



ADVOCATES
for the WEST

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

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

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Dear Friends,

From time to time, history places us in moments that demand courage, clarity, and a willingness to stand firm. For many of us, 2025 became one of those moments.

We knew the Trump administration would waste no time dismantling environmental safeguards and opening public lands to industrial exploitation. What unfolded tested not just our laws, but our resolve.

In the face of such sweeping attacks, it's easy to feel daunted. Over the past year, many have asked whether the environmental movement can truly withstand an administration bent on dismantling protections, a Congress eager to enable it, and a Supreme Court increasingly hostile to environmental law. The question echoes everywhere: What can we possibly do?

The answer is this: We stand our ground—and we fight back. This moment calls for steadfast defense of our conservation values, and *Advocates for the West* is rising to the occasion. The landscapes we love will not defend themselves. We must show up. And in times like these, the courtroom is where we can strike the biggest blows.

With your support, *Advocates for the West* secured major, precedent-setting victories for special places and vulnerable species in 2025. These wins affirm a simple truth—strategic, relentless legal action works. When we fight with purpose, we can win.

Against long odds, our settlement at northern California's Point Reyes National Seashore is restoring ecological integrity by closing all commercial dairies and nearly all beef ranching. Our long-running case challenging dam and reservoir operations in Oregon's Willamette River Basin culminated in a brighter future for wild salmon and steelhead teetering on the brink of extinction. Our victory challenging pesticide spraying across millions of acres in 17 western states is compelling the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to better inform the public and consider preventative alternatives to controlling native grasshoppers, among many others.

At the same time, we launched bold new lawsuits to stand our ground for a livable West. The pages that follow tell the story of our unrelenting commitment. None of it would be possible without supporters like you. Your partnership empowers us to defend wild and biodiverse public lands, safeguard clean air and water, and strengthen communities throughout the region. Together, we have stopped destructive policies in their tracks—and together, we will continue advancing justice for the landscapes and wildlife that define the West.

These are turbulent times, but we are not retreating. Over the last decade, we have defeated some of the most extreme Trump-era policies and actions, and with your continued support, we will do so again—and again.

Our momentum is real. Our defense is strong. And the collective power of the conservation community is growing. I am cautiously optimistic that the cracks forming in this administration's agenda will widen in 2026.

Until then, *Advocates for the West* is sharpening our legal strategies, expanding creative legal approaches, and deepening partnerships with our clients and allies. With your support, we will not only persevere, we will prevail.

With immense gratitude,



Laird J. Lucas
Executive Director

Hood At Sunset – Matt Payne Photography



Board

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Will Shoemaker
Communications &
Engagement Director

Sarah Stellberg
Staff Attorney

Todd Tucci
Senior Attorney

Emily Whalen
Paralegal

OUR WORK IN 2025,
BY THE NUMBERS

69.5 Million Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent—equal to 15 million cars operating for a year—that would be produced by the massive Converse County Oil & Gas Project in Wyoming’s Powder River Basin, which a Washington DC federal court halted over the last year until the Bureau of Land Management corrects errors in its environmental review.

900,070 Acres of sage-grouse habitat across Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah leased for oil and gas under the first Trump administration, which the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit prevented from drilling or development in a January 2025 ruling, upholding our “Phase One” district court victory.

16,000 Acres of federal lands that the National Park Service will rezone at northern California’s Point Reyes National Seashore to prioritize resource conservation, following our landmark agreement settling a decades-long land-use conflict over harm caused by commercial ranching and dairy operations.

2,500 Approximate number of football fields equal to the area of land that would be

300

disturbed by the massive Stibnite Gold Mine in Idaho’s South Fork Salmon River watershed, where we’re challenging the Forest Service’s approval of the project in federal and state court actions.

Number of businesses, scientists, and residents of surrounding communities—in addition to Tribes, local and state governments, and veterans—that called for and celebrated the designation of California’s Chuckwalla National Monument, which we are defending as legal counsel to Conservation Lands Foundation and Friends group CactusToCloud Institute.

