



ADVOCATES for the WEST

2025 Fall/Winter Case Notes

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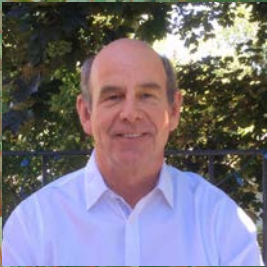
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WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM
SAGE-GROUSE?

Laird J. Lucas, Executive Director

This summer, a concerning piece of news made a few, but not nearly enough, headlines: North Dakota’s greater sage-grouse population appears to have gone extinct—the first state since the 1950s to lose its population of this western icon known for dancing in annual courtship on communal grounds called “leks” each spring.

Unfortunately, the news, which should frighten anyone paying a lick of attention to environmental matters in the West, was overshadowed by distractions emanating from the current administration.

The die-off of this iconic western bird in North Dakota—the home state of our pro-industry, anti-environment Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum—is the latest blow in an ongoing fight by *Advocates for the West* and our dozens of allies to save sage-grouse before it’s too late.

For more than two decades, *Advocates for the West* has fought tooth and nail to protect the imperiled bird and the dwindling

Sagebrush Sea which is its home. Our use of science and law through numerous court cases helped prompt the Obama administration to adopt new sage-grouse conservation plans identifying tens of millions of acres across the West for increased protection, and which we blocked the first Trump administration from weakening. Our sweeping—and still quite active—case challenging thousands of oil and gas leases issued in sage-grouse habitats under the first Trump administration has held unlawful leases covering more than a million and a half acres of sage-grouse habitats.

The loss of North Dakota’s sage-grouse population is terribly sad. And it’s a rallying cry. We’re determined to prevent the same news from coming out of any more western states. Sagebrush ecosystems often correlate with the presence of oil and gas deposits, meaning defending sage-grouse goes hand-in-hand with challenging climate-harming oil and gas leasing and development.

Within these pages, you will read about our successes and ongoing efforts to halt destructive drilling in sensitive habitats and special places, along with our ongoing fights to preserve National Monument protections from Trump administration and industry threats. Our efforts to halt industrialization of our public lands—which not only threatens iconic species such as sage-grouse, but emits significant greenhouse gas emissions—are more important than ever.

Fortunately, we’ve been here before. Our litigation kept at bay some of the worst threats to remove public input from public lands decisions and aggressively promote fossil fuel development during the first Trump administration. While we now face new threats, *Advocates for the West* has set ourselves apart by creatively using the tools at our disposal to protect our natural treasures and wildlife.

Despite the current hostility to protecting the environment emanating from D.C., our bedrock

environmental laws remain largely intact—requiring agencies to “look before they leap” and involve the public in decision-making, protecting threatened and endangered species, and preventing private companies from sullyng our air and water in the name of profits. *Advocates for the West* has a talented—and growing—team of top-notch environmental defenders to uphold them.

Sage-grouse have taught me the importance of perseverance. Presidential administrations come and go, but this western icon endures, clinging to what sagebrush habitat remains while helping us understand the need for ongoing and sustained conservation efforts—including *Advocates for the West*’s legal defense sustained by your support. Thank you!

With immense gratitude,

Laird J. Lucas
Executive Director

Aspen Forest – Erin Hanson



CHALLENGING FOSSIL FUEL EXTRACTION IN THE FIGHT FOR A LIVABLE WEST

Sarah Stellberg, Staff Attorney

At a time when sound policies are needed more than ever to curb our climate disaster, the Trump administration and allies in Congress are turning back the clock through regulatory rollbacks and higher subsidies for the oil and gas industry.

Of course, the oil and gas industry is a major contributor to global climate change through release of greenhouse gases. And yet, Trump's sweeping tax and spending bill passed this July opens more of our public lands to oil and gas leasing and development, lowers royalty rates paid by oil and gas companies to 1920 levels, and rolls back methane regulations that were designed to reduce emissions from the oil and gas industry.

Meanwhile, global average temperatures continue to increase, with 2024 the warmest year on record by a significant margin, and the World Meteorological Organization now projecting a staggering 86 percent chance that within the next five years, global

average temperatures will exceed the 1.5°C threshold where certain climate system changes become self-perpetuating and irreversible. Meanwhile, climate change is leading to more frequent and intense extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts, floods, and storms.

