



ADVOCATES for the WEST

2025 Spring/Summer Case Notes

Board

Eric Younger (Ketchum, ID)
Chair

Paul Hill (Stanley, ID)
Treasurer

Deborah Clothier (Seattle, WA)
Secretary

Janette Brimmer (Seattle, WA)

Rynda Clark (Bend, OR)

Lelei Coyle (Boise, ID)

Elaine French (Ketchum, ID)

Joel Moffett (Suquamish, WA)

Danielle Murray (Durango, CO)

Max Stein (Boise, ID)

Staff

Hannah Goldblatt
Staff Attorney

Sophie Hackett
Development Associate

Bryan Hurlbutt
Staff Attorney

Andrew Hursh
Staff Attorney

Laird J. Lucas
Executive Director

Andrew Missel
Staff Attorney

Aimee Moran
Deputy Director

Alexa Ochsner
Office Manager

Lizzy Potter
Staff Attorney

Laurie Rule
Senior Attorney

Will Shoemaker
Communications
& Engagement Director

Sarah Stellberg
Staff Attorney

Todd C. Tucci
Senior Attorney

Emily Whalen
Paralegal

Table of Contents

Board & Staff 02

Letter from our
Executive Director 03

Case Updates 06

Supporter Spotlight 07

Board and Staff
News 12-13

Law Clerks, Externs,
& Interns 14-15

Featured Artist 16



THE COURTS ARE MORE
CRITICAL THAN EVER

Laird J. Lucas, Executive Director

Over the last few months, we’ve seen the new Trump administration turn the world upside down. Trump’s orders have reversed common-sense policies that promote scientific integrity, combat climate change, and champion equity and environmental justice. And much more is to come, with the president and certain members of Congress closely aligned on carrying out this destructive agenda.

The courts are now more critical than ever to preserve all that we love about the West. Trump and his allies in Congress are now attempting to undermine the rule of law by targeting the legal profession, including *Advocates for the West*. This January, we and our partners reached a landmark settlement to protect northern California’s Point Reyes National Seashore (scenes from which fill the majority of pages in this publication) from harm caused by commercial livestock grazing and to promote more ecologically responsible management.

In an attempt to politicize the settlement, last month, a group of seven of some of the most environmentally unfriendly members of the U.S. House of Representatives sent *Advocates for the West* a letter asking that we turn over confidential communications with our clients, partners, the National Park Service, and intervening ranchers related to the settlement because they don’t like what it will mean for commercial ranching and dairying at Point Reyes.

We won’t give in. These are scare tactics brought by bullies, and we’re unwavering in our commitment to a thriving and just West.

The agreement in question, as outlined on page 4, resolves litigation that *Advocates for the West* first brought to force the Park Service to prioritize ecological protection, wildlife conservation, and recreational access at Point Reyes—the only National Seashore on the West Coast. Notably, the agreement will result in the voluntary retirement of 12 dairies and cattle ranches at Point Reyes.

Tule elk will be allowed to roam freely and expand their numbers.

Our victory at Point Reyes highlights the importance of persistence and long-term commitment—hallmarks of *Advocates for the West*’s work over the last 22 years. When we commit to protecting special places, species, and communities from industrialization and bad agency decisions, we commit for the long haul.

Similarly, we will remain persistent amid Trump administration and Congressional threats. National Monuments are likely to be on the chopping block. Already threatened and endangered wildlife will face new threats from industrialization of our public lands. Protections—and protectors such as *Advocates for the West*—will increasingly become targets.

We are adjusting to the shifting legal and political landscape and growing our capacity to fight these threats. We won’t bow to political scare tactics. We will remain patient until it’s time to strike. And when

we do, we will win for the West.

Because that’s what we do. Our work to defend western public lands and their immeasurable value is more important than ever. Your support powers our hard-hitting litigation. Thank you!

By supporting *Advocates for the West*, you can take heart in standing tall for our natural treasures and wildlife. You can take solace in the fact that the clock is ticking on the current administration, and our work in the courts to beat back Trump’s attacks on our public lands, frontline communities, fish and wildlife, clean air, and clean water is only just beginning.

