



Western
Environmental
Law Center

ANNUAL REPORT
2022



OUR MISSION

We use the power of the law to safeguard the public lands, wildlife, and communities of the western U.S. in the face of a changing climate.

DEAR FRIENDS

We have a choice to make, together.

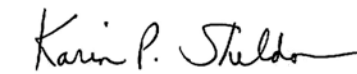
To stand with each other for the people we love and the world around us. To not just open doors to a thriving, resilient future, but to walk through those doors, together.

You make that choice possible by providing the support we need to defend the western U.S. from ruthless corporate exploitation and the effects of climate change. You empower us to fight in agencies, courts, and state legislatures for the protection of public lands, wildlife, rivers, old-growth forests, and communities. You enable us to shape positive public opinion with our effective communications.

This report describes what we have accomplished, together, in the past year. When you read it, know that you contributed to sustaining the world's beautiful, resonant vitality.

We are immensely proud of the work we do at the Western Environmental Law Center. But we are clear-eyed about what needs remain. We are eager to build upon our success to overcome the challenges we face and to seize the opportunities we have helped to forge, together.

Thank you.



Karin P. Sheldon
Board President



Erik Schlenker-Goodrich
Executive Director



PROTECTING MILLIONS OF ACRES FROM OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION

This year, the U.S. enacted the Inflation Reduction Act, marking the largest investment in climate action in our nation's history. Extremely difficult political dynamics resulted in several aspects of the law that unjustly require frontline oil and gas communities to continue to sacrifice their health and communities for political concessions made in the back rooms of Washington, D.C., to fossil fuel interests.

WELC's forward-thinking leadership and legal advocacy on oil and gas issues has created important legal precedents that will help shield frontline communities from these political concessions. We are eager to wield these new powers alongside our partners in pursuit of climate justice.

This year, we built on a series of landmark victories that forced federal land managers to end the practice of evaluating and approving oil and gas leasing and development on public lands based only on the climate impacts of individual projects. Instead, thanks to our court victories, agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management must now consider the cumulative effects of oil and gas leasing and drilling—and their far weightier climate tolls.

After our legal breakthrough, we brought a series of cases challenging ill-advised oil and gas leasing. We won or favorably settled every case. This year, the Biden administration saw the writing on the wall for three ongoing cases and agreed to withdraw and reconsider oil and gas leases on nearly 4 million acres of public land in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

In another huge victory, we secured an agreement from the Biden administration to withdraw and reconsider a 20-year plan that would have allowed oil and gas drilling on 2.2 million acres in Colorado. Much of that drilling would have happened in the North Fork Valley, an area suffering from disproportionate warming due to climate change. The area's communities are known for their organic family farms, wineries, recreational opportunities, and wildlife.

Also in Colorado, we won a case eliminating a plan that would have allowed fracking on 35,000 acres in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison national forests that provide water for downstream communities and habitat for elk, black bear, and the imperiled Canada lynx.

In New Mexico, with our Diné and community partners, we protected 45,000 acres of exceptionally sacred lands—or 70 square miles—in the Greater Chaco Landscape from fracking. The leased lands include the sacred Sinaateel Mesa Complex, which is central to the Diné cosmology and akin in importance to Jerusalem, Mecca, or the Bodhi Tree in India. The Bureau of Land Management will pause extraction activities and will not approve any new wells, roads, or pipelines as it reconsiders the Trump-era decision.

In eastern Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota, we secured a legal agreement that will prevent new oil and gas drilling on 58,000 acres of public lands pending a new analysis of its potential harm to groundwater and the climate.

Our team of attorneys and advocates fighting for climate justice is stronger than ever. Together, we will use our considerable firepower to continue defending our climate, safeguarding public lands, and working alongside frontline communities.

Informed by science and powered by the law, WELC is driving progress toward transitioning the U.S. away from fossil fuel energy.

