



M Watersheds MESSENGER

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photo ©Pat Clayton, fisheyeguy.com

On Golden Trout Wilderness

by Michael J. Connor

The rugged Kern Plateau lies one and half miles above sea level in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains just south of Mount Whitney. This high altitude habitat is home to the iconic California Golden Trout and many other rare and imperiled plants and animals. The remote Plateau includes extensive Wilderness areas including the renowned Golden Trout Wilderness, the Southern Sierra Wilderness and is famously bejeweled with vast meadows.

Inyo National Forest has jurisdiction over most of the eastern Plateau, with much of that area being within the Mulkey, Monache, Templeton and Whitney cattle grazing allotments. These four allotments encompass about 150,000 acres of the Plateau. Cattle concentrate in the meadows.

Clarence King in his Chapter on Mount Whitney in his celebrated 1874 classic "Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada" wrote:

"The Kern plateau, so green and lovely on my former visit in 1864, was now a gray sea of rolling granite ridges, darkened at intervals by forest, but no longer velvety with meadows and upland grasses. The indefatigable shepherds have camped everywhere, leaving hardly a spear of grass behind them."

While domestic sheep are now gone from the Plateau, cattle continue to trample many of the meadows. Because of outrageous resource damage, Templeton and Big Whitney allotments have been rested from cattle use since 2001, and currently have no permittees. Although some improvements have occurred on Whitney allotment since grazing was suspended in 2001, the meadows have a long, long way to go to recover from a century and a half of being hammered by livestock. Many of the meadows on the Plateau bear witness to cattle impacts in the form of large-scale "restoration" projects – techno fixes to allow cattle to continue to graze.

Please turn to Page 2

Western Watersheds Project: Working to protect and restore western watersheds and wildlife through education, public policy initiatives and litigation.

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North fork of the designated Wild and Scenic Kern River as it passes through Monache Meadow. Photographed September 8, 2011.



Big Whitney Meadow, one of the largest meadow complexes on the Kern Plateau. Last grazed by cattle in 2001. Photographed July 28, 2011.



Roads and fences scar Casa Viejo Meadow on Monache Allotment in the Golden Trout Wilderness. It's high time this wilderness was untrammled! Photographed September 7, 2011.

Continued from Page 1

The meadows on these allotments provide much of the breeding habitat for genetically pure “Volcano Creek” golden trout. The USFWS has just announced that it will not afford protection for the golden trout under the Endangered Species Act, in part because Whitney and Templeton are currently being rested. The allotments abut critical habitat for the endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. Pacific fishers occur here, and there have even been anecdotal reports of wolverine sightings. Many other species including rare and imperiled amphibians and rare endemic plants occur on the Plateau, and many are found nowhere else.

Inyo National Forest is now reconsidering grazing on the four allotments. The Forest has announced it will prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) for its grazing project. While it is good news that the Forest has recognized the significance of allowing livestock to graze on these high elevation public lands, the reality is that entrenched ranchers are chomping at the bit to get additional pieces of the action and reopen the rested allotments. And to help them out, the Forest has launched a collaboration effort “to continually discuss and resolve issues regarding resource management on the Kern”.

It is high time that this remote wild place was released from cattle and the wilderness returned to an untrammled state. The EIS process offers a chance for the Forest Service to recognize that the Plateau is no place for any livestock. Western Watersheds Project will continue to push for the permanent removal of all cows and associated infrastructure from the public lands of the Kern Plateau.

***Dr. Michael J. Connor is WWP's
California Director. He lives in Reseda, CA***

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No Science in Idaho's Wolf Hunt

by Natalie Ertz

Since Congress voted to delist wolves in Idaho and Montana I have wondered what a reasonable wolf recovery plan might look like, one that allowed wolf populations to thrive and be celebrated.

Searching for science behind the latest wolf management decisions made by Idaho officials is a frustrating pursuit. Idaho Fish and Game managers have scorned recent scientific research describing wolves' positive contribution to wildlife communities and the landscape. Instead wildlife management has had a narrow focus on huntable wildlife. Idaho's wolf management decisions continue to be made to placate hunters and ranchers instead of in the interest of science or to benefit the public as a whole.

It is not uncommon to hear Idaho Fish and Game officials justify wolf hunts by stating they are needed to increase "tolerance" for wolves. This is increasingly hard to believe in the face of irresponsible ranchers who fail to protect their own livestock. Ranchers could easily improve animal husbandry in predator country; instead, they would rather control policy in an effort to further domesticate the wild nature of our wildlife.