We’ve won these battles before. And we will again.

With immense gratitude,

Peregrine falcon — Sarah Killingsworth Photography



LANDMARK AGREEMENT OFFERS BRIGHT FUTURE FOR POINT REYES

Lizzy Potter, Staff Attorney

Just north of the San Francisco Bay area, the expansive sandy beaches, rolling coastal grasslands, and forested ridges of Point Reyes National Seashore receive some two million visitors each year who come to experience the area's iconic wildlife and recreation opportunities.

Established by President Kennedy in 1962 as part of the National Park System, Point Reyes is special in many ways: It's the only National Seashore on the West Coast. It's home to a rich array of wildlife, including mammals, fish, and amphibians, and about 490 species of birds. About 50 species are listed as threatened, endangered, or rare, including coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, and snowy plovers. It is also the only National Park property home to tule elk, a native species brought back from the verge of extinction.

Unlike most National Parks, commercial ranching has continued

at Point Reyes long past the park's designation. In the 1970s and '80s, Congress spent well over \$100 million (in 2021 dollars) buying out private ranches within the National Seashore, under federal legislation which allowed the owners to continue using the lands for twenty-five years or the life of the owner. Yet the National Park Service never phased out those beef ranching and dairy operations, continuing to lease about 28,000 acres of public lands without environmental review or an updated management plan despite conflicts with natural resources, wildlife, and public recreation.

In 2016, *Advocates for the West* applied our legal tools to remedy the situation, and in 2017 reached a settlement requiring the Park Service to produce the first-ever Environmental Impact Statement for Point Reyes ranching. Based on that environmental review, the Park Service adopted a new management plan in September

2021. Developed under the first Trump administration, the new plan perpetuated and expanded commercial ranching and dairy operations—ignoring public comments from more than 100 organizations representing millions of supporters that called on the agency to phase out those activities. The plan also required killing native tule elk to support commercial ranches and prevent new herds from forming in the park.

Citing multiple violations of federal law—including the Point Reyes Act, which established the National Seashore for “public recreation, benefit, and inspiration,” not commercial ranching—*Advocates for the West* filed a new lawsuit in January 2022. Recognizing the untenable situation, the Park Service and intervening Point Reyes ranchers came to the negotiating table to discuss a long-term solution and engaged in intensive mediation discussions for more than two

years. This January, the parties reached a landmark agreement to settle the decades-long land-use conflict.

The agreement makes the best of a tough situation for everyone involved. Owners of all dairies and nearly all cattle ranches at Point Reyes voluntarily agreed to end their operations and transition off the National Seashore in exchange for payment from The Nature Conservancy. On the former ranchlands, a new management paradigm will prioritize protection of the wildlife, rare and native plants, and unique recreation opportunities. Tule elk will be allowed to roam freely within the National Seashore and expand their numbers without a population cap.

I'm proud to say that *Advocates for the West* offered our top-notch legal services in defense of this special place free of charge. We invested an extraordinary amount of time in this case, using a generous

grant from Firedoll Foundation and donations from many of our supporters who care about Point Reyes. But our work in defense of Point Reyes continues. We remain deeply involved in defending the settlement from attacks on many fronts. Nevertheless, the departing ranchers are actively winding down their operations and removing dairy and ranch infrastructure along with other private property from the Seashore, which is scheduled to wrap up next year.

In the end, I'm confident the historic agreement that we negotiated will endure, and Point Reyes will be cherished by generations to come for its intense beauty and irreplaceable ecological resources.

“ON THE FORMER RANCHLANDS, A NEW MANAGEMENT PARADIGM WILL PRIORITIZE PROTECTION OF THE WILDLIFE, RARE AND NATIVE PLANTS, AND UNIQUE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.”