250

Exploration holes Idaho Copper plans to drill on National Forest lands in the Boise River headwaters as part of the CuMo Mine Exploration Project, which we are challenging in federal court. The mining company hopes to find sufficient copper and molybdenum to excavate one of the largest open-pit accessible molybdenum mines in the world—all within the Boise River watershed.

17

Western states where the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) conducts pesticide spraying, for which APHIS is now under court order to provide the public with more details on its future spraying plans, and evaluate non-toxic spraying alternatives to control native grasshopper populations.

2025 CLIENTS & PARTNERS

1000 Friends of Oregon
American Bird Conservancy
American Rivers
Bears Ears Partnership
CactusToCloud Institute
CalWild
Cascadia Wildlands
Center for Biological Diversity
Central Oregon LandWatch
Columbia Riverkeeper
Concerned Friends of the Winema
Conservation Lands Foundation
Conserve Southwest Utah
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthworks
Friends of the Bitterroot
Friends of the Clearwater
Friends of the Inyo

Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Golden Eagle Audubon Society
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Hells Canyon Council
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Law Offices of Charles M. Tebbutt
Native Fish Society
Nez Perce Tribe
Northwest Environmental Defense Center
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Wild
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
Public Justice
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

Resource Renewal Institute
Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association
Save the South Fork Salmon
Sierra Club
Snake River Waterkeeper
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
The Wilderness Society
WaterWatch of Oregon
Western Mining Action Project
Western Watersheds Project
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Watch
Willamette Riverkeeper
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Pinnacle Ridge Glow – Matt Payne Photography

2025 Milestones



Advocates for the West is fighting dozens of legal battles to protect and defend the West’s public lands, wildlife, and communities. Following are some of our landmark victories, new cases filed, and noteworthy milestones from 2025. For more information on these and other important cases, visit AdvocatesWest.org/Cases



PROTECTING ICONIC WILDLIFE

Victory to Safeguard Sage-Grouse from Oil and Gas Drilling

In our sweeping case challenging thousands of oil and gas leases in sage-grouse habitats issued under the first Trump administration, *Advocates for the West* won landmark victories in February 2020 and June 2021. Our wins held unlawful more than one-quarter of all Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oil and gas leases issued in the lower 48 states under the first Trump administration, covering over a million and a half acres of sage-grouse habitats. In January 2025, we won an important victory upholding our “Phase One” victory in this case. 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, prohibited any further development of those leases, and laid down the law that the new Trump administration cannot make similar “energy dominance” policy changes on a whim.

Victory to Protect Pollinators and Western Public Lands

In our challenge against the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) pesticide spraying on millions of acres in 17 western states to kill native grasshoppers, we won another important victory in August 2025. A federal judge issued final judgment confirming APHIS’s legal duty to consider preventative measures—rather than a “spray first, ask questions later” approach. The Court required APHIS to prepare a new environmental analysis within two years, providing the public with more details on its future spraying plans, and evaluate non-toxic spraying alternatives to control native grasshopper populations. In August 2024, the Court ruled that APHIS violated the law by focusing only on reactively spraying pesticides to suppress grasshoppers, and that the agency “ignores any pest management techniques other than the application of pesticides.” The agency’s spraying of pesticides undermines the health of native ecosystems and threatens pollinators and insects that support a rich diversity of plants and wildlife.

Victory to Defend Bighorn Sheep in Colorado

Domestic sheep carry a pathogen that, when transmitted to bighorn sheep, causes deadly pneumonia and reduces lamb survival rates for years. The pathogen is especially dangerous because bighorns and domestic sheep are mutually attracted to each other. There is no cure or vaccine. In May 2025, *Advocates for the West* won a precedent-setting victory in

our push for more bighorn sheep protections across the West. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit ruled that the Forest Service unlawfully disregarded scientific findings and arbitrarily altered the findings of its disease “Risk of Contact” modeling when it approved domestic sheep grazing on the Wishbone Allotment near Creede, CO. The agency approved the creation of the allotment within the Rio Grande National Forest in close proximity to bighorn sheep core habitats despite concluding in 2013 and 2015 that contact with domestic sheep posed a high level of disease risk to the area’s bighorn sheep populations.

