



ADVOCATES FOR THE WEST

2022
ANNUAL REPORT

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



Taelyn Baiza Artwork

Dear Friends,

As I write, winter has set in across the West. The tranquility this time of year offers time to reflect—not just on the last year, but the journey of *Advocates for the West* as we celebrate our 20th anniversary.



I came to Idaho in 1993 to serve as the Idaho state director for the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies. Ten years later, I launched *Advocates for the West* alongside our longtime Senior Attorneys Laurie Rule and Todd Tucci. Much has changed in the West since then.

What hasn't changed is *Advocates for the West's* proven formula of using law and science to defend our natural treasures and ensure the communities most impacted have a voice in how our public lands and resources are managed. *Advocates for the West's* story is one of pioneering new strategies to achieve lasting protections, and steady but sustainable organizational growth. Our smart and committed attorneys and staff are bearing the torch for a better future.

I am incredibly proud of *Advocates for the West's* accomplishments over the last 20 years. We've brought more than 170 cases to protect millions and millions of acres of public lands and restore rivers and fisheries in 11 western states.

All of this is thanks to supporters like you who care deeply about protecting the West's special places and sensitive species, and who embrace our approach: providing top-notch legal services to conservation groups, Native American Tribes, and activists. We wouldn't be where we are without the support of many folks who recognized our potential 20 years ago and invested their time and resources. Thankfully, many of those folks remain by our side to this day.

Put simply, partnerships are the foundation of our work. As we look to the future, our foundation is strong. Our team is talented. Our board is dedicated. And you, our supporters, are steadfast. We are in this work for the long haul, and we look forward to meeting the looming challenges for conservation in the West. Indeed, there are many challenges ahead.

As we commemorate our 20th anniversary in 2023, I hope you will help us celebrate this major milestone and stand by our side as we hold the Biden administration accountable to climate commitments and protections for imperiled species such as sage-grouse and salmon, fight extractive industries from destroying culturally significant and ecologically important lands, and preserve the West's natural beauty and biodiversity for generations to come.

Thank you for making our work possible. We look forward to your partnership in the years ahead!

With immense gratitude,

Laird J. Lucas
Executive Director

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 CHALLENGING INDUSTRIAL THREATS ON PUBLIC LANDS

Salmon-Clearwater Divide Logging (ID):

We won a major victory to protect biodiverse old growth forests on Idaho’s Salmon-Clearwater Divide when the Idaho federal court issued a ruling halting two massive logging projects, “End of the World” and “Hungry Ridge.” Approved by the Forest Service at the end of the Trump administration, together the projects would have resulted in logging over 40 square miles to generate more than 317 million board feet of timber over the next 10 years, with huge clearcuts in old growth forests.

Western Slope, Uncompahgre Field Office (CO):

We reached a settlement preventing the Bureau of Land Management from issuing new oil and gas leases for nearly a million acres of public lands in the Uncompahgre region on the Western Slope of Colorado until it conducts a more thorough environmental analysis, amends its Resource Management Plan, and reconsiders the eligibility of lands open to oil and gas leasing—as well as protections for lands with wilderness characteristics and designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Converse County Oil & Gas (WY):

We filed suit challenging the Converse County oil and gas project, a massive 5,000-well development in Wyoming’s Powder River basin. The project threatens the survival of sage-grouse and birds of prey and would create serious air quality impacts in nearby national parks and monuments. The Bureau of Land Management unlawfully claims to lack authority to regulate the surface operations of wells drilled directionally into federal minerals from adjacent non-federal lands.

Sage-Grouse Land Use Plans (ID, OR, MT, NV, UT, CO, WY, CA):

Our litigation helped pressure the Biden administration to launch a new federal planning process to improve sage-grouse protections. We then worked closely with our clients and partners to advocate for the Bureau of Land Management to designate range-wide Sage-Grouse Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

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

We are now defending our major wins holding invalid hundreds of leases covering over a million and a half acres of key sage-grouse habitats from appeals by the Bureau of Land Management, states, and the oil and gas industry. Meanwhile, we are challenging a third set of Trump-era oil and gas leases in priority grouse habitats for which the Bureau violated environmental disclosure and review requirements.