Although many experts believe that hunting wolves will not disrupt the species' overall success, the approach Idaho has taken to managing wolves will fundamentally change the character of public lands. Idaho's season tag limit of 10 wolves per person allows trapping, snaring and electronic calling. Compared to Montana's wolf hunt with a state quota of 220 wolves, Idaho's policy is reminiscent of the extermination mentality

Politics trumps Science

Written before wolves were delisted by rider, Idaho's governor informed the federal government that the state would no longer participate in wolf study, management or enforcement.

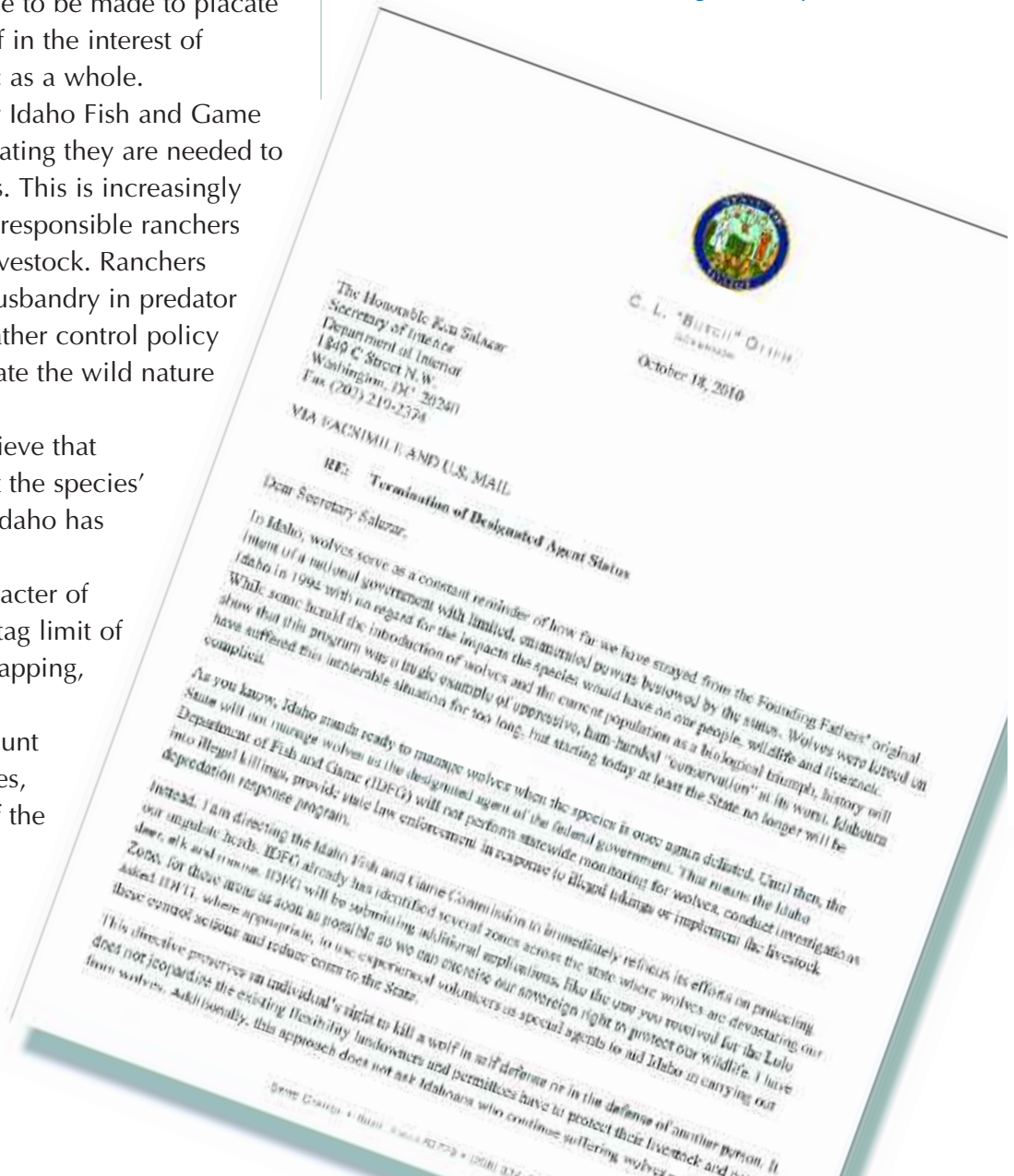
Read the entire letter at wildwolves.homeip.net/otterletter.pdf

responsible for wolves' need for protection under the Endangered Species Act in the first place. As of November 7, 2011, 107 wolves had been killed in Idaho.

