



ADVOCATES
for the **WEST**

2018

ANNUAL REPORT

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



Dear Friends,

With your help in 2018, *Advocates for the West* took on some of the most serious threats to our public lands, rivers and wildlife our nation has ever seen. The Trump Administration’s refusal to acknowledge climate change, its “energy dominance” agenda for public lands, and its complete disregard for environmental laws have proven to be the largest challenges Advocates for the West has taken on.



But our conservation community is strong, thanks to you. With 37+ client partners, more than two-dozen foundation supporters, and over 700 individual donors backing our work, Advocates for the West is proud to be a leading legal voice in this unprecedented battle to protect the West. We are also strengthening grassroots efforts to protect our environment by forging new alliances with robust organizations like Conservation Lands Foundation and their extensive network of Friends groups.

Despite numerous attempts by the Trump Administration to sell off our natural resources, pollute our waterways, and brush aside threatened and endangered species, Advocates for the West won many court victories in 2018. And we launched new cases that promise to yield lasting protections for our environment. Read more about this work in our 2018 Milestones on the following pages.

Advocates for the West has been defending the West for over 16 years, and we still hold a steady 85% rate of success. As a supporter, our wins are also your victories. Thank you for standing with us in our fight to Win for the West!

Laird J. Lucas
Executive Director

2018 Client Partners

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| American Bird Conservancy | Idaho Chapter of the Sierra Club | Northwest Environmental Defense Center |
| American Rivers | Idaho Conservation League | Oregon Natural Desert Association |
| Center for Biological Diversity | Idaho Rivers United | Oregon Wild |
| Columbia Riverkeeper | Idaho Wildlife Federation | Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Association |
| Committee for Idaho’s High Desert | Institute for Fisheries Resources | Predator Defense |
| Concerned Friends of the Winema | International Fund for Animal Welfare | Resource Renewal Institute |
| Conservation Lands Foundation | Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center | Snake River Waterkeeper |
| Defenders of Wildlife | Native Fish Society | The Mazamas |
| Earthworks | National Trust for Historic Preservation | WaterWatch of Oregon |
| Friends of Cedar Mesa | Neighbors of the Mogollon Rim | Western Mining Action Project |
| Friends of the Clearwater | | Western Watersheds Project |
| Friends of the Inyo | | WildEarth Guardians |
| Greater Hells Canyon Council | | Winter Wildlands Alliance |
| Greater Yellowstone Coalition | | |
| Great Old Broads for Wilderness | | |

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Padding the Willamette River – Leon Werdinger/Alamy Photo



PROTECTING FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wild Salmon & Steelhead

Seattle federal court ruled in our favor in a Clean Water Act case **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.

We filed an emergency injunction to compel US Army Corps of Engineers to make immediate **operational changes to four dams on Oregon’s Willamette River** in an attempt to protect spring Chinook salmon and winter steelhead, which are facing the threat of extinction.

We filed suit against the US Forest Service for **failing to protect Idaho’s salmon and steelhead from dangerous, outdated irrigation diversion dams** in the Sawtooth National Forest, in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Coyotes, Ravens & Other Predators

Idaho district court ruled in our favor that **USDA Wildlife Services violated the law** in failing to thoroughly address its aerial gunning of coyotes, raven poisoning, and other Idaho “predator damage control” actions which indiscriminately kill native wildlife in Idaho each year.

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

Sage-Grouse

Colorado district court **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. Thanks to our prior settlement, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will proceed in developing a recovery plan for the imperiled bird.

Bighorn Sheep

Following our 2017 court win, we **reached a settlement with the Forest Service to stop domestic sheep grazing** on the Snakey and Kelly Canyon allotments in south eastern Idaho to protect the South Beaverhead population of bighorn sheep.



DEFENDING SPECIAL PLACES

Bears Ears National Monument Defense

We advised Conservation Lands Foundation and its Friends groups on **challenging the Trump administration’s reduction of Bears Ears National Monument**, and appealed the Bureau of Land Management’s March 2018 oil and gas leases just outside the monument to protect unique archeological sites.

Oil & Gas Lease Sales

In sharp rebuke of the Trump administration’s “energy dominance” agenda for public lands, we **blocked 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 habitat. The injunction resulted in BLM withdrawing over a million acres of proposed oil and gas leases slated for auction in December 2018.

Quiet Winter Recreation

In response to our lawsuit, the US Forest Service **withdrew its winter travel maps for three National Forests** – the Boise and Payette in Idaho and the Bridger-Teton in Wyoming. We agreed to dismiss our suit after the agency committed to conducting winter travel planning on these forests.

Mogollan Rim, AZ

Our complaint forced the US Forest Service to **rescind grazing permits that unlawfully reopened grazing on a large area of the Tonto National Forest** in the Mogollan Rim area of the Colorado Plateau to protect streams, soils, and fish and wildlife habitat. We challenged the Trump administration’s attempt to reopen the area without public involvement or environmental review.