To be clear, the United States saw record-high oil and gas production under President Biden despite the administration's policies seeking to curb climate change. Under Biden, our federal public lands accounted for roughly 10 percent of all domestic oil and natural gas production. Now, the Trump administration and Congressional allies are attempting to further intensify drilling on our public lands.

Not on *Advocates for the West's* watch. We have a large and expanding portfolio of cases challenging oil and gas development in sensitive habitats that threaten the most vulnerable wildlife species and sacred places, and that remove the public from

important decisions impacting our public lands in the name of short-term profits:

- We overturned more than a quarter of all oil and gas leases issued under the first Trump administration, covering over a million and a half acres. This January, we won an important Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals victory upholding the district court's decision covering hundreds of those leases—underscoring that the second Trump administration cannot make similar “energy dominance” policy changes on a whim, as he has promised.
- In Wyoming's Powder River Basin, we halted the massive 5,000-well Converse County Oil & Gas Project—a “climate bomb” equivalent to adding 1.2 million cars to the road—until the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) corrects major errors in its environmental review.
- In Utah, we won a settlement that resulted in the BLM

cancelling 25 oil and gas leases totaling more than 40,296 acres, issued under the first Trump administration, in a sacred cultural landscape outside Bears Ears National Monument home to tens of thousands of archaeological sites considered sacred to many Native American peoples.

- In Colorado, we're fighting a nationwide policy that prohibits the BLM from regulating the environmental impacts of drilling oil and gas wells from private or state lands to access federal minerals, which now accounts for nearly a quarter of all public lands drilling.

Advocates for the West continues to defend our wins in these and other cases, while gearing up for new fights against the Trump administration's reckless assault on common-sense environmental regulations and oil and gas industry handouts.

Our work challenging oil and gas leasing and development that

threatens cultural resources, important wildlife habitat, clean air, and clean water harnesses a two-pronged approach to combating climate-related threats: We're fighting the root cause of our changing climate by keeping fossil fuels safely below ground and carbon out of the atmosphere. At the same time, these cases seek to safeguard intact and healthy ecosystems which will be increasingly important for climate change resilience and adaptation.

In that sense, our fight against harmful drilling is a fight for a livable West.

"...WE'RE FIGHTING THE ROOT CAUSE OF OUR CHANGING CLIMATE BY KEEPING FOSSIL FUELS SAFELY BELOW GROUND AND CARBON OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE."



DEFENDING THE ANTIQUITIES ACT—AND ITS CONSERVATION LEGACY IN THE WEST

Todd C. Tucci, Senior Attorney

Conservation Lands Foundation

Partners

For more than a century, the Antiquities Act has served as one of our most important conservation laws, providing a legal framework for the president to protect cultural and natural resources at the stroke of a pen. The Antiquities Act has enjoyed bipartisan support, and nearly every president from both parties over the last century has used it.

Passed by Congress and signed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, the Antiquities Act authorizes presidents to declare historic landmarks, structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest situated on federal lands to be National Monuments, and to reserve and set aside these lands as National Monuments. Presidents have used the Antiquities Act to protect and preserve over 160 National Monuments, protecting important archaeological sites, migratory corridors for wildlife, and other treasured landscapes—including iconic lands and waters that later became Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Teton National

Park, Olympic National Park, and Zion National Park. Courts have consistently upheld the president's authority to determine whether and how much area to protect under the law.

The Antiquities Act does not grant the president the authority to revoke a prior National Monument designation. President Trump disagrees, however, and in 2017, he ordered the largest National Monument reduction in U.S. history, shrinking Utah's Bears Ears National Monument by 85%, and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by 50%. Tribes and conservation groups, including Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF), challenged President Trump's unprecedented attack on the Antiquities Act, and these lawsuits were paused after President Biden restored both monuments in 2021. *Advocates for the West* was at the table defending Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in our role providing legal counsel to CLF and its more than 80 "Friends" groups.

Now, in a push to open our protected public lands to oil and gas development and other extractive activities, the Trump administration appears to have again set its sights on revoking National Monument protections. It began with a Department of Justice (DOJ) legal memo issued this past May that reversed prior DOJ analysis and now argues that the president can unilaterally reduce or revoke National Monuments.

