

In this moment of deep challenge and uncertainty, we find solace in Terry Tempest Williams' poignant words: "Finding beauty in a broken world is creating beauty in the world we find."

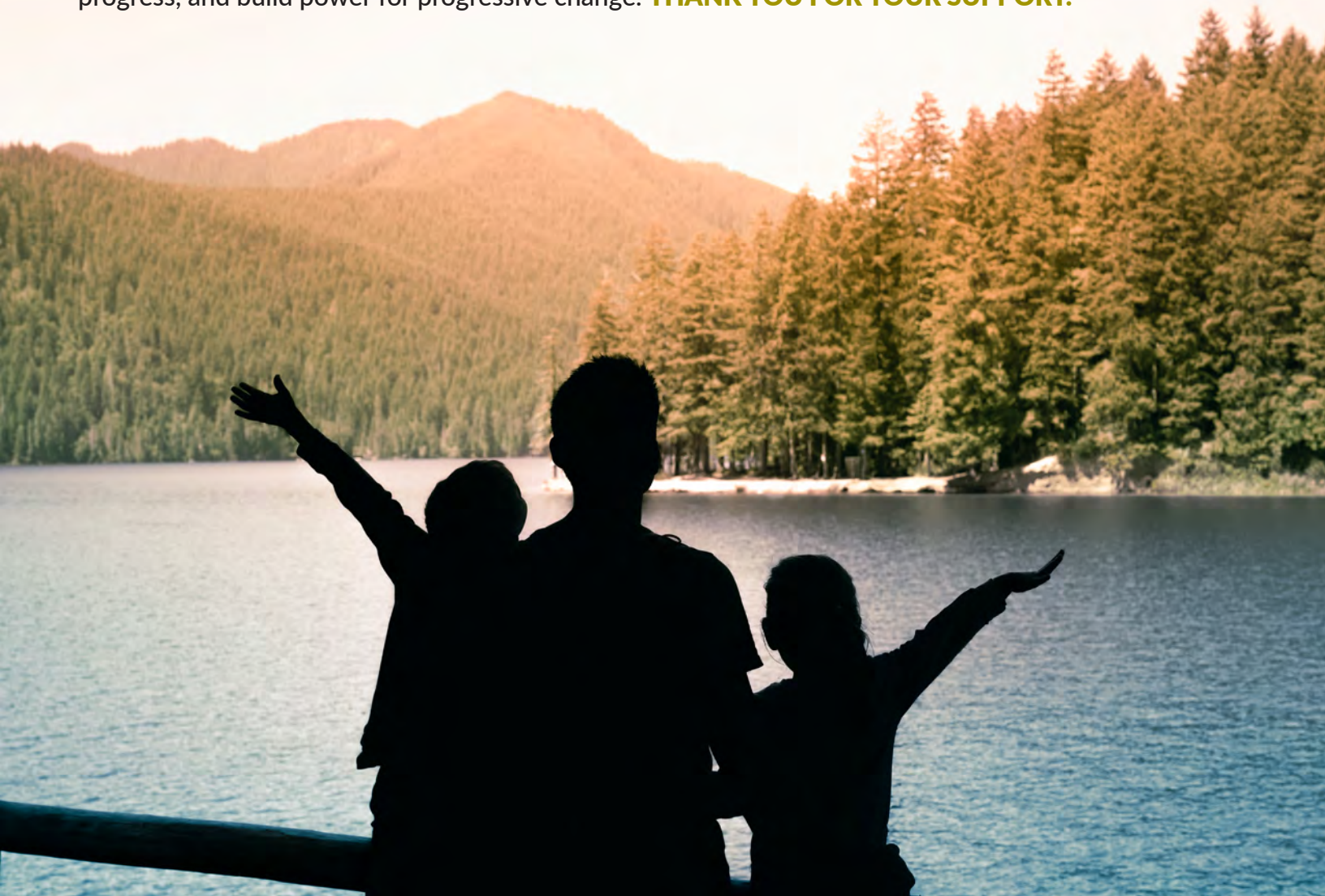
In the coming months and years, we'll need—more than ever—to create that beauty together given the confluence of political, ecological, and economic crises that our country and world now faces.

