



ADVOCATES for the WEST

2019 Spring/Summer Case Notes





BATTLING TO PROTECT THE WEST

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

Advocates for the West is currently working on some of the biggest cases we have ever brought. These are busy days as we fight the Trump Administration's efforts to rollback environmental protections for our public lands, fish and wildlife.

Columbia and Snake Rivers

In May, we filed a brief before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, defending the decision we won in Seattle federal court last fall that ordered then-EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to obey the Clean Water Act (CWA) and issue a "temperature TMDL" (total maximum daily load, or a pollution budget) for the mainstem Columbia and lower Snake Rivers.

Federal dams and climate change are causing water temperatures to spike in the rivers, killing imperiled salmon and steelhead. But Trump's lawyers are arguing that federal

courts do not have authority to hold EPA to the commitment it made back in 2000 to identify remedies for these high temperatures, as required by the CWA. It looks like Trump's EPA wants to take this case all the way to the Supreme Court, so stay tuned.

Sage-Grouse Protections

In April, we filed a preliminary injunction motion in Idaho federal court seeking to block the Trump Administration from rolling back sage-grouse protections on 50 million acres of BLM lands across Idaho and six other states.

Orchestrated by former oil and gas lobbyist and new Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt, BLM adopted land use plan amendments this spring that we are targeting in this latest sage-grouse litigation. BLM falsely claims it is "improving" Obama era sage-grouse plans, when in fact it has eliminated or weakened protections, allowing

for extensive new oil and gas, coal and other development to fragment some of the best remaining sage-grouse habitat.

We submitted declarations from leading sage-grouse scientists Clait Braun and Jack Connelly, plus our own board member Amy Haak — a geographer and conservation biologist — detailing how the sage-grouse plan rollbacks threaten the bird's survival. A hearing is expected in July; if we prevail it will be a major setback for the Trump Administration.

Oil and Gas Development

We are fighting Trump's "energy dominance" agenda to open public lands to oil and gas development in several other major cases. We won a strong initial ruling last fall blocking Trump's Interior Department from reducing public involvement and environmental reviews in oil and gas leasing, which we are following up on through further motions this spring and

summer. We just filed another suit over BLM oil and gas leasing in the Bears Ears landscape of southern Utah, to protect that rich archeological area. And we continue working with Conservation Lands Foundation and many other client groups to bring new administrative appeals and court challenges to Trump Administration efforts to allow new industrial intrusions, mining, and energy development in our National Conservation Lands.

Idaho Water Quality

We remain deeply engaged with Idaho Conservation League and other clients to protect Idaho water quality and Idaho rivers and streams from new mining proposals and other threats, including suction dredge mining in the Clearwater and Salmon River drainages, and exploration in the Centennial Mountains — the "high divide" between Idaho and Montana.

Win for Idaho Wolves

In April, we won a strong ruling

from the 9th Circuit federal appeals court overturning Idaho District Judge Lodge's decision that wrongly dismissed our case challenging how Wildlife Services conducts wolf killing activities in Idaho.

Wildlife Services tries to operate in secrecy, and has expanded its Idaho wolf killing in recent years to include aerial gunning, supposedly to benefit elk and deer. There is little scientific support for these actions, which we raised in our lawsuit. But the district court held we could not pursue our claims, because Idaho would supposedly kill all the same wolves anyway.

Fortunately, the appeals court agreed with us that Idaho does not have an effective program for wolf control, and affirmed that Wildlife Services must fully disclose its actions under federal law.

Wildlife Services has now decided to prepare a full

Environmental Impact Statement over its Idaho wolf and other predator killing, as a result of our legal pressure.

Special thanks to our former staff attorney Talasi Brooks who handled this case!

Thanks to all of you — our friends and supporters — for helping us fight back against the Trump Administration's environmental rollbacks, and continue protecting our public lands, fish and wildlife.

