates for the West** and co-counsel from Western Watersheds Project sued Wildlife Services for expanding its Idaho predator killing program. Wildlife Services is violating the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and ignoring the numerous environmental impacts of its activities.

This new case joins our pending litigation challenging Wildlife Service's wolf-killing actions in Idaho, and a case filed this summer over its repeated violations of the Freedom of Information Act.

Despite extensive comments submitted by concerned citizens and environmental groups, Wildlife Services has done nothing to reform its inhumane activities, including the indiscriminate aerial gunning of coyotes across southern Idaho.

The only concession Wildlife Services made was to state it would no longer use M-44 cyanide bombs on public lands in Idaho – but it has already breached this promise. This spring, a Wildlife Services M-44

killed a dog and injured the dog's teenage owner on BLM land in Pocatello, Idaho.

Our suit pays special attention to Wildlife Services' planned expansion of its activities to now include killing native predators – particularly predators of sage-grouse – ostensibly to boost flagging populations of desired game animals. Modern science shows using predator control to protect game species populations is pointless and ineffective.

Wildlife Services is irresponsibly relying on loose estimates to guess impacts of its activities on predator populations – falsely assuming that these impacts will be evenly distributed across Idaho.

Meanwhile, Wildlife Services still refuses to complete a full EIS disclosing and analyzing the many consequences of its activities in Idaho. Our mission is to force this secretive agency to face up to its inhumane actions and finally commit to reforming its archaic policies. 🌐



Grey Wolf

MINING POLLUTION

Protecting Idaho's Rivers and Streams

Bryan Hurlbutt, Staff Attorney (Boise, Idaho Office)



Since joining **Advocates for the West** team six years ago, I have worked closely with the Idaho Conservation League and other partners on cases to keep new mines out of the Boise and Salmon River watersheds and the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness. While those cases have succeeded in stopping projects for now, we expect these mining projects (CuMo, Midas Gold, and Golden Hand) to return, and we remain committed to defending our wild landscapes from the large-scale, long-term destruction and industrialization that comes with mining.

Idaho has a long mining history. The discovery of gold brought white settlers to the state and led to the establishment of the Idaho territory in 1863. As gold deposits were exploited, miners moved on to other minerals. Today, Idaho is littered with the remains of historic

mines, and large mines continue to operate – including phosphate mines in Southeast Idaho, lead and silver mines near Coeur d'Alene, and a variety of mines in mountains of Central Idaho.

According to the EPA, 40% of watersheds in the West are contaminated by mining activity. **Advocates for the West** is working to fix this in Idaho.

In September, we secured a court ruling holding Atlanta Gold Corporation in contempt of court for discharging high levels of arsenic and iron from the company's mining site in the headwaters of the Boise River. The Court ordered Atlanta Gold to upgrade the facility it uses to treat polluted water emanating from its mining tunnel near the town of Atlanta, just outside the Sawtooth Wilderness. The Court also ordered Atlanta Gold to pay \$500,000 in penalties for continued

violations of its permit. We are hopeful that Atlanta Gold will clean up its mess and serve as a lesson to other polluters in Idaho that they will be held accountable.