If scientific research describing wolf ecology, viability and behavior informed Idaho's wolf hunt rather than reliance on what amounts to ranch management, there would be a more defensible minimum required number of wolves.

Instead, we are dealing with an Idaho Department of Fish and Game policy of kill now and deal with the repercussions later; a policy no different than what enabled the destruction of 100,000 wolves in the American west from 1900 to 1930.

Natalie Ertz is a wolf advocate and owns Raven Tracking in Hailey, Idaho.





The Green Mountain Common Allotment: Symptom of a Broken System

by Jonathan Ratner

The story of the Green Mountain Common allotment, spanning over half a million acres from South Pass near the southern end of the Wind River Range to near Rawlins in west-central Wyoming, is the story of public lands mis-‘management’ throughout the West. It is this mismanagement and gross violation of the public trust that all of WWP’s efforts go towards fighting.

Where does the saga of the Green Mountain Common allotment start? Well, the earliest BLM documents I have reviewed show that the BLM has known about the degraded riparian conditions on the allotment for nearly half a century. Prior to WWII the allotment was grazed by sheep which removed most of the willows and degraded the upland plant communities. Shortly after the end of the war, with the economic changes, permittees got the BLM to change their permits to cattle which now make up the vast majority of the grazing pressure on the allotment.

After 15 or 20 years of cattle, the riparian areas were already destroyed. By the early 1970’s, even the BLM knew that changes were needed. In the late 1970’s, the ground breaking case NRDC v. Morton, forced the BLM to do NEPA on its grazing program nation-wide. The Green Mountain Grazing Environmental Statement (ES), that was issued as a result of that case discussed the severely degraded conditions on the Green Mountain Common allotment, but its ‘actions’ to correct the problems were woefully inadequate and never implemented.

Shortly after the Green Mountain Grazing ES was finalized, the BLM issued its MFP (Management Framework Plan) to provide direction and requirements for managing the lands

in the Lander Field Office. Again, the direction in the MFP was neither designed to be effective or even implemented. The Green Mountain Common allotment and the rest of the grazing allotments on the Field Office continued to decline.

A few years later, the BLM came out with its RMP (Resource Management Plan) which was supposed to be the comprehensive replacement for the MFP. The direction in the RMP was insufficient to deal with the ongoing degradation that was occurring, and again the BLM had no spine to even implement the weak RMP.

In the early 1990’s, the Clinton administration began their efforts at cleaning up the BLM mess. One of these efforts was the “Riparian-Wetland

Initiative for the 1990’s” whose goal was to “restore riparian-wetland areas so that 75% or more are in proper functioning condition by 1997”. Now, over two decades after the “initiative” was launched we are not

even close to achieving the goal.

At this same time, the BLM invested significant money in a wide range of research and publications regarding livestock and riparian management which it thought, naively, would inform better management. The BLM has been ignoring its own science ever since.

In 1999, the BLM assessed the Green Mountain Common allotment for compliance with Rangeland Health Standards, another of the Clinton team’s efforts. It failed Standards and the BLM implemented a rotational grazing scheme along with millions of tax dollars for fencing and water development.

In 2002, the BLM determined that the actions taken to correct the violations of Standards in 1999 had not resulted in any progress, but instead of changing course, it put more money into fences and water developments under the ridiculous assumption that this would reduce riparian impacts.

Again in 2005, the BLM admitted that no progress toward riparian recovery was being

“A thing is right if it tends to preserve the stability, integrity, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong if it tends otherwise.”

-Aldo Leopold

achieved, but took no actions, despite the clear requirements in the regulations.

WWP began litigation on this allotment in 2005, which resulted in a settlement with various promises by the BLM to do a thorough NEPA analysis and issue an AMP for the allotment by a date certain in 2007.

In 2009, two years past the deadline in the settlement, the BLM came out with an EA and a decision which cut some of the 'paper cows' but did nothing to change the failed 1999 decision. WWP appealed and won a stay of the decision, at which point the BLM sought and was granted a remand.

Fast forward another two years to 2011 and the BLM again issues a new EA and decision even worse than the previous decision. WWP appeals it

again and wins another stay of the decision.

Instead of doing what's right for the land, the BLM continues to do what's wrong, to put the interests of a few permittees above the interests of the land itself or even its public trust responsibilities.

This same old story, the BLM's same old song and dance can be seen on nearly every acre of BLM lands in the arid West. WWP is the only organization in the West whose primary mission is to fight against the status quo of this most pervasive of all land degrading activities.