Details on these and the many other cases we are handling with our client partners can be found at:
www.advocateswest.org/cases





“**WE ARE HITTING THE BLM HARD WITH LEGAL ACTIONS THAT EXPOSE THE UNLAWFUL NATURE OF THESE SALES AND DEMAND PROPER PROTECTIONS FOR THESE IRREPLACEABLE HERITAGE SITES.**”

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LEGAL BATTLE FOR NATION’S LARGEST UNPROTECTED ARCHEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

Sarah Stellberg, Staff Attorney (Boise, Idaho Office)

Advocates for the West is working across the West to stop oil and gas leasing on our most treasured public lands. Our latest battle was just launched in a remote and archaeologically significant corner of southeastern Utah, between Bears Ears and Canyons of the Ancients National Monuments.

This region is the densest archaeological area open to oil and gas leasing on public lands in the United States—dubbed the “last great frontier” for American archeology. Home to tens of thousands of archaeological sites, it holds history sacred to many Native American peoples, including the Hopi, Zuni, Ute, Navajo and Pueblos of New Mexico.

Under the Obama administration, requests by energy companies to lease this area were deferred pending additional planning to protect cultural resources. However, the Trump administration killed those smart planning efforts, and has initiated three oil and gas lease sales in the past year to auction off rights to frack and drill this landscape.

We are hitting the BLM hard with legal actions that expose the unlawful nature of these sales and demand proper protections for these irreplaceable heritage sites. In February 2019, we filed a lawsuit on behalf of Friends of Cedar Mesa, a Utah nonprofit organization, challenging the first of these three lease sales. The Southern Utah Wilderness

Alliance recently filed a parallel case, and together we’ll be working to get this lease sale overturned in federal court.

Advocates for the West has also assisted Friends of Cedar Mesa in filing protests with BLM challenging each sale in this region. This spring, our efforts delivered a small victory as BLM announced it would defer the March 2019 sale planned for this region. The fight is far from over, however. We’ll continue to monitor future lease sales and press the administration to close this remarkable landscape to oil and gas development.

Granary overlooking lease sale site – Josh Ewing/Friends of Cedar Mesa

Advocates for the West



CHALLENGING TRUMP ROLLBACKS ON PUBLIC LANDS

Todd Tucci, Senior Attorney (Boise, ID Office)

For over 16 years, *Advocates for the West* has been protecting western public lands and native wildlife. The Trump administration's obstructionist policies and "energy dominance" agenda have made our work more critical than ever, and we are staying busy fighting for the West.

Protecting Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments

We are continuing to advise our major client, Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF) on its D.C. federal court litigation challenging Trump's efforts to eliminate protections on nearly 2 million acres within Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments. This case asserts that the Antiquities Act grants presidents the authority to declare and designate a national monument, but does not allow Trump to remove such protections.

The Department of Justice, some western states, fossil fuel

companies, and other extractive industries have joined forces in an attempt to delay a court decision. Almost 17 months have passed since Trump issued his executive orders rescinding the prior monument designations, and the Department of Interior is preparing new land use plans for the areas removed from these national monuments, which will likely call for more oil and gas leasing, road construction, and industrial uses on these lands.

We are evaluating these developments with CLF and anticipate ramping up the litigation to reverse Trump's unlawful actions.

California Desert Conservation Lands

Advocates for the West is challenging a BLM proposal to allow gold mine exploration in critical Joshua Tree woodlands, which includes habitat for imperiled native plants and areas of critical environmental concern. If BLM moves forward with this project, we are ready and willing

to push this case as fast and far as needed to protect these unmatched natural resources.

Recently, BLM issued a second proposal to allow for lithium mine exploration in this same region, and we are preparing our opposition. These lands were designated for conservation purposes, and we will fight to protect the integrity of the area.

Protecting Desert Tortoise Habitat and Recreational Lands

We are fighting a proposal to construct a road through the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area and Mojave Desert Tortoise Reserve. In 2017, we defeated Washington County's efforts to punch a highway through the NCA.