National Monuments across the West now appear to be in the administration's crosshairs for reduction or revocation. Rumors suggest that the Trump administration will first make a run at eliminating National Monument designations and protections at Chuckwalla and Sattftla Highlands National Monuments, two popular monuments in California. The Trump administration isn't alone in its attacks on monuments—in fact, a Michigan gold miner and Idaho-based motorized recreation group recently filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn President

Biden's designation of Chuckwalla National Monument, seeking to challenge the validity of the Antiquities Act.

Five Tribal Nations have recently moved to intervene to defend Chuckwalla, in addition to a coalition of scientists, veterans, and conservation groups—including CLF, for whom *Advocates for the West* is again providing legal counsel in defense of the National Monument.

At 740,000 acres, Chuckwalla National Monument lies at the transition zone between the Sonoran and Mojave Deserts. It protects lands significant to 13 Tribal Nations, ensures equitable access and outdoor recreation, and contains critical habitat for several threatened and endangered species such as the Mojave desert tortoise and the desert pupfish.

Designation of Chuckwalla was called for and broadly supported across the political spectrum—by local Tribes, local and state

governments, state and federal elected officials, veterans, 300-plus businesses, business groups and Chambers of Commerce, 370-plus scientists, and residents of surrounding communities.

It remains to be seen whether President Trump's Department of Justice will defend Chuckwalla in the lawsuit attempting to overturn its designation. Regardless, the Trump administration's position is clear: prioritize profits for extractive industries over recreation and conservation values.

The fight to save Chuckwalla National Monument is the first of many to come, pushed by an administration with little regard for a defining feature which sets our nation apart—a law allowing our nation's highest elected leader to protect our historical, cultural, or scientific treasures.

Saguaro At Sunset – Erin Hanson

2025 Fall/Winter Case Notes

Advocates for the West



WE'RE MEETING THE MOMENT. WILL YOU STAND WITH US?

Advocates for the West offers our winning legal services to our client-partners at no charge, providing top-notch legal representation for the environment. We are unwavering in our commitment to protect and defend the West we love from pro-industry threats. Advocates for the West is rolling up our sleeves for the challenges ahead.

If you are inspired by the work you read about in these pages, we hope you'll consider how you can fortify our efforts. Thanks to your support, we continue to fight—and win—for our public lands, water, fish, wildlife, and communities.

Did you know there are many ways to give to Advocates for the West, including as a beneficiary in your will or estate to protect the West for generations to come, through a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA, or through monthly giving as a member of our Sage Society?



Visit advocateswest.org/donate or scan the QR code to make a tax-deductible gift today, or visit the "Ways to Give" tab on our homepage to learn about different ways to partner with us.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Central Oregon LandWatch

Advocates for the West has a long track record of assisting our partners in sustaining healthy human, plant, and animal communities by increasing the legal capacity of conservation organizations and Tribes.

We're thrilled to further that commitment through a new partnership with Central Oregon LandWatch, whose mission is rooted in the idea that vibrant communities and healthy ecosystems are inextricably linked. Through the partnership, Advocates for the West will provide LandWatch additional capacity to flex legal muscle in areas of public lands defense and water allocation.

"This investment in legal capacity is an investment in the future of central Oregon," said Ben Gordon, Executive Director of Central Oregon LandWatch. "With Advocates for the West on our team, we're better prepared to meet the moment—and protect the places we all love."

This partnership comes at a critical time. Central Oregon is facing an onslaught of threats—including attempts to privatize public lands, rampant water waste, and erosion of bedrock federal protections, such as the Endangered Species Act.



Central Oregon LandWatch staff

With the additional capacity, Advocates for the West is helping LandWatch take its legal defense to the next level. This includes defending our public lands by responding to harmful industrial proposals and navigating the rapid changes to federal laws and policies that threaten our public lands and wildlife. At the state level, we will help LandWatch advocate for restoring instream flows to benefit fish and wildlife and improving water management in the Deschutes River Basin. Overall, this will allow us to be better informed and more proactive to protect the natural resources important to central Oregon communities.

