

# VICTORY REPORT



Western  
Environmental  
Law Center

## 450,000 ACRES SAVED FROM FRACKING, AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

Together, we are making a difference for the people and places of the American West. With your support, our team of attorneys secured landmark victories across 450,000 acres in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming protecting public lands, water, and communities from oil and gas development.

Our victories are also setting the legal precedent needed for broad reforms to the entire U.S. fossil fuel leasing system. Our wins are a major blow against the Trump administration's frenzied rush to drill and frack for oil and gas across the western states.

As a tangible result of our dedication and determination, the federal government—for the first time ever—must analyze the full climate impacts of oil and gas leasing. The Trump administration also must now disclose the climate impacts of fracking on public lands and consider the cumulative impacts of greenhouse gas emissions generated by oil and gas lease sales.

Thanks to your support we are making a massive on-the-ground impact today and are setting the stage for a positive future ahead. We are tackling the climate crisis and are proving the Trump administration is accountable to the law. With you by our side, we are winning...and we aren't stopping now.

Dear Friends,

This has been quite a year. A year of challenges and a year of victories. We are facing threats like never before—threats to our laws, to our communities, and to our environment.

Yet we remain strong. Our wins this year speak for themselves and demonstrate that the power of the law is a strong tool to fight injustice.

We used the law to protect forests, deserts, mountain meadows, and rivers. We defended wildlife and their habitat. And we're keeping families safe by reducing toxic pollution.

With you and our more than 175 partners and clients, we are achieving big victories, making a lasting difference this year and in years to come. **Thank you for your support.**



For the West,

Erik Schlenker-Goodrich  
Executive Director





**Thank you to our loyal supporters! Your contributions made these victories possible!**

### SAFEGUARDING THE SPOKANE RIVER IN WASHINGTON

We went to court to defend the values of the Spokane River, including water quality, scenic beauty, rafting, outdoor recreation, and habitat for fish and wildlife because the managing agency adopted an ill-advised rule to allow stream flows to drop close to drought levels, jeopardizing this river. Now the agency must go back to work on this river's instream flow rule and account for the public's values of this beloved river.



### VICTORY FOR RARE OREGON SEABIRD

Thanks to our legal action, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission must reevaluate protections for the marbled murrelet. Without increased protections, this bird is likely to go extinct in the state of Oregon. We are ensuring the best available science is used to determine the fate of this small seabird.



### 1.8 MILLION ACRES PROTECTED IN CALIF.

We defended 1.8 million acres in California's Sierra Nevada as critical habitat for the Yosemite toad and Sierra mountain yellow-legged frog. We stood up to cattle grazing interests who had challenged that land designation. Our victory keeps the habitat for these rare amphibians protected.

### PROTECTING ELK AND DEER IN COLORADO

We saved elk and mule deer from being harmed by an oil and gas drilling plan in western Colorado, near the start of the North Fork of the Gunnison River. The judge ruled that the Trump administration illegally approved drilling plans and did not adequately analyze wildlife and climate impacts.



### SAVING WILDLIFE FROM ILLEGAL FUR EXPORTS

We took the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to court over its international fur export program because it facilitates the export of thousands of animal pelts each year with little oversight. Now the USFWS must review their policies to better prevent Canada lynx from being killed in traps set for bobcats.



### DEFENDING GREATER CHACO CANYON IN NEW MEXICO FROM FRACKING

Our team proved the Bureau of Land Management illegally approved oil and gas drilling in the Greater Chaco region, an area sacred to Tribes in the American Southwest and home to the Navajo Nation. We continue to lead the way to permanently protect Greater Chaco's communities and the land's natural and cultural heritage from fracking.







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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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# 2019 VICTORY REPORT

In the courtroom, we have battled against timber industry attacks to defend the 47,000-acre expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument located in Oregon and California. In April, a federal judge rejected a logging company's challenge to President Obama's expansion of this national monument. Work remains, but we're making good progress. Thank you for partnering with us to keep up the fight to protect these important public lands!

**Read this report for more victories you made possible.**



**TOGETHER, WE DEFEND THE WEST.**