



M Watersheds MESSENGER

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Photo ©Lisa and Mike Husar/teamhusar.com

WWP will Continue to Fight for the Protection of Wolves

by Ken Cole

The livestock industry and public lands ranchers in particular are the biggest opponents of wolf recovery in the West and have played a pivotal role in recent developments in wolf management. They are the political drivers of efforts to remove protections from wolves and for efforts to reduce existing wolf populations in the northern Rockies. Despite the fact that wolves rarely prey on livestock, the level of disdain for wolves continues to rise. From a floundering attempt to remove protections for gray wolves throughout the nation to a wolf and coyote killing contest in Idaho, wolves have been the subject of much controversy. WWP is working to ensure these creatures get the protection they deserve.

Last summer the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that it had plans to remove the protections of the Endangered Species Act from gray wolves from across the entire country through a process known as delisting. This decision was clearly politically motivated but also relied almost entirely on the findings of one paper authored by USFWS employees and published in a USFWS journal that wasn't peer reviewed. The authors concluded that the eastern wolf should be considered a separate species rather than a subspecies of gray wolf and that, because they say there is little overlap of their range and gray wolves and eastern wolves have recovered within their existing range, there is no reason to continue protections for gray wolves throughout their historical range.

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

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The subsequent peer review process was also controversial. The USFWS hired an outside firm to select scientists to conduct a peer review of a limited part of the science. But after the USFWS sought to have one of the scientists removed from the panel, it became evident that USFWS was well aware of the identities of the scientists on a supposedly anonymous (and impartial) panel. The uproar that ensued caused the USFWS to restart the peer review process to ensure that there was no political interference.

But even after a new panel of scientists was enlisted to review the science, they weren't allowed to examine any policy or evaluate the analysis conducted by the USFWS. Despite these restrictions, the peer review panel found the science used to support the delisting proposal to be severely lacking and that it did not constitute the "best available science" as required by the Endangered Species Act. Because of this, the USFWS has reopened the comment period and WWP intends to ask that the entire proposal be scrapped. Other scientists have weighed in on the extreme peril that would result in the delisting of wolves, which would hand over management authority of wolves to states which openly scorn the recovery of wolves.

In Idaho where wolves were removed from ESA protection in 2011 through an arbitrary act of Congress, the vitriol towards wolves has risen to red-hot temperatures and management has returned to the 19th century, prior to the scientific understanding of the importance of predators in the



photo ©Joachim S. Müller
www.flickr.com/joachim_s_mueller/

ecosystem. Instead of trying to increase tolerance for wolves, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), Governor, Legislature, and anti-wolf groups have inflamed the public and ramped up the killing of wolves.

Last December, an anti-wolf group held a wolf-and-coyote-killing contest near Salmon, Idaho. WWP and other groups tried to stop the contest from being held on public lands by filing for an injunction in federal court, but that attempt was unsuccessful. Though no wolves were killed in the two-day contest, prizes were handed out to those who killed the most and the biggest coyotes.

Also in December, IDFG sent a trapper into the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness to eradicate two entire packs of wolves with the supposed intent of increasing elk populations for hunters. The trapper killed nine wolves before legal pressure from WWP and our allies caused IDFG to halt the operation. The litigation is ongoing and could shape the future of state management of wildlife in Wilderness.

Most recently, during February, USDA Wildlife Services gunned down 23 wolves in the Lolo area of north central Idaho from helicopters recently acquired from Homeland Security in an attempt to increase the elk population for game hunters. That elk population was in a steep decline in the area long before wolves ever became established, but authorizing the wholesale slaughter of this pack gave the government an excuse to use advanced weaponry and the newly-received Hughes 500 helicopters now in possession of the agency. WWP was unaware of the effort as it was underway, but is seeking to publicize this unscientific management of wolves that will again lead to their ecological extirpation in Idaho.

As of March 12, 2014, 111 more wolves, including pregnant females, had been killed already this year bringing the total number of wolves in Idaho down to approximately 490. Fortunately wolves will begin to have pups in early April but, because the IDFG wants to expand an experiment they conducted in 2013, these pups are now going to be taken from their dens to have radio collars placed on them so they can be tracked and recaptured and fitted with radio collars. Now they will be tracked their entire lives for easy removal.

**Ken Cole is WWP's NEPA Coordinator
He lives in Boise**



A Win on Arizona's Tonto National Forest

by Erik Ryberg

Just outside of Phoenix, Arizona, and visible from much of that city, lies the Four Peaks Wilderness Area. Its lower regions contain the highest density of Sonoran desert tortoise in the Sonoran Desert, and it also boasts riparian areas that hold the longest continually-occupied site of re-introduced Gila topminnow, an endangered species.