Victory for Reform at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Our lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for continuing to permit harmful livestock grazing on Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana’s Centennial Valley despite long-standing recognition of its harmful impacts to wildlife prompted the Court in December 2025 to require the agency to reconsider livestock grazing permits and revisit “cattle grazing in general on the Refuge.” Red Rock Lakes is home to trumpeter swans, grizzly bears, sage-grouse, and more than 100 other bird species. The Refuge was established by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1935 to protect the largest wetlands complex in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Service admitted during court proceedings that it has never fully implemented the level of annual monitoring, analysis, and adjustments to livestock grazing set forth in its 1994 decision underpinning grazing permit authorizations. As a result, the agency must now implement required monitoring and reevaluate whether livestock grazing is compatible with the Refuge’s primary purposes, laying the groundwork for a substantial reduction or elimination of cattle grazing in coming years.



DEFENDING SPECIAL PLACES

Victory to Restore Point Reyes National Seashore

Industrial dairy and ranching operations at northern California’s Point Reyes National Seashore have led to overgrazing, soil erosion, degraded water quality, and conflicts with native tule elk. In January 2025, we reached a landmark agreement to prioritize ecological protection, wildlife conservation, and continued recreational access at Point Reyes. Under the agreement, all dairies and nearly all cattle ranches agreed to end their operations and transition off the National Seashore in exchange for payment from The Nature Conservancy. On the former ranchlands, a

Dawn at Monument Valley – Matt Payne Photography

2025 Milestones

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. We're defending our agreement from legal and political attacks, but half of the dairies and two ranches are now closed with remaining retirements expected to be complete by summer 2026.

Fighting to Protect Red Cliffs National Conservation Area

The stunning desert landscape of southwestern Utah's Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA) includes 130 miles of trails, two wilderness areas, Native American cultural artifacts, and critical habitat for the threatened Mojave desert tortoise. In 2021, *Advocates for the West* filed suit after the first Trump administration approved a plan to punch a four-lane, high-speed highway through Red Cliffs. We secured a major victory to protect the NCA when, in December 2024, a new analysis required by the settlement of our 2021 lawsuit resulted in denial of the highway right-of-way. Then, in September 2025, our motion to intervene in a lawsuit filed by Washington County, UT attempting to undercut the highway's rejection resulted in Washington County moving to voluntarily dismiss its lawsuit. But in October 2025, the BLM announced that it is reconsidering an application for the highway through Red Cliffs despite the agency's prior decision determining the highway is a poor option for the St. George community. *Advocates for the West* continues to fight to protect Red Cliffs and challenge the dangerous precedent its development would set for protected public lands throughout the U.S.

Safeguarding a Sacred Cultural Landscape in Utah

Located between Canyons of the Ancients and Bears Ears National Monuments in southeastern Utah, the "Lands Between" region is home to tens of thousands of archaeological sites considered sacred to many Native American peoples, including the Hopi, Zuni, Ute, Navajo, and Pueblos of New Mexico. It is the densest archaeological area open to oil and gas leasing on public lands in the United States. In February 2019, *Advocates for the West* filed suit to halt oil and gas lease sales in the Lands Between, and in response to our 2023 settlement agreement the BLM cancelled 25 leases totaling more than 40,296 acres due to the cultural resources they contain. Over the last year, we have continued to defend the lease cancellations against industry appeal to protect this culturally significant landscape.

Protecting Wildlife in the Owyhee Canyonlands

Advocates for the West filed suit in 2024 challenging the U.S. Air Force's decision to expand and intensify military training using F-15 fighter jets across the Owyhee Canyonlands of Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada. These vast desert wildlands of deep, rugged canyons and rolling sagebrush-steppe support a rich diversity of wildlife. But the Air Force's actions

threaten important sage-grouse strongholds, bighorn sheep, and other sensitive wildlife. The jets would train as low as 100 feet above ground level during subsonic flights, creating serious noise and visual disturbances. Also, as part of these training exercises, the Air Force plans to drop 19,000 chaff bundles—comprised of millions of aluminum-coated glass fibers in canisters—and 18,000 flares annually, dispersing debris and pollution across the pristine desert landscape and posing wildfire risk. In fall 2025, the Court granted our motion to force the Air Force to provide key documents that it excluded from the record.

