

# LEGAL DOCKET



Western  
Environmental  
Law Center



**GRATITUDE.** Gratitude for the world around us. Gratitude for the hard work we all do, together, to safeguard the West's public lands, wildlife, and communities. And gratitude for the seeds of possibility we now cultivate in service of transformative climate and conservation action.

Even as our national political crisis deepens, we're using litigation and legal advocacy to set the stage for that future action. With vision and ambition, we're committed to the struggle.

We're challenging oil and gas fracking and coal mining across the American West, setting precedent and authority that compels federal agencies—even now—to account for our climate crisis. And we're working with communities to facilitate a just and equitable transition to 100% clean energy. At the same time, we're acting to protect iconic, snow-dependent wildlife including grizzlies, wolverines, and lynx that are vulnerable to climate change as well as wildlife such as wolves that foster the health and resilience of our shared natural heritage as a bulwark against climate change.

The late Mary Oliver changed my life—and I'd surmise many of yours—when she wrote in her poem, *The Summer Day*, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Her words charge us with the duty to be "idle and blessed," to witness the immense beauty of our world. But as we meet that duty, we spark within us an imperative: to act in service of our world.

That's precisely what we intend to do in 2019 as we represent our more than 185 clients and partners.

And for that opportunity, we feel deep gratitude.

**THANK YOU.**



Erik Schlenker-Goodrich  
Executive Director





# **WE DEFEND THE WEST**

## 2019 CASE HIGHLIGHTS & OUR IMPACT

### **DEFENDING ICONIC WILDLIFE AND THE PLACES THEY CALL HOME ARE AT THE CORE OF OUR MISSION**

This year we are focusing on putting an end to the cruel tactics being used to poison, kill, and trap vulnerable animals on public lands across the West. The states of Idaho and Wyoming still allow bear-baiting as a way to “hunt” black bears, allowing people to use doughnuts or other food to lure bears on our public lands to then kill them. Our legal advocacy aims to stop this unethical treatment of animals in all the Western states.

We are also fighting to end the use of M-44 “cyanide bombs” by federal government agents on public lands. These bombs detonate when disturbed, spraying cyanide intended to kill coyotes, but are an extreme danger for other wildlife. Pet dogs have been killed and children injured by these bombs. After years of suffering from exposure to one of these bombs, cyanide poisoning was listed as a cause of death for one man. It is beyond harmful to have these bombs on public lands, near hiking trails or camping spots, and we are using the law to stop their use.

In 2019, we are expanding our legal campaign against Wildlife Services, the federal wildlife killing program responsible for the deaths of millions of animals each year with little to no oversight. We are exposing Wildlife Services for its dangerous, kill-first tactics for beavers, wolves, cougars, and bears, and are advocating for major reforms in how it operates. We simply must end Wildlife Services’ rippling negative effects to the broader environment.

We also have a collection of cases using the Endangered Species Act to protect wolves, grizzly bears, wolverine, lynx, salmon, and other imperiled wildlife. Our attorneys are experts in this field of law and we will fight to defend all these important animals and their habitat across the West.

### **WE BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO RESTORE FORESTS AND ACHIEVE A HEALTHY ECONOMY**

Addressing complex forest restoration needs while balancing environmental protection and socioeconomic issues is a specialty area for WELC. We are bringing local community members, businesses, and agencies together to restore national forests and rural communities in central and eastern Oregon.

As a key partner in collaborative groups on the Deschutes, Malheur, and Ochoco National Forests, we are producing solutions to address large-scale ecological and socioeconomic problems. This year we will work with the diverse people who live in these areas to create and implement scientifically and legally defensible forest restoration practices. Our on-the-ground results over the years speak for themselves, and in 2019 we will broaden the scope of our success in forest and community restoration.

### **WE WILL ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS FOR ALL PEOPLE**

Our attorneys are protecting public lands in our shared fight against climate change. In stunning landscapes such as New Mexico’s Greater Chaco and Colorado’s North Fork Valley, we are using the law to fight relentless fracking across millions of acres of public lands in the West. Our cutting-edge legal action has already set precedent for climate action, catalyzing positive change.

This year we will build on that legacy, making sure the Trump Administration does not put any more of our public lands on the chopping block. We will also help lead Americans toward a Green New Deal that recognizes public lands as cornerstones of resilience, not exploitation. With public lands providing opportunities for forest, watershed, and wildlife restoration, as well as an inestimable sense of place essential to our communities, the future is bright.

**Thank you to our loyal supporters! Your contributions make a difference across the American West!**





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Oregon | Washington | New Mexico | Montana

We are a nonprofit, public interest environmental law firm.  
We use the power of the law to safeguard the public lands,  
wildlife, and communities of the American West in the  
face of a changing climate.

[WESTERNLAW.ORG](http://WESTERNLAW.ORG)

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Another year and the fight continues. Our attorneys remain dedicated to protecting your right to a healthy environment. We're expanding our reach and have a suite of cases to protect Washington's Puget Sound region: the people, the animals, the water, and the public lands.

Read this report to learn more about our 2019 cutting-edge legal cases.

## TOGETHER, WE DEFEND THE WEST.