This defeat did not dissuade Washington County and others from taking another run at it — and this time they may have found an advocate in Secretary Bernhardt's BLM.

The County and BLM are poised to announce a plan to permit the construction of the North Corridor highway, but we are prepared to challenge and put this project to rest once and for all.

Training the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

As part of *Advocates for the West's* work with CLF and its 70+ "Friends" groups, we have developed a series of advocacy and education trainings designed to arm our partners with legal knowledge and skills. We have presented nearly 20 courses to hundreds of staff and board members, including topics covering our bedrock environmental laws and how to engage in agency decision-making.

Protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands

Advocates for the West is suing once again over livestock grazing in the Owyhee Canyonlands in southwestern Idaho. We have been fighting

to protect this landscape and its riparian and sage-grouse habitat for over 20 years.

As a result of our prior litigation, BLM finally acknowledged that livestock grazing is harming sage-grouse habitat and populations across this vast desert landscape. However, the Department of Interior is refusing to act, and recently permitted status quo grazing in the Battle Creek, East Castle Creek and Owens allotments.

This case is currently on administrative appeal, and we anticipate bringing federal court litigation soon. *Advocates for the West* remains committed to this high desert landscape, and holding BLM accountable for its mismanagement of our natural heritage.

Conservation Lands Foundation, Conserve Southwest Utah, Friends of the Inyo, Western Watersheds Project

Partners



“THESE LANDS WERE DESIGNATED FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES, AND WE WILL FIGHT TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE AREA.”



Upper Willamette River Salmon and Steelhead

This spring, *Advocates for the West* sought an emergency injunction to force the Army Corps of Engineers to change its operations of thirteen dams in the Upper Willamette River to protect threatened spring Chinook and winter steelhead—the only two native runs of salmonids in this major watershed in Western Oregon.

Our request follows up on an initial victory we scored in this litigation last year. Shortly after filing the lawsuit, the Corps agreed with us that the agency must reinstate consultation under the Endangered Species Act. This will require the agency and the National Marine Fisheries Service to complete a new plan that ensures the dam operations allow these species to survive and recover. Because this new plan will take several years to finish and implement, we are continuing our lawsuit to ensure these species are not driven to extinction in the interim.

SEEKING EMERGENCY RELIEF TO PROTECT IMPERILED SPECIES IN OREGON

Lizzie Potter, Staff Attorney & Laurie Rule, Senior Attorney (Portland, OR office)

To protect these fish in the coming years, the Corps must make major and immediate improvements to juvenile fish passage and water quality conditions. According to expert scientists, the agency can do so by releasing water and lowering deep reservoirs in ways that prioritize fish needs above other dam purposes like power production. We have asked a federal court in Portland to order the Corps to implement these and other interim measures this year.

Our lawsuit is increasing public awareness of the plight of these genetically unique but highly imperiled salmon, which have historically not received the public and political attention they deserve. This spring, American Rivers identified the Upper Willamette River as number five of the top ten most endangered rivers in the country due to the impacts of the Corps' dam operations on fish and water quality.

Oregon's congressional delegation is also paying attention

now, and just convened a "State of the Willamette River" workshop focused on these conflicts. Diverse stakeholders are rallying together and supporting the solutions that we seek through our lawsuit. We are encouraged to see momentum building to restore wild salmon runs through the heart of Portland.

Advocates for the West will keep the pressure on the Corps in the courtroom and ensure that the agency does not shirk its responsibility to these highly imperiled species and the communities who rely on salmonids for subsistence, recreational, spiritual, and economic purposes.

Oregon Spotted Frog and Sensitive Fens and Plants

Along with the Willamette injunction, our Oregon office has been busy with a second emergency injunction motion to continue our longstanding efforts to protect extraordinary biodiversity from cattle grazing on the Antelope Allotment in south central Oregon's Fremont-

Winema National Forest.

