



ADVOCATES
for the WEST

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

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

Dear Friends,

With 2020 and the Trump Administration now officially behind us, we at *Advocates for the West* are breathing a deep sigh of relief. It was a year, and a presidency, the likes of which we hope never to experience again.



But through it all, you stood by us. Thanks to the generosity of our conservation community, *Advocates for the West* weathered the storm of a century with solid financial footing and a show of unwavering enthusiasm for our work. In fact, as you will see within the pages of this Annual Report, our base of support has never been stronger! We are deeply grateful to each and every one of you for ensuring the continued success of our organization in the face of a global pandemic, fighting the most environmentally regressive and socially unjust administration our nation has ever seen, and major organizational shifts as we all adjusted to full-time remote work.

Despite these uncertainties, our staff worked hard and never missed a beat. We provided about 15,000 hours of legal assistance and representation to over three dozen client and partner groups — worth well over \$5 million at our market rates. And we used that time well. We won strong victories while laying the groundwork for many more in the coming months and years as we fight to reverse Trump rollbacks through the courts and, hopefully, in better relationships with the Biden Administration.

2021 will have its challenges, too. The pandemic is not over, and its economic impacts have not been fully felt. The Trump mob may not be finished protesting. And no doubt there will be challenges in holding the Biden Administration to its promises on public lands and environmental issues. But *Advocates for the West* will continue to work as hard in 2021 as we did last year, as we take on these and other challenges.

As we look ahead to a new era under the Biden Administration, we are excited for the future of our work. President Biden and Vice President Harris's inauguration ceremony was an energizing call to action. We are celebrating the shattering of many past barriers — the first woman and first person of African American/Asian descent in the White House, the first Native American nominated to a cabinet position as head of the Department of Interior, the confirmation of our first openly gay cabinet member, and many other monumental firsts. Biden is demonstrating how he intends to put into action a powerful word he used many times in his acceptance speech — Unity. And we are ready to unify.

To quote the poem *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman, the 22-year-old poet laureate whose words were a healing balm on Inauguration Day, “Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true: That even as we grieved, we grew. That even as we hurt, we hoped. That even as we tired, we tried. That we’ll forever be tied together, victorious. Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.”

With gratitude,

Laird J. Lucas
Executive Director

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CHALLENGING OIL AND GAS
DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS

**Sage-Grouse Habitat Oil & Gas Leasing
(WY, UT, NV, CO, MT):**

We won a strong victory opposing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) efforts to open priority sage-grouse habitats to oil and gas development, finding that Trump’s BLM unlawfully excluded public involvement and environmental reviews. The decision reversed over 650 oil and gas leases issued in 2018 affecting over a million acres of key sage-grouse habitats.

**Sage-Grouse Plan Rollbacks
(ID, NV, OR, WY, MT, UT, CO):**

Following a 2019 win blocking sage-grouse protection rollbacks in favor of industry development, we continue to challenge Trump BLM and Forest Service attempts to weaken land management protections for greater sage-grouse across 67 million acres of the Interior West.

Path of the Pronghorn (WY):

We are challenging BLM’s plans to allow 3,500 new gas wells in southwestern Wyoming. The massive frack-field expansion could block the ancient Path of the Pronghorn, one of North America’s last remaining long-distance land migrations, and destroy critical sage-grouse habitat.

Bears Ears Oil & Gas Leases (UT):

We continue to work with the Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF) and local groups on litigation and advocacy to protect Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, including blocking BLM from pursuing oil and gas leases just outside Bears Ears.

Little Colorado River Basin Fracking (AZ):

Our lawsuit forced the Trump Administration to suspend 4,200 acres of oil and gas leases on public land in Arizona’s Little Colorado River Valley until BLM completes reviews required under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act and National Historical Preservation Act.

Western Slope, Uncompahgre Field Office (CO):

We filed suit to challenge BLM’s new land use plan for the Uncompahgre Field Office, where the Trump Administration blocked grassroots efforts to protect local communities and numerous special places and instead allowed oil and gas development throughout virtually the entire planning area.