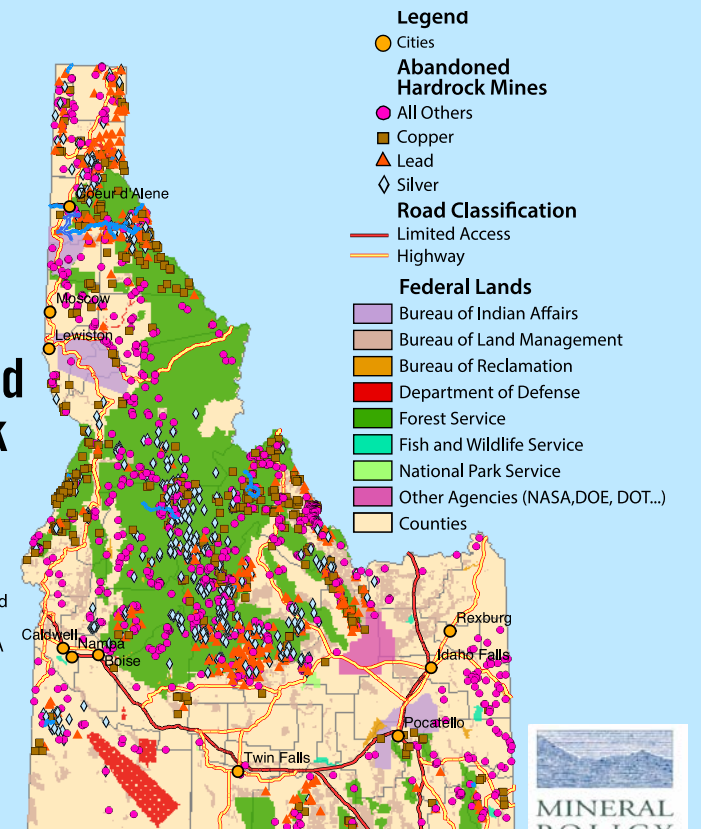
We also recently initiated a proceeding against U.S. Silver and Americas Silver, which own and operate the Galena Mine—a complex of two operating silver and lead mines upstream of Lake Coeur d'Alene in North Idaho. These companies have discharged excessive lead and other pollutants from their mines into the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

We continue to monitor other mining sites throughout the state with ICL – from currently operating mines to historic and abandoned mine sites. Together we are committed to forcing miners to clean up their act and stop polluting Idaho's rivers and streams. 

Fly fishing on the Boise River – Steve Bly, Alamy Photo

Idaho Abandoned Hardrock Mines

Impaired Water Segments and Impaired Water Areas data obtained from U.S. EPA Office of Water. Geological Survey's MASMILS database 2002 beta copy. All other layers obtained from ESRI



A Project of the Mineral Policy Center. Map by Ali Steimke, May 2002.



Twenty-Five Horses

Linwood Laughy, Board President

Lin and his wife,
Borg Hendrickson



Sockeye Salmon Migration
– Rokopix, Shutterstock



In 1966 I lived with my parents beside the Middlefork of the Clearwater River in north central Idaho. Our home stood across the river from Highway 12, with principal access by rowboat and canoe. One day a neighbor invited my father to come meet two friends, an elderly Nez Perce woman who spoke only her Native language and her daughter, who served as translator.

Dad canoed the river and walked a short distance to our neighbors' home, where he was introduced. The older woman told dad that as a girl and young woman she often visited the cedar-edged meadow where our house now stood. She explained that the meadow was her family's campsite for a typical three-day fishing trip.

My father asked, "How many fish would you catch in those three days?" After consulting her mother, the daughter replied, "Twenty-five horses."

Puzzled and thinking his question had been misunderstood, my father explained that he was asking "How many fish?"

Again the two women exchanged comments, and the daughter confirmed, "My mother says twenty-five horses."

Then my father understood—the elder woman was measuring "how many fish" by how many horses

were needed to carry those fish. Twenty-five horses of plentitude.

The 2017 news reports describe Idaho's wild Chinook salmon and steelhead runs as in "*a state of collapse*." This year's projected run of the once-famous wild Clearwater River B-run steelhead is just 750 fish. Idaho's sockeye salmon are on life support. After twenty years and billions of taxpayer and ratepayer dollars spent trying to ameliorate the effects of dams on wild fish migrations, those fish remain on the Threatened and Endangered Species list. "Collapse," writes author and passionate salmon advocate David James Duncan, "is simply extinction in slow motion."

Advocates for the West has been fighting to protect Idaho's salmon and steelhead habitat for fifteen years—successfully opposing destruction of stream banks from over-grazing, irresponsible mining, sedimentation of spawning grounds from poor logging practices, and more. We are now extending this work to the lower Snake and Columbia Rivers—**Advocates for the West** was the first firm to file suit against Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt for EPA's failure to regulate water temperatures that sicken and kill thousands, even hundreds-of-thousands, of migrating fish.