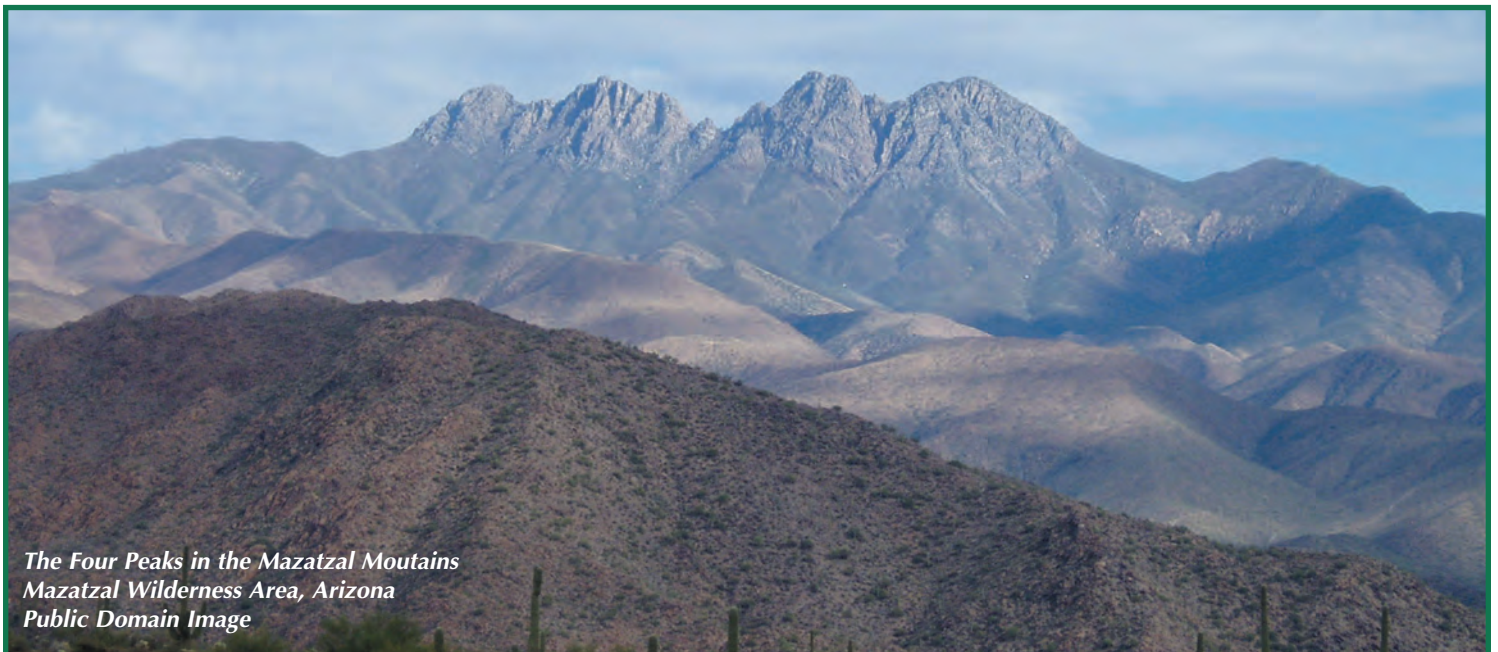
Nearly the entire Wilderness Area was heavily grazed until 2002 when permit violations and land degradation finally compelled the Tonto National Forest to remove livestock from the Sunflower allotment. But the damage was so severe that even now, after twelve years without grazing, many formerly vegetated riparian areas are characterized as having “no potential to support riparian vegetation” and none are in satisfactory condition. Just below the area of Gila topminnow habitat, the streamside does not even have enough vegetation to monitor. And after twelve years of rest, all vegetation monitoring in the Wilderness Area revealed vegetation to be in “Poor” or “Very Poor” condition. In fact, the area is in such poor condition that the Forest Service specialists concluded it could not be monitored in the normal fashion because there is not enough vegetation to measure in the uplands either.

Immediately adjacent to the Four Peaks Wilderness Area is a riparian area that the National Forest committed to protect back in the 1980s. To this day it has a special, protective designation in the Tonto NF Land Use Plan, which was supposed to afford it a “high level of protection.” But instead it has become an off-road vehicle high-impact zone, and the Forest Service has admitted that the protected area status was “never realized on the ground.”

Late last year the Forest Service decided to consider whether to begin grazing on the Sunflower allotment again, including within the riparian areas and the Wilderness. The agency's own analysis revealed that nearly all the available water in the Wilderness Area was in the damaged springs and what was left of the degraded stream reaches. The analysis appeared to conclude that off-road vehicle use outside the Wilderness Area was so comprehensively destructive that grazing couldn't possibly make things any worse. The Forest Service proposed yearlong grazing in the area.

Naturally, WWP appealed this awful plan, and prevailed. On December 17, 2013 the Tonto National Forest reversed its decision to begin grazing again, and, for now at least, the Four Peaks Wilderness Area remains cow free.

***Erik Ryberg is WWP's Arizona Legal Counsel
He lives in Tucson, Arizona***



*The Four Peaks in the Mazatzal Mountains
Mazatzal Wilderness Area, Arizona
Public Domain Image*



Protecting Our Public Lands Through Three New Key Initiatives

by Carter Hedberg

Western Watersheds Project has been protecting millions of acres of our public lands for over twenty years. Now, WWP is taking our fight to permanently end livestock grazing to additional key areas of ecological and aesthetic significance in the West through three new initiatives:

1. *The Initiative to Protect and Restore Copper Basin and Big Lost River Watershed of Idaho*

Copper Basin and the Big Lost River Watershed is an area of enormous beauty, worthy of a focused effort allowing for the recovery of critical fish and wildlife habitat, plant species, and water quality. Greater sage-grouse, Big Lost River whitefish, mountain goats, wolves, pronghorn antelope and many other native species that would benefit.

This magnificent area is located in south central Idaho, near Sun Valley. On more than 400 miles of the Big Lost River and its tributaries, livestock contribute to the ongoing degradation of fish and wildlife habitat by eroding stream banks (which increases sediment in the water), degrading riparian areas by trampling plants and compacting the soil, severely damaging willows and grasses, and polluting the streams with fecal matter.