PROTECTING FISH AND RIVERS IN
THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Willamette River Salmon & Steelhead (OR):

We won a strong victory for Upper Willamette River wild spring Chinook salmon and winter steelhead when the court ruled that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by failing to take necessary steps to ensure the survival and recovery of these iconic fish.

**Columbia and Snake River Salmon & Steelhead
(WA, OR, ID):**

We forced the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a plan addressing the impacts of dams causing hot water temperatures in the Columbia and lower Snake Rivers that are lethal to salmon and steelhead.

Hells Canyon Complex Water Quality (ID, OR):

Advocates for the West is representing the Nez Perce Tribe in a Clean Water Act (CWA) challenge to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s approval of Idaho Power Company’s Hells Canyon Complex Hydroelectric Project. Located within the Tribe’s aboriginal homeland, the Hells Canyon dams block salmon migration and increase mercury and other pollutants within the Snake River that threaten fish and humans alike.

**Suction Dredge Mining on the
Clearwater River (ID):**

We are suing suction dredge miner Shannon Poe for violating the CWA by refusing to get a permit for his suction dredge mining activities on the South Fork Clearwater River. His activities discharge turbid wastewater to the river, disrupting the streambed and salmon spawning habitat.

Sawtooth Diversion Dams (ID):

We are defending an irrigator group’s appeal of our 2019 victory ordering the Forest Service to conduct ESA consultation over two dozen outdated irrigation diversions in the Sawtooth Valley, which block salmon and steelhead migration and reduce their reproductive success.

Bonneville Power Administration (ID, OR, WA):

We filed suit under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to compel the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to release records vital to public participation in BPA’s current decision-making processes involving the Federal Columbia River Power System, and have intervened in BPA’s latest ratemaking to focus on the high costs and lack of benefits provided by the lower Snake River dams.

Midas Gold Clean Water Act Violations (ID):

We represent the Nez Perce Tribe in an ongoing CWA suit against Canadian mining company Midas Gold Corporation and its Idaho subsidiaries, for illegally discharging harmful pollutants into the South Fork Salmon River watershed at the Stibnite Gold Project site.

Stibnite Gold Project (ID):

We are working with the Nez Perce Tribe and conservation groups opposing the Forest Service’s approval of Midas Gold’s proposed Stibnite Gold Project, which would entail decades of mining in the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon River and leave a permanent legacy of tailings ponds and toxic mining wastes on the edge of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.



PROTECTING ICONIC WILDLIFE

Rio Grande Bighorn Sheep (CO):

As part of our decade-long campaign to protect Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from fatal diseases spread by domestic sheep grazing on public lands, we are pursuing legal action to protect four herds of bighorn sheep that occupy habitat in close proximity to the Wishbone allotment in Colorado’s Rio Grande National Forest.

Okanogan-Wenatchee Bighorn Sheep (WA):

We filed suit against the Forest Service over conflicts between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Despite recognizing that a new NEPA analysis is needed, the agency has failed to do so and continues to authorize grazing on the allotments.

**Sheep Experiment Station, Centennial
Mountains (ID):**

We continue our fight against the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Sheep Experiment Station for reauthorizing domestic sheep grazing in and around the Centennial Mountains in spite of numerous documented threats to bighorn sheep, grizzly bears, sage-grouse, and other wildlife species.

Wolves, Coyotes & Other Predators (ID):

We reached a settlement agreement prohibiting Wildlife Services from conducting wolf killing in Idaho wilderness areas and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, and banning use of M-44 cyanide bombs in Idaho while it conducts a full environmental review. We are now challenging Wildlife Services’ reliance on badly outdated studies to authorize continued predator killing in Idaho.

For more information on these and other important cases, please visit:
AdvocatesWest.org/Cases

Colville Wolves (WA):

We filed suit over the Forest Service’s failure to protect gray wolves in the Colville National Forest, where livestock ranching activities have incited conflict. The agency’s negligence has resulted in the deaths of 26 wolves since 2012, including the destruction of the Profanity Peak Pack and the Old Profanity Territory Pack.