"As a young boy on camping trips I fell in love with wild places and the creatures that live there. When we moved to southern Utah in 2010, I found my way to Conserve Southwest Utah (CSU), serving on its board for nine years and as president for two. At CSU, I observed the skill of Advocates for the West attorneys and staff as counsel to a coalition which successfully stopped the Northern Corridor Highway. I became a monthly donor and learned about Advocates for the West's incredible record of success. Just days after the 2024 federal election we doubled our contribution. We need Advocates for the West and other organizations like it to meet these challenges facing our public lands!"

Art Haines
New Harmony, UT



Art Haines and Afina



PROTECTING PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND FROM AN UNLAWFUL DIRECTIVE

Will Shoemaker, Communications & Engagement Director

Tucked into northern Colorado east of the Rocky Mountains lies a vast expanse of shortgrass prairie internationally recognized for its birdwatching and diversity of wildlife. Colorado's Pawnee National Grassland, established in 1960, is home to burrowing owls, swift foxes, pronghorn, prairie dogs, and more than 300 other bird species.

Birdwatchers, hikers, hunters, picknickers, and campers frequent this nearly 200,000-acre swath of public lands—part of the small but important National Grassland system in which the U.S. Forest Service manages protected prairie instead of forested mountains. At Pawnee, prickly pear cacti and yucca mix with clumps of native buffalo grass, blue grama, and thread-leaf sedge amid open flatlands, interspersed with an occasional rock outcropping and giving rise in the distance to the area's namesake Pawnee Buttes—prominent rock formations rising 300 feet above the surrounding plain.

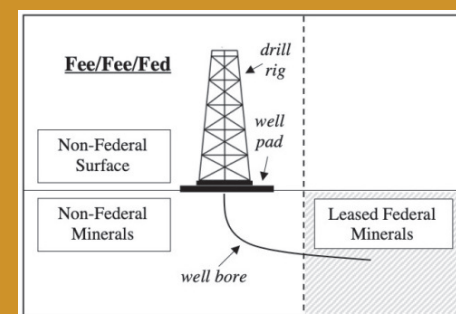
I recently walked through the grassy landscape with *Advocates for the West* Staff Attorney Andrew Hursh and Jeremy Nichols, Senior Advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity. But our view to the horizon was far from picturesque. Tanker trucks produced large clouds of dust. Drilling rigs reached into the blue sky. Colonies of fracking tanks covered dirt pads, and the quiet fall morning was interrupted by the noise of heavy equipment.

Significant fossil fuel development was precisely what we came to see—largely the result of an unlawful directive that *Advocates for the West* and our partners at the Center for Biological Diversity are challenging in court.

Aiming to reduce the environmental impact of drilling on Pawnee National Grassland, the Forest Service in 2015 decided against allowing new wells to be drilled from public lands managed by the agency—preventing any surface disturbance on the grassland itself.

But since another federal agency, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), controls the leasing of federal mineral rights, drilling of federal oil and gas reserves beneath the grassland stills occurs. The BLM issues permits for “directional” drilling from adjacent private or state-owned lands. With advances in drilling technology, oil and gas companies take advantage of the checkerboard ownership pattern of public lands in places such as Pawnee National Grassland, and they tap federal minerals after situating infrastructure just beyond the public lands boundary.

As the diagram below illustrates, these so-called “Fee/Fee/Fed” wells bore down from private or state lands before turning horizontally



to extract federally owned oil and gas underlying Pawnee National Grassland. Despite shifting the surface operations just over the property line, this extraction of publicly owned minerals still results in significant environmental harm, affecting bird and wildlife populations; causing light, air, and noise pollution; and adding extensive heavy equipment traffic to the landscape, among other impacts.

To add fuel to the fire, the first Trump administration in 2018 issued the directive at the center of our lawsuit: an unlawful loophole claiming to exempt these Fee/Fee/Fed wells from basic environmental safeguards. Under the directive, the BLM contends it has no authority to consider or address harms to wildlife, air and water, dark skies, or the aesthetic of the grassland. And oil and gas companies have increasingly taken advantage of the unlawful loophole, leading to a surge in Fee/Fee/Fed wells over the past decade. In fact, in states like Wyoming and

Colorado, more than half of all wells approved by the BLM since 2018 have been Fee/Fee/Fed.