Defending Chuckwalla National Monument in California

At nearly 740,000 acres, Chuckwalla National Monument was designated in January 2025 by President Biden, benefiting local economies, protecting lands significant to 13 Tribal Nations, ensuring equitable access and outdoor recreation, and safeguarding numerous historical, scientific, and ecological values. *Advocates for the West* is providing legal counsel to Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF) and Friends group CactusToCloud Institute in a case to defend Chuckwalla National Monument. In August 2025, CLF and eight other veteran, recreation, and conservation organizations followed five Tribal Nations in filing motions to intervene in a lawsuit brought by a Michigan gold miner and Idaho-based motorized recreation special interest group seeking to undo Chuckwalla's designation. The Monument was called for and celebrated by local Tribes, local and state governments, state and federal elected officials, veterans, and more than 300 businesses, scientists, and residents of surrounding communities.



CHALLENGING INDUSTRIAL THREATS

Victory for Clean Air in Idaho

Advocates for the West and our partners reached an agreement with P4 Production, LLC, a phosphate mining and processing company located in Soda Springs, ID. 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.

Fighting Massive Oil and Gas Project in Wyoming

The massive, 5,000-well Converse County Oil and Gas Project in Wyoming's Powder River Basin threatens the survival of sage-grouse and birds of prey. The project also would result in significant greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants. We won an important court victory in 2024 halting the project until the BLM corrects errors in

its environmental review. Despite the Court's ruling blocking approval of additional drilling permits that relied on flawed groundwater modeling, the Trump BLM in August 2025 again began approving drilling permits in the Converse County Project area with minimal environmental review and no public process. It also continued to rely on a flawed groundwater analysis, and repeated other legal errors at issue in our initial lawsuit. In November 2025, we took court action to block the BLM's attempt to sidestep the court ruling.

Protecting Colorado's Pawnee National Grassland

Pawnee National Grassland, located in northern Colorado, is home to swift foxes, burrowing owls, and more than 300 other unique bird species. We're challenging the BLM's failure to protect shortgrass prairie in the National Grassland from continued oil and gas extraction—a case with major implications for the BLM's oil and gas program nationally. That's because, in issuing drilling permits, the BLM erroneously claims to lack authority to consider harms to wildlife, air and water, dark skies, or the aesthetic of the grassland because the federal minerals would be extracted by horizontal drilling and fracking from wells located on private or state lands. In June 2025, we amended our lawsuit to underscore harm caused to the recreational use and enjoyment of Pawnee National Grassland by conservation group members and the public as a result of ongoing fossil fuel development.

Defending Idaho's South Fork Salmon River Watershed

Mining company Perpetua Resources' proposed open-pit cyanide leach Stibnite Gold Mine is within the Nez Perce Tribe's homeland and on the edge of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, yet the Forest Service brushed aside public comments and science showing that the mine and building a new access road would harm fish and wildlife, prevent Tribal and public access to cherished locations, and pose long-term threats to water and air quality. In February 2025, we sued the Forest Service for its unlawful approval of the massive mine, which would permanently scar thousands of acres of public lands. Our lawsuit is also against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service for violating the Endangered Species Act by failing to protect threatened Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, wolverine, and whitebark pine from the mine. Meanwhile, we're challenging an air pollution permit and a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification, both issued by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to Perpetua for the proposed Stibnite Gold Mine.