This year, WELC achieved its strongest year ever defending communities and our climate against oil and gas extraction on public lands. We protected:

- 4 million acres across the western U.S.
- 2.2 million acres in Colorado
- 58,000 acres in Montana and the Dakotas
- 45,000 acres in New Mexico



HOLDING BIDEN ACCOUNTABLE ON OUR CLIMATE

President Biden made many climate promises on the campaign trail. We use the power of the law wherever possible to hold him to those promises. We successfully defended his administration's decisions to postpone oil and gas lease sales in early 2021 to address climate and environmental concerns. We are also representing a broad coalition challenging the administration's decision to resume new oil and gas leasing on public lands, which broke a central campaign promise.

Additionally, we are challenging the Biden administration's record-setting pace of oil and gas drilling permit approvals. Our case targets more than 4,000 oil and gas drilling permits in New Mexico and Wyoming, representing 490 million to 600 million metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions. That pollution will worsen the climate crisis, damage ecosystems nationwide, and harm more than 150 climate-imperiled species. Our case challenges more than 70% of the Biden administration's permit approvals in its first 20 months.

Our legal experts are fiercely dedicated to sustaining a livable climate for the U.S. and the world. And while we are disappointed to be in the courtroom against an administration that campaigned so heavily on climate action, we will do what it takes to hold our government accountable.

FIGHTING FOR A JUST TRANSITION IN NEW MEXICO

New Mexico's Permian Basin contains one of the largest oil and gas deposits on the planet. Amid the industry's extraction frenzy, we are intensively involved in the state's efforts to rein in air and climate pollution. This year, we helped lead the environmental community's efforts to achieve nation-leading ozone pollution prevention rules for the industry in New Mexico. That's a huge victory that will deliver strong protections, especially for frontline communities living closest to well sites. Our efforts also helped lead the state to impose the first full ban on routine venting and flaring of methane—a huge contributor to climate change—by the oil and gas industry.

We're also arguing before the state supreme court on behalf of our Diné partners to secure hard-fought community benefits as a part of a merger between Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) and national renewables-focused energy outfit Avangrid. The merger would provide a pathway to a better future, including ongoing dialogue with impacted communities and resources to achieve a just transition to renewable energy and a sustainable economy.

Moreover, we are working to reform New Mexico's antiquated Oil and Gas Act to work for the public interest rather than private profit. In addition, we led a coalition that successfully blocked multiple bills in this year's legislative session designed to promote fossil gas hydrogen.

We are continuing our advocacy in New Mexico, but that is just a part of our broader vision for climate justice in the western U.S. Our significant wins in New Mexico will lead to transformative change across the nation.



WINNING CASES AGAINST THE COAL INDUSTRY ACROSS THE WESTERN U.S.

This year, we successfully challenged a 20-year plan that would have allowed vast amounts of coal, oil, and gas extraction on public lands and minerals in Wyoming and Montana's Powder River Basin, including approximately 6 billion tons of coal.

This case was necessary after the Bureau of Land Management failed to comply with a previous WELC victory. The judge held that the Bureau failed, again, to consider alternatives that would limit or end new coal leasing in the Powder River Basin—the largest coal-producing region in the U.S.

Marking a precedent-setting breakthrough, the judge ordered the Bureau to consider a no-leasing alternative and disclose to the public how many people will be sickened and die as a result of the combustion of the coal.

In another massive victory, we defeated a Trump-era approval of a 175-million-ton expansion of Signal

Peak's Bull Mountain Coal Mine near Roundup, Montana. The federal government largely ignored the fact that the proposed 175-million-ton expansion would release 240 million tons of greenhouse gas pollution over 11 years.

The proposed expansion would have made this the largest underground coal mine in the U.S. based on annual production. It would also result in more greenhouse gas emissions than any point source in the country.

This is another follow-up case victory: In 2017 we won a similar case in which the court faulted the federal government for only considering the benefits of the mine and not the true costs to the environment and public health.

In the new victory this year, the court said this flawed analysis would "predestine that emissions would appear relatively minor, even though, for each year of

its operation, the coal from this project is expected to generate more [greenhouse gas] emissions than the single largest source of [greenhouse gas] emissions in the United States."