Oregon Spotted Frog (OR):

We filed our fourth round of litigation seeking to protect Oregon spotted frogs and their sensitive fen habitats on the Fremont-Winema National Forest, home to a highly imperiled population of Oregon spotted frog and rare native plants.



DEFENDING SPECIAL PLACES

Bears Ears & Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments (UT):

We are assisting in the pending D.C. federal court litigation challenging Trump’s December 2017 proclamations to reduce the National Monuments, and helping develop challenges to BLM management plans for the areas, which would further open them to mining, roads, livestock grazing, and other threats.

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (UT):

We are opposing plans to construct a new highway through the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area and endangered Mojave desert tortoise habitat. BLM intends to approve the project, despite the fact that some of the lands are protected by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (AZ):

We filed suit over BLM’s new management plan for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, which Congress designated to protect the high-value riparian habitats along the San Pedro River in Arizona. BLM plans to open all the protected lands to extensive livestock grazing, threatening critical habitat for imperiled species including: ocelot, jaguar, southwestern willow flycatcher, desert pupfish, Gila topminnow, western yellow-billed cuckoo, and the northern Mexican gartersnake.

Bar X, Mogollon Rim (AZ):

We filed our second case against the Forest Service over its attempts to allow heavy cattle grazing in important habitat below the Mogollon Rim. In 1979, the Tonto National Forest closed much of the Bar X allotment due to severe overgrazing, but now the agency is approving new grazing without showing that the habitat has fully recovered.

Boise Urban Warfare Training (ID):

We won a court ruling that the Air Force failed to adequately analyze noise and other impacts of its proposal to conduct urban warfare training in Boise and other southern Idaho cities.

Point Reyes National Seashore (CA):

We continue to monitor the Park Service’s efforts to finalize a management plan that will perpetuate and expand commercial livestock and dairy operations at Point Reyes National Seashore, despite the harms to tule elk and other wildlife, and severe water quality impacts from livestock wastes. Our prior victory requires the

Park Service to issue a plan that protects the natural and wildlife values of the National Seashore, which this new management plan fails to do.

Duck Creek (UT):

We are challenging the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) decision allowing ecologically destructive livestock grazing on the Duck Creek allotment in Utah, which historically provided vital habitat for many iconic wildlife species including greater sage-grouse.

Kilgore Mine in Centennial Mountains (ID):

Our successful litigation halted the Kilgore Mine gold exploration project in the Centennial Mountains. The Caribou-Targhee National Forest failed to evaluate potential impacts to ground water and surface water from the Kilgore Project, which proposes to construct new roads and drill dozens of bore holes in the “High Divide” linking Yellowstone National Park to wilderness and roadless areas vital to migrating grizzly bears and other sensitive species.

Fairfield Winter Travel Plan (ID):

We are helping defend a winter travel plan for the Fairfield Ranger District on the Sawtooth National Forest, which closed a portion of the area to protect winter habitat for mountain goats, wolverines, and lynx. We are defending the closures against challenges by snowmobile interests.





On behalf of our staff and board of directors, it is my pleasure to thank each and every one of you for helping *Advocates for the West* head into 2021 stronger than any of us could have imagined.

We are grateful to you for standing side-by-side with us in 2020 despite enormous challenges and widespread uncertainty. Early in the year, when the world began responding to the pandemic, we prepared for downturns in our funding. I am heartened to share that not only did those downturns not transpire, in fact we ended 2020 with more conservation advocates (you!) standing with us than ever before, and financial support stronger than ever. We enter 2021 fortified and energized to wage the many conservation battles before us.

You recognize the critical role we play in the fight to protect the West’s public lands, waterways, and wildlife,

and your commitment allows us to meet growing demand for our services. Thanks to you, we are building an organization for the future by adding two new attorneys to our team in 2021, increasing leadership capacity at all levels, expanding the structure and work of our board of directors, engaging new audiences in our efforts, and in our commitment to being an equitable and just organization.

Our work would not be possible without each of you. As always, please be in touch if you have questions or feedback. It is a pleasure to hear from you. Thank you!

