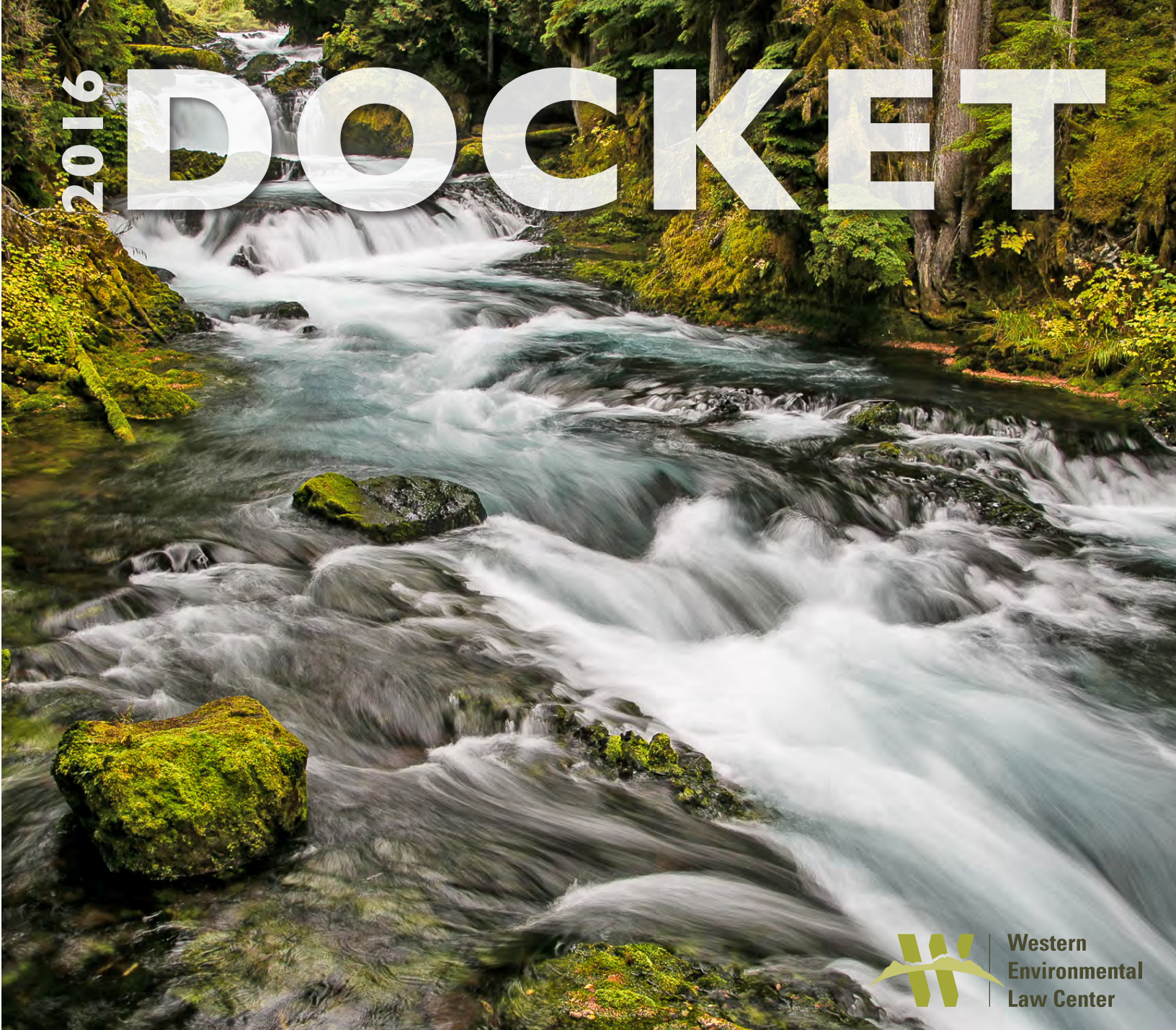


2016

DOCKET



Western
Environmental
Law Center

A look ahead at Defending the West



Erik Schlenker-Goodrich
Western Environmental Law Center
Executive Director

Our legal team remains engaged in far-reaching, big-impact litigation. Throughout the year, we will fight to protect imperiled wildlife including wild salmon, wolves, and Canada lynx. We will defend the American West's natural heritage from Oregon's old-growth forests, to Colorado's North Fork Valley, to Wyoming and Montana's Powder River Basin. And we will work to build the West's resilience in the face of climate change by challenging reckless fracking and mining plans that threaten our public lands, our water, and our communities.