Mind you, the oil and gas being extracted is owned by you and me. Federal law not only provides the BLM the authority to regulate surface-disturbing impacts from oil and gas drilling, but requires it. Yet, contrary to law, the federal government has shown it is only concerned with getting those publicly owned minerals into the hands of private companies—not protecting Pawnee National Grassland, its bird and wildlife populations, or public enjoyment.

That's why we brought this lawsuit. In places like Pawnee National Grassland, this unlawful lack of oversight is leading to our cherished public lands being known for the incessant drone of industrial activity as opposed to their solitude and serenity.

Victory to Protect Willamette River Salmon, Steelhead in Oregon

This July, *Advocates for the West* received a conclusive victory in our Oregon federal court case involving eight U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams and reservoirs in the Upper Willamette Basin that cause severe harm to Chinook salmon and steelhead by cutting off upstream spawning habitat and impairing downstream water quality and quantity. The Court issued final judgment affirming our prior wins and ensuring many improvements are now part of a new long-term plan issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service that will govern dam and reservoir operations for decades to come. Our prior wins in the case included an August 2020 sweeping decision holding that the Corps is violating the Endangered Species Act because its operation of the dams “jeopardizes” survival and recovery of the species, and causes unlawful “take” by killing and injuring fish. We received a second strong victory in September 2021 in the remedies phase of the case, ordering interim actions the Corps must take to protect threatened salmon and steelhead in the Willamette River.

Victory to Safeguard the Columbia River Estuary in Oregon

We just won an early victory in our challenge against the Army Corps of Engineers for unlawfully determining that no permit is required under the federal Rivers and Harbors Act for NEXT Renewable Fuels’ proposal to construct a non-conventional diesel refinery and rail yard in the Columbia River Estuary near Clatskanie, OR. The Oregon district court denied the Corps’ motion to dismiss our case, allowing the case to proceed. Construction for NEXT’s proposed refinery and rail yard would involve driving heavy equipment along a road atop a levee that protects the area from the Columbia River. Degradation of the levee would put the area at risk of flooding. In May, we also filed a case against the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for unlawfully issuing a water quality permit for the proposed NEXT refinery. The facility—which would store and manufacture extremely toxic chemicals—is proposed to be built in an unstable wetland, threatening groundwater contamination and public health.

Victory to Protect Pollinators from Rangeland Pesticides

In August, we also won final judgment in our Oregon district court case challenging the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for failing to adequately study and publicize its spraying of pesticides on millions of acres, including sensitive public lands, in 17 western states. The Court held that APHIS must prepare new environmental analysis that provides the public with more details on its future spraying plans and that APHIS must evaluate non-toxic spraying alternatives to control native grasshopper populations. Public rangelands in western states are important, multi-use lands that provide critical habitat for bees, butterflies, and other insects that—along with native grasshoppers—support a rich diversity of birds, wildlife, and plants. Greater sage-grouse, monarch butterflies, and many other species inhabiting western lands are already in steep decline and vulnerable to harm from APHIS’s pesticide spraying.

Protecting Public Health from Proposed Stibnite Gold Mine in Idaho

In July, *Advocates for the West* filed suit in Idaho state court against the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in our ongoing fight to stop the proposed Stibnite Gold Mine in Idaho’s South Fork Salmon River watershed. DEQ failed to protect public health in issuing an air quality permit to Perpetua Resources for the proposed open-pit cyanide leach gold mine. The permit allows Perpetua to emit arsenic at levels that would exceed the yearly limit DEQ itself set to protect the public from this carcinogen, and exempts the access road—which the public would be allowed to use during mining—from having to comply with Idaho’s air pollution protections. *Advocates for the West* and our partners initially appealed the permit to the Idaho Board of Environmental Quality, which ruled in our favor in 2024, faulting DEQ for manufacturing an exception to Idaho’s arsenic pollution standards to permit the mine. But in May 2025, the Board signed off on the permit, even though it still fails to ensure arsenic-laden dust is kept to safe levels. So we’re challenging the permit in state court.