Conglomerate Mesa, CA

In response to our protest, the **Bureau of Land Management backed off approving a gold mine exploration project** on Conglomerate Mesa, a wild and remote area of the Inyo Mountains, near Death Valley National Park and Owens Valley.

Centennial Mountains, ID

We filed suit against the Forest Service for approving Otis Gold’s **Kilgore Mine Exploration project in the Centennial range** of eastern Idaho.

The extensive 5-year project would disrupt grizzly bears and other wildlife, and could result in a massive open pit cyanide heap leach mine.



SAFEGUARDING WATER

Big Wood River, ID

We were granted final approval to our **settlement with the State of Idaho over ongoing Clean Water Act violations** from the abandoned Triumph Mine on the East Fork Big Wood River, near Sun Valley. Idaho agencies are now required to obtain a CWA permit, increase monitoring of toxic discharges to the river and wetlands, and begin treating those discharges.

Snake River, ID

We won a favorable decision from the Idaho Department of Water Resources **rejecting a decades-old application to appropriate all the water in Devil’s Corral Springs**, near Shoshone Falls on 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.

Coeur d’Alene River, ID

We reached an out-of-court **settlement with US Silver over ongoing Clean Water Act permit violations** at the Galena Mine in the Silver Valley of northern Idaho, under which US Silver promised to address its violations and pay for supplemental environmental projects.

Clearwater River, ID

We are **suing suction dredge miner Shannon Poe for illegally dredging** on Idaho’s South Fork Clearwater River. For years, Poe has dredged without a Clean Water Act permit, discharging significant sediment pollution and disrupting aquatic habitat.



PROMOTING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

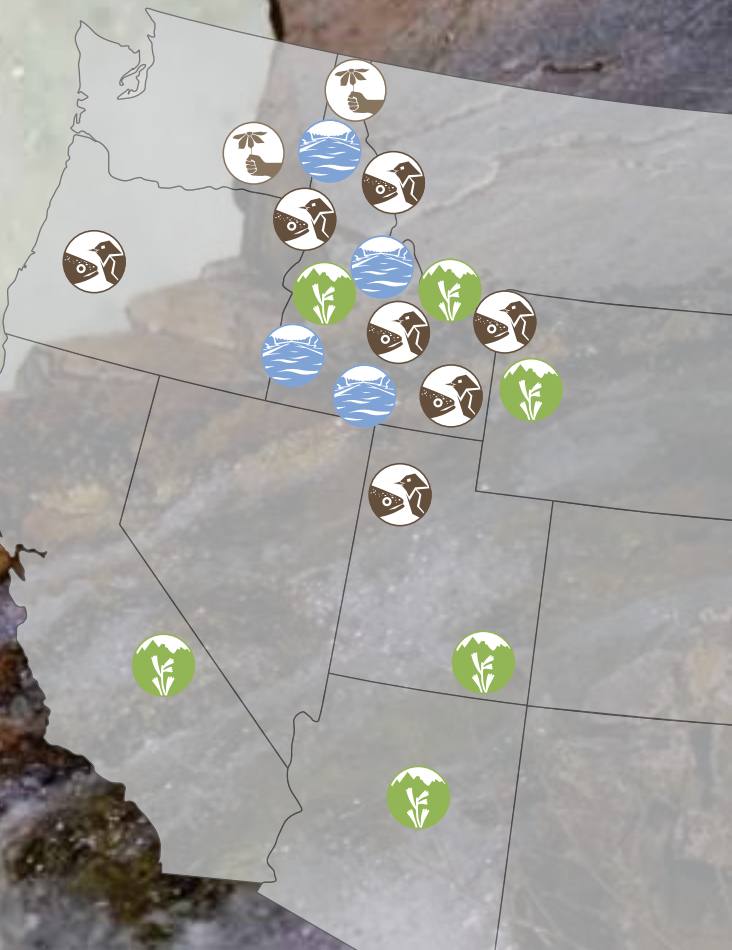
Lower Snake River Dams

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.

Motor Waste Wells

We settled a Safe Drinking Water Act case against the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), **requiring the closure and cleanup of 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.

For more information on these and other important cases, please visit: [AdvocatesWest.org/Cases](https://advocateswest.org/cases)



Steelhead jumping Dagger Falls, ID – Robert E. Barber/Alamy Photo

I'm back and happy to be here!

For some of you I am a familiar face. To those of you I haven't met yet, I hope to soon. I am a longtime supporter and friend of *Advocates for the West*. I am also a former employee and contractor, now returning in a new role as Deputy Director. I look forward to working alongside our staff and board to ensure we have the financial resources needed to keep winning for the West.

Much of my professional life has been spent in service to protecting our public lands, water and wildlife, including with Idaho Conservation League, League of Conservation Voters and as owner of Moran Consulting. With a Masters degree in Public Administration and emphasis on nonprofit management, the majority of my career has been spent in fund development and organizational management. I love to connect people with missions that inspire them and to build relationships that create deeper personal connection. I enjoy inviting financial and personal investments in work that matters.