This area supports a genetically important population of Oregon spotted frog and the highest concentrations of fens—a unique wetland that houses sensitive plants and mollusks—on Forest Service lands in the Pacific Northwest. Local residents, scientists, conservation groups, and recreationists treasure this area and its rare ecological characteristics, and have fought for its protection for more than a decade.

Advocates for the West has won two prior rounds of litigation over this area, and most recently secured an injunction that stopped cattle grazing in key areas during 2017 and 2018. Nevertheless, the Forest Service has refused to solve the long-standing conflicts here, and recently approved new decisions that dramatically increase the number of sensitive riparian areas and habitat that are open to grazing.

We are asking the federal court to block these new grazing plans

and maintain the ecological integrity of the sensitive habitats from grazing damage, based on the extensive science—which the Forest Service disregarded, in violation of bedrock environmental laws.

We will continue fighting on behalf of our coalition of conservation partners, and hope this round of litigation secures a long-term solution that prevents cattle grazing from destroying these unique ecological resources.



A CALL TO ACTION ON SALMON AND DAMS

Doug DeRoy, Wild Fish Advocate (Portland, OR Office)

This April during the Andrus Center for Public Policy's forum on salmon and dams in Boise, Idaho Republican Congressman Mike Simpson made a bold and clear statement: "You cannot address the salmon issue without addressing dams."

He described his experience witnessing a lone female salmon attempt to spawn in Idaho's Stanley Basin at Marsh Creek, 900 miles from the ocean, and revealed that over the last couple of years he's been asking stakeholders around the region one simple question: "What if?"

"We should not manage just to keep these salmon off the extinction list; we should manage them to bring back a healthy, sustainable population in Idaho," Simpson said. He acknowledged that while salmon recovery efforts in the Columbia/Snake River Basin

have probably kept Idaho's salmon from going extinct, all of Idaho's salmon runs are either threatened or endangered, and they are trending down, not up.

Simpson also spotlighted the shared fate of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead. "You cannot address the salmon issue without addressing the challenges the BPA has. They are interwoven."

BPA is unable to sell power at competitive market rates, largely because of the fish and wildlife mitigation expenses that it must recover under the Northwest Power Act, which requires BPA to balance the Northwest's environment and energy needs through a regional power plan and fish and wildlife program. If BPA fails to bring its prices down, it risks losing many of its customers when their long-

term contracts expire in 2028.

"The BPA is operating under regulatory regimes set up in the 1980s," Simpson said. "It worked well in the 1980s and I am not being critical of it," he said, "But it's nearly 40 years old." Simpson thinks it's time for a Northwest Power Act 2.0 to address the region's salmon crisis and power challenges.

"I'm getting tired of Idaho paying the costs of those dams and getting none of the benefits," he said, explaining that Idaho receives only 6% of all the power being produced by the BPA, but it sends 487,000 acre feet of water downriver, "and most of all, we are not getting salmon back in Idaho."

While Simpson admitted he does not have any official proposals ironed out, he previewed some of his outside-the-box ideas, including securing the grain

shippers their own rail line to transport wheat west in lieu of barging. Industry representatives were open to at least considering that in the panel discussions following Simpson's speech.

"We need to stop thinking about what currently exists and ask ourselves what do we want the Northwest to look like in 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years," Simpson said. Simpson, 68 years old, is leaning in with the goal of seeing Idaho's salmon and steelhead runs recovered in his lifetime.

For over a decade, *Advocates for the West* has been fighting to protect the Pacific Northwest's wild salmon and steelhead and their spawning habitat. As their populations continue to plummet, we are broadening our scope of work to challenge more of these threats.

We recently filed our brief opposing EPA's appeal of our

"YOU CANNOT ADDRESS THE SALMON ISSUE WITHOUT ADDRESSING DAMS."

—IDAHO CONGRESSMAN MIKE SIMPSON

win last fall ordering the agency to comply with the Clean Water Act and address high water temperatures that kill salmon and steelhead migrating in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Climate change is causing longer stretches of unusually hot days, resulting in abnormally high water temperatures in the reservoirs behind the rivers' dams. We are keeping pressure on the EPA to fully consider the impacts this hot water has on our wild fish, and to act swiftly to address the problem.

