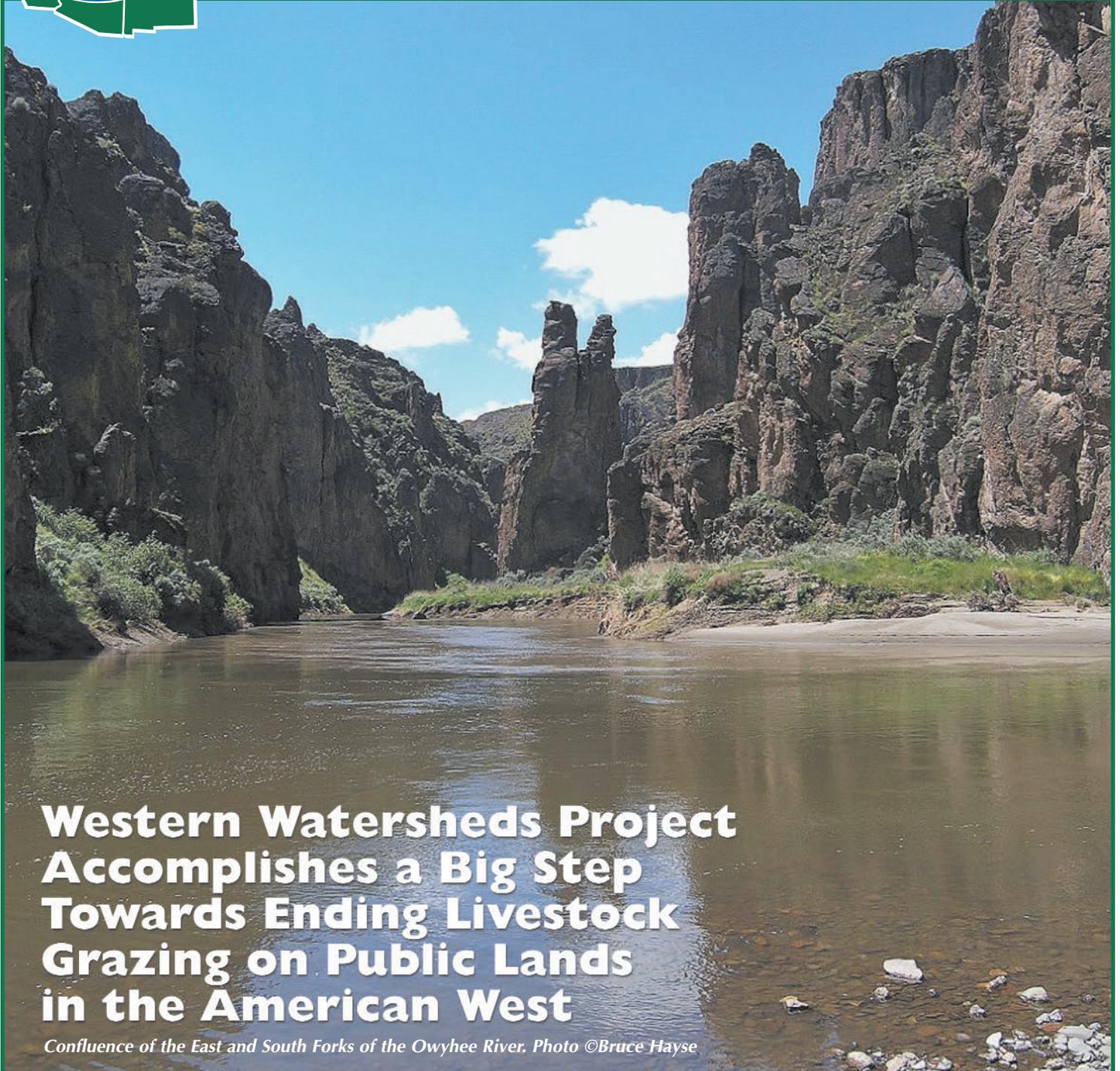




M Watersheds **ESSENGER**

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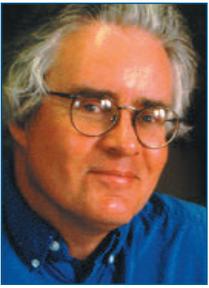


Western Watersheds Project Accomplishes a Big Step Towards Ending Livestock Grazing on Public Lands in the American West

Confluence of the East and South Forks of the Owyhee River. Photo ©Bruce Hayse

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

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On September 1, 2013

the Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Fund completed the permanent retirement from livestock grazing of over 130,000 acres of public land in the former 45 and Tent Creek grazing allotments in Owyhee County, Idaho.

The permanent retirement of these allotments continues an effort to end livestock grazing in designated Wilderness in Owyhee County, Idaho that began two years ago with the retirement of the nearby smaller Burghardt allotment (please see map for the location of these three allotments).