Caldwell Canyon Phosphate Mine (ID):

We are challenging a decision by the Trump administration to greenlight the Caldwell Canyon open-pit phosphate mine expansion. The project would destroy 1,559 acres of ecologically important land for native species such as the imperiled greater sage-grouse, including breeding and nesting grounds for the small and declining East Idaho Uplands sage-grouse population.

The “Lands Between” Oil & Gas Leases (UT):

We continue to challenge the Bureau of Land Management for two Trump-era oil and gas lease sales in an area between Canyons of the Ancients and Bears Ears National Monuments. This region contains the densest archaeological area open to oil and gas leasing on public lands in the United States, home to tens of thousands of archaeological sites considered sacred to many Indigenous peoples with whom the agency failed to adequately consult.

 RESTORING RIVERS AND FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Suction Dredge Mining on the Clearwater River (ID):

We won another major victory to protect the South Fork Clearwater River in Idaho when California miner Shannon Poe was ordered to pay a \$150,000 fine for polluting the river and refusing to obtain a required Clean Water Act (CWA) permit. The South Fork Clearwater is a State Protected River that provides critical habitat for salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and other sensitive species. Poe’s fine is one of the largest CWA penalties ever against an individual in Idaho.

Sage Hen Logging (ID):

We reached a favorable settlement requiring the Forest Service to withdraw its approval of the massive, 20-year “Sage Hen Restoration Project” in the Boise National Forest. The original project would have allowed building over 80 miles of roads and commercially logging over 18,000 acres of public lands around the popular Sage Hen Reservoir in Idaho’s West Mountains.

Bonneville Power Administration (ID, OR, WA):

We sued the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for breaching its responsibility for equal treatment of fish and wildlife under the Northwest Power Act. The power supplier’s decision to flatline funding for fish mitigation efforts has further threatened already declining salmon and steelhead populations, impairing the implementation of important mitigation projects. We also filed a another suit over BPA’s refusal to provide records as required under the Freedom of Information Act.

Upper Willamette Salmon and Steelhead (OR):

We are closely monitoring the Army Corps of Engineers’ compliance with our victories holding the Corps in violation of the Endangered Species Act and requiring multiple actions to protect threatened salmon and steelhead in the Upper Willamette basin. The Corps is required to modify the management of eight dams and reservoirs to provide for fish passage and flows needed by these highly-imperiled fish species.

Stibnite Mine Air Quality (ID):

Representing the Nez Perce Tribe and conservation groups, we challenged an air quality permit issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to Perpetua Resources (formerly Midas Gold) for its proposed Stibnite Gold Project in the headwaters of the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River. The proposed mining activities would emit into the air large quantities of dust known to contain arsenic, which can cause serious health problems. We also assisted conservation groups in preparing comments on the Forest Service’s environmental review of the proposed mine, which threatens spawning habitat for bull trout and chinook salmon and treaty-reserved resources for the Nez Perce Tribe and Indigenous communities of the region.

Stibnite Mine Clean Water Act Violations (ID):

At the same time, we are representing the Nez Perce Tribe in a major Clean Water Act case against Perpetua Resources over unpermitted pollutant discharges at the Stibnite mine site. This case remained in court-ordered mediation in 2022.

 PROTECTING ICONIC WILDLIFE

Killing of Native Carnivores (ID):

We reached a settlement to protect Idaho’s native carnivores through a number of restrictions on wildlife-killing methods. The agreement with U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Services guarantees interim protections for native wildlife such as wolves and coyotes pending the completion of new environmental reviews of Wildlife Services’ actions, required by the end of 2024.

Rangeland Pesticides (ID, MT, OR, WY):

We filed suit challenging the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) over its pesticide spraying on millions of acres across the West as part of a short-term means of curtailing native grasshopper and Mormon cricket numbers. Greater sage-grouse, monarch butterflies, western bumblebees, and other species inhabiting western lands are already in steep decline and extremely vulnerable to further harm from APHIS’s

pesticide spraying, which disregards more ecologically-responsible pest management practices.