Advocates for the West's work is critically important to bringing one of Idaho's greatest treasures back from the brink of extinction. While we will never see populations return to the days of twenty-five horses, we can fight for those fish that remain and hope that future generations may see Idaho rivers turn red and silver with salmon and steelhead once again.

Staff News

Welcome Staff Attorney Sarah Stellberg

There are times in life when our instincts get the better of well-laid plans. My arrival at **Advocates for the West** marks one of those moments.

Last fall, I moved to Boise to begin a year-long judicial clerkship. I was fresh from law school and imagined my year in Idaho as an interlude to a law career in Washington, DC. I had spent four years in DC working in energy and climate policy, returned there each summer during law school, and was offered a post-clerkship position with a DC environmental law firm. All signs pointed East.

My plans changed soon after I began clerking for a remarkable Idaho federal court judge. I never imagined myself as a litigator, but my hesitations dissipated after seeing the excitement and fulfillment it could bring. I saw the power of lawsuits as a driver of broader change.

As my career goals began to shift, I was also falling in love with my surroundings. I picked up skiing, ran the Race to Robie Creek, and backpacked the Sawtooths. Idaho began to feel like home.

Then the "a-ha" moment came. On a whim this spring, I decided to



scrap my East Coast move and turn down my job offer there. Not long after, I was offered a dream job as a staff attorney with **Advocates for the West**.

It is an incredible privilege to work with this dedicated team – they have won some of the West's most important environmental cases by thinking smarter, working harder, and responding more creatively than their opponents. I am inspired by the commitment and skill of the **Advocates for the West** staff – and our clients and supporters – and look forward to the work ahead!

Welcome Operations Manager Annie Berglund

As an Idaho native, I've spent my entire life surrounded by incredible landscapes and wildlife. My dad is a Wildlife Biologist, which afforded me many unique opportunities to explore some of the more remote and less explored wonders the West has to offer.

I spent my college years studying Political Science and Mass Communications at the University of Idaho and returned to Boise after graduating to work on multiple Idaho political campaigns, including a race for Governor and State Senate.



Before joining **Advocates for the West**, I worked as Accounting and Special Projects Manager at Bittercreek Alehouse and Red Feather Lounge. It was incredibly rewarding to work for a small business that prides itself on being an environmentally conscious staple of Boise's vibrant downtown culture.

I'm excited to bring my diverse professional experience to **Advocates for the West** and turn my passion for the outdoors into an opportunity to make a measurable contribution for a better, more responsible future.

Farewell to Aries Bergstrom

Advocates for the West wishes Aries the very best as she embarks on a grand adventure down under! After nearly three years with us – first as our enthusiastic intern and later as our super-organized Operations Manager – Aries is moving to Australia as she pursues a career in environmental sustainability. We will miss her positive and creative spirit, but we're excited to see what she does next. So long and safe travels, Aries!



Protecting
Fish & Wildlife



Defending
Special Places



Safeguarding
Water



Promoting Resilient
Communities

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“This year, I changed the way I give to **Advocates for the West** by joining the Sage Society. I recently learned that monthly contributions help nonprofits by providing reliable, sustained funding rather than depending on

infrequent gifts. **Advocates for the West's** work to protect the wild places that I love so dearly is invaluable, and I'm grateful to be a part of this work by being a member of the Sage Society.”

Dr. Sara Fry, Boise State University

Join Our Sage Society

By joining the Sage Society, you provide urgent and critical support for our natural treasures, wildlife and habitats.

Your reliable monthly gifts will ensure we have the resources to fight – and win – for the West. Now more than ever, your support is needed to defend what we all hold dear.

Join the Sage Society today and receive a beautiful commemorative map celebrating our 15 years of winning for the West!

Grizzly Bear Sow and Cub in Sagebrush, Yellowstone National Park – franzfoto.com, Alamy Photo