Preventing Harmful Mine Exploration in the Boise River Headwaters

Twice before, *Advocates for the West's* lawsuits have halted harm threatened by the CuMo Mine Exploration Project in the headwaters of Idaho's Boise River. In June 2025, we filed a new case challenging the Forest Service's legal violations

2025 Milestones

in approving the latest version of the project despite overwhelming public opposition and threats to critical clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and the rare plant Sacajawea's bitterroot. Idaho Copper plans to construct up to eight miles of new roads, clear 122 drill pads, and drill 250 exploration holes on National Forest lands near Grimes Creek in the Boise River headwaters. Through the project, Idaho Copper hopes to find sufficient copper and molybdenum to excavate one of the largest open-pit accessible molybdenum mines in the world—all within the Boise River watershed. The exploration site is upstream of half of Idaho's population and threatens sensitive species such as the great grey owl, American goshawk, and wolverine.

Defending the Bureau of Land Management's Public Lands Conservation Rule

The BLM's 2024 Public Lands Conservation Rule adopted new tools to promote conservation and mitigation across 245 million acres of public lands, advancing efforts to conserve intact, healthy ecosystems and restore degraded public lands further threatened by climate change. In 2024, *Advocates for the West* took legal action to oppose lawsuits brought by states and industry challenging the BLM's recently finalized Public Lands Conservation Rule, which received overwhelming public support. In 2025, *Advocates for the West* worked closely with our partners to submit comments opposing the second Trump administration's attempt to rescind the rule. We aim to keep conservation on equal footing with other uses of our public lands.



RESTORING RIVERS AND FISHERIES

Victory to Defend Upper Willamette Salmon and Steelhead

Advocates for the West has won major victories involving eight U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams and reservoirs in Oregon's Upper Willamette River basin that cause severe harm to Chinook salmon and steelhead by cutting off upstream spawning habitat and impairing downstream water quality and quantity. In July 2025, we won a conclusive victory in this Oregon federal court case when the Court issued final judgment affirming that many of the changes and actions we and our partners pursued 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.

2025 Milestones

Victory to Protect Flows for Fish in Oregon's Crooked River

The Crooked River is one of Oregon's crown jewels, winding through Smith Rock State Park and miles of wilderness canyons, and providing habitat for redband trout and steelhead. In February 2025, we won an important victory when the Crook County Circuit Court rejected several ranchers' attempt to invalidate a water right issued by the Oregon Water Resources Department to protect flows for fish and wildlife in the lower Crooked River. The Court 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.

Defending Bull Trout in Idaho's Trestle Creek

Trestle Creek is one of the Pacific Northwest's most important spawning streams for federally protected bull trout—a species nicknamed the “grizzly bear of the fish world” due to their large size, disposition, and reliance on pristine, cold-water habitat. Bull trout migrate between northern Idaho's Lake Pend Oreille and Trestle Creek multiple times during their lifetime to spawn, and juvenile bull trout are raised in the stream before migrating into the lake. In December 2025, we sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Army Corps of Engineers for approving a commercial marina and luxury housing near the mouth of Trestle Creek. In response to our litigation, the Corps ordered the Idaho Club to stop construction on the commercial marina and lakeside housing development due to the developer's permit violations. Meanwhile, our lawsuit challenging the agencies' approvals of the project will proceed.

Protecting Idaho's Snake River from Feedlot Pollution

The Snake River is a source of drinking water as well as an important site for recreation and fishing—activities that are threatened by continued agricultural pollution, including from Simplot Corporation's Grand View feedlot, located about a one-hour-drive south of Boise, ID. One of the largest feedlots in the country, with a capacity of up to 150,000 cattle and generating nearly 50,000 tons of manure each year, Simplot's Grand View unlawfully discharges livestock

waste to the Snake River without a Clean Water Act permit. *Advocates for the West* sued in May 2023 to require a permit, and in June 2024 we won an initial victory when the federal court denied Simplot's motion to dismiss and allowed our lawsuit to proceed. In December 2024, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality filed its own enforcement action against Simplot, and our case is now stayed while we await a court order stipulating Simplot's actions to come into compliance.