2. *Initiative to Protect and Restore Golden Trout Wilderness and Giant Sequoias of California*

The rugged Kern Plateau lies one and one-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 the renowned Golden Trout and Southern Sierra Wilderness areas and is famously bejeweled with vast meadows.

These Wilderness areas are found in the Sequoia National Forest and Inyo National Forest near the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Sadly livestock grazing continues in these areas of stunning grandeur, disfiguring the character of the giant sequoia setting. Livestock congregate in the lush high elevation meadows threatening critical habitat needed by the California Golden Trout.

Copper Basin Panorama
photo ©Simon Tunbridge
www.flickr.com/s__i/



3. Initiative to Protect and Restore Native Predators and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep in Western Wyoming

This western Wyoming Initiative focuses on the Upper Green and Upper Gros Ventre River Watersheds, the Wind River Mountains and the Wyoming Range. These environmentally diverse watersheds and mountain ranges provide critical habitat for many species of wildlife – including Snake River fine-spotted cutthroat trout, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, moose, grizzly and black bears, cougars, lynx, coyotes, and wolves – all of which swim and roam throughout much of this mostly unspoiled terrain. These areas are known for unique outdoor recreational opportunities and quiet solitude.

The overarching goal of this project is to end the conflict that occurs on these public lands between livestock and grizzly bears, wolves, and bighorn sheep. The presence of livestock is causing the death of these threatened species at an alarming rate through either transmission of disease or retaliatory killing.

These projects represent over a million acres of our western public lands that WWP is working to permanently protect. We plan to develop other more regionally focused initiatives as another avenue to chip away at the stranglehold that livestock grazing has across the West. We had success last fall in permanently retiring over 130,000 acres of BLM lands in Owyhee county Idaho. We're confident that we can achieve success again!

Your continued support is very important, enabling Western Watersheds Project to achieve these major accomplishments, but also to execute our day-to-day work effecting the management of millions of acres of public lands. To learn more details about these initiatives, other giving opportunities or if you'd like information about making a bequest to WWP, please contact Carter Hedberg, carterhedberg@westernwatersheds.org or 208.720.4366.



Please join us to learn the latest news about WWP and our plans for the coming year!



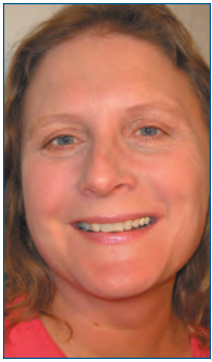
You Are Cordially Invited To The WWP Annual Members and Board Meeting May 3, 2014 at 11:00 A.M. M.D.T. at the Greenfire Preserve, Clayton, Idaho.

The Greenfire Preserve is located 7/10 of a mile south of the intersection of State Highway 75 and the East Fork Salmon River Road about 4 miles east of Clayton, Idaho. You will see the gateway to the Greenfire House on your Left (east) on the County road.

The area is very scenic with opportunities for hiking, photography and wildlife viewing. Lunch will be provided by WWP. The Board and Members Meetings will be over around 4:00 P.M.

Please RSVP to the WWP Hailey Office:
208-788-2290

www.wwp@westernwatersheds.org



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Update

by Laura Welp

When you hear the words “National Monument,” what do you think of? Pristine vistas, sparkling streams, healthy

vegetation, and proper grazing management? Not so fast.

National monuments under BLM management are supposed to be managed for ecological integrity, and most people think they are. One hears the word “monument” and assumes everything is okay. However, when WWP looked into grazing on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah, we found that monument designation hadn’t changed livestock management at all. Not a single head of livestock had been reduced. And ecological values in many places were not even up to the minimal standards established by the BLM, much less the standards one would assume would exist on a national monument!

WWP is currently challenging the government’s failure to improve some allotments that were not

meeting standards for rangeland health due to livestock grazing. BLM has had six years to change the shortcomings it found in 2008, which means the agency is six years overdue in attempting to fix the problem. The case is currently wending its way through federal court, with lawyers from the firm Meyer, Glitzenstein, and Crystal representing WWP.

Is the BLM responding to WWP’s lawsuit by finally addressing the resource damage caused by livestock? No. It’s easier to just “re-evaluate” the allotments on paper instead. If the BLM can say that nothing is wrong and conditions aren’t impaired, BLM doesn’t have to change anything now or implement the changes they promised way back when.

The National Landscape Conservation

System was established in order to protect the “crown jewels” of BLM-managed public lands. But if the BLM persists in simply rewriting history and not addressing the problems on-the-ground, the agency hasn’t stepped up its management to really conserve these places for future generations.

“...we found that monument designation hadn’t changed livestock management at all. Not a single head of livestock had been reduced.”

**Laura Welp is WWP’s Ecosystems Specialist
She lives in Phoenix**



*Box Elder Spring 2001
Not Meeting Standards for Rangeland Health*



*Box Elder Spring 2012
Meeting Standards for Rangeland Health?*



Surveys on the Salmon River Allotment in Nevada

by Karen Klitz

Last fall I looked at some localities on the Salmon River allotment in northern Nevada

because it is important to know the condition of the land before the next season of grazing is authorized. I camped in this large allotment - 278,157 acres of public land - from late August through September. As you see in the photographs on the next page, there was heavy livestock use everywhere I looked.