Through an innovative agreement between the El Paso Corporation (now Kinder-Morgan) of Houston, Texas and Western Watersheds Project the Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Fund was created in June 2010. The Fund is directed by a three member Board with one member appointed by Western Watersheds Project, one appointed by Kinder-Morgan and a third selected by the first two.

In that agreement, Western Watersheds Project agreed not to litigate El Paso Corp's then-proposed and now completed 670-mile Ruby pipeline that carries natural gas from Opal, Wyoming to Malin, Oregon passing through parts of Utah and Nevada as well as western Wyoming and eastern Oregon. In return El Paso Corp. agreed to provide \$15,000,000 over ten years to a new nonprofit, the Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Fund whose mission would be to retire federal public land grazing permits in sage-steppe landscapes of the



American west through agreements with willing ranchers to accept a negotiated buy-out and then voluntary relinquish their grazing permit(s).

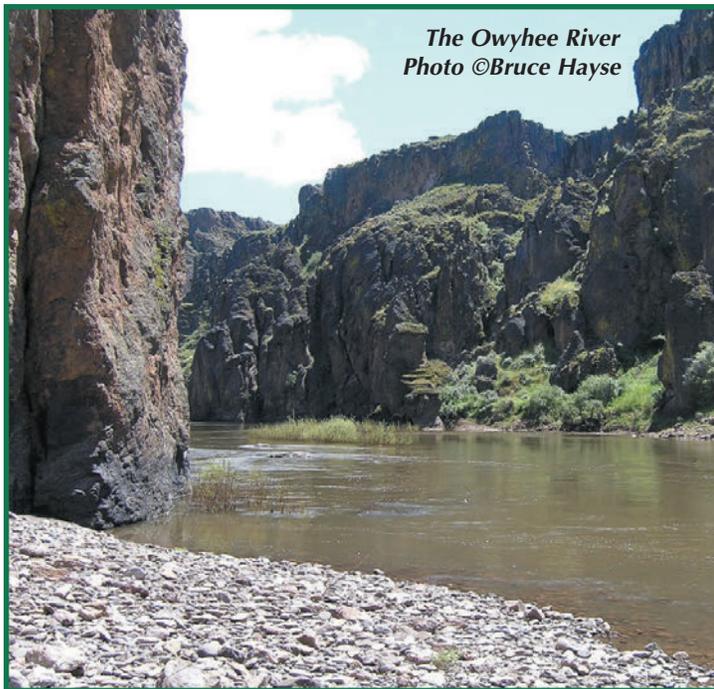
Since grazing permit relinquishment does not necessarily lead to permanent retirement of livestock grazing, The Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Fund seeks to carry out its work in locations where the legal framework authorizes permanent retirement of livestock grazing. Thanks to Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) the Owyhee



*Desert Horned Lizard, Owyhee County, Idaho
Photo © www.flickr.com/photos/petechar/*

Wilderness Act of 2009 includes a provision requiring the BLM to permanently retire voluntarily relinquished livestock grazing in allotments wholly or partially located in designated Wilderness. Both the 45 and Tent Creek allotments meet that requirement and have been retired forever by the BLM (please see commentary on the BLM acknowledgement in the article to the right).

The permanent retirement from livestock impacts of these two very large allotments will provide enormous benefits for many species of native wildlife including Greater sage-grouse, Desert Bighorn Sheep, Redband Trout, Pronghorn Antelope and many other sage-steppe obligate



species. The allotments also encompass a vast sweep of relatively healthy sage-steppe landscapes including the spectacular rhyolite canyon scenery of a number of tributaries of the Owyhee River watershed and large areas of designated Wilderness adjacent to the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Owyhee River.

This major conservation accomplishment by Western Watersheds Project and the Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Fund with the welcome agreement of the 45 Ranch partners marks the start of many more landscape-scale retirements from livestock grazing across the sagebrush sea.



New Guidance on Grazing Retirement by Travis Bruner

The 45 and Tent Creek permanent retirements were successful because the allotments occurred in an area that is congressionally designated for permanent retirement upon relinquishment. Similar designations occur in bighorn sheep habitat, in the California Desert Conservation area, and in a few special management areas across the West. But there are other circumstances where the agencies may administratively retire grazing permits. Unfortunately, because the agencies are still so aligned with livestock interests, they don't make it easy to do.

For example, on September 9th, the BLM issued a new Instruction Memorandum that outlines how the agency will respond to a grazing permittee's request to relinquish a grazing permit. While the document comes complete with a "Relinquishment Flow Diagram," it does not offer a simplified system for the retirement of relinquished permits. It also continues the requirement that the BLM amend the overarching Land Use Plan before retiring the permit.

Thus, this new Instruction Memorandum continues the agency's habit of limiting the freedom of permittees to retire permits and preventing the agency from removing livestock from public lands in the interest of conservation. It is unfortunate the BLM is making it harder to meet the growing demand for voluntary buy-out.