Western snowy plover —Sarah Killingsworth Photography

CASE UPDATES

Victory for Sage-grouse and the Sagebrush Sea

Advocates for the West won a significant victory in our sweeping case challenging thousands of oil and gas leases in sage-grouse habitats. This January, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the first Trump administration illegally approved hundreds of oil and gas leases on public lands and prohibited any further development of those leases. The leases were located in greater sage-grouse habitats designated for protection by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2015. Under the first Trump administration, BLM promoted Trump's "energy dominance" policy for public lands, and slashed public involvement and environmental review of oil and gas leases across the West—including the 677 leases covering 900,070 acres at issue in the Court's decision. The Court ordered that BLM must prevent any further drilling or development of the leases until it has lawfully reviewed and approved them, and emphasized that the first Trump administration's energy dominance policy was an arbitrary and capricious change in position—laying down the law that the new Trump administration cannot make similar "energy dominance" policy

changes on a whim, as he has promised.

Victory for Fish, Wildlife in Oregon's Crooked River

In February, we won a victory to protect fish and wildlife in Oregon's Crooked River. The Crook County Circuit Court rejected several ranchers' attempt to invalidate the water right issued by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to protect flows for fish and wildlife in the lower Crooked River. The ranchers argued that OWRD lacked authority to issue the water right, but the Court disagreed. Although the Court sent the matter back to OWRD to address a procedural issue, it confirmed that the water right is substantively valid. The water right at issue in this case, which *Advocates for the West* and our partners intervened to defend, is essential to ensure that flows in the lower Crooked River—all the way from Bowman Dam to Lake Billy Chinook—are protected for fish and wildlife.

Victory for Clean Water in Idaho

In our ongoing fight against the proposed Stibnite Gold Mine in Idaho, we won a victory in our

appeal of a water quality permit issued for the mine under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act. *Advocates for the West* and our partners appealed the permit due to its inadequacy to protect water quality in Idaho's South Fork Salmon River watershed. In March, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) filed a motion to pause the proceedings so it can modify the existing permit to address "new information and changes to the project." DEQ plans to modify the permit to address numerous concerns we and our partners raised in our appeal, including failing to consider and protect against the full extent of mercury, arsenic, and antimony pollution the Stibnite Gold Mine would cause throughout the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River, and failing to offer a sufficient socioeconomic justification for issuing the permit.

Victory for Clean Air in Idaho

This March, *Advocates for the West* and our partners reached an agreement with P4 Production, LLC, a phosphate mining and processing company located in Soda Springs, Idaho. Under the terms of the agreement, P4

Production will improve its public reporting processes under its Clean Air Act permit by more accurately disclosing the types and amounts of air pollutants it releases whenever equipment breakdowns and other events cause emissions to exceed the limits in the company's permit. P4 Production has now taken these steps to improve its reporting practices and to include more detailed emissions estimates in its event reports. The agreement requires the company to continue developing its methodology for estimating emissions, and to supply emissions information that was missing from its past reports.



To learn more about our victories and active cases, visit: AdvocatesWest.org/Cases

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE WEST

By naming *Advocates for the West* as a beneficiary in your estate plans, you are making a lasting commitment to defend and protect the West's natural treasures, clean air and water, fish, and wildlife. All legacy gifts help *Advocates for the West* win for the West, today and for future generations.

If you have already included *Advocates for the West* in your estate plans, please let us know. Sharing your plan with us places you under no obligation, but it does enable us to say thank you and welcome you to our Legacy Society. If you wish to be anonymous in your gift, we will gladly honor that wish.

To learn more about *Advocates for the West's* Legacy Society, including how to create a will using FreeWill, scan the QR code, visit AdvocatesWest.org/legacy-society or contact Deputy Director Aimee Moran at amoran@advocateswest.org or (208) 342-7024 x205.



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



Three generations of the Jones family, from left to right: Diane, Carrie, and Rosalie.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

"We love our Idaho home—the mountains, forests, rivers, desert, and we love learning about the plants and animals that share this home with us. Protecting wild spaces means different things for the different generations of our family. We have always believed wilderness and biodiversity should be protected for their own inherent worth and have supported *Advocates for the West* in their work on this. With growing urgency and distress around climate change, we have also looked to *Advocates for the West* for inspiration for our family's youngest generation. Following Fred Rogers's advice to look for the helpers in times of crisis, we reached out and were warmly welcomed to visit the office and for 11-year-old Rosalie to talk with some of the attorneys. The attorneys and Development Associate Sophie Hackett were incredibly generous with their time and information, and were able to share specifics about many of *Advocates for the West's* successes. Hearing these tangible details was very inspiring and lifted some of the weight of our climate distress. We are so grateful for the amazing work that *Advocates for the West* does every day to protect our precious home."