My father grew up in the nearby mining town of Contact – only a handful of residents today – and as kids we were brought up here regularly to visit the relatives and roam around the backcountry. When my sister and I returned in the 1990s to camp, we were appalled at how cowed-out every place was. We used shovels to clear a ton of cow pies from camping sites but the stench, chewed-down vegetation and fouled creeks remained. We became active in this allotment in 1996, joined WWP, and together put pressure on the Elko BLM, which resulted in many fences and water manipulations, as well as the 4-inch stubble height permit requirement. But, after 13 years, any improvement on the ground is difficult to find and some areas are worse!

The permit Decision (in 2000) allows a stocking rate of 6750 cows and another 3000 sheep for the entire summer. Although the many miles of fences now allow cattle and sheep to be moved around between pastures, this has not prevented continued deterioration. The criterion of a 4-inch stubble height remaining in riparian areas on public land appears to have never been enforced. Most riparian and upland native grasses are eaten down to 1-2 inches. Nor has the requirement to maintain

water at the source been followed. To reflect the current drought, stocking levels were reduced to 65% of the permitted allowance last year, yet conditions near the end of the season were severely degraded as shown in the photos.

Much effort and expense was put into treating large burns that have occurred in the allotment over the last several years, yet the livestock are soon returned to eat the grass, trample the soil, foul the water and spread weeds. No assessment of BLM recovery methodologies has been conducted that I am aware of, yet the agency continues with the same procedures year after year despite obvious evidence of failure (see photos of past burns).



“We used shovels to clear a ton of cow pies from camping sites but the stench, chewed-down vegetation and fouled creeks remained.”

Yet there remain many places over this large allotment that retain important elements of the original plant and animal communities. Sage grouse, redband trout, Columbia spotted frogs, bighorn sheep, pronghorn and elk can be found here, and with strong habitat protection could thrive again. There is evidence in the small watered drainages I visited

that beaver once used aspen and willows to dam up ponds. Where beaver needs are still present or can be restored, they could be re-introduced to provide their hydrological services. We know that now is the time to protect all the natives that are still here in this high desert sagebrush steppe.

Board Director Karen Klitz, Executive Director Travis Bruner and others will be meeting Elko BLM staff at the Salmon River allotment this spring and summer. They will observe conditions pre-turnout, install monitoring cages in the spring, and then revisit the allotment later in the summer to continue monitoring.

For more evidence of cattle degradation in the Salmon River Allotment in Nevada, view the photo feature on the following pages.

“Cowed Destruction on the Salmon

Photos taken by Karen Klitz in August/September 2013 to document the resource conditions of the allotment.



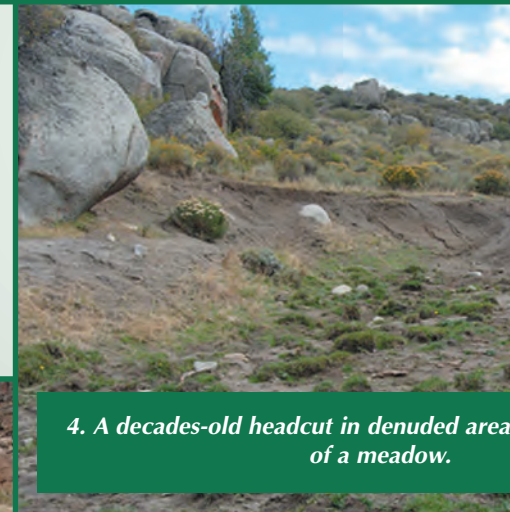
1. Below the springs a stumped and dry channel with no riparian vegetation.



2. The result of BLM fire treatment is rabbitbrush and trampled bare soil.



3. No understory can grow under these aspen trees due to recruitment and no cover or food for wildlife.



4. A decades-old headcut in denuded area of a meadow.



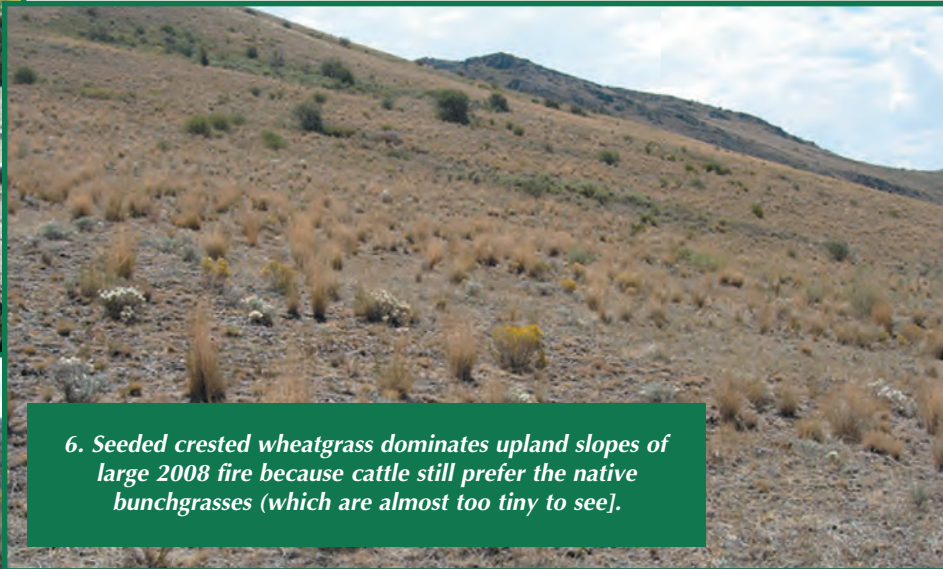
5. Would-be wet meadow, still in mid-September in spite of irrigation that has disrupted all riparian vegetation.

