

2017 VICTORY REPORT



THESE ARE YOUR VICTORIES.

We are fighting harder than we ever have before. Using the full power of the law and the courts to defend the American West's natural heritage and communities, we are working with our more than 185 partners and clients to take a stand against the Trump administration's assault on our wildlife, public lands, and climate. Our expertise, dedication, and leadership have resulted in many important, on-the-ground victories on the national, regional, and local levels—*all made possible by your support.*

Our impact is shown by a pioneering campaign we have led to safeguard our nation's climate and public lands, all while protecting public health, from wasteful oil and gas drilling. Last November, after nearly a decade of WELC leadership, the Obama administration completed a rule to cut methane pollution and waste equivalent to the climate pollution released by over 3.2 million cars each year, all saving and putting to productive use enough natural gas to supply about 740,000 houses each year, with net economic benefits of upwards of \$204 million per year. However, this rule is now under heavy attack by industry trade associations. But our defense of the rule has proven formidable. In January, we defeated industry and state challengers' attempts to stop the rule's implementation in federal court. In May, we defeated an attempt to axe the rule in the U.S. Senate. And in July, we filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the Trump administration's attempts to suspend compliance dates established by the rule. Moving forward, we will continue to use the full power of the law to defend this important rule and its compliance.

All of these victories are your victories—*thank you.*



Erik Schlenker-Goodrich
Executive Director

100,000 ACRES

PROTECTED FROM NICKEL MINING IN OREGON

Our victory prevents destructive nickel mining in Oregon’s Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest and along the headwaters of the Illinois and Smith Rivers. These spectacular lands and waters in Southwest Oregon include some of the nation’s most pristine rivers, critical habitat for wild salmon and steelhead trout, and clean drinking water for Oregon and California communities. It also contains the highest concentration of designated Wild Rivers in the contiguous U.S.

400,000 ACRES

PROTECTED FROM HARMFUL OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE IN NEW MEXICO

An off-road vehicle advocacy organization challenged the U.S. Forest Service’s 2012 decision—and our prior victory—reining in damaging motor vehicle travel on the Santa Fe National Forest. This summer, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld our prior victory, thereby continuing to protect this unique landscape from the damage caused by unregulated cross-country motor vehicle use.

NATIVE FISH AND CLEAN WATER

PROTECTED BULL TROUT IN IDAHO

Thanks to our legal advocacy, the Payette National Forest is reconsidering how it manages roads and trails for motorized vehicles to protect native bull trout, a fish listed as threatened with extinction in 1999. Forest roads can block fish passage and create sediment runoff problems, choking trout streams. We will continue to hold the agency accountable to its required analysis. Protecting this special fish also means protecting clean water for us all.

176 MILLION TONS OF COAL

KEPT IN THE GROUND IN MONTANA

We halted the expansion of the largest proposed underground coal mine in the country. Our lawsuit proved the federal Office of Surface Mining did not take a hard look at the public health and environmental impacts of Signal Peak Energy’s Bull Mountain coal mine expansion as required by law. Most of the coal would be exported to Asia and coal trains through the western U.S. would have greatly increased as well. The judge ordered mining in this area immediately stop.

20,688 RIVER MILES

PROTECTED FROM SUCTION DREDGE MINING IN OREGON

We helped pass a new law permanently prohibiting suction dredge mining in essential salmon and trout habitat in Oregon’s rivers and streams. Suction dredge mining recklessly vacuums up streambeds in search of gold, destroying habitat where salmon and steelhead trout lay their eggs and young fish are spawned. This victory expands on our 20-year legacy of advocacy to protect and restore wild salmon and trout in the Pacific Northwest.

LYNX AND HEALTHY FORESTS

PROTECTED CANADA LYNX ON NATIONAL FOREST PUBLIC LANDS IN COLORADO

After threatening to sue the Forest Service over a controversial salvage logging and road construction project on the GMUG National Forests in western Colorado, we reached an agreement with the Forest Service that will protect and enhance high-quality lynx habitat across more than 200,000 acres of public lands. This agreement dramatically increases the budget for scientific research to inform, identify, and avoid impacts to high-quality lynx habitat.





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We are a nonprofit, public interest environmental law firm.

We use the power of the law to safeguard the wildlife,
wildlands, and communities of the American West.

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LYNX PROTECTED FROM TRAPPING

Thanks to our steadfast legal advocacy, Montana will continue to implement new trapping rules we secured in 2015 to protect lynx from being harmed in traps set for other animals. In 2017, we defeated a legal challenge that sought to derail these rules. This most recent victory ensures that lynx may thrive in a lynx protection zone in northwest Montana and the Greater Yellowstone area.

Open and read this special report for more victories you made possible—*thank you.*