Diane, Carrie, and Rosalie Jones
Boise, ID

Bobcat — Sarah Killingsworth Photography



FORCING ACTION TO SAVE FISH IN OREGON'S WILLAMETTE BASIN

Laurie Rule, Senior Attorney

Because I live in Portland near the Willamette River, Upper Willamette River Chinook salmon and steelhead are practically in my backyard. Their populations have declined dramatically over the last couple decades and are mostly comprised of hatchery produced fish. Yet these threatened species received little attention from conservation groups or the media—everyone was focused on Columbia River salmon. Gradually some facts started to come to light that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was not living up to its responsibilities to change operations at its dams in the upper basin to reduce harm to these species. That's when *Advocates for the West* Staff Attorney Lizzy Potter and I started to dig in, leading to nine years of work aimed at protecting Upper Willamette River salmon and steelhead from dam and reservoir operations.

Dams are the primary cause of the catastrophic decline of salmon and steelhead in the Upper Willamette

River Basin. Dams block fish passage to and from high quality spawning habitat in the headwaters regions, and degrade habitat below the dams by altering water flows and water quality. And even if adult fish are transported above the dams to spawn, juvenile fish experience significant injury and mortality migrating downriver through the reservoirs and dams to get to the ocean.

Over the last five years, *Advocates for the West* has won significant victories against the Army Corps over its operation of eight dams and reservoirs in the Upper Willamette Basin, requiring the Corps to change how it manages the dams and reservoirs to improve fish passage past the dams and water quality below the dams to defend these Endangered Species Act (ESA)-protected fish. Many of these changes, and others, are now part of a new long-term plan issued by the National Marine Fisheries

Service that will govern operations for decades.

We're now expanding that work to force public utility Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) to comply with the ESA when managing the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project on the Upper McKenzie River. The McKenzie River Chinook salmon population is a key stronghold for Upper Willamette River Chinook, and three of just four ESA-listed bull trout populations within the Upper Willamette Basin occur in the McKenzie River. Trail Bridge Dam, part of the Carmen-Smith Project, is a barrier to Chinook salmon and bull trout migration, cutting off access to excellent headwater Chinook spawning habitat and preventing a bull trout population above the dam from migrating downriver to feed or interbreed with other local populations.

In March, we filed suit against EWEB over its ongoing violation of

the ESA for failing to provide fish passage at Trail Bridge Dam. For sixteen years, EWEB has continued to drag its feet in complying with legal requirements to create fish passage at the dam. While EWEB initially agreed to install a fish ladder at the dam, the public utility later scrapped this plan for an inferior proposal for a trap-and-haul system due to the cost of a ladder. But to date, EWEB has yet to break ground on a trap-and-haul facility that was required to be completed in 2022. Ensuring fish passage into high-elevation cold-water habitat above the dam is increasingly vital as climate change warms water temperatures in downriver spawning and rearing areas.

In the case of both the Corps and EWEB, perpetual foot-dragging on the part of government agencies that manage dams highlights why *Advocates for the West's* work is important. Short of the courts forcing them to do so, government

agencies have little incentive to change their operations in order to save culturally important species like salmon, steelhead, and bull trout from extinction. So, *Advocates for the West* and our partners are forcing agencies into action to improve conditions for fish migration.

Significant changes to dam operations need to occur to prevent these species from extinction, particularly in light of the impacts of climate change. Congress has directed the Corps to study deauthorization of hydropower in the Willamette Basin, which would provide additional flexibility in operations to help save fish, and would also save people money on their electric bills as the cost of generation at these dams far outweighs the revenue. Until that day comes, *Advocates for the West* will continue to hold agencies accountable for killing fish already teetering on the brink of extinction.