To create beauty, we must not give in to despair. Instead, let us embrace an *ecology of kinship* that cultivates trust, dignity, and belonging with each other and the world around us.

We know this will be difficult. We know that the coming years are fraught with peril. But we also know we must fight, tooth and nail, to bring to life our vision: A thriving West, abundant with protected and interconnected ecosystems, powered by renewable energy, and cared for by communities brought together in an ecology of kinship.

We'll stand against all who seek to exploit the chaos of the political moment for profit and power at the expense of people and communities. In so doing, we'll create space for people and communities to come together, respect and protect the rich ecology of the world around us, and open new doors to a thriving, just, and resilient future.

To prevail, courage, persistence, and resilience will prove essential. By staying true to our values, and by standing together in solidarity, we can hold the line for a better future, move in space to make steady progress, and build power for progressive change. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**



CLIMATE

Our team is fighting the Trump administration’s efforts to sell off public lands for coal, oil, and methane gas development. We’re creating federal, state, and basin-specific strategies to make a difference across the West. As we hold the government and fossil fuel industry accountable for their legacy of pollution and harm, we remain dedicated to ensuring a just and equitable transition for people and communities to create a renewables-powered future.

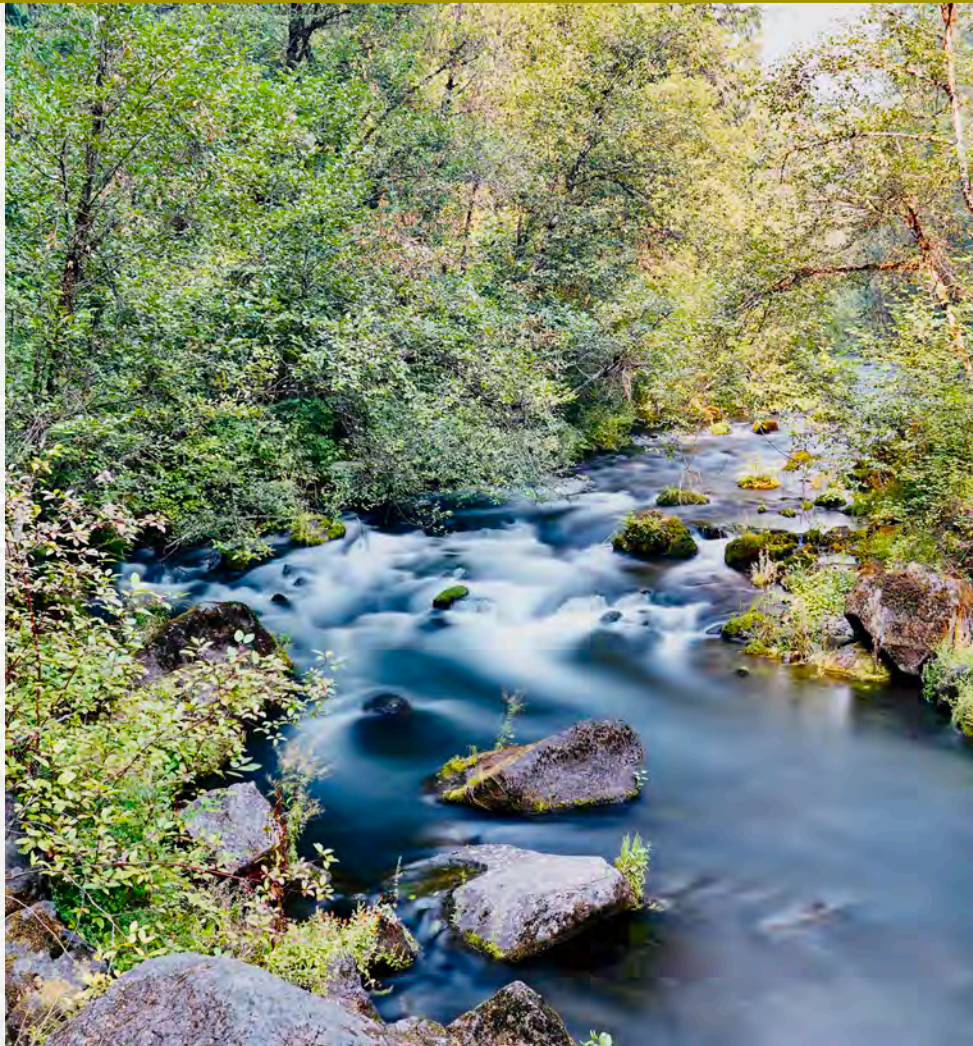
We’ll run oil and gas drilling permits across millions of acres in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico through the gauntlet of our litigation. In New Mexico, we’ll advocate for new climate laws and modernize outdated financial assurance rules to require oil and gas companies—not taxpayers—pay to clean up the harm they’ve caused. In Montana, we’ll build on our landmark win in *Held v. State of Montana* to light a path for more state-level advocacy and effective climate action to uphold our youth clients’ now ironclad right to a livable climate.