In an important victory for clean water in Montana, WELC won a case against the state's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) when the agency failed to protect water quality from an expansion of one of the largest coal strip mines in the U.S., the Rosebud mine near Colstrip.

The judge ruled that the state cannot permit strip mining if a mining company cannot ensure it will protect water resources.

The court found that the state ignored existing contamination in a neighboring stream, failed to consider the impacts from other mine expansions on that same stream, and illegally forced the public to prove that the mine expansion would harm water

quality instead of requiring the mining company to prove that it would not contaminate water. After years of administrative engagement, the district court's decision finally requires DEQ to fulfill its legal duty as a guardian of Montana water quality.

In Utah, we are challenging an expansion at the Lila Canyon coal mine that would release 11 million tons of climate pollution. In addition to the mine's increased climate pollution, an expansion at Lila Canyon would worsen air quality, and would likely diminish visibility in natural areas including the Book Cliffs Mountain Range, Turtle Canyon Wilderness area, and the San Rafael Swell.

Mining and burning coal is the dirtiest way to produce electricity. Together, we are winning cases and finding opportunities for a just transition that will open new doors to a clean energy future.

The world's scientists, including 101 Nobel Laureates, spoke loudly about the climate crisis this year: To avoid irreversible climate change, fossil fuel expansion must stop immediately. At WELC, we are making huge strides to keep coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel, in the ground where it belongs.

PROTECTING OLD-GROWTH FORESTS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Mature and old-growth forests provide enormous ecosystem, clean water, and wildlife benefits. In addition, older forests are more resilient to stressors such as wildfire, drought, and insects. In recent years, scientists have also discovered that older forests play a key role in keeping climate-warming carbon out of the Earth's atmosphere.

This year on Earth Day, President Biden announced an executive order directing his administration to consider a path to ending logging of mature and old-growth forests on public lands once and for all. The order directs the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to: 1) define and inventory existing mature and old growth forests; 2) analyze the threats facing these forests; and 3) develop policies to conserve older forests on federal lands.

In 2022, with all we know about the ecosystem and climate benefits of old-growth forests, it seems unconscionable that we would have to fight our own government to protect the ancient cathedral forests

of the Pacific Northwest. We are making progress to bring federal management into the modern era, but the fights remain, and we are winning important court cases to protect these awe-inspiring forests and the wildlife that depend on them.

This fall, we won a case protecting 18,000 acres of old-growth forest in southwest Oregon. Our case struck down a flawed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service justification of Bureau of Land Management timber sales called Poor Windy and Evans Creek that would have logged a huge swath of threatened northern spotted owl habitat. The agencies purported this old-growth logging would have caused "zero harm," but our skilled attorneys laid out the facts, which sent the agencies back to the drawing board.

We also won a case challenging the Bureau's Griffin Half Moon timber sale that would have resulted in the logging of nearly 1,000 acres of older forest home to the enigmatic great gray owl. The Bureau's environmental assessment for the project did not consider the effects of logging on great gray owls and instead unlawfully sidestepped site-specific analysis.

Using a similar approach, we are challenging the Bureau of Land Management's plan to log public lands west of Eugene, Oregon across seven watersheds. The agency's "N126 Late Successional Reserve Landscape Plan Project" is one of the largest logging proposals on public lands in Oregon in decades. The targeted forests are home to at least three protected wildlife species: northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and Oregon Coast coho salmon.

We are also working to stop the controversial Flat Country timber sale in Oregon's Willamette National Forest. The vast majority of the proposed logging would be in mature and old-growth forests, with over 1,000 acres of clearcutting. This logging would harm the climate, destroy thousands of acres of mature and old-growth forests, harm threatened northern spotted owls, and further impair the McKenzie River Watershed that is still reeling from a 2020 megafire driven by climate change.

Scientists estimate that in the time since European colonization, old-growth forests have declined by 72%. WELC is fighting to protect what remains of these irreplaceable wonders and climate champions.