In our most recent Voices for the West webinar, we discuss ongoing efforts to save native fish in Oregon's Willamette River Basin from the threat of extinction. Watch a recording of the webinar by scanning the QR code or visiting bit.ly/3YxbLCe

SCAN HERE



TO VIEW

River otter — Sarah Killingsworth Photography



FIGHTING ON EVERY FRONT TO PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS FROM MINING

Bryan Hurlbutt, Staff Attorney

On March 20, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order titled “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production” that threatens to unleash a rush of mining, particularly on federal public lands in the West. Among other tactics, the Executive Order directs the U.S. Department of Interior to identify public lands with valuable minerals and to prioritize them for streamlined permitting.

About half of the land area in the 11 contiguous western states where *Advocates for the West* works is federal public land. For more than 150 years, the Mining Law of 1872 has already prioritized hardrock mining on federal public lands, allowing mining companies to reap profits, without paying royalties, and leaving in their wake a legacy of scarred landscapes and toxic pollution.

While the Mining Law largely prevents federal land management agencies from outright denying mining proposals, other

federal laws provide important environmental safeguards and processes that prevent mining companies from steamrolling agencies. But Trump’s recent mining Executive Order, combined with other new Executive Orders and policies, aim to minimize and bypass the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and other laws that have provided a critical counterbalance to the pro-industry Mining Law of 1872.

Despite these challenges, *Advocates for the West* and our partners continue to oppose destructive mining proposals, fighting on every front, using all tools at our disposal to protect sensitive habitats and culturally important areas. Today, this work continues on two critical fronts in Idaho:

AN EXTRA-LARGE GOLD MINE WITH A SMALL SIDE OF ANTIMONY

The South Fork Salmon River is one of Idaho’s most ecologically

important watersheds and is cherished for its recreation, fish and wildlife, and cultural values. Tributaries like the East Fork South Fork provide critical habitat for Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, and the surrounding mountains provide important denning habitat for wolverines. The area is part of the homelands of the Nez Perce Tribe who have reserved the right to fish, hunt, gather, and pasture at traditional places in their 1855 Treaty with the United States.

The proposed Stibnite Gold Mine would use cyanide leaching to mine gold from three open-pits and build a towering waste rock dam, placing these public lands, waters, and wildlife at risk. Despite being first and foremost a gold mine, the mine is getting special treatment by the government since it could also supply a modest amount of antimony (used for munitions and fire retardants).

Along with our partners, *Advocates for the West* is fighting

the proposed mine on multiple fronts. We’ve appealed air and water pollution permits issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and have won initial victories in both cases. Most recently, in February, we sued the U.S. Forest Service for its approval of the Stibnite Gold Mine for improperly relying on the Mining Law of 1872 to authorize an extensive network of access roads and other infrastructure through pristine roadless areas, among other legal violations. In that same case, we also sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service for failing to protect threatened Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, wolverines, and whitebark pine from the immediate and long-term impacts of the mine.

With other state and federal permits needed before the project can be implemented, *Advocates for the West* and our partners will work to ensure that mining company profits are not prioritized

over Tribal rights, fish and wildlife, clean water and clean air, and public health.

FRAUGHT MINE EXPLORATION IN BOISE RIVER HEADWATERS

For fifteen years, *Advocates for the West* has defeated variations of a mine exploration proposal on National Forest lands in the headwaters of the Boise River—upstream of half of Idaho’s population. The CuMo Mine Exploration Project threatens Boise’s drinking water supply and 300,000 acres of irrigated farmland, as well as recreation and fish and wildlife such as great grey owls, northern goshawks, and wolverines. Through the exploration, Idaho Copper hopes to find sufficient molybdenum, copper, and silver to excavate one of the largest open-pit accessible molybdenum mines in the world.

Advocates for the West and our partners have succeeded in halting the CuMo mine exploration twice

before. In 2012, a federal court struck down the project because the Forest Service failed to adequately assess the risk that extensive underground drilling could contaminate groundwater. The Court struck it down again in 2016 because of the project’s threats to Sacajawea’s bitterroot, a rare flower whose largest populations are found at the CuMo site.