“d-Out”

n River Allotment, Nevada



*n: no aspen
wildlife.*



6. Seeded crested wheatgrass dominates upland slopes of large 2008 fire because cattle still prefer the native bunchgrasses (which are almost too tiny to see).



at the lower end



7. Success of BLM fire treatment: eight years after the Contact fire the dominant annual is cheatgrass, here seen with both old dry plants and green ones sprouting from late summer rains.



*muddy from springs' output
extremely heavy cattle use
natural function.*



Purposeful Incompetence & Faith-based Range Management

by Jonathan Ratner

Two terms that sum up the attitude of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest

Service: “purposeful incompetence” and “faith-based range management.”

A classic example of active and purposeful incompetence is the BLM’s management of the

83,000 acre Granite Mountain Common allotment which sits just north of the Sweetwater River near Jeffrey City, Wyoming. It has a suite of problems: completely destroyed riparian areas, uplands that have lost much of their productivity and wildlife habitat at a fraction of its potential. The BLM has known about these conditions for nearly half a century and has done nothing effective to reverse the ongoing degradation of our public lands.

Instead, the BLM has fiddled as the ecosystem has suffered. The allotment has been grazed every year from May to November since its establishment. In 1999, a signed agreement asked the permittees to run only 55% of their permitted livestock numbers for the same season-long grazing. This reduction hasn’t resulted in improved conditions, and the riparian areas have continued to be devastated. The BLM has not taken effective action to correct it, and instead renews the permits without an examination of environmental impacts.

The 1989 Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the allotment identifies the Granite Mountain Common as a high priority with “extreme vegetative resource problems” and “extreme use conflict”. Despite monitoring being identified as a high priority, the BLM rarely even visited the allotment prior to 2011, let alone managed it. It was not until the permittees wanted to run their full permitted livestock numbers again that the BLM decided to conduct a Rangeland Health Evaluation and do an environmental analysis of the impacts of grazing on the allotment. These documents are not

expected to be final until fall or next winter, but BLM is already proposing fencing, pipelines and water developments. The BLM conveniently forgets about how proposed actions like these have uniformly failed to live up to their previous promises.

The Gold Creek allotment, at the southern end of the Wind River Range, has also been having problems for a long time. To remedy failing resource conditions in 1998, BLM implemented a reduced utilization limit for riparian species and built more fences to “improve” livestock rotations

in order to address the problems on the allotment. Fast-forward to 2011 and all the same problems are still there and getting worse. None of the “improvements” improved anything.

In response to the recent determinations, WWP submitted a “Common-Sense, Science-Based, Performance-Based Management Alternative For The Gold Creek Allotment.”

But as expected, the BLM completely ignored its own

science, laws and regulations and instead selected the BLM’s ‘faith-based’ alternative. (“If we believe it, it might work!”)

Despite having lowered the utilization limits in 1998 and never having them adhered to since, the new decision proposed lowering them even more, without addressing the underlying problem of permittee non-compliance. In 2012, utilization levels were exceeded in short order, but BLM didn’t push the cows off in order to avoid any inconvenience to the permittees. In 2013, the same thing happened. WWP collected riparian utilization data and found the utilization limits greatly exceeded.

WWP appealed the BLM’s faith-based decision two years ago and the case is pending a hearing. WWP will present data and the actual samples to the judge as part of this litigation against the BLM for its long-standing preference for faith-based management instead of science-based.



A cage prevents grazing in a small area to show the potential growth of grass

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



Sage-grouse Comments Across the West

by Paul Ruprecht

WWP staff has been hard at work writing comments on the proposed Land Use Plan Amendments and Environmental Impact Statements that purport to add conservation measures for

Greater sage-grouse to existing plans governing public lands across the West. The BLM and Forest Service are scrambling to write amendments to management plans in 10 states in an attempt to stave off a listing of the species under the Endangered Species Act—a decision that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must make by 2015. Such a listing would threaten the agencies' "Business as usual" approach to managing federal lands, and they know it.

The agencies' fear of an ESA listing is indicative of their unwillingness to truly conserve the species and ensure its recovery throughout its historic range. One overarching problem with the draft plan amendments is that they begin with scaled-back habitat models, and none of the alternatives in any plan considers protecting more expansive habitat areas, restoring sagebrush habitats, or seeking to extend the current range of the bird.