***Jonathan Ratner is Wyoming,
Utah and Colorado Director for WWP.
He lives in Sublette County Wyoming.***



This is Alkali Creek which drains the western half of the 520,000 acre Green Mountain Common allotment. Up through the mid 1970's, the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish considered this a significant area fishery. The cumulative impacts of upstream riparian degradation have resulting in Alkali Creek going from a perennial stream supporting a fishery to an intermittent stream and now to an ephemeral stream rarely flowing even in spring. But despite the magnitude of the degradation, loss of water storage capacity and loss of the creek itself, the BLM does not consider these impacts 'significant'.





**Mountain City
Ranger District:
Headwaters Unraveling,
Streams and Springs Dying**
by Katie Fite

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's Mountain City Ranger District in northern Nevada contains portions of the headwaters of the Bruneau, Owyhee and Humboldt River systems. Myriad small springs, seeps and streams originate on the Forest, with its colorful aspen groves and sagebrush expanses, and occasional pockets of subalpine fir.

Nearly every watered area that a cow (or in some instances - a sheep) can clamber to is grazed, and waters polluted and degraded. Its springs and seeps and streams are dying. The very visible cause is erosion and desiccation caused by chronic livestock trampling and grazing.

The ability of watersheds to retain and slowly release water as perennial flows is being destroyed. Trampling by half ton cattle breaks down streambanks and protective vegetation. Hoof pocked and displaced soils dry out rapidly. With winter runoff, the bare trampled soil erodes. Headcuts and gullies form, and grow. The wet meadow becomes drier, or more "mesic". The mesic meadow becomes an upland site. As headcuts progressively eat upstream, the water table drops and the ability of the watershed to sustain perennial flows is destroyed.

Agencies love to blame all woes on the catastrophic impacts of "historic" grazing. Indeed watersheds have suffered degradation for over a century. That makes the remnant waters even more



*Grazing-caused Erosion
photo ©Ken Cole*

precious, the damage now being done even more wasteful and senseless and the bureaucratic cover-ups even more absurd.

The Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest springs are critical for sage-grouse brood rearing. Sage-grouse move over a vast landscape to fulfill their seasonal needs, and the Forest provides nesting cover and essential spring and meadow area brood rearing habitat.

All of these effects are vividly apparent in lands by the Simplot ag conglomerate cattle herds which dominate use in the Mountain City District. Simplot is the largest "welfare rancher" in the U.S. and holds many federal grazing permits in critical sage-grouse, redband trout and other habitats on both Forest and BLM lands.

A recent USGS study sounded dire warnings about the impacts of climate change on native fish in the West predicting higher water temperature effects will cause great stress to aquatic systems.



*Cattle tearing up land, depositing filth.
photo ©Katie Fite*

A reasonable person, would say "Gee, willows, cottonwoods and aspen shade streams. Stable streambanks and protected channels provide conditions that favor prolonged perennial flows. Maybe our first step should be conserving and recovering watersheds to best buffer them from climate change impacts."

Many of these springs, seeps and indeed the stream water flows necessary to support any fish or sage-grouse broods are well on the way to being killed by livestock trampling and grazing long before the climate change effects would do these species in.

It stands to reason we could actually come out AHEAD of climate-change caused water stresses for centuries with improved water quantity, quality and temperature in many of these Western watersheds if we removed livestock grazing from areas where they remain.

***Katie Fite is WWP's Biodiversity Director.
She lives in Boise, Idaho.***



**Safe from cows:
A much-preferred
alternative**

by Greta Anderson

The Sonoran Desert National Monument in southwest Arizona has potentially earned a reprieve from the abuses of livestock grazing on these hot desert lands: the 2011 Draft Resource Management Plan's preferred alternative for the Monument recommends closing over 95,000 acres to livestock use, including one large allotment in its entirety. This is in addition to the lands that were closed under President Clinton's 2001 proclamation, bringing the total area protected from livestock to about 65 percent of the entire monument.



photo ©Mike Connor

Western Watersheds Project's Arizona office has been steadfast in holding the BLM accountable for the livestock mismanagement on the monument. We've continually monitored the monument, reported trespass livestock and brought a media spotlight on the issues there. We've worked with Advocates for the West to file a lawsuit and ultimately get a legal settlement requiring the BLM to complete the plan in a timely fashion. And now, we're pleased that the agency has taken the positive first step of seeing that this antiquated land use is not appropriate for a national monument.



photo ©Mike Connor

Still, there are issues, including the 157,210 acres that would stay open to livestock use. The BLM came to the unbelievable conclusion that grazing is not compatible with resource protection on only 8,500 acres. The agency seems to think that its qualitative analyses of rangeland health show support for the large livestock herds trampling all over Sonoran desert tortoise habitat, interfering with bighorn migration and stomping on potsherds and cultural sites. The agency would prefer the findings of its own "range scientist" to that of independent researchers hired by the agency between 2000 and 2005. It's a problem, and one that is widespread in the public lands' management agencies.