For nearly 30 years, we have used the power of the law in court to preserve and restore the natural heritage of wildlands, rivers, and forests in the western U.S.

"Protecting the old growth cathedral forests of the Pacific Northwest has been my passion and profession for decades. These ancient forests provide us with clean water, charismatic wildlife, recreational opportunities, and are fundamental to our way of life, particularly for the Indigenous people who have stewarded them for millennia."

— Susan Jane Brown
Wildlife and Wildlands
Program Director

PROTECTING STATE AND TRIBAL CLEAN WATER ACT RIGHTS

We successfully defended an important part of the Clean Water Act from harmful overreach by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Our case re-established California's right to protect water quality in the Yuba, Bear, and Merced River Watersheds for the next 40 years. More importantly, it sent a message to the Commission that taking away states' and Tribes' rights to protect their waters under the Clean Water Act will not stand.

The Commission had attempted to use timeline technicalities to strip California of its power to certify—or decertify—a hydroelectric project. The Commission had also said that the applicants' failure to complete environmental review as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) didn't matter. Our case proved this important review does in fact matter, establishing important precedent for decades to come.

As climate change fuels droughts and worse, long-term aridification, we are steadfastly working to protect water quality and quantity in communities throughout the western U.S. Our work to defend the Clean Water Act is a big part of the story.

VICTORIES FOR CLEAN WATER IN NEW MEXICO

For centuries, people in northern New Mexico have depended on clean water in the Upper Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, and Jemez Mountain watersheds. Indeed, the Jemez waters—in and around the Valles Caldera National Preserve—also hold significance for many Indigenous Pueblos.

In a years-long effort, our lawyers led a diverse coalition, including Tribal leaders and governments, community members, local governments, farmers, acequia members, water conservation groups, and outdoor recreationists, in an effort to protect northern New Mexico waterways with Outstanding National Resource Waters designations.

Our efforts resulted in the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission unanimously voting to protect streams and wetlands in the Upper Pecos Watershed and significant portions of the Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, Lake Fork, East Fork Jemez River, San Antonio Creek, and Redondo Creek. These designations—totaling more than 300 miles of streams—will support and protect existing community uses, such as ranching and farming while prohibiting new pollution from compromising these ecologically outstanding watersheds.



WELC AND ALLIES DEFEATED THE JORDAN COVE LNG PROJECT

After many years of work and many updates in our communications to you, we are elated to report that WELC and our community allies have finally, officially killed the gargantuan Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas export terminal and 230-mile Pacific Connector Pipeline proposed for Coos Bay, Oregon! Pembina, the company behind the project has withdrawn its permit request with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Our efforts and those of our Tribal, community, and landowner partners raised opposition for the project from federal and state elected leaders as well as the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. This marks the culmination of years of effort in the courtroom and at local, state, and federal levels to protect Oregon's communities and coast from what would have been the largest climate polluter in the state.

DEFENDING CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

We are in court to uphold President Obama's expansion of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The monument stretches from southwestern Oregon to northern California and is one of the most important strongholds of biodiversity in the nation. Ecologists emphasized after the monument's designation in 2000 that many of the most important parts of the region were excluded from the monument's boundaries. President Obama heeded this scientific advice in 2017 by expanding the monument under the Antiquities Act. The timber industry quickly sued to reverse that expansion in order to promote logging in this ecologically sensitive, beautiful area. Our efforts to protect the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument are ongoing, and you can count on us to see this legal battle through.

VICTORY PROTECTING SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT FROM SHOOTING

The Sonoran Desert National Monument in southwest Arizona is one of the most biologically diverse areas of the North American desert. The area is home to large saguaro cactus forests and three wilderness mountain ranges with excellent habitat for a wide range of wildlife. The monument also contains significant petroglyphs and archaeological sites. Bewilderingly, the Bureau of Land Management has allowed recreational shooting throughout 100% of the monument, and then, after we sued and won, in 90% of the monument. Because recreational shooters have irresponsibly damaged centuries-old saguaro cacti, irreplaceable petroglyphs, and ancient artifacts, that is not good enough. This year, we secured a legal agreement under which the Bureau will reconsider this shooting policy with a special eye toward protecting wilderness, the Indigenous Kumatke Trail, the Vekol Valley, and areas with monument objects including saguaro cacti and petroglyphs that could be harmed.