This work blends beautifully with my personal life. Wild places are the places to which I have always been drawn. My appetite for wild was whet as a child on backpacking trips in the Sierra Nevadas with my family. I can still conjure the contentedness that the mountains and rivers instilled in me and I would try my best to make the feeling last as we headed back to life in the city.



These days I know right where to go to renew that feeling. I head to the Owyhee Canyonlands with my husband, Greg, and our bird dogs seeking the elusive chukar. I slip into 'river time' and while away the days on a wild river. I relax in my hammock admiring migratory birds as they pass through on their

ancient journey. Sometimes I simply admire an image of a place that *Advocates for the West* is protecting and the feeling is renewed.

Feel free to give me a holler. I'd love to tell you what *Advocates for the West* is up to and get to know you!

Warmly,

Aimee Moran
Deputy Director
amoran@advocateswest.org / 208.342.7024 x205



Advocates for the West is governed by an eleven-member volunteer board of directors, and it has been my honor to serve as Board Chair for the past three years.

For our quarterly meetings, Executive Director Laird Lucas prepares a detailed litigation memo. This is what I read first. Litigation, after all, is the heart of our mission. I am always in awe of what our talented and committed staff achieves. Allow me to take you on a brief tour of some of the wild places and wildlife that *Advocates for the West* protects.

In Utah, Bears Ears and Cedar Mesa. In Arizona, the Mogollan Rim. In California, the Point Reyes National Seashore and the California Desert Conservation Area. The Upper Willamette River and the Fremont-Winema National Forest in Oregon. The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, Hells Canyon and Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho.

Some litigation involves entire river systems, such as a Clean Water Act case against the EPA based on water temperatures lethal to salmon in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. And our case against oil and gas leases in sage-grouse critical habitat covers five states

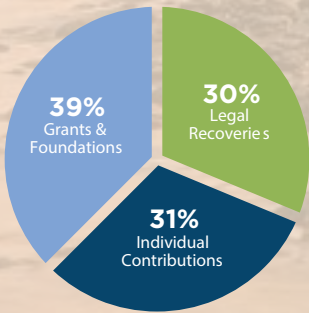
and millions of acres of public lands. Four cases involve mining operations that threaten entire watersheds. The wildlife lover in me is always pleased to see cases concerning bighorn sheep, Oregon spotted frogs, Snake River salmon and steelhead, sage-grouse, wolves, and bull trout.

I'm also impressed with the depth of *Advocates for the West's* roster of conservation organizations we represent in court. From American Bird Conservancy to Winter Wildlands Alliance, our partner list likely includes groups important to you and the wild places you value.

Advocates for the West strives to achieve the greatest and most lasting impact on our environment. And for the past 16 years, regardless of which major corporation or federal agency this team faces, *Advocates for the West* continues to win or favorably settle 85% of its cases.

As a supporter, you have helped *Advocates for the West* become a powerful voice throughout the West. Together, we can make 2019 another banner year of environmental success.

Linwood Laughy
Board Chair

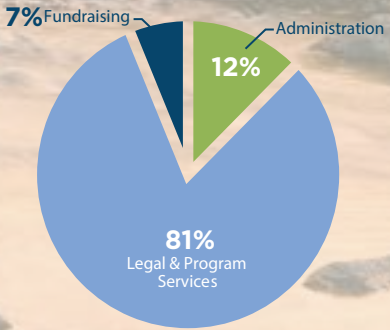


FINANCIALS
January - December 2018

Income	
Individual Contributions	\$ 478,017
Grants & Foundations	\$ 601,240
Legal Recoveries	\$ 462,270
Total Income*	\$1,541,527

Expenses	
Legal & Program Services	\$1,059,690
Fundraising	\$ 91,578
Administration	\$ 156,991
Total Expense*	\$1,308,259

*Unaudited financial results; subject to revision.



Brigier-Teton National Forest, WY - From the Agency/Alamy Photo

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Thank you to our supporters, who made generous donations and gave in-kind gifts in 2018. We could not accomplish our work without you!

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In Memoriam

The following ***Advocates for the West*** supporters passed on in 2018 and will be deeply missed. This list is complete to the best of our knowledge; we sincerely apologize for any oversights.

Gary Grimm
Gloria Osberg
John Petrovsky
Joyce Turley

Thousands of Ancestral Puebloan petroglyphs and pictographs, like the panel pictured here, are scattered throughout the area outside Bears Ears and Canyons of the Ancients National Monuments, which is being threatened by unfettered oil & gas leasing. – Photo by Josh Ewing, courtesy Friends of Cedar Mesa



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ADVOCATES for the WEST:

- *Defends the West's natural treasures and wildlife for the benefit of all – now, and into the future.*
- *Holds government accountable for its mandated duties to protect and preserve our environment.*
- *Takes on the toughest environmental issues, and we never back down. It's how the West is won.*

THANK YOU to all our supporters.

Your donations make it possible for ***Advocates for the West*** to keep winning for the West.