Safeguarding the Columbia River Estuary

NEXT Renewable Fuels' proposed refinery and railyard located adjacent to the Columbia River Estuary near Clatskanie, OR poses a significant environmental threat to the surrounding area and the river, polluting the air and water, negatively impacting local family farms, creating conditions for a catastrophic spill, and harming Endangered Species Act-protected salmon and steelhead due to an increase in barge traffic. In August 2025, we won a preliminary victory defeating a motion to dismiss our 2024 lawsuit challenging the Army Corps of Engineers' unlawful determination that NEXT did not need a permit under the Rivers and Harbors Act to build its proposed refinery. Also, in May 2025, we filed a second lawsuit, this time challenging the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for unlawfully issuing a water quality permit for the NEXT refinery. The so-called “renewable” refinery would consume as much fracked gas as the City of Eugene, and is permitted to emit 1 million tons of greenhouse gasses per year.

Defending McKenzie River Salmon and Bull Trout

For over 16 years, the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) has been out of legal compliance with federal requirements to provide proper fish passage for Endangered Species Act-protected Chinook salmon and bull trout at the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project and Trail Bridge Dam on Oregon's famed McKenzie River. EWEB's failure to provide adequate fish passage has resulted in killing and injuring Chinook salmon and bull trout as the fish try to migrate up and downriver, and prevents the fish from accessing important spawning, rearing, and feeding areas. While we initially sought remedy for EWEB's inaction in Oregon federal court in 2025, we are now seeking to hold EWEB accountable and advocate for adequate fish passage through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



As we move into 2026, I'm thrilled to assume the role of Chair for the *Advocates for the West* board—both because it's a rewarding responsibility, and because the timing couldn't be better. *Advocates for the West* is well-positioned to achieve durable, long-term conservation impact across the West, thanks to the hard work of our top-notch board and staff.

In my service to a number of non-profits over the years, I've learned that a clear, mission-driven focus and strong leadership—including board and staff working in close partnership—are critical to the strength of an organization. In that sense, *Advocates for the West* is stronger than ever.

Our talented and growing staff is backed by a skilled and committed board. But we recognize that our team's effectiveness would be limited without strategic direction. To that end, in early 2025, we adopted a new strategic plan—not the most exciting of achievements, I know, but critical nonetheless. The plan harnesses our strengths and serves as a roadmap to increase our visibility so we can defend more communities, landscapes, and wildlife at the scale the moment demands. It also seeks to embed our commitment

to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice more deeply into our work and culture, ensuring that our legal strategies reflect the voices and lived experiences of frontline communities.

Over the last year, we've succeeded in putting the plan into action, charting a course for steady and sustainable growth to ensure *Advocates for the West*'s legal advocacy empowers the conservation community through challenging times—and beyond. Right now, the courts are critical to defend all we love about the West!

Last but certainly not least, *Advocates for the West* is fortunate to have you—an unwavering community of supporters to sustain our work. Together, these factors create a strong, resilient organization—one equipped to safeguard the West's public lands, water, and wildlife for generations to come. Thank you for supporting us as we look to the inspiring work ahead.

With gratitude,

Deborah Clothier

Deborah Clothier
Board Chair

YOUR SUPPORT IS OUR STRENGTH

Advocates for the West provides legal advocacy for a livable West. As free lawyers for the environment, we empower conservation organizations, Native American Tribes, and environmental advocates through top-notch, strategic legal services. This is only made possible thanks to our amazing community of support (you!).

Right now, our bedrock environmental statutes and the conservation values you treasure are under attack. We can no longer take for granted our vast public lands, or the wildlife and communities they support, amid blatant attempts to prioritize extraction. Now more than ever, the courts remain our strongest line of defense in fighting rollbacks and industry threats to the special places and species we love.

The more you support our legal advocacy, the stronger we are. If you are inspired by the work you read about in these pages, we hope you'll fortify our efforts for the work ahead, and share our work with your friends.

Visit AdvocatesWest.org/Donate or scan the QR code to make a gift today, or visit the “Ways to Give” tab on our homepage to learn about different ways to partner with us.

Thank you. Together, we will continue to fight—and win—for a thriving West.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

“Not since the departures of DeVoto and Stegner has the West—its unity, variety, habitat, shared community—faced such dire adversaries. *Advocates for the West* persists as our foremost vindicator, tenaciously, in the words of Barry Lopez, ‘embracing fearlessly our burning world’ lest it slip through our hopes for it. The work, however, is never over.”