DEFENDING NATIONAL FORESTS, FISH, AND WILDLIFE

The U.S. Forest Service is required to balance five uses in national forests: recreation, timber, range, wildlife, and water. Too often, the Service focuses on uses that damage ecosystems, and our legacy is one of enforcing conservation values.

This year, we won a case reversing the Service's decision to allow motorized vehicles on the Clearwater National Forest's Fish Lake Trail in the Great Burn Inventoried Roadless Area. All-terrain vehicles there would degrade the best summer elk habitat on this crown jewel of Idaho's wild places. Our victory protects this prime habitat for not just elk, but threatened bull trout, grizzly bears, and other wildlife as well.

On the Flathead National Forest, managers altered rules about road building and reclamation in a way that could be used to increase road construction and logging in bull trout and grizzly bear habitat for at least the next 15 years. We successfully challenged that decision, winning protections for threatened bull trout and grizzly bears.

On the Rio Grande National Forest, the Service squandered the opportunity to improve habitat conservation for threatened Canada lynx and endangered Uncompahgre fritillary butterflies in its management plan. This year, we challenged that plan in hopes of helping lynx and the butterfly recover.



FOREST COLLABORATION IN OREGON

Prior to fire suppression policies, human and natural ignitions led to a rich mosaic of resilient forest communities in dry, frequent-fire forests like those in eastern Oregon. Low-severity fires created wildlife habitat, nurtured an abundance of large, old trees, returned nutrients to the soil, and kept riparian areas healthy for salmon and other aquatic wildlife.

Significant western and traditional ecological scientific evidence shows that 150 years of fire suppression in those same forests has had a detrimental effect on forest health. Overly dense, fuel-rich forest conditions render even the oldest, most resilient trees vulnerable to climate change-induced drought and insect and disease attack. Meanwhile hotter, drier summers have made high-severity fires increasingly dangerous to both forest ecosystems and human communities.

Forest collaboratives, like those we participate in, bring diverse partners together to restore these degraded landscapes and provide economic benefits to rural communities. We are proud to work with our community partners on science-driven restoration in eastern Oregon's forests.

RESTORING PROTECTIONS FOR WOLVES

This year, our skilled attorneys reversed the Trump administration’s political and unscientific removal of endangered species protections for gray wolves. Today, wolf protections are back in force for most of the country. The Trump administration said improved wolf populations in Midwestern states meant protections should be lifted everywhere even though only 132 wolves are believed to exist in Washington, 173 in Oregon, and a handful in California. Wolves remain functionally absent from their historical habitat in Nevada, Utah, and Colorado.

Thanks to our victory, federal wildlife managers have resumed restoration efforts in those and other states. States are also now forbidden from holding hunts like the one in 2021 that killed a full third of Wisconsin’s wolf population in under 72 hours. Unfortunately, wolves in the Northern Rockies are still unprotected because of a legislative delisting a decade ago. We are tracking the issue and considering new legal theories to try to restore protections there.



FIGHTING FOR MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY

Our legacy of Mexican wolf advocacy goes all the way back to our 1998 court victory prompting their reintroduction in Arizona and New Mexico. Now, we are challenging both the inadequate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plan and management rule for recovering the critically endangered *lobo*. The recovery plan doesn’t apply the best available science, and the rule—based on the flawed recovery plan—fails to promote crucial genetic diversity, leaves wolves vulnerable to human-caused mortality and removal, artificially constrains its territory, and defines them as “non-essential.” You can count on us to continue fighting for the endangered *lobo*.

DEFENDING GRIZZLIES

We are challenging black bear baiting in Idaho and Wyoming that jeopardizes grizzly bears. In bear baiting, hunters deposit human food such as donuts and bread in the woods to attract black bears and shoot them. The U.S. Forest Service allows states to regulate bear baiting in national forests, even though grizzlies attracted to bait stations suffer harm and often death.