This is just one of many tactics *Advocates for the West* is taking to help bring our wild salmon and steelhead populations back from the brink of extinction. We are encouraged to know that Idaho politicians like Simpson are finally taking this critical issue to heart, and we hope many other key players will now join the fight to save our wild fish.

Columbia Riverkeeper, Idaho Rivers United, Institute for Fisheries Resources, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations, Snake River Waterkeeper

Partners



FIGHTING TO KEEP GOLD MINING OUT OF THE CENTENNIAL MOUNTAINS

Bryan Hurlbutt, Staff Attorney (Boise, Idaho Office)



About 60 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail run through the Centennial Mountains, which form the boundary between Idaho and southwest Montana. The range is home to an abundance of wildlife — moose, elk, deer, wolverines, badgers, black bears, mountain goats, lynx, wolves, grizzly bears, and a wide variety of birds.

The Centennials are recognized as a critical corridor for wildlife movement, connecting the Yellowstone Ecosystem with the rest of the northern Rocky Mountains in Idaho and Montana. Unlike most ranges in the Rockies, the Centennials trend east to west, creating a natural high-elevation bridge out from Yellowstone. Without this bridge, populations of “threatened” species, like grizzlies, will be isolated, hindering their chances of recovery and making them more susceptible to extinction.

This is where a mining company, Canada-based Otis Gold,

hopes to build an open-pit, cyanide heap leach gold mine.

Otis Gold has conducted limited drilling at the Kilgore project site in the Centennials since 2010. Now, the company wants to significantly expand its mine exploration onto public land in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

In 2018, the Forest Service approved Otis Gold’s expanded drilling plan. As approved, Otis Gold will clear forest to construct around ten miles of roads, including on steep and unstable slopes and near streams. Otis will also bulldoze 140 drill sites and conduct 24-7 drilling deep underground from July through November for the next five years.

The Kilgore project site is west of Island Park, in a forested area dissected by numerous streams that flow into West Camas Creek and Beaver Creek, and eventually into the Camas National Wildlife Refuge. Yellowstone cutthroat trout and Columbia spotted frog inhabit streams and wetlands

at the site, but the Forest Service failed to adequately protect these sensitive species from Otis Gold’s intensive exploration activities.

The Forest Service also failed to protect grizzlies and their habitat. The healthy stands of whitebark pine at the Kilgore site are suitable habitat for grizzly bears. As grizzly populations in Yellowstone increase and expand their range, the nearby Kilgore project area can support these bears, as well as bears travelling to other areas. But the Forest Service ignored the latest science on grizzly bear recovery and improperly downplayed the significance of the area to the species.

Last fall, *Advocates for the West* filed suit against the Forest Service for approving Otis Gold’s expanded exploration plan, and in May

we filed our opening brief along with numerous declarations from experts in strong opposition to Otis’s plan. We are asking the court to halt this poorly planned project and send the Forest Service back to the drawing board to fully evaluate the Kilgore project’s impacts, monitor its water quality impacts, and add important protections for forests and wildlife.



Grizzly Bear – NaturesMoments/Shutterstock



PROTECTING THE CENTENNIALS FROM GRAZING THREATS

Garrison Todd, Legal Fellow (Boise, Idaho Office)

In February 2019, *Advocates for the West* filed our latest federal case challenging domestic sheep grazing by the USDA Sheep Experiment Station, located near Dubois, Idaho.

The Sheep Station uses federal taxpayer funding to conduct “research” for the domestic sheep industry, but for years the federal government has tried to shut it down because of its high cost to taxpayers, lack of substantial research value, and the threat it poses to wildlife.

This lawsuit is our latest effort to protect bighorn sheep and other sensitive species that utilize the Centennial Mountains, and I am proud to be a part of this critical work during my fellowship with *Advocates for the West*.