Defending Wintering Wildlife (CA):

We intervened in a lawsuit brought by snowmobile groups against the Forest Service. The suit objects to limits placed on where snowmobiles are allowed on the Stanislaus National Forest under a recently-adopted winter travel plan. At the same time we are defending the Forest Service plan, we are challenging harm it threatens to native wildlife such as the Sierra Nevada red fox, Yosemite toad, and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, all species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Path of the Pronghorn (WY):

To protect one of North America’s last remaining long-distance land migrations and one of the longest in the western hemisphere, we are challenging the Trump Bureau of Land Management’s approval of a major oil/gas field development in the Upper Green River basin. The project would entail 3,500 new oil and gas wells in critical sage-grouse habitat and fragment the 170-mile “Path of the Pronghorn” winter migration route connecting Grand Teton National Park to crucial pronghorn winter range farther south.

Colville Wolves (WA):

We continue to challenge the Forest Service’s inaction to protect endangered gray wolves in the Colville National Forest. The agency has failed to follow its own regulations requiring an analysis of conflicts between livestock ranching and wildlife, allowing for the total elimination of five separate wolf packs over the last decade.

Okanogan-Wenatchee Bighorn Sheep (WA):

In our ongoing work to protect bighorn sheep from a deadly pathogen transmitted by domestic sheep, we are appealing a Forest Service decision to authorize domestic sheep grazing in “high risk” allotments on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The agency is placing bighorn sheep at significant risk of disease outbreaks without adequate environmental analysis.

Wishbone Bighorn Sheep (CO):

We are awaiting a court decision in our lawsuit to protect bighorn sheep on the new Wishbone domestic sheep grazing allotment near Creede, CO. The Forest Service did nothing to reduce the risk to bighorns, including failing to analyze recent telemetry data from Colorado Parks and Wildlife that clearly shows extensive movement of bighorn sheep near the new allotment.

Oregon Spotted Frog (OR):

We continue to challenge the Forest Service’s latest grazing plan for the Antelope allotment on the Fremont-Winema



Did you know our new **Interactive Case Map** lets you view the specific geographic location of our most important wins and current legal battles to protect the West, along with case information and photos? Visit AdvocatesWest.org or scan the QR code and scroll down on our homepage to the “Cases by Location” map to utilize this new tool.



National Forest. The plan authorizes harm to some of the best remaining wetland habitat managed by the Forest Service for the threatened Oregon spotted frog, whose population has declined dramatically in recent decades.



DEFENDING SPECIAL PLACES

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (AZ):

We reached a strong settlement to protect Arizona’s San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA)—a world-renowned biodiversity hotspot, home to more than 400 bird, 50 reptile and amphibian, and 80 mammal species. Our settlement forces the Bureau of Land Management to reconsider the compatibility of livestock grazing authorizations, to take actions to address ongoing livestock trespass, and to examine impacts to numerous sensitive and endangered species.

Kilgore Mine along the “High Divide” (ID):

We filed suit against the Forest Service for applying Trump-era environmental rollbacks to cut corners during the environmental review process in its latest approval of the Kilgore gold exploration project. The proposal would result in constructing new roads and drilling dozens of bore holes along the “High Divide” in the Centennial Mountains—important habitat for migrating grizzly bears, elk, and other wildlife.

Redfish Lake Cell Tower (ID):

We petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to require adequate environmental review of a proposed 195-foot commercial cell tower on a ridge overlooking Idaho’s popular Redfish Lake, threatening scenic and historic values. The cell tower, originally pitched under the guise of improving emergency communications, would protrude above the landscape at three times the height of surrounding trees, impacting iconic views within Sawtooth National Recreation Area that hundreds of thousands of people enjoy every year.

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

We are assisting Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF) in litigation defending President Biden’s reinstatement of the original boundaries for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments after President Trump unlawfully slashed them in 2017. In 2022, Tribal nations and conservation groups, including CLF, intervened in suits led by the state of Utah erroneously challenging Biden’s restoration of the monuments.