We are also challenging a U.S. Forest Service decision to authorize expanded livestock grazing in Montana’s Paradise Valley, bordering Yellowstone National Park. Much of the expanded grazing is in designated grizzly recovery zones and within important bear migration corridors. The Service expanded the grazing area and season, putting the bears at higher risk of being killed due to conflict with cattle operations.

In another case, we are in court to reverse federal land managers’ decision to abandon all 10 crucial standards that have guided wildlife habitat management on the Helena National Forest for 30 years. Land managers failed to analyze the effects this decision would have on threatened grizzly bears, Canada lynx, and big game animals including elk. The decision significantly weakens protections for wildlife such as hiding cover, and allows increases in road density in wildlife habitat—a primary factor in grizzly mortality.



We stand at the forefront of wildlife advocacy in the western U.S. Our legal victories result in real, on-the-ground results.

An underwater photograph showing several salmon swimming in clear, blue water. The fish are silvery with hints of blue and green, and their fins are visible. The lighting is bright, creating a sense of depth and movement.

PROTECTING WILD SALMON

We are in court fighting a harmful National Marine Fisheries Service program on California's Shasta River, where coho salmon are in desperate decline. The agency's safe harbor program gives legal immunity to 14 water diverters for harming protected fish in exchange for scant stewardship practices on private lands. The recovery target for coho salmon returning to the Shasta is in the thousands of fish, but fewer than 50 are returning each year. These water diverters should not be allowed to harm coho while offering little or nothing in return.

In 2022, we secured a legal agreement with the operator of Electron Dam on the Puyallup River in Washington state to enact safeguards for threatened Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Our agreement requires the dam operator to keep a lethal intake closed until the company takes measures to prevent threatened fish from dying due to its operations. In addition, the company has agreed to forgo any unpermitted work in the river itself.

Also in Washington state, we are in court to safeguard chinook and coho salmon, southern resident killer whales, steelhead trout, and bull trout from dangerous levels of cyanide. Federal and state regulators set cyanide pollution maximums that are known to harm endangered salmon, and, in turn, the orcas that depend on the fish as their primary food.

A close-up photograph of a northern spotted owl perched on a mossy tree branch. The owl's wings are spread, showing the intricate patterns and colors of its feathers. The background is a soft-focus forest scene with green foliage and tree trunks.

VICTORY FOR NORTHERN SPOTTED OWLS

In 2021, as one of its final actions, the Trump administration eliminated protections for about one-third of the 9.6 million acres of federally managed public forest lands necessary for threatened northern spotted owl survival and recovery. The move was designed to allow logging to occur in the owl's old-growth habitat, regardless of the very real likelihood it would cause the extinction of the species.

Shortly before the decision, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that northern spotted owls deserved to be protected as endangered—not merely threatened—due to continued habitat loss.

We quickly sued over Trump's clear violation of the Endangered Species Act. In response, the Biden administration restored protections for 3.4 million acres of this critical habitat, and we breathed a sigh of relief—mostly. The Biden administration's rule left about 200,000 acres of Trump's timber industry giveaway unprotected. We are considering our options to restore needed protections on these parcels as well.



LEADING THE WAY ON LYNX RESTORATION

We have prodded a recalcitrant U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forward on Canada lynx recovery for decades. The wild snow cat is struggling to recover from historic lows as climate change transforms its habitat to the point of uninhabitability—lynx require year-round snowpack.

Our lawsuits spurred major changes in federal Canada lynx restoration efforts this year. Our efforts prompted the Service to reverse its plans to remove endangered species protections for lynx. Instead, the agency will begin recovery planning for the iconic cat after 20 years of delay. This sets the agency up for success in terms of a legally sound, science-based plan while the Biden administration is still in charge.

Thanks to another WELC case, the Service will evaluate the lynx's southern Rockies range—from Wyoming, through Colorado, and into New Mexico—for lynx critical habitat protections. These areas are vital to the iconic cat's survival and recovery in the western U.S.