You play a critical role in making our work possible. With your support, our team will use its legal expertise to realize our shared vision of a healthy, thriving West. Together, we can affect real change. *Thank you for your dedication to defending the West.*



1) SAFEGUARDING OUR CLIMATE

We filed a federal lawsuit to protect 10 million acres of land from reckless coal mining and fracking in Montana and Wyoming's Powder River Basin. Our attorneys are fighting to keep 11 billion tons of coal in the ground and to stop 18,000 new fracking wells from being drilled. We are fighting in court to protect our climate, land, air, water, and communities.



3) FIGHTING FOR WOLVES ACROSS THE WEST

On the heels of our precedent-setting victory in Washington state that stopped Wildlife Services—a federal wildlife extermination agency—from killing wolves, we are now challenging the agency's authority to kill wolves in Oregon. We are also in court fighting against a barbaric wolf and coyote killing contest in Idaho to stop the event from taking place on our public lands. And our legal team is working to protect the endangered Mexican wolf in Arizona and New Mexico where the animal's population continues to shrink with less than 100 Mexican wolves remaining in the Southwest.



4) DEFENDING LYNX HABITAT

Despite research showing Canada lynx habitat being more extensive than originally thought, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service excluded habitat in the Southern Rockies—from Wyoming through Colorado and into New Mexico—from the animal's critical habitat designation. We're challenging the Service's decision with the goal of securing habitat protections for lynx throughout its range.



2) STOPPING RECKLESS FRACKING IN COLORADO

- We are fighting the Fram Whitewater Master Development Plan in western Colorado, which would allow 108 new oil wells on 12 new well pads, plus new roads and pipelines, across a 52,000-acre area, producing 8.7 million barrels of oil.
- We are challenging the Bull Mountain Master Development Plan, which would allow fracking across 20,000 acres, including 146 new gas wells, in the North Fork Valley.
- We are ensuring that Colorado's national forest planning process does not allow irresponsible oil and gas development by the fossil fuel industry that could harm the state's environment and communities.



5) PRESERVING WILD SALMON AND STEELHEAD

We are preserving and restoring wild salmon and steelhead trout runs. In Washington we are working to remove Enloe Dam and seek to allow wild fish access to their native habitat in the Similkameen and Puyallup rivers. We are also fighting rampant agricultural pollution in Washington's rivers and Puget Sound.

6) PROTECTING WESTERN FORESTS

WELC plays a pivotal role in shaping forest law and policy in the American West:

- In California we seek to block the Westside Post-Fire Timber Sale, which threatens old-growth forests, rivers, and northern spotted owls.
- We are working to stop an aggressive increase in logging on western Oregon's public lands.
- In Colorado we are fighting the massive, harmful Tennessee Creek Timber Sale near Leadville.
- In the Southwest we are preserving important wetlands on the Rio Grande, Carson, and Santa Fe National Forests.



GuideStar Exchange Program gave WELC its highest rating—a Gold Level Participant. GuideStar rates nonprofit transparency on a national scale.



We balance and offset our environmental footprint by purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates, Carbon Offsets, and Water Restoration Certificates®



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**Western
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Law Center**

We are a nonprofit, public-interest environmental law firm that uses the power of the law to safeguard the wildlife, wildlands, and communities of the American West.

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From the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, we are working in all 11 Western states providing our legal services to more than 155 clients—for free.

This special report features some of the most important cases our legal team will work on this year to defend the American West's environment and communities.