But CuMo is back. The Forest Service recently re-authorized Idaho Copper’s four-year plan to construct up to eight miles of new roads, clear 122 drill pads, and drill 250 exploration holes, threatening water quality, recreation, traffic, public safety, and wildlife within the Boise River watershed. We won’t kowtow to these threats.

Perpetua Resources, proponent of the proposed Stibnite Gold Mine, is making a concerted public relations effort to pitch the mine as necessary for our national defense due to the project’s antimony reserves. In reality, 96% of the value of the project is from gold. Our partners at the Idaho Conservation League developed a set of factsheets to highlight the true nature of the project as an open-pit gold mine. Read the factsheets by scanning the QR code or visiting bit.ly/4oLpMh2

SCAN HERE



TO READ

BOARD NEWS



Gretchen Biggs



Stephanie Parent



Janette Brimmer

FAREWELL GRETCHEN BIGGS AND STEPHANIE PARENT

It is with great appreciation that we bid farewell to Gretchen Biggs and Stephanie Parent, and thank them for a combined 13 years of service on our Board of Directors.

Gretchen served on the board for 6 years, including as Secretary. Stephanie served on the board for 7 years, including as Treasurer. Among their many contributions to the *Advocates for the West* board, Gretchen’s generosity has sustained our work to protect salmon in the Columbia River Basin. As a fellow environmental litigator, Stephanie offered strategic support and direction to our legal program.

Thank you Gretchen and Stepanie for all you do!

WELCOME JANETTE BRIMMER

Janette (she/her) is a Senior Attorney in Earthjustice’s Northwest Office located in Seattle, WA. Janette works on cases in the Northwest region as well as national water and wetland matters, including in partnership with *Advocates for the West*.

Janette is the Chair of Earthjustice’s Clean Water Act Practice Group, working on a variety of water quality and quantity cases, including protecting iconic waters like Puget Sound and leading the waters of the U.S. team. Janette also works on various cases to protect the West Coast’s salmon resources.

Janette attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison for both undergrad and law school, receiving her J.D. in 1986. Her law career has involved private practice, working for the Attorneys General of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and serving as the Legal Director for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy.



Danielle Murray

Janette also taught Environmental and Natural Resources Law at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN and at the University of Minnesota, College of Natural Resources.

In her spare time, she roots around in her garden, plays in two rock bands, reads a ridiculous amount, romps with her adorable husky, and hikes and camps.

WELCOME DANIELLE MURRAY

With over 15 years of experience in national legal, policy, and legislative work, Danielle (she/her) is a seasoned leader in the conservation and public lands space. She currently serves as the Founder and CEO of the Public Lands Center, an independent consulting firm dedicated to advancing results-driven strategies that protect and preserve America’s public lands.

Before launching the Public Lands Center in 2024, Danielle led high-profile legal and policy campaigns at the Conservation Lands Foundation. Her expertise spans grassroots organizing, coalition building, legislative advocacy, and briefing Congress, federal agencies, and the media.

Danielle began her legal career as a judicial law clerk in the Delaware Superior Court. She holds a J.D. and a Master of Studies in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School, where she was a Dean’s Fellow and Editor of the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law. She earned her B.S. in Wildlife Conservation, with a minor in Biology, from the University of Delaware.

Based in Durango, CO, Danielle enjoys spending her free time exploring the public lands and rivers of the American West with her family and two dogs.



Max Stein

WELCOME MAX STEIN

Max (he/him) is a strategic leader in business development and policy, currently working at Clēnera, an independent power producer. He holds a B.A. in International Affairs from Colorado College and a M.S. in Sustainable Water Management from Tufts University.

He has built his career around a deep commitment to innovation, environmental stewardship, and resilience. After working with six startup founders, he believes strongly in the importance of social accountability. He has successfully executed projects in four countries by uniting private organizations, government agencies, non-profits, and citizens to address complex challenges.