WINNING FOR WOLVERINES—AGAIN

Wolverines number only about 300 in the lower 48 states, imperiled by climate change, habitat loss, small population size, and trapping. Yet, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has repeatedly refused to help wolverines recover to healthy levels.

When the Service irresponsibly denied wolverines Endangered Species Act protection in 2016 based on faulty science, we sued and won. Four years later, the Service returned with the same decision relying on similarly deficient evidence, so we hauled the agency back into court.

This year we won our case, sending the Service back to the drawing board again and restoring wolverines' candidate Endangered Species Act protections.

Twenty-two years after the first petition to protect wolverines, we are hopeful the Service will take meaningful action to restore the ecologically important and iconic *gulo gulo* before it's too late. We are dedicated to wolverine recovery, and we will not relent in pursuit of that goal.

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our supporters. In the past year, more than 1,850 individuals and families made contributions to WELC. Your donations make a direct impact on the public lands, wildlife, and communities of the western U.S. As a public interest law firm, we do not charge clients and partners for services, but rely instead on charitable gifts to achieve our mission. You make our advocacy and victories possible—thank you.

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Ranging from small grassroots to large national groups, we represented, partnered, and worked with more than 180 organizations and individuals this year.

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Cottonwood Environmental Law Center
Crag Law Center
Dakota Resource Council
Defenders of Wildlife
Dennis and Bonnie White
Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment
Dunton Hot Springs, Inc.
Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition “DRCC”
Earth Law
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Endocrine Society
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Protection Information Center
Food and Water Watch
Footloose Montana
Forest Issues Group
Fort Belknap Indian Community
Friends of Living Oregon Waters
Friends of Oak Ridge
Friends of the Bitterroot
Friends of the Clearwater
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Shasta River

Friends of the Wild Swan
Friends of Toppenish Creek
Futurewise
George Wuethner
Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project
Helena Hunters and Anglers Association
High Country Conservation Advocates
High Sierra Hikers Association
Humane Society of the United States
Hydropower Reform Coalition
Idaho Rivers United
Indian People’s Action
Institute for Fisheries Resources
Interfaith Power and Light
Karuk Tribe
Klamath Forest Alliance
Klamath Riverkeeper
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Law Offices of Charles M. Tebbutt
League of Conservation Voters
Los Padres ForestWatch
Lummi Indian Nation
Molino de la Isla Organics
Moms Clean Air Force
Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Montana Elders for a Livable Tomorrow
Montana Environmental Information Center
National Lawyers Guild - National Environmental Justice and Indigenous

Peoples Rights Committees
National Lawyers Guild - Seattle Living Systems Committee
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Native Ecosystems Council
Native Fish Society
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Mexico Acequia Association
New Mexico Audubon Council
New Mexico Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
New Mexico Economic Development Department, Division of Outdoor Recreation
New Mexico Physicians for Social Responsibility
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Northern Blues Forest Collaborative
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest Energy Coalition
Northwest Environmental Advocates
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Oregon Coast Alliance
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
Oregon Wild
Our Children’s Trust
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations
Pacific Rivers
Pasado’s Safe Haven
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pipeline Awareness Southern Oregon