Point Reyes National Seashore (CA):

We entered court-approved mediation in our second case against the National Park Service, this time challenging the agency’s controversial management plan to perpetuate and expand industrial ranching and dairy operations at the only National Seashore on the West Coast. Park Service leasing of lands at Point Reyes for commercial beef and dairy ranching has led to overgrazing, soil erosion, degraded water quality, and conflicts with native tule elk.

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (UT):

We continue to challenge a Trump-era decision approving plans to punch a four-lane highway through Red Cliffs National Conservation Area in southwest Utah. Approved by Trump Interior Secretary David Bernhardt in one of his final acts before leaving office, the highway would pave over a protected, sensitive, scenic desert paradise that contains critical habitat for the threatened Mojave desert tortoise.

Sonoran Desert National Monument (AZ):

We are challenging the Bureau of Land Management for failing to protect native plants, wildlife, and cultural resources within the Sonoran Desert National Monument from the devastating impacts of livestock grazing in this arid environment. Despite extensive scientific evidence that livestock grazing damages the very resources the monument designation is intended to protect, the agency’s 2020 land management decision opens up the entire monument north of Interstate 8 to grazing.

Bar X, Mogollon Rim (AZ):

In our second case against the agency, we continue to challenge a Forest Service plan allowing heavy grazing on the Bar X allotment in a pristine corner of Arizona’s Tonto National Forest just below the scenic Mogollon Rim. The agency decided to reopen previously over-grazed areas that contain important habitat for wildlife such as deer, elk, and turkeys without showing that the habitat has fully recovered.



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



With the celebration of *Advocates for the West's* 20th year, I realized I had a unique vantage point to reflect on the organization's relevance, growth, and successes. My father, Gordon Younger, was one of the organization's first funders. Even in its infancy, Gordon saw *Advocates for the West's*

potential to be a strong, effective force working to protect the West's natural environment. Issues related to public lands grazing and Idaho's state rules and regulations guiding use of public lands were early *Advocates for the West* legal victories that my father took as further evidence this organization could have significant impact on the issues and places near and dear to his heart.

My relationship with *Advocates for the West* started 13 years ago. The organization was rethinking how it could be most useful and effective in its work. I was asked to sit in on their strategic planning sessions. I was immediately struck by the staff's passion for their work and impressive 85% rate of legal success. I was even more impressed by what *Advocates for the West* wanted to achieve going forward. It was at that point I joined the board and became fully

committed to helping *Advocates for the West* become an enduring part of the West's environmental landscape.

I have been an active board member and committed supporter ever since. With each successful new legal campaign, whether it be addressing environmental justice issues or ensuring that the federal government honors its legal obligations to provide protection to endangered flora and fauna, I am more committed to helping *Advocates for the West* thrive and endure. I want to thank all of you who have supported *Advocates for the West* over the years and encourage you to continue supporting the exciting, critical, and necessary work ahead.

With gratitude,

Eric Younger, Board Chair

2022 Clients & Partners

Acoma Tribal Historic Preservation Office

American Bird Conservancy

Basin and Range Watch

Bears Ears Partnership

California Wilderness Coalition

Center for Biological Diversity

Columbia Riverkeeper

Concerned Friends of the Winema

Conservation Lands Foundation

Conserve Southwest Utah

Defenders of Wildlife

Earthworks

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Friends of the Inyo

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Greater Hells Canyon Council

Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Idaho Conservation League

Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands

Idaho Rivers United

Kettle Range Conservation Group

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Native Fish Society

Neighbors of the Mogollon Rim

Nez Perce Tribe

Northwest Environmental Defense Center

Oregon Wild

Powder River Basin Resource Council

Prairie Hills Audubon Society

Predator Defense

Resource Renewal Institute

Rivers for Change

Save the South Fork Salmon

Sierra Club

Snake River Waterkeeper

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

The Wilderness Society

Upper Green River Alliance

WaterWatch of Oregon

Western Mining Action Network

Western Slope Conservation Center

Western Watersheds Project

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Winter Wildlands Alliance

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Yellowstone to Yukon

Conservation Initiative



Advocates for the West is celebrating our 20th anniversary in 2023. To learn more about the origin of our organization and our major milestones, please visit: AdvocatesWest.org/20th-anniversary