Still, the proposed management alternative is a start and it's an unprecedented start at that. No other resource management plan on any national monument in the West even proposes closing allotments for resource protection. WWP will be submitting extensive comments on the draft, encouraging the agency to raise the bar even higher. There will be public meetings throughout the fall and the comment period ends on November 25, 2011. WWP members should feel free to submit comments or contact our Arizona office for more information.

***Greta Anderson is WWP's Deputy Director.
She lives in Tucson.***



photo ©Mike Connor

Nature's Restoration of the Cottonwood Forest on the Upper Missouri River

2011 was one of the largest floods since records have been kept for the Upper Missouri River Basin in central Montana.

The river reached levels approaching 80,000 cubic feet per second just above the mouth of the Yellowstone. These floodwaters have enabled the most remarkable germination of cottonwood seedlings in living memory.

These photos taken by Western Watersheds Project members Glenn Monahan and others show the post-2011 flood explosion of tiny cottonwoods on the lower section of the river in the Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

If the Bureau of Land Management would make even a small effort to prevent cattle grazing and eating these seedlings, the riparian cottonwood forest on the Upper Missouri River could again resemble the forested gallery that Meriwether Lewis and William Clark remarked on as they worked their way upstream towards the great divide.

photo ©Glenn Monahan



photo ©Glenn Monahan



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Missouri River in

the Fort Peck Reservoir.
seedlings in living

and Nancy Shultz show
over in the Upper

little from trampling
River could once

In 2011, the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, highways of Lewis and Clark (submerged statue pictured), flooded their banks.



photo ©flickr.com/16854395@N05/



*The Missouri River 5 feet above Flood Stage.
photo ©www.flickr.com/shotaku/*



photo ©Glenn Monahan



My Western Watersheds Project Internship Experience

by John Whiting

Although I officially began my internship with Western Watersheds Project on my 20th birthday, I might as well have been newly born because when I stepped out of the Boise Airport to meet Ken Cole, I knew little about the real problems with public lands livestock grazing, especially the strong passions that surround this controversial issue. I was determined to listen and absorb all I could that would help me in my upcoming ten weeks as a WWP Intern.

On the way to the annual Greenfire board meeting, Ken and I discussed the legal status of the wolf in the West. We spotted a “Smoke A Pack A Day” bumper sticker that inspired conversation about the complex web of feelings and pressures that surround the wolf. The fluctuating presence of the Federal government in “local” affairs continues to evoke strong emotions and tension. This political tension helps to feed a perpetuating culture of intimidation in which a community’s opinion and voice concerning the wolf is skewed; those who have different concerns are afraid to speak out against a powerful, although possibly

smaller radical group. When local and state representatives do not take these unvoiced opinions into account, this pressure leaks down into the land management agencies affecting critical laws and regulations of the environment. This is the dangerous and manipulative cycle that WWP helps to counteract every day.

Over the course of the internship, I started to notice the effects of intimidation and fear stretching far beyond public opinion, from the top of the political ladder down through the agencies that WWP interacts with daily. Intimidation is paralyzing. On a field tour, a Forest Service employee said, “The only way to get in trouble is to do something,” and during a tour at City of Rocks National Reserve we heard another ranger say, “Do your job correctly, and expect to be fired any day.” This is an incredibly frustrating atmosphere for those people who want to solve problems on public lands whether they are a part of WWP, the Bureau of Land Management, or the Forest Service.

Ignorance, like intimidation, is a broad and ever present curse. My experiences with WWP have helped me in the constant battle with ignorance, but unfortunately, unlike me, most people have not had enlightening experiences concerning public lands livestock grazing. During my first week in Idaho, I went down to the Jarbidge



*Cattle in Castle Rocks State Park, Idaho.
Photo ©John Whiting*

Field Office to spend four days on damaged landscapes with Katie Fite and Larry Zuckerman. It was a crash course on the natural history of the arid west and the effects of cattle grazing on critical riparian areas. Bank trampling and the frequent reminder of cow feces may be obvious, but the meaningful changes in species composition and geomorphology due to the presence of livestock often go unnoticed. Prior to this excursion, I did not realize that cows had affected the majority of the streams I had previously encountered in the west or that it was a matter deserving concern.