Warmly,

Aimee Moran, Deputy Director
amoran@advocateswest.org



When I wrote to you at this time last year, no one could have envisioned what lay ahead. 2020 was a year of unprecedented crisis and challenge for all of us. *Advocates for the West* is weathering the storm thanks to its staff, board, supporters, partners, and friends, and has emerged even stronger than before.

Despite the adversity of the global pandemic and divisive political landscape, we continue to excel at our mission of winning for the West and protecting the special places and wildlife that we cherish. I am so proud of our resiliency and determination to face the obstacles of 2020 with a passionate and determined, yet flexible, spirit.

Building on our strengths and looking toward our future, we are in the process of completing an exciting new strategic plan. This plan helps us frame our future as we

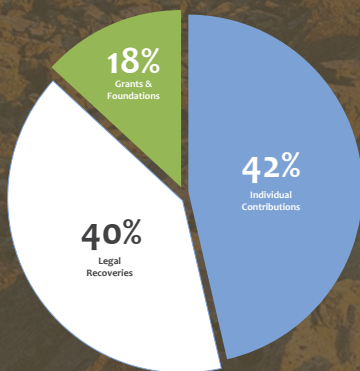
ask ourselves: “How do we recruit and retain people who are passionate about our mission?”, “How do we remain nimble in addressing both disruptions and opportunities?”, “How do we achieve the best results on the ground through collaboration with our partners and clients?” I am excited to share our new strategic plan with you in the coming year, which will address these and other critical questions as we chart our course forward.

Thank you for your very generous support of our important work. Be well.

Deborah Ferguson, Board Chair

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FINANCIALS

January 2020 - December 2020

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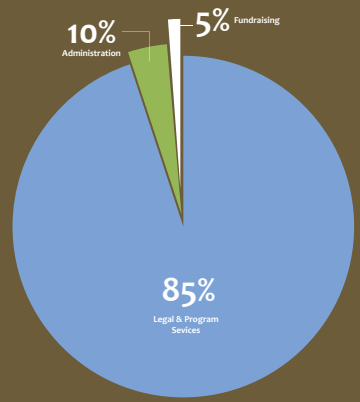
Individual Contributions	\$ 807,254.15
Grants & Foundations	\$ 344,500.00
Legal Recoveries	\$ 775,890.16
Other	\$ 3,270.90

***Total Income \$1,930,915.21**

Expense

Legal & Program Services	\$ 1,341,373.68
Fundraising	\$ 83,835.86
Administration	\$ 156,599.05

***Total Expense \$1,581,808.59**



*Unaudited financial results; subject to revision.

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The following is a complete list of donors, foundations, businesses and clients who made financial and in-kind contributions to *Advocates for the West* in 2020. We value each of our supporters equally, and therefore list all our donors in alphabetical order rather than in order of gift amount. Thank you for your generosity! We could not accomplish our work without you at our side.

*Names marked with an asterisk are members of the Sage Society – our monthly giving club. Find out more at: AdvocatesWest.org/Sage-Society

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In Memoriam

The following members of our conservation community passed on in 2020 and will be deeply missed. This list is complete to the best of our knowledge; we sincerely apologize for any oversights.

Kyle Christensen
Anne Flickinger
Connie Harvey
Merine Heberger

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The following supporters gave generously of their time and expertise in 2020, helping *Advocates for the West* achieve success on the ground and in the courts. Thank you!

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Advocates for the West thanks our 2020 law clerks and interns, who contributed their time and talent to our casework. We wish them success in their pursuits!

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Special thanks to our guest artist, Peter Lovera, whose photography is featured within the pages of this annual report. Peter is a freelance photographer living in Boise, ID. Born in Ica Peru, Peter aims to capture the intrinsic nature of our connectivity through the ecosystems that sustain us. In 2015 he spent the year as the Idaho Conservation League Artist in Resident. A bartender by trade now, he is shifting to print sales as a primary freelance self-employment. All print sales handled through Instagram, www.instagram.com/loveralobo