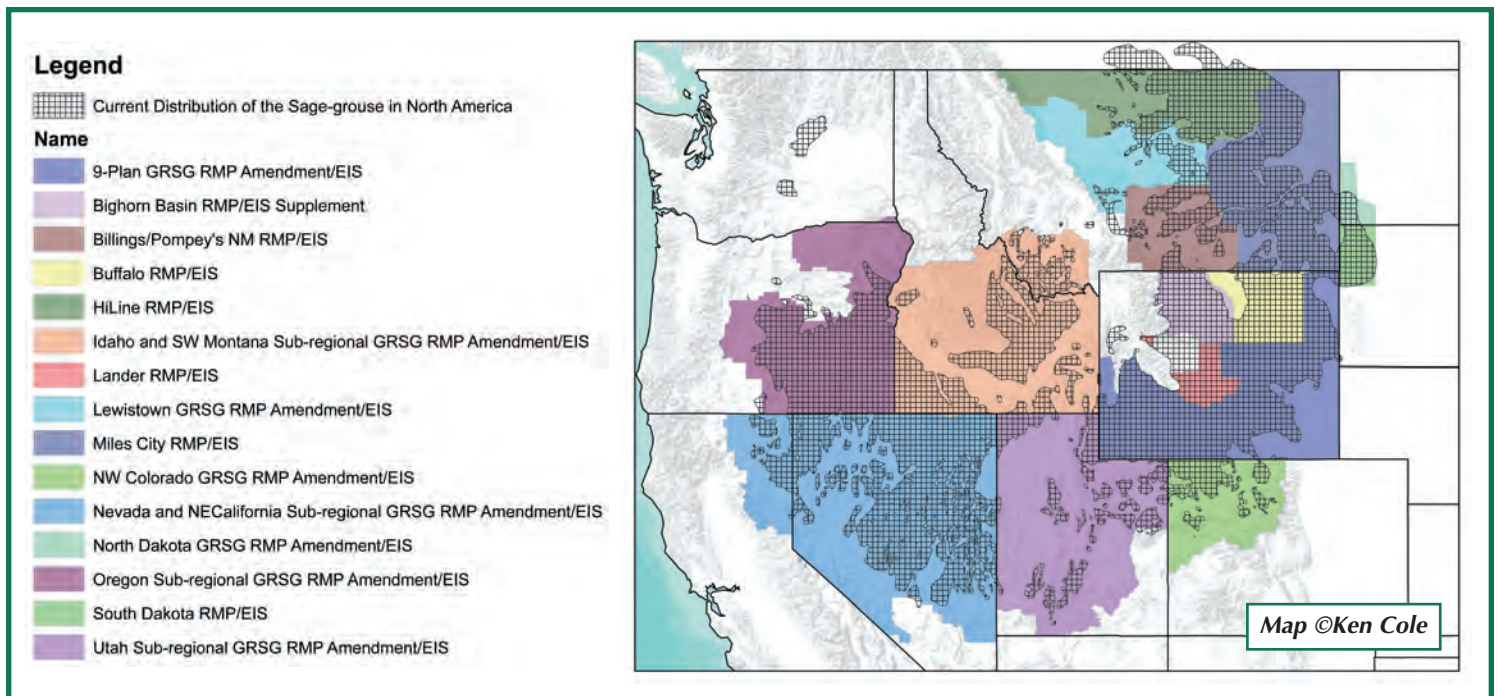
The amendments have a few positive features, but they are inconsistent across the species' range. Conservation measures such as lek buffers, disturbance caps (along with disturbance definitions and calculation formulas), seasonal habitat requirements, and mitigation schemes vary

wildly from plan to plan. Limits on oil-and-gas development, roads, and rights of way are weak and insufficient. Additionally, many proposed conservation measures are discretionary and subject to exemption and approval by state agencies, politicizing any outcomes. Thus, in the words of sage-grouse biologist Jack Connelly, "taken as a whole, these efforts appear to be getting sage-grouse conservation nowhere fast, largely because of bureaucratic approaches and continuing reliance on rhetoric and dogma."

WWP's comments center on our area of expertise: the direct and indirect harms to sage-grouse caused by public lands livestock grazing. The agencies turn a blind eye to the widespread degradation cows and sheep are causing in sage-grouse habitat, instead focusing efforts to conserve habitat on more fencing and livestock improvements, seeding, and vegetation "treatments" like sagebrush manipulation, prescribed burns, and juniper removal that are certain to further fragment sage-grouse habitat. To assess grazing, the agencies uniformly rely on determinations of rangeland health (BLM) or monitoring data (USFS).

The BLM's standards are ineffective measures of livestock impacts and fail to capture the real problems with grazing. None of the plans propose to implement significant changes in livestock grazing. All in all, WWP's reviews of the plans found them to be woefully inadequate to provide meaningful protection for sage-grouse or restoration of the sagebrush sea.

*Paul Ruprecht is WWP's Oregon Staff Attorney
He lives in Portland*



Oregon and Montana offices: WWP is growing and changing

In November, Western Watersheds Project hired Paul Ruprecht as a staff attorney, establishing a Portland Office and expanding WWP's presence and influence in the Pacific Northwest. Paul is a recent graduate of Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland and previously volunteered with WWP. He also served as a law clerk for WWP partners Oregon Natural Desert Association and Advocates for the West. He has a certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law from Lewis and Clark.

WWP has been involved with grazing and public lands issues in Oregon for many years. Much of the Oregon landscape is shrub steppe and livestock grazing is the predominant use of public lands east of the Cascades. The BLM manages over 13 million acres of arid public lands in the state, including more than 10 million acres of habitat for Greater sage-grouse. A multitude of other special-status species are also found there: Lahontan cutthroat trout; Interior redband trout; bull trout; Columbia spotted frog; pygmy rabbit; Kit fox; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Grasshopper sparrow; and Pallid bat to name only a handful. Many of these remarkable areas and species will benefit from the additional oversight that WWP can provide.

Feel free to contact Paul Ruprecht at paul@westernwatersheds.org.

Montana's landscape features rugged mountains, broad valleys, sage-covered plains, and powerful rivers like the Missouri, Yellowstone, and Gallatin. Bison, sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, wolves, wild trout, and grizzly bears reside within the state's borders.

Beginning in 2014, WWP will expand its work in Montana to include extensive field monitoring to document and oppose the impacts of livestock grazing to sage-grouse habitat, aquatic species such as trout and grayling, and to other sensitive plants and animals. WWP will also monitor the threat posed by the livestock industry and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services toward wolves.