Cort Conley
Boise, ID

VOLUNTEERS & EXPERTS

The following supporters gave generously of their time and expertise in 2025, helping *Advocates for the West* achieve success on the ground and in the courts. Thank you!

Edwina Allen	Jim Henken	Bella Pratt
Alison Beck Haas	Hayden Hennike	Martha Ripple
Kristen Bruce	Courtney Jelaco	Rick Ripple
Allie Bruce	Ron Jelaco	Kirk Schroeder
Hayley Bruce	Carrie Jones	Kelsey Selis
Luke Bruce	Michelle Kelly	Lynda Squire
John Carter	Prairie Kirk	John Stellberg
Natalie Chavez	Mary Logan	Cayden Stone
Steve Dill	Adam Luban	Will Tiedemann
Jane Dunbar	Sadi Mosko	Susan Valiquette
Cindy Eubank	Lisa Myers	Olivia Walker
Joanie Fauci	PHAROS Creative	Paula Warren
Linda Hardee	Bella Phillips	Mary Westerlund

IN MEMORIAM

The following members of our conservation community passed on in 2025 and will be deeply missed. This list is complete to the best of our knowledge; we sincerely apologize for any oversights.

John Allen	Carrie Scheid
Earl Dodds	Anne Schorzman
Tom Glaccum	William Tanaka
Francis Mangels	John Young
Tony Park	

LEGACY SOCIETY

What is the legacy you want to leave for the West? You can help protect the West’s special places for generations to come. Joining our Legacy Society is as simple as naming *Advocates for the West* as a beneficiary in your will or estate, either with a specific amount or a residual gift after your heirs have received their distributions.

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. Scan the QR code to learn more, or visit AdvocatesWest.org/Legacy-Society

Scan for



more info!

LAW CLERKS, EXTERNS, & INTERNS

Advocates for the West is an important training ground for the next generation of leaders in environmental law. Through our Environmental Law Clerks, Externs, and Interns Program we host, train, and mentor students and recent graduates from leading environmental law schools and colleges across the United States. Participants receive high-quality mentoring and boots-on-the-ground litigation experience. The program is a springboard to a successful career in public interest environmental law and advocacy and is critical to the future of our mission.

Advocates for the West thanks our 2025 law clerks, externs, and interns, who contributed their time and talent to our work. We wish them success in their pursuits! To learn more about our Environmental Law Clerks, Externs, and Interns Program, scan the QR code or visit AdvocatesWest.org/Law-Clerks-Interns



2025 summer law clerks, externs, and intern, from left: Lauren Block, Cayden Stone, Libby Tobey, Adam Luban, and Hayden Hennike

More on



our program!