Much of the Sheep Station’s grazing land is located in and around the Centennial Mountains — an ecologically important corridor near Yellowstone National Park. The mountains connect Yellowstone to large wilderness and roadless

areas in Idaho and Montana and provide important habitat for many sensitive and imperiled wildlife species, including Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, grizzly bears, and greater sage-grouse. Domestic sheep grazing can cause serious impacts to each of these species.

Bighorn Sheep

Domestic sheep carry pathogens that, upon contact with even a single bighorn sheep, trigger massive die-offs in bighorn herds. Bighorn and domestic sheep frequently roam miles away from their herds and actively seek each other out. *Advocates for the West* has won numerous cases requiring land managers to carefully assess the risk to nearby bighorn herds before approving domestic sheep grazing. The Sheep Station, however, ignored the existence of a small bighorn herd less than a mile from their grazing allotment and dismissed these longstanding precedents.

Their actions threaten this small herd and numerous other bighorn herds in the area.

Greater Yellowstone Grizzly Bears

The Sheep Station’s grazing lands occupy prime habitat in the Centennial Mountains, including a migration corridor that is crucial for grizzly bears to mix and maintain genetic diversity. The allotments pose an obstacle that could result in grizzlies becoming habituated to eating sheep, avoiding the area, and even being poached by herders. Yet, without any proof, the Sheep Station claims that keeping a careful eye on their sheep, discouraging herders from contact with grizzlies, and other “best practices,” will ensure grizzly bears can pass through the area unharmed. But the station has a history of allowing sheep to wander, even under close supervision. Grizzly poaching has occurred on their allotments before, and given the area’s increasing grizzly population the risk of poaching is even greater.

Greater Sage-Grouse

Sheep Station practices also threaten greater sage-grouse, a species *Advocates for the West* has worked to protect since our inception. Even though Sheep Station grazing lands include habitat identified by state and federal agencies as important to sage-grouse survival, it grazes sheep in leks, nesting areas, and early brood-rearing areas during the lekking, nesting, and brooding seasons; threatening these fragile animals at their most vulnerable times. The station has also installed numerous fences near lek sites, and habitat fragmentation is a leading factor in sage-grouse population declines.

And if all of these failures were not enough, the Sheep Station also exaggerated the harm that changing any of their current practices would cause and removed environmental protections from their plans without any public comment after the analysis was finalized. We will be moving this latest Sheep Station case forward quickly in coming months.

STAFF & BOARD NEWS

Welcome to the Team

Madeline D’Onfro Operations Manager



Madeline joined our team in April and serves as Operations Manager. She received her B.A. in Business Administration and Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh before coming to Idaho through an AmeriCorps affiliate program in 2014. She stayed in Boise after her year of service and worked at two local nonprofits, the Women’s and Children’s Alliance and, later, CATCH (Charitable Assistance to Community’s Homeless).

Madeline believes in a future where every individual can thrive and plans to continue working toward that vision. She loves connecting through storytelling, leaning into work that betters our communities, and helping organizations function as effectively as possible. Outside of work, Madeline enjoys hiking, biking, and hot springing throughout Idaho.

Amanda Rogerson Staff Attorney



Amanda Rogerson joins us in our Boise office after four years working as an attorney with the Nez Perce Tribe.

Amanda grew up on the far Northern California coast, where the fog is thick and the trees are tall. After high school, she set off for the Palouse where she received a B.A. in Politics from Whitman College, in Walla Walla, WA. Thereafter, she worked for a small newspaper, earned an M.A. in Global Politics and Intercultural Studies from the University of Wales, and completed a year of Americorps in Louisville, KY, where she found her cat, Bella.

Her abiding interest in public land and its management eventually led her to law school at the University of Oregon where she focused her studies on natural resource and Indian law, and was an editor of the Oregon Law Review. She also was a law clerk with various non-profits and state and federal courts.