Max has served as a Livability Ambassador for the City of Boise and as a volunteer with Idaho Smart Growth. He was instrumental in passing Idaho Benefit Corporation Law, a new class of business governance required to create a positive material impact on society and the environment. He remains dedicated to preserving public lands and natural resources for future generations.

Max enjoys trail running, backcountry skiing, and hunting. He continues to organize a community ski mountaineering race series. He lives in Boise, ID with his wife, young son, and border collie mix.



Emily Whalen

WELCOME EMILY WHALEN PARALEGAL

Emily (she/her) joined *Advocates for the West* in January 2025 with a background in paralegal studies, conservation biology, and environmental law. Emily is passionate about protecting the American West and all the ecosystems and species that make it unique.

Emily holds a B.A. in English and Philosophy from Marist College, a M.A. in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and a B.S. in Conservation Biology from Montana State University. Emily spent a semester volunteering in Zambia with the Zambian Carnivore Programme studying predator-prey dynamics in Luangwa National Park. After working as a criminal defense paralegal for the last five years, Emily is excited to return her focus to protecting the environment.

Emily lives in Stevensville, MT with her husband, three dogs, one cat, and two horses. In her free time, she can be found riding her horses, hiking, rafting, reading, and competing in dog sports with her border collie, Hank.

Black bear — Sarah Killingsworth Photography

SPRING & SUMMER LAW CLERKS, EXTERNS, & INTERNS



LAUREN BLOCK — *Summer Law Clerk*

Lauren (she/her) is a rising 3L at the University of Washington, where she serves as Co-President of the Environmental Law Society and is the incoming Executive Managing Editor of the Washington Law Review. She spent her 1L summer clerking for the Washington Attorney General’s Office in the Environmental Protection Division, assisting with legal research, drafting memoranda, and preparing motions for ongoing litigation. This spring, she is externing with a small water law firm in Snohomish, WA, working on administrative and water law issues related to the upcoming adjudication of the Nooksack River. Before law school, Lauren earned her B.A. in Environmental Ethics & Policy and Political Science from the University of Portland. During college, she interned with the U.S. Department of the Interior and a regional seafood company’s government affairs department, gaining experience at the intersection of policy and natural resource management. Outside of school and work, she enjoys trail running, skiing, and perfecting her coffee-brewing technique.



MAX CORNELL — *Spring Extern*

Max (he/him) is a 3L at Columbia Law School. During 1L, he was a member of the moot court team that won Pace University’s National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition. After 1L, he interned for the Honorable Valerie Caproni of the District Court for the Southern District of New York. After 2L, he was a summer associate at the New York City office of Jenner & Block LLP. Outside of class, Max is an Articles Editor of the Columbia Law Review, and he has served as a research assistant and teaching assistant in constitutional law, civil procedure, and other subjects. Before law school, Max attended the University of Michigan, where he majored in Electrical Engineering. In the five years between graduating from Michigan and matriculating to Columbia, Max worked in automotive image sensors and consumer electronics and traveled in New Zealand/Aotearoa, where he was inspired by the people, the land, and the plants and animals to pursue a career in environmental advocacy. In his free time, Max enjoys songwriting, rock climbing, and strolling randomly around the city.



HAYDEN HENNIKE — *Summer Law Clerk*

Hayden (he/him) is a rising 3L at Berkeley Law. In law school, he has led the Drug Policy, Education, and Decriminalization project, a student-run pro bono organization focused on a public health approach to drug policy. Hayden has also worked as a law clerk at the United States Department of Agriculture’s Office of General Counsel. In that role, he provided legal assistance to the U.S. Forest Service, supporting its efforts to recover damages from parties responsible for wildfires on public lands. Before law school, Hayden graduated from California State University Long Beach with a degree in Economics. During his time there, Hayden worked as an Emergency Medical Technician and a whitewater raft guide on California’s rivers. In his downtime, Hayden enjoys hiking, cooking, reading, and spending time on the river.