LAND AND WATER

Western public lands are beloved by all, and clean water is essential to our way of life. Both deserve to be protected for current and future generations.

In the Pacific Northwest, we’ll work with forest and wildlife advocates to leverage opportunities for old growth forest and wildlife protection, reforming state-level decision-making to better reflect the science and moral imperative of conservation. In New Mexico, we’ll build a safety net water protection program to counter the Supreme Court’s 2023 *Sackett v. EPA* decision gutting the Clean Water Act. That decision exposed more than 95% of the state’s rivers and streams and 88% of its wetlands to the risk of unbridled pollution. Also in New Mexico, we’ll lock down a prohibition on the release of “produced water”—a toxic and often radioactive oil and gas industry waste—to surface and groundwater.



WILDLIFE

In 2025, we’ll build on our 32-year legacy of expert legal advocacy protecting imperiled Western wildlife.

For Canada lynx, we’ll ensure meaningful critical habitat protections, including in the southern Rocky Mountains and Idaho. In Montana, we’ll defend lynx protection zones and enforce an agreement to prevent trapping and snaring of this rare cat.

Determined to prevent wolves from slipping closer to extinction, we’ll work to restore Endangered Species Act protections for wolves West-wide, including in the Northern Rockies. Meanwhile, we’ll defend wolf reintroduction efforts in Colorado, protect wolves in the Pacific Northwest, and defend Mexican wolves in the Southwest.

With a comprehensive strategy across the West, we’ll help grizzly bears recover and thrive in the wild. Through federal court action, we’ll protect threatened coho salmon in California’s Shasta River from being killed by dam owners, irrigation districts, and ranches.

From beavers and steelhead trout to northern spotted owls and Sonoran desert tortoises, we’ll stand tall for the West’s wildlife.



POWER FOR CHANGE

To meet the urgency demanded by the interwoven climate and biodiversity crises, we must build, strengthen, and diversify our coalitions and partnerships. Our work in these spaces will be grounded in ecological and social values, harnessing the power intrinsic in multi-sector collaboration. Across the West, collaborative, multi-faceted strategies offer a path to victory. With our 150+ nonprofit and community partner organizations, we’ll build solidarity, systems of cooperation, and mutual support that will prove ever more necessary to defend the West in its time of need.





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We use the power of the law to foster thriving, resilient western U.S. lands, waters, wildlife, and communities in the face of a changing climate.

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BEAVER ADVOCACY

Beavers are amazing animals. They play important roles in protecting water, mitigating wildfire risk, and as climate change allies. Our team is committed to protecting beavers and their habitat across the West.

In Oregon, Washington, and New Mexico, we'll promote beaver management policies that prioritize the ecological benefits of beavers. We'll also work with partners at the federal level for beaver habitat restoration as a natural climate solution.

Now more than ever, you can count on WELC to be creative and strategic in defending the West.

**>> OPEN FOR MORE 2025
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