The dangerous combination of intimidation and ignorance is epidemic throughout all Federal land management agencies. I saw it in the reluctance of the Lost River Ranger District to properly address the detrimental effects of headcuts and hummocking along its livestock trampled waterways and in the Jarbidge Field Office's inability to consider grazing as a contributor to the degree of cheat grass cover and increased fire risk. Although one would hope that agencies such as the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service can be trusted to properly manage our country's resources, I have come to understand that as citizens we also have a responsibility to protect public lands. All citizens should strive, to the best of our ability, to avoid ignorance and hold our government to a high standard, both environmentally and otherwise.

It has been a true pleasure learning from WWP and an honor working with them to keep our land management agencies accountable for protecting our vital public lands.

*John Whiting was WWP's 2011 Summer Intern.
He attends Whitman College.*

Western Watersheds Now On Facebook

For a look at a more personal take on public lands, watersheds, and wildlife issues by dedicated WWP authors, check us out on Facebook!

Comments are always welcome.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Watersheds-Project/187046332910>

Making a Bequest to Western Watersheds Project

Western Watersheds Project has long been a beneficiary of contributions of individuals with vision and dedication to our cause. It is our hope that bequests will add to the support of wilderness, watersheds and the plants and wildlife that call them home.

After you have provided for the security of loved ones and have considered the full range of philanthropic commitments, we respectfully ask that you consider how WWP might fit into your estate plans.

There are various ways to structure a bequest to WWP. Among these options are:

- A Specific Bequest, in which you give WWP a specified dollar amount or specified assets, such as securities, real estate or tangible personal property.
- A Residual Bequest, in which you give WWP all or a percentage of the remainder of your estate after specific amounts bequeathed to other beneficiaries are distributed and estate-related expenses are paid.
- A Contingent Bequest, which provides for WWP upon the occurrence of a certain event -- if, for example your primary beneficiary does not survive you.
- A Testamentary Trust, in which you establish a trust through your will, beneficiaries receive income for life or a term of years and, at the end of the trust term, WWP receives the remainder.

You can bequeath various types of assets to WWP, including:

- Cash or securities
- Retirement assets (from an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), Keogh, taxsheltered annuity, qualified pension or profit-sharing plan)
- Life insurance policies
- Interests in real estate (such as a residence)
- Tangible personal property (such as works of art or antiques)

When leaving retirement assets and life insurance policies to WWP, you must designate WWP as a beneficiary with your plan/policy administrator.

WWP fully intends to remain in existence as long as there are western watersheds to protect and restore. In the unlikely event that WWP dissolves, the organization is required by law to convey its assets to another nonprofit group. WWP will choose an organization whose mission most closely resembles our own. If your bequest consists of interests in real estate or tangible personal property, we strongly encourage you to discuss your gift with WWP during your lifetime to ensure that your wishes and objectives can be fulfilled. If you choose, WWP will assist your attorney or financial adviser in drafting a bequest.

A bequest to WWP is deductible for federal estate tax purposes and there is no limit on the amount of the charitable deduction. In addition, bequests generally are not subject to state inheritance or estate taxes.

A bequest to WWP can be made by creating a new will, adding a codicil to your existing will or naming WWP as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, life insurance policy or revocable trust. If you are interested in exploring one of these options, please call us at (208)788-2290.



Occupy Wild Places for Wild Species Too

By Brian Ertz

The Occupy Wall Street (#OccupyWallStreet) movement is growing across the country and world. It's a movement trying to raise awareness and to change how our

economic and democratic institutions have been hijacked by a privileged 1% of the population, leaving the rest of us 99% to suffer downsizing, cutbacks, unemployment, etc. Or, in the case of thousands of species, extinction.

Those of us working on public interest environmental issues, especially public lands ranching, know the great disparity in representation throughout government all too well. We, including landscapes and wildlife, are the 99% and our government acts to serve the 1%. For example, the public lands and wildlife in the West are supposed to be held in common as a public asset belonging to all of us. Yet, a marginal few (1%ers) disproportionately control public policy directing its management, and the government maintains exorbitant public subsidies to enrich these permittees at the expense of the wild that belongs to all of us.

Examples of the radical maladministration of environmental law on behalf of the 1% and to the detriment of the 99% includes:

1. The refusal to enforce the Endangered Species Act on behalf of hundreds of species. These plants and animals are unlawfully denied protections in order to protect a few corporate industries from regulation.

2. The subsidization of public lands livestock grazing. Grazing use on public lands impacts an area three times size of California at a tax-payer cost of between \$500 million and \$1 billion annually. The



Photo ©Rainforest Network

federal grazing program rewards corporate permittees who control 75% of the available grazing use yet represent only 10% of all permittees.