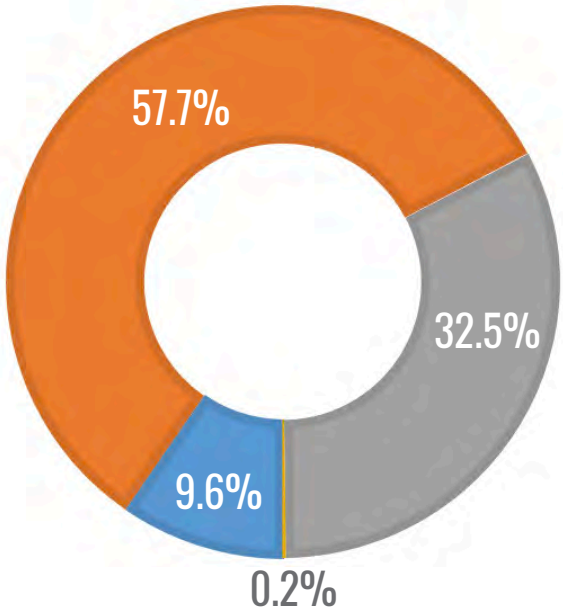
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Public Justice
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
RE Sources for Sustainable Communities
Renewable Northwest
Rico Trails Alliance
Rights for the Salish Sea
Rio Arriba Concerned Citizens
Rocky Mountain Wild
Rogue Climate
Rogue Flyfishers
Rogue Riverkeeper
San Juan Citizens Alliance
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
San Miguel County, New Mexico
Sequoia ForestKeeper
Sheep Mountain Alliance
Sierra Club
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter
Sierra Club - Mother Lode Chapter
Sierra Club - Washington State Chapter
Sierra Club Environmental Law Program
Sierra Forest Legacy
Sierra Nevada Alliance
Sky Island Alliance
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
South Yuba River Citizens League
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Southwest Environmental Center
Spokane Riverkeeper/Center for Justice

Sustainable Northwest
Swan View Coalition
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
The Conservation Angler
The Wilderness Society
Tó Nizhóní Ání
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Climate Plan
Umpqua Watersheds
Upper Green River Alliance
Upper Pecos Watershed Association
Village of Pecos
Waterkeeper Alliance
Western Colorado Congress
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Western Resource Advocates
Western Watersheds Project
What’s Upstream
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Watch
Wilderness Workshop
Wildlands Network
Willamette Riverkeeper
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Yurok Tribe
350 Eugene
350 Montana
350 New Mexico

FINANCIAL REPORT

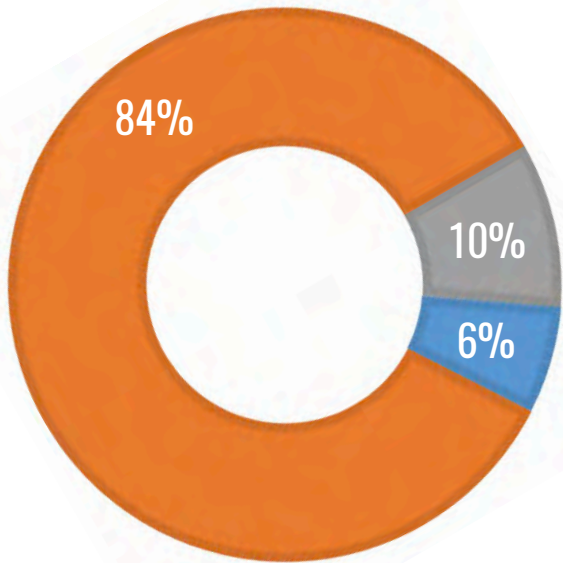
REVENUE

Grants	\$2,194,000
Contributions	\$1,235,967
Program Services	\$365,403
Investment and Other Income	\$6,883
TOTAL	\$3,802,253



EXPENSE

Program	\$2,672,345
Administrative	\$305,112
Fundraising	\$198,284
TOTAL	\$3,175,741



These amounts are from our audited 2021 financial statements. Net assets at 12/31/21 are \$4,670,429.



WAYS TO GIVE

We fight in court to defend the western U.S. on behalf of our clients free of charge, but we can't do it without your support. As a public interest law firm, we rely on charitable gifts from individuals, families, businesses, and foundations to achieve our mission. Your donation is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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We can receive donations from workplace giving, businesses, real estate, vehicle donations, tribute gifts, and more. Please contact Michelle Loth, Individual Gifts Coordinator at (206) 487-7244 or loth@westernlaw.org with questions or to learn more. We're happy to help and discuss options with you. We welcome gifts of all sizes. Thank you!

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September 2022
Oregon Coast





Western Environmental Law Center
120 Shelton McMurphey Blvd.
Suite 340
Eugene, OR 97401

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