This past February, in order to expand our influence over management of Montana's wild country, WWP hired Josh Osher as Montana Coordinator. Serving as WWP's Public Policy Consultant for the last two years, Josh has traveled to Washington, D.C. on a regular basis to meet with members of the legislative and executive branches to bring the negative impacts of the public lands grazing program to the forefront and offer common sense solutions. Summer Nelson will continue to represent WWP as legal counsel.

Please feel free to get in touch with Josh or Summer if you have questions or ideas about our work in Montana; josh@westernwatersheds.org and summer@westernwatersheds.org.



Bison in Montana
Photo ©USFWS

Jon Marvel and A Firm Foundation for Moving Forward

On March 1st, Jon Marvel retired and Travis Bruner assumed the position of Executive Director of Western Watersheds Project. First of all I would like to say how pleased I am to have Travis at the head of the organization. I am confident that Travis, along with our incredible staff, will continue the important work Jon started over 20 years ago. As the current Board President and a long-term supporter of WWP, I would like to offer my deep appreciation of Jon.

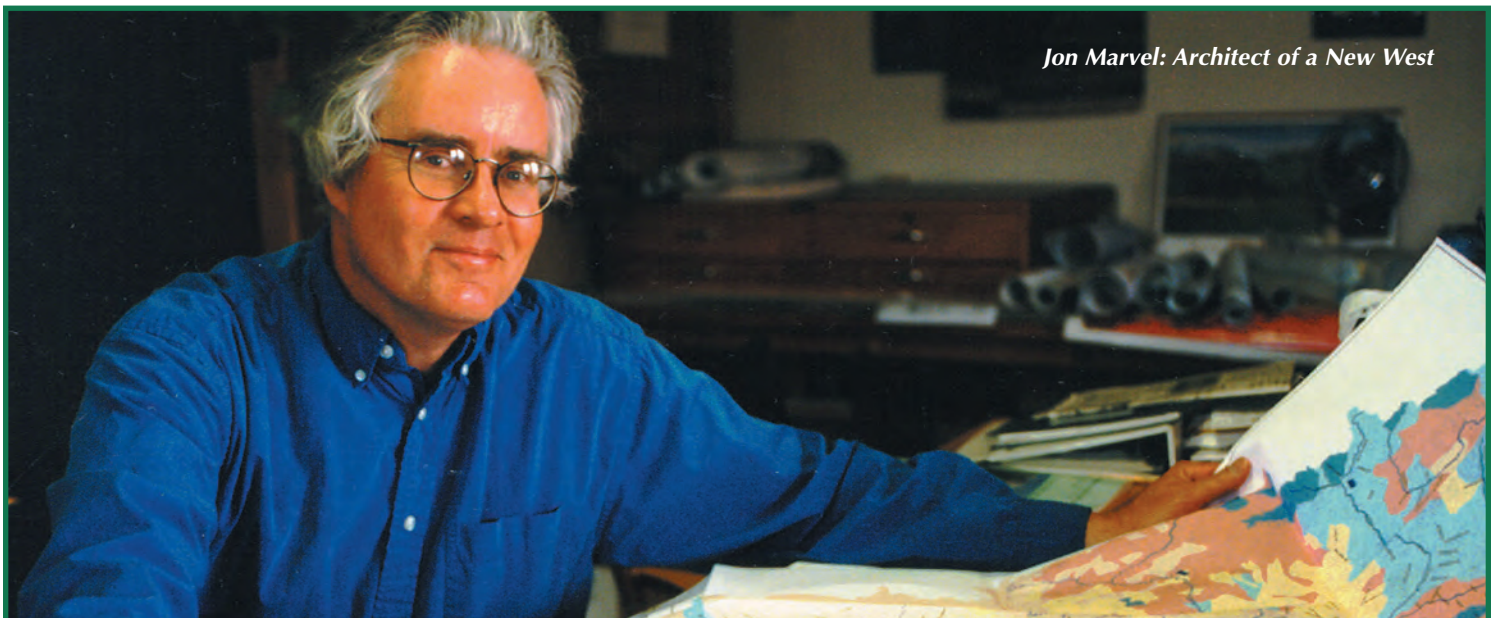
There are very few people in any field or profession with the vision and determination necessary to create a nationally recognized environmental organization from scratch. Early on, Jon identified the livestock industry in all its many facets as one of the principal sources of environmental problems in the West and moved to confront the problem directly. Challenging the status quo on an issue as iconic and deeply entrenched politically and culturally as ranching was a deeply courageous act. Those of you that have been involved for a long time know how vicious the personal attacks unleashed on Jon were at times and how recalcitrant and dishonest many of his opponents have been over the years. Through it all, Jon, along with an amazing staff and legal team, persevered and in the process managed to delineate the issue of livestock in the West in a way that has completely changed the playing field forever. WWP has succeeded, and will continue to succeed, because we have the facts on our side. And, because

the group of men and women Jon attracted to WWP knows the issue and the situation on the ground as well or better than anyone else in the West and are they willing to speak truth to power.

I have been privileged over the last 15 years or so to participate in the growth of WWP and in the process to benefit from Jon's deep knowledge, incisive intelligence and friendship. Through it all Jon has always challenged me when my views were inaccurate or limited, offering me a more comprehensive way to look at things. He has been instrumental in my appreciation and understanding of the landscape, ecology, politics, and environmental history of this beautiful and sacred land I call home and for this I will always be deeply grateful.