Safeguarding Public Lands, Rare Plant from CuMo Mine Exploration in Idaho

In June, we sued the Forest Service for its latest approval of the CuMo Mine Exploration Project on public lands in the headwaters of Idaho’s Boise River, threatening clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and the rare plant *Sacajawea’s bitterroot*. Twice before, *Advocates for the West* has won court victories striking down variations of the mine exploration project due to risks to water quality and sensitive species. The exploration site and surrounding public lands are home to imperiled and sensitive species such as wolverines, bull trout, great gray owls, flammulated owls, goshawks, and *Sacajawea’s bitterroot*—the largest known populations of which occur within the project site. Through the project, Idaho Copper Corporation hopes to find sufficient copper and molybdenum to excavate one of the largest open-pit accessible molybdenum mines in the world.



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



Winter Light – Erin Hanson

STAFF NEWS



WELCOME MARGARET PARKER STAFF ATTORNEY

Margaret (she/her) received her J.D. and Master of Public Policy from the University of California Berkeley School of Law and Goldman School of Public Policy where she earned certificates of specialization in Environmental Law and Energy and Clean Technology Law.

Before law and public policy school, Margaret worked at the Natural Resources Defense Council, where she contributed to

litigation representing communities impacted by environmental injustice. During law school, Margaret worked for Earthjustice, the California Attorney General’s Office, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Prior to joining *Advocates for the West*, Margaret served as a law clerk for the Honorable Ronald M. Gould of the Ninth Circuit. Margaret is committed to protecting wild places and standing alongside communities to build a just and sustainable future.

LAW CLERKS, EXTERNS, & INTERNS



CALLUM ZEHNER FALL LAW EXTERN

Callum (he/him) is a second-year student at Columbia Law School, focusing on international law and environmental law. Raised in South Africa, he was fortunate to have spent much of his childhood in the bush, which inspired his enduring passion for wildlife and habitat conservation. He has since become a qualified field guide for southern Africa, and has pursued ecological research in Madagascar and the Peruvian Amazon—during which time his team discovered a dart frog species previously unknown to science.

He went to Dartmouth for university, with a double-major in History and Chinese. After graduation, Callum worked in data analysis and consultancy for a U.K.-based commerce business for two years before pivoting toward law school. This past summer, he worked for a small legal organization in London primarily focused on immigration law and European human rights issues.

During his free time, Callum can often be found running—he is currently training for the D.C. marathon in October—or playing squash. He is also writing a book on the latter stages of the British Empire.



MEREDITH DIAMOND FALL INTERN

Meredith (she/her) is entering her final year as an undergraduate at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she is majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in Political Science.

She has strived to build an interdisciplinary academic foundation through coursework in natural resource economics, environmental political theory, and communications. Through her academic pursuits, Meredith has explored a variety of modern issues, including the socio-political dynamics of wolf reintroduction in Colorado, as well as the impacts of increased

tourism on small-town culture, quality of life, and environmental health.

Born and raised in Gunnison, Colorado, Meredith’s family ties to Colorado Parks and Wildlife provided her with diverse hands-on experiences and exposure to the realities of modern-day wildlife management. She has also volunteered with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, supporting their work to conserve big-game habitat. Together, these experiences have strengthened her commitment to advancing environmental stewardship and sustainable resource management across the American West.

In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time with her family, and exploring Colorado’s public lands.



ADVOCATES for the WEST

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FEATURED ARTIST: **ERIN HANSON**

Erin Hanson is the creator of the style of painting known as Open Impressionism—a blend of classical impressionism and modern expressionism, with a dash of plein air style. Her unique approach to oil painting has gained her millions of followers and thousands of collectors worldwide. Erin has been painting in oils since she was eight years old. After being told enough times it was "too hard to make a living as an artist," Erin decided to attain her degree in Bioengineering from UC Berkeley. After college, Erin became a rock climber at Red Rock Canyon, Nevada. The vibrant landscapes she encountered during her climbs reignited her passion for painting, and she committed to creating one painting every week for the rest of her life—a promise she has kept. She uses a limited palette of only five pigments to create a vivid dance of un-muddled color upon the canvas, choosing colors that ignite the imagination and capture the emotional feeling of being out of doors. Through the years, Erin has continued to use the outdoors to inspire a vast collection of works. Hanson now resides in Oregon's beautiful Willamette Valley, where she paints the local wine country and travels far and wide to chase the light and capture the dramatic colors of nature on her canvases. Her work can be found at www.erinhanson.com

Aspen Mosaic – Erin Hanson

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