3. Specific, targeted policy to benefit marginal industries. Idaho representative Mike Simpson has introduced federal legislation intended to halt enforcement of existing law protecting bighorn sheep from disease spread by domestic sheep on public land in order to protect a minority of domestic sheep ranchers.

These are just a few examples of ways that citizens who care about wildlife, public lands and other natural values are getting undercut by policies designed to enhance profits.

While the mainstream media's message continues to suggest that participants aren't crystal clear on what they're demonstrating, the beauty of this groundswell is the broad diversity of interests. People who care about the environment should add these issues to the discussion.

Find an 'Occupy' event near you (or start one!). Think of a nifty catch-phrase that illuminates the plight of the natural world at the hands of the 1%ers. Get a piece of cardboard and a sharpie. Find a group of friends all interested in wildlife and put together a performance! Let's push to make sure that wildlife and public lands are heard.

**Brian Ertz is WWP's Media Director.
He lives in Hailey.**



Photo ©/www.flickr.com/people/shankbone/



Western Watersheds Project Wins A Far-reaching Victory Over The Bureau Of Land Management
by Jon Marvel

On September 28, 2011 Western Watersheds Project won a federal court order from U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill overturning the Bureau of Land Management’s Resource Management Plans for the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in Idaho and the Pinedale Field Office in western Wyoming.

The court held that the BLM fell short of the agency’s legal obligations to adequately consider negative environmental impacts to wildlife and other environmental values by livestock grazing and oil and gas development.

These two plans affect management on over 2.5 million acres of public land. The Judge will now consider accepting WWP's proposal for far stronger interim management to protect wildlife habitat until the BLM rewrites the two illegal plans.

Interestingly The Bureau of Land Management’s own scientists stated that grazing as usual is pushing sage-grouse to the brink of extinction. Despite this acknowledgement, BLM managers have written Resource Management Plans that ignore the negative impacts of livestock grazing and oil and gas development on wildlife habitat.

The Court Order addresses two of the 16 BLM RMPs that are challenged in Western Watersheds Project's six state litigation affecting over 30 million acres of western public lands. The other 14 RMPs are now clearly at risk of being overturned by Judge Winmill.

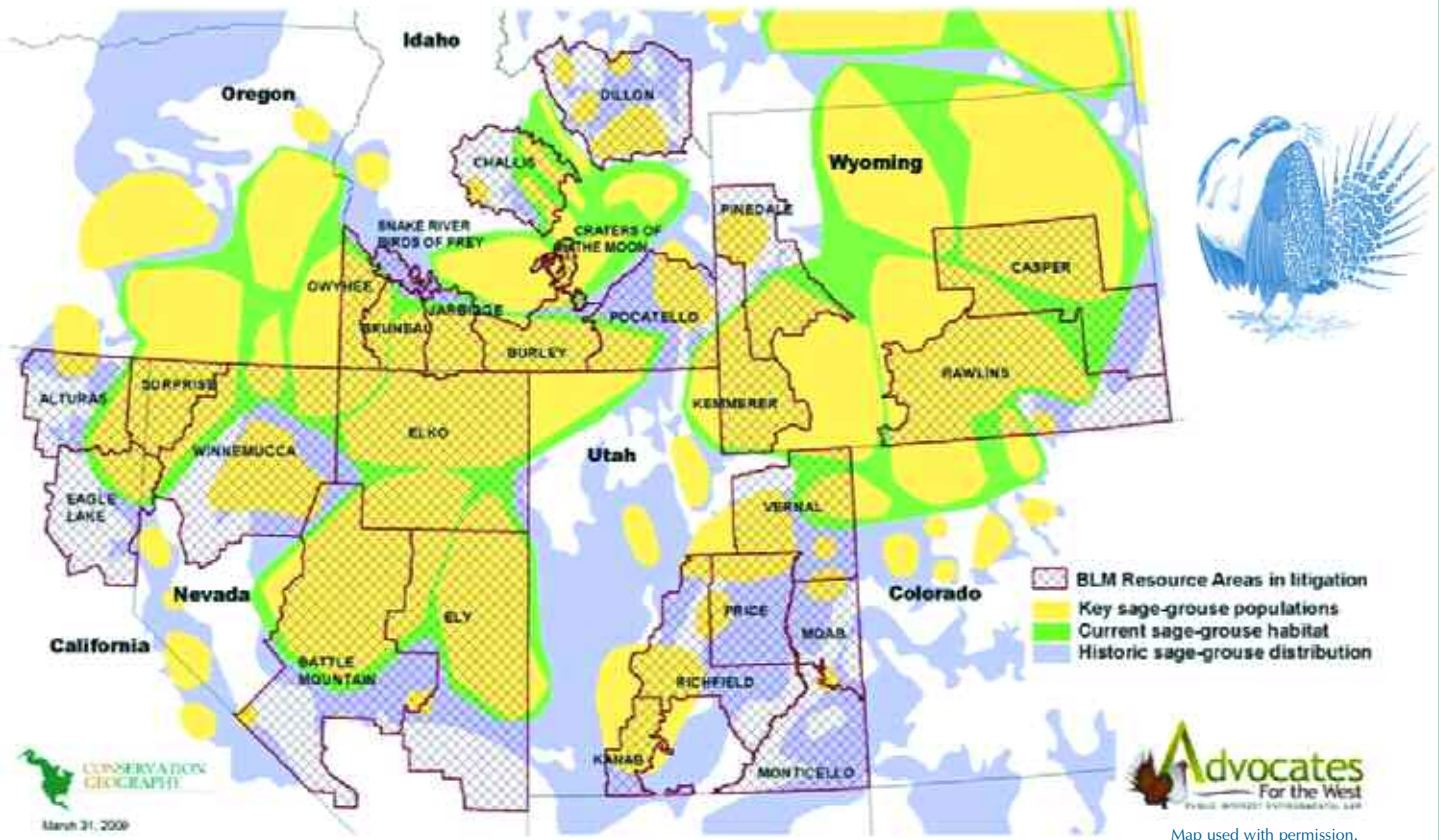
Western Watersheds Project is ably represented in this litigation by Laird Lucas of Advocates for the West’s Boise office.