In the end, all of our work as individuals and together as an organization is in the service of a positive vision of the West as a place healed of past abuse and ecologically intact. However remote it sometimes seems, I do believe there is a real possibility that the tens of thousands of miles of streams and the hundreds of millions of acres of sagebrush habitat, forests and deserts that make up the public lands of the West will recover and thrive. If we come through the bottleneck of destruction and violence we are now experiencing into a place where the rest of creation receives the respect and love to which it is entitled, history will remember our time and our efforts, especially Jon's founding role as a critical part of that healing. This is my deep and fervent hope.

*Kelley Weston,
Chair of WWP's Board of Directors*



Jon Marvel: Architect of a New West

WWP extends special thanks to the following supporters, each of whom contributed \$100 or more to our efforts since the last newsletter. This generous assistance helps to preserve and restore habitat for many species.

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 Bex Wilkinson
 Catherine Williams
 Jennifer Williams
 Mitchell Wolfson Sr. Foundation
 Jeri Wolfson
 George Wuerthner
 Theresa Zmola
 Ben Zuckerman

Western Watersheds Project 2013 Annual Financial Report

Income

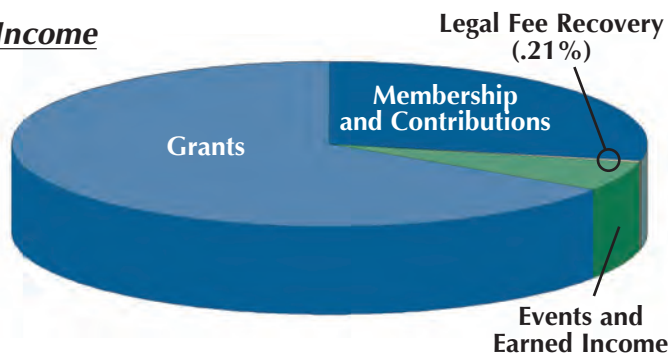
Memberships and Contributions	\$175,900.00
Grants	\$406,300.00
Events and Earned Income.....	\$36,200.00
Legal Fee Recovery	\$1,300.00
Total Income	\$619,700.00

Expenses

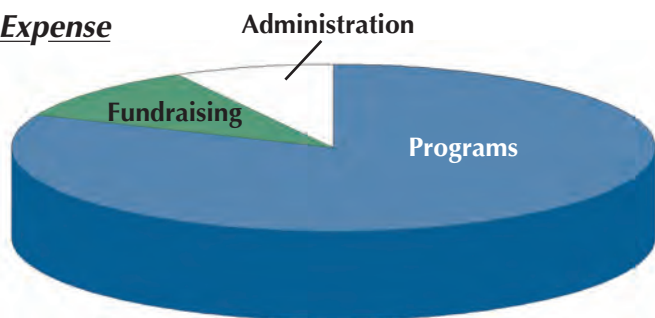
Accounting	\$3,000.00
Portfolio Management	\$3,000.00
Donation Processing	\$1,400.00
Conferences and Meetings.....	\$4,700.00
Contract Services.....	\$137,100.00
Equipment Rental and Maintenance	\$3,300.00
Insurance.....	\$22,500.00
Legal	\$65,600.00
Occupancy	\$21,000.00
Payroll	\$451,700.00
Payroll Expenses	\$36,800.00
Postage and Shipping	\$6,300.00
Printing and Publications	\$112,100.00
Grazing Leases	\$400.00
Supplies	\$11,700.00
Telephone	\$8,900.00
Travel.....	\$57,100.00
Website	\$800.00
Total Expenses	\$947,400.00

Net Income	-\$327,700.00
Transfers from Capital Assets	\$330,000.00
Year End Balance.....	\$2,300.00

Income



Expense



Western Watersheds Project Staff

Travis Bruner	Executive Director
Greta Anderson	Deputy Director
Ken Cole	NEPA Coordinator
Dr. Michael J. Connor.....	California Director
Katie Fite	Biodiversity Director
Jeremy Greenberg.....	Operations Director
Carter Hedberg	Chief Development Officer
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Western Watersheds Project State and Regional Offices

Main Office	P.O. Box 1770 • Hailey, ID 83333 (208)788-2290 • fax: (208)788-2298 wwp@westernwatersheds.org
Idaho (Boise office)	P.O. Box 2863 • Boise, ID 83701 (208)429-1679 • katie@westernwatersheds.org
Arizona	738 N. 5th Avenue, Suite 200 Tucson, AZ 85705 Erik Ryberg: (520)622-3333 • Greta Anderson: (520) 623-1878 arizona@westernwatersheds.org
California.....	P.O. Box 2364 • Reseda, CA 91337 california@westernwatersheds.org
Colorado, Wyoming & Utah	P.O. Box 1160 Pinedale, WY 82941 (877)746-3628 • fax: (208)475-4702 wyoming@westernwatersheds.org
Montana.....	P.O. Box 7681 • Missoula, MT 59807 (406)830-3099 • fax: (208)475-4702 montana@westernwatersheds.org
Oregon	126 SE Alberta St, Ste 208 Portland, OR 97211-2665 (208)421-4637 • fax: (208)475-4702 oregon@westernwatersheds.org



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^ **"From a floundering attempt to remove protections for gray wolves throughout the nation to a wolf and coyote killing contest in Idaho, wolves have been the subject of much controversy. WWP is working to ensure these creatures get the protection they deserve." - Page 1**