"Laird Lucas and I met in the late 1990s in Hailey, Idaho where he told me about his work in the environmental world. Having been exposed to public lands ranching, deforestation, and the impact of mining in wilderness areas, I encouraged him to move to Idaho and work on these issues. Soon afterwards, he moved to Boise and founded *Advocates for the West*."

I appreciate the organization's collaboration with the many environmental groups in Idaho and the West. Having seen *Advocates for the West* in action in court, they come prepared with first-hand knowledge of the issues. In fact, just the threat of a legal suit from *Advocates for the West* may cause opponents to settle rather than face them in court.

Advocates for the West is a catalyst that makes positive changes in the legal landscape. I have supported their work since the launch of the organization and plan to continue in the future."

ANN DOWN
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

FINANCIALS

January 2022 - December 2022

Income

Individual Contributions	\$ 966,708.85
Grants	\$ 230,000.00
Program Services	\$ 803,047.70
Other	\$ 220,489.85

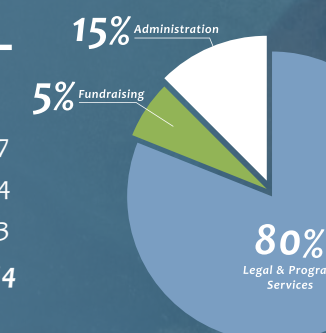
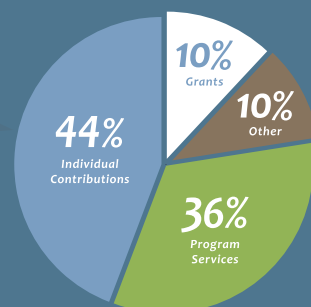
***Total Income \$2,220,246.40**

Expense

Legal & Program Services	\$ 1,650,415.07
Fundraising	\$ 103,150.94
Administration	\$ 309,452.83

***Total Expense \$2,063,018.84**

*Unaudited financial results; subject to revision.



2022 DONORS

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 2022. 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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The following supporters have named *Advocates for the West* in their estate plans. Thank you for this lasting commitment to our work.

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In Memoriam

The following members of our conservation community passed on in 2022 and will be deeply missed. This list is complete to the best of our knowledge; we sincerely apologize for any oversights.

Gene Bray
Dale Goble
Phil Hanceford
Suzy Kellett
Chris Yoder

Volunteers & Experts

The following supporters gave generously of their time and expertise in 2022, helping *Advocates for the West* achieve success on the ground and in the courts. Thank you!

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Law Clerks, Externs, & Interns

Advocates for the West thanks our 2022 law clerks, externs, and interns, who contributed their time and talent to our work. We wish them success in their pursuits!

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Special thanks to our guest artist, Taelyn Baiza, whose artwork is featured within the pages of this annual report and can be viewed in full at AdvocatesWest.org/20th-anniversary. Taelyn is an honors junior at Boise High School in Boise, Idaho. She started creating her colored pencil drawings during the pandemic, focusing on biodiversity and the importance of healthy ecosystems. Her work was featured on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service social media, and she has since gone on to sell her nature designs as cards, puzzles, and prints at local and regional shops and artisan fairs. She is a recipient of the Junior Duck Stamp Art Competition Best of Show for Idaho award, the Western Governors' Association "Celebrate the West" High School Art Competition Best of Show for Idaho award, a Scholastic Art and Design Regional Gold Key award, a two-time national semifinalist for the Endangered Species Coalition Youth Art Contest, and an artist selected for the City of Boise Traffic Box Art program. She runs cross country and track and field for Boise High School, serves as a student council representative, and is interested in the sciences and the arts. Taelyn's artwork can be found at www.instagram.com/taelynbaizaart