Lauren Block
University of Washington

Max Cornell
Columbia Law School

Meredith Diamond
University of Colorado Boulder

Hayden Hennike
Berkeley Law

Adam Luban
Boston University School of Law

Derek Lund
Lewis & Clark Law School

Cayden Stone
Boise State University Andrus Scholar

Libby Tobey
University of Montana

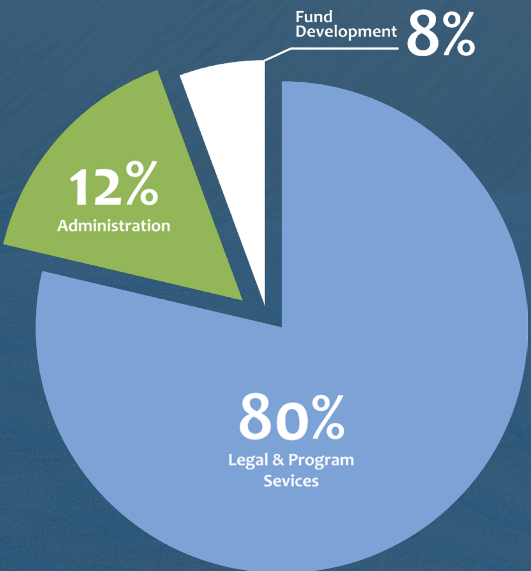
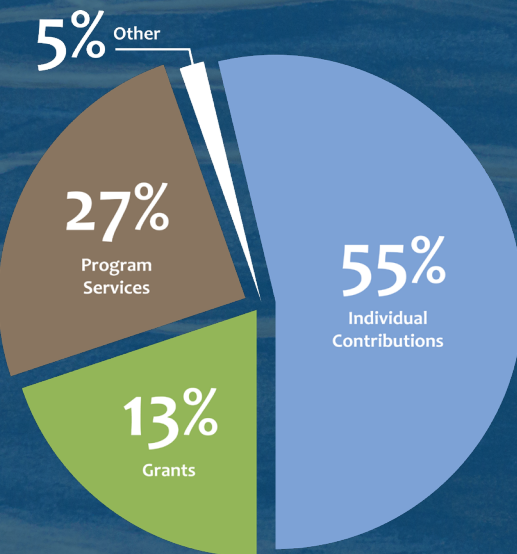
Callum Zehner
Columbia Law School

FINANCIALS

January 2025 - December 2025

Income

Individual Contributions	\$ 1,373,741
Grants	\$ 320,000
Program Services	\$ 658,679
Other	\$ 125,549
*Total Income	\$ 2,477,969



Expense

Legal & Program Services	\$ 2,351,190
Fund Development	\$ 235,119
Administration	\$ 352,678
*Total Expense	\$ 2,938,987

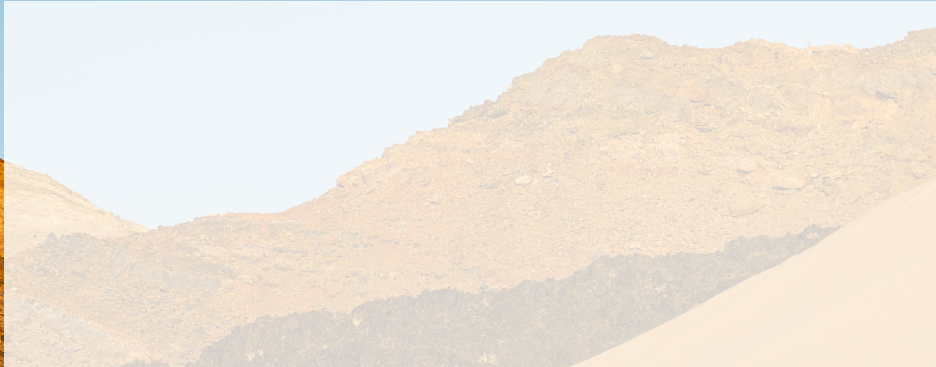
*Unaudited financial results; subject to revision.



ADVOCATES for the WEST

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FEATURED ARTIST: MATT PAYNE



Matt Payne is a Colorado-based landscape photographer, writer, and conservation advocate whose work is rooted in long-term relationships with wild places rather than quick visual spectacle. Raised in Colorado and now living in Durango, he has spent a lifetime exploring the Rocky Mountains, including climbing Colorado's 100 highest peaks and completing the 500-mile Colorado Trail. Those experiences shape both how he photographs and why he photographs.

Matt's images focus on honest, respectful representations of the natural world, emphasizing light, form, weather, and geology without manipulation or artificial drama. His work is guided by the belief that photography can foster trust, deepen connection, and encourage stewardship when it reflects places as they truly are. He brings a background in counseling psychology to his creative work, often exploring themes of attention, restraint, and responsibility in how we engage with landscapes.

In addition to his photography, Matt is the host of the long-running podcast F-Stop Collaborate and Listen and a co-founder of the Natural Landscape Photography Awards, both dedicated to ethical practices in photography. He views conservation not as an abstract ideal, but as a personal obligation that grows from knowing a place well and caring enough to protect it. Matt's work can be found online at mattpaynephotography.com



FEATURED ARTISTS PROGRAM

To learn more about our Featured Artists Program, scan the QR code or visit AdvocatesWest.org/Featured-Artists-Program



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

Spirit & Opportunity – Matt Payne Photography