Interested readers are encouraged to read the Court’s Order online:

westernwatersheds.org/legal/11/rmp/RMP_SJ_Order.pdf

Jon Marvel is Executive Director of Western Watersheds Project. He lives in Hailey, Idaho.

BLM Resource Areas with Sage-grouse Populations under Litigation:





Western Watersheds Project Welcomes Greta Anderson As WWP's Deputy Director!

On October 1, 2011 WWP's Arizona Director Greta Anderson was named Western Watersheds Project's Deputy Director by the WWP Board of Directors. This new staff position was created to support WWP's Executive Director Jon Marvel in all aspects of WWP's work across the west including policy development, fundraising activities and administration.

Prior to assuming her post with WWP, Greta's experiences ranged from working as a conservation advocate for environmental non-profit organizations, to serving as a contract field botanist for the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. She is an author of numerous reports and publications on the impact of livestock grazing, riparian restoration and rare plants in both the United States and Mexico.

Greta serves as Conservation Chair for the Tucson Chapter of the Arizona Native Plant Society and is a committee member of the National Public Lands Grazing Campaign and a member of the Sierra Club National Public Lands Grazing Committee.

She has an M.A. in geography from the University of Arizona and a Water Policy Certificate from the same institution. She has a B.A. in environmental studies from Prescott College and a certification of clinical herbalism from the Southwest School of Botanical Medicine. She lives in Tucson and is an enthusiastic bicyclist, raises chickens and loves to cook with her solar oven.



WWP's Jon Marvel, Josie the dog, Greta Anderson and Jeremy Greenberg confer.
Photo ©Steev Hise



CONSERVATION DESERVES MORE THAN TWO PERCENT!*

Western Watershed Project's efforts to protect and restore western watersheds are entirely supported by our memberships and donations. We truly need your help if we are to achieve our objective of helping to preserve the natural heritage of all western watersheds for future generations.

Your donation, matched by a grant from Earth Friends Conservation Fund, helps Western Watersheds Project challenge policies that endanger the West's wildlife and fisheries habitat.

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CONTENTS

Page

- 1 On Golden Trout Wilderness*
- 3 Science in Idaho's Wolf Hunt*
- 4 Symptom of a Broken System*
- 6 Trouble in Mountain City*
- 7 Safe From Cows: A Preferred Alternative*
- 8 Photo Feature: Cottonwoods Return to the Missouri Breaks*
- 10 My WWP Internship Experience*
- 12 #Occupy Wild Places*
- 13 A Western Watersheds Victory*
- 14 WWP's New Deputy-Director: Greta Anderson*

^ "The meadows on these allotments provide much of the breeding habitat for genetically pure "Volcano Creek" or golden trout. The USFWS has just announced that it will not afford protection for the golden trout under the Endangered Species Act." - Page 1