ADAM LUBAN — *Summer Extern*

Adam (he/him) is a rising 3L at Boston University School of Law. As a student in BU’s Environmental Law Practicum, he drafted legislation to protect vulnerable renters from climate-change driven extreme weather and served as legal advisor for a coalition of social organizations advocating for equitable disaster recovery. He has also taught an undergraduate course in Critical Environmental Law at Boston College. Adam is an Executive Editor of the Boston University Public Interest Law Journal and serves as treasurer for the BU Environmental Law Society. Adam is from Syracuse, NY, where he first cultivated his love for the outdoors and skiing and biking up and down hills. He’s the head coach of the BU Cycling Team and an assistant coach for the Nordic Ski Team at his alma mater, Middlebury College. When he’s not skiing, biking, or studying, he can be found fruitlessly pursuing the perfect espresso.



DEREK LUND — *Spring Extern*

Derek (he/him) is a 2L at Lewis & Clark Law School. So far, Derek’s school experience has included time spent as a contributing member of Environmental Law Review. Derek has also been heavily involved with Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC), first as a student volunteer and now a project coordinator for NEDC’s Air and Climate group. Prior to law school, Derek attended Willamette University in Salem, OR, where he majored in Environmental and Earth Sciences with a minor in Politics. After graduating, he moved to Denver, CO and worked as a GIS analyst for Maxar Technologies. In his free time, Derek enjoys cooking, skiing, hiking, and playing soccer and tennis.



CAYDEN STONE — *Andrus Scholar Summer Intern*

Cayden (he/him) is a Public Policy, Environmental Studies and Pre-law student going into his final undergraduate semester at Boise State University. Over the course of his collegiate journey, Cayden has gained a diverse array of experience in legislative affairs, political communications, and environmental policy. He spent this spring semester in Washington, D.C. studying and interning on Capitol Hill where he helped support his boss’s public lands, water, and Tribes portfolio. Cayden has particularly enjoyed studying our nation’s bedrock environmental laws and looks forward to applying his coursework to help advance the mission, message, and values of *Advocates for the West* this summer. Upon graduation, Cayden looks forward to attending law school. In his free time, you can find Cayden reading, skiing, hiking, or cheering on his beloved Seattle sports teams.



LIBBY TOBEY — *Summer Extern*

Libby (she/her) is a rising 2L at the University of Montana. She received a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from Willamette University, and a Master’s in Resource Conservation from the University of Montana, where she researched global policy efforts to redress loss and damage from climate change. In her second year, Libby will serve as co-chair of the Environmental Law Group and aspires to join the staff of the Public Lands and Resources Law Review. Between degrees, Libby has spent much of her time as a river guide and whitewater instructor around the western U.S. and abroad, taking periodic breaks to support conservation nonprofits in Utah and Idaho as a legislative aide and lobbyist. In her free time, she can most often be found paddling, skiing, or climbing, depending on the season. She is also a first-time film producer as of 2024, working with an all-women’s team on a documentary advocating for the removal of the lower Snake River dams.

Peregrine falcons — Sarah Killingsworth Photography



ADVOCATES for the WEST

PO Box 1612 | Boise, ID 83701 | info@advocateswest.org | 208.342.7024

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boise, ID
Permit No. 100

FEATURED ARTIST: SARAH KILLINGSWORTH

Sarah Killingsworth is an award-winning wildlife conservation photographer, filmmaker, and writer who has always loved wildlife and exploring wild places. Her photographs are the result of countless hours in the wilderness, watching and capturing animal behavior. Passionate about stories of coexistence, especially with native predators, Sarah is inherently curious about the intersection of humans and wildlife habitats, how wildlife adapts to ever-encroaching human development, as well as ways we can work to protect species before they become endangered. A certified California Naturalist, Sarah is a member of the Board of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin and the North American Nature Photography Association Ethics Committee and is also the Program Coordinator for the Keeping it Wild Youth Education and Outreach Program with Project Coyote. Her images have been published, in print and online, by a variety of publications, including Smithsonian Magazine, National Wildlife Magazine, The Hill, bioGraphic, Bay Nature, and Audubon. You can see more of her work on Instagram @skwildlifephotos or on her website at www.sarahkillingsworth.com



When you're finished reading this publication, pass it on to someone who shares your love for the West!