After law school, Amanda headed to Alaska where she clerked for Chief Judge

Mannheimer on the Alaska Court of Appeals and found her husband, Miles. The opportunity to represent the Nez Perce Tribe as a staff attorney brought her to Idaho, where she worked to protect tribal land, natural resources, and rights.

We are excited to welcome Amanda as a Staff Attorney in our Boise office!

Kevin Cullen Boise Summer Clerk



Kevin is entering his third year at New York University School of Law, where he is a Managing Editor of the NYU Environmental Law Journal. During his first two years, he served as a legal intern with the Natural Resources Defense Council and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Prior to law school, Kevin worked for an environmental remediation firm in New York City, and as an AmeriCorps volunteer with a community legal services group in East Palo Alto, CA. He holds a B.A. in geology from Rutgers University. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys hiking, cooking,

and playing the upright bass.

Nadège Montagnon Boise Summer Clerk



Nadège grew up in the southeast part of France, not far away from the Alps and Switzerland. She spent the majority of her childhood outside, exploring, hiking and riding her bike.

She is admitted to the Paris bar and moved to America a few years ago where she earned her LL.M. in Environmental Law at the University of Denver. While in Denver, she interned with Defenders of Wildlife and helped draft a petition to list the Giant Manta Ray under the E.S.A. (finally listed in 2018!). She was also part of the Environmental Law Clinic focusing on hydraulic fracturing legal issues. She is entering her second year at University of Idaho College of Law. This summer Nadège joins us as a Summer Law Clerk in our Boise office.

One of Nadège’s favorite things in life is hiking and discovering new remote places with her husband and their dog Marshall.

Hannah Clements Portland Summer Clerk



Hannah grew up in the Pacific Northwest and received her B.A. in Biology from Lewis & Clark College. She is entering her third year at Lewis & Clark Law School pursuing a certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. For the past two years she has been involved with the Northwest Environmental Defense Center, first as a student board member and volunteer, and then as the law clerk. She is also a member of Lewis & Clark’s Environmental Law journal and the upcoming editor of its Ninth Circuit Review. This year she was selected as a Wyss Scholar, recognizing her commitment to conservation issues affecting the West.

Prior to law school she conducted research on urban forest restoration in Portland, worked as a research assistant studying plant-pollinator interactions in the Colorado mountains, and hiked the John Muir Trail. Hannah spends her free time exploring new trails with her dog, riding her bike,

and running a small business selling her handmade jewelry.

Farewells

Annie Berglund



Since 2017, Annie served as our Operations Manager. In that role she kept our operations tightly in order and took great care of our team. She is now pursuing her Masters of Counseling Degree at Idaho State University in order to fulfill her career goal of becoming a mental health professional. Best to you, Annie!

Talasi Brooks



We are thankful for the five years that Talasi spent with *Advocates for the West* as a Staff Attorney. Prior to joining our team, Talasi graduated from the University of Montana School of Law and then clerked on the Montana Supreme Court. Talasi is now an attorney

with Western Watersheds Project (WWP), our longtime client and ally. We will continue working closely with Talasi on cases she spearheaded in recent years, particularly fighting rogue agency Wildlife Services over its Idaho wildlife killing operations. Congratulations to Talasi on her new position with WWP!

ADVOCATES FOR THE WEST

STAFF - Boise, ID Headquarters

Anna Demetriades
Director of Communications & Outreach

Madeline D’Onfro
Operations Manager

Bryan Hurlbutt
Staff Attorney

Laird J. Lucas
Executive Director

Aimee Moran
Deputy Director

Amanda Rogerson
Staff Attorney

Sarah Stellberg
Staff Attorney

Garrison Todd
Legal Fellow

Todd Tucci
Senior Attorney

Portland, OR Office

Doug DeRoy
Wild Fish Advocate

Lizzy Potter
Staff Attorney

Laurie Rule
Senior Attorney

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ADVOCATES for the **WEST** PO Box 1612 | Boise, ID 83701 | info@advocateswest.org | 208.342.7024

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