



2016 Annual Report

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



Spring in the Sawtooths
– Ed Cannady

Dear friends,

As we head into uncharted waters this year, with a president whose track record strongly indicates deference to the dollar over the law, I am inspired by Dr. King's insight: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

I am incredibly proud of the staff at **Advocates for the West**. This past year we won case after case – some brought and settled within 30 days, and others put to rest after over five years of hard work.

We won numerous cases protecting wildlife and wild lands, but the big winner in 2016 was the West's vast network of rivers and streams. **Advocates for the West** halted multiple mining operations in their tracks – from a massive proposed open-pit molybdenum mine in the Boise River headwaters to an intrusive gold exploration site in the remote Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness. Win after win, we proved that the power of law is mightier than the pull of the dollar.

The attorneys at **Advocates for the West** are among the brightest minds I know – they are nimble, creative and brave. Our long list of partners includes some of the most effective environmental organizations out there. And our swiftly growing community of supporters is brimming with conservation-minded people like you.

If it weren't for you, our partners and our staff, my outlook would be grim. But I know that one dishonest man and his band of cronies is no match for our conviction. Thank you for standing with us – together we will continue arcing toward justice. This is how the West is won.

In solidarity,



Laird J. Lucas | Executive Director

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Advocates for the West is proud to provide free legal services to our conservation partners.

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Snake River Waterkeeper
WaterWatch of Oregon
The Wilderness Society
Western Watersheds Project
WildEarth Guardians
Wild Wilderness
Wilderness Watch
Winter Wildlands Alliance

2016 Milestones

PROTECTING FISH AND WILDLIFE

Bighorn Sheep

Setting national precedent after five years of work to protect Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from contracting fatal diseases from domestic sheep grazing on public lands, we won a ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit that rejected challenges from the sheep industry and affirmed the Forest Service properly closed domestic sheep grazing allotments in Idaho's Hells Canyon and Salmon River watersheds.

Greater Sage-Grouse

In our largest public lands case to date, covering over 70 million acres in 10 states, we filed suit in the District of Idaho challenging the BLM and Forest Service's failure to conduct range-wide evaluation of sage-grouse conservation needs in the face of climate change and other threats.

Grey Wolves

We filed suit in Idaho federal court challenging USDA-Wildlife Services' killing of gray wolves in Idaho. In 2015, the agency killed at least 72 wolves in the state – using foothold traps, neck snares and aerial gunning from helicopters.

Chinook Salmon, Steelhead & Bull Trout

We are challenging the Forest Service's status quo grazing decisions on the East Fork Salmon River within the Sawtooth National Forest, which violates the Endangered Species Act by allowing harmful and destructive grazing to continue within critical fish habitat.

In response to rising water temperatures and inaction by federal agencies, we filed a notice of intent to sue the Environmental Protection Agency, asking EPA to reevaluate Lower Snake River dam operations and help prevent massive, heat-driven fish kills. In 2015, hot water killed 250,000 adult sockeye salmon in the Columbia and Snake rivers, which is the primary food source for Puget Sound resident orcas. As a result, these orcas are starving.

Oregon Spotted Frogs

We reached a successful settlement with the Bureau of Reclamation requiring Endangered Species Act consultation over its operation of the Wickiup and Crane Prairie reservoirs on Oregon's Deschutes River basin, which impacts imperiled Oregon spotted frogs.

Oregon federal court ruled in our favor that the Forest Service violated its own Forest Plan by continuing to authorize livestock grazing that harms Oregon spotted frog habitat in the Fremont-Winema National Forest, and recommended closure of 68,000 acres to further grazing until the agency has developed better protections.

DEFENDING SPECIAL PLACES

Point Reyes National Seashore

In February we filed a high-profile case challenging the Park Service's failure to ever study the impacts of livestock grazing on sensitive soils and wildlife habitat of the Point Reyes National Seashore, and in July the U.S. District Court denied the government's motion to dismiss our case, holding that citizen groups could sue to protect the National Seashore from impairment.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Arizona federal court held that BLM failed to adequately evaluate the adverse impacts of livestock grazing in the Sonoran Desert National Monument, ordering BLM to conduct new analyses to determine whether grazing should be eliminated to protect the Monument's fragile ecology.

Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness

Idaho federal court ruled that the Forest Service unlawfully approved use of heavy equipment and hundreds of truck trips into Idaho's Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness – halting mining exploration at the Golden Hand site near Big Creek.

Steens Mountain

The 9th circuit court ruled that BLM failed to consider impacts to critical winter habitat for sage-grouse when it approved a massive wind project and transmission line on Steens Mountain in Oregon – one of the largest undeveloped landscapes in the Great Basin and considered a Jewel of the West.

Highway 12 Wild and Scenic River Corridor

Since 2010, we have been battling “mega-loads” on Idaho's Hwy 12 Clearwater-Lochsa Wild and Scenic River corridor. Mega-loads are shipments of oil refinery equipment as big as the Statue of Liberty bound for the Alberta, Canada tarsands pits. Advocates for the West won a series of cases temporarily blocking industry titans such as ExxonMobil and GE from hauling these shipments along one of the country's most revered scenic highways. We finally reached a settlement with the Forest Service agreeing to limit the size of truckloads allowed on Hwy 12.

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

PROMOTING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Nuclear Waste Shipments

Ruling in our favor in a Freedom of Information Act case brought on behalf of former Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus, the Court held that the Department of Energy violated FOIA and its own “public interest” regulations by heavily redacting documents relating to proposed shipment of spent nuclear fuel to Idaho National Laboratory.

Motor Waste Disposal Wells

We issued the Idaho Transportation Department a notice of intent to sue for violating the Safe Drinking Water Act by unlawfully continuing to operate motor vehicle waste disposal wells, which drain into the Boise River and were ordered to be closed over 11 years ago.

SAFEGUARDING WATER

Wild & Scenic Selway River

We won a strong court decision that blocked the Forest Service from building roads and clear-cut logging in the Wild and Scenic River corridor along Idaho's Selway River.

Salmon River

Responding to our petition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers formally re-designated Idaho's Salmon River as a “navigable” river – this important action means that federal regulation of gravel mining and other threats will finally apply to this iconic river.

Boise River

In our second victory against the proposed CuMo open pit mine in the headwaters of the Boise River, the Court ruled that the Forest Service violated the law in failing to consider impacts of the project to an imperiled native flower – Sacajawea's bitterroot. The project was halted, which protects the plant and also ensures safe drinking water for the populous Treasure Valley.

Atlanta Gold

We reopened our suit against Atlanta Gold, asking the Court to find the mining company in contempt of court for failing to meet Clean Water Act expectations set forth in our 2012 victory against the company.



Financials January–December, 2016

Income

Individual Contributions	\$ 429,337
Foundations	\$ 193,355
Attorney Fee Awards	\$ 285,643
Total Income*	\$908,335

Expense

Legal & Program Services	\$ 768,431
Fundraising	\$ 65,598
Administration	\$ 103,082
Total Expense*	\$ 937,111

Advocates for the West is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. If you have questions regarding our financial information, please contact Executive Director Laird Lucas: 208.342.7024 x201 / llucas@advocateswest.org

*Unaudited financial results; subject to revision.



**WE
EXIST
TO:**

Defend the West's natural treasures and wildlife for the benefit of all – now, and into the future.

Hold government accountable for its mandated duties to protect and preserve our environment.

Take on the toughest environmental issues, and never back down.

HOW THE WEST IS WON

85% rate of legal success

plus

Representing more than 35 partners

Bringing over 140 cases across 100 million acres of public lands in 11 western states

plus

15 years protecting our environment

equals

**1 Mission:
WIN FOR THE WEST**

Donors

A special thank you to our donors!
This list represents all who supported
Advocates for the West in 2016.

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our monthly giving club.*

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The following *Advocates for the West* supporters passed on in 2016 and will be deeply missed. This list is complete to the best of our knowledge; we sincerely apologize for any oversights.

Jerry Baker
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Your donations make it possible for *Advocates for the West* to keep winning for the West.