The Instruction Memorandum is available for viewing online at [on.doi.gov/18eFfW6](https://www.doi.gov/18eFfW6)



Federal Protection Proposed for Bi-State Sage Grouse!

by Mike Connor

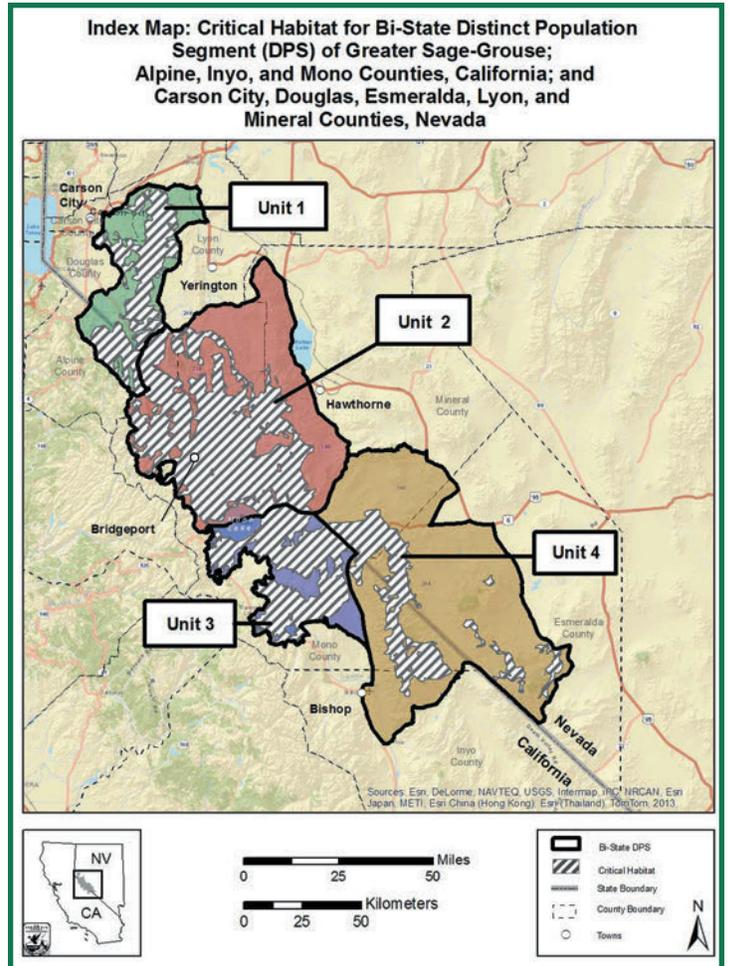
In late October, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it is proposing to list the Bi-State sage-grouse population as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act and to designate 2,919 square miles of critical habitat.

The Bi-State sage-grouse is a geographically isolated, genetically distinct population of Greater sage-grouse. They occur on the California-Nevada border in the Mono Lake area, and are found in parts of Mono, Alpine, and Inyo Counties in California and in parts of Carson City, Douglas, Esmeralda, Lyon, and Mineral Counties in Nevada.

Major threats to the Bi-state sage-grouse population include livestock grazing and rangeland management, infrastructure including fences, power lines, roads, nonnative and native, invasive plants and altered fire regimes, urbanization and habitat conversion, mining, renewable energy development, climate (including drought), and predation.

This proposal comes just a month after a federal court judge ruled that the Bureau of Land Management's Bishop Field Office had failed to provide specific science about impacts to sage grouse nesting areas in its environmental review for four grazing allotments in the Bodie Hills. This ruling followed from an October 26, 2010 lawsuit filed by Western Watersheds Project challenging grazing decisions issued by the Field Office for the Bodie Mountain, Mono Sand Flat, Aurora Canyon, and Potato Peak grazing allotments in the Bodie Hills.

Without an ESA listing, the Fish and Wildlife Service expects that within 30 years it is likely that all the populations in Nevada will be extirpated



and that only isolated populations in California's Bodie Hills and Long Valley would remain.

The listing proposal includes a problematic special rule exempting state conservation plans and no doubt we can expect vigorous challenges to the proposed listing from the livestock industry. Western Watersheds Project will continue to work to ensure that science prevails and that all populations of the iconic sage-grouse get the full protection they so clearly need.

Dr. Mike Connor is WWP's California Director. He lives in Reseda, CA.



*Bodie Hills, CA photo ©flickr.com/americanbackroom/
Grouse photo ©USFWS*



WWP Internship Offers Fresh Insights on Grazing Issues
by Angela Loftus

The federal government controls over 50% of the land in the Western states and for the most part, the land has suffered for it.

Arid sage land dominates the western landscape and what most of us would believe to be unproductive and unviable land for development is being used to its own detriment by a select few who are in charge of public land ranching operations. With millions of acres of beautiful Western land becoming more trampled and polluted each year, public lands ranching is one of the most pervasive and under-recognized forces of environmental alteration. Looking at the numbers, ranching operations on public lands account for less than 2% of the beef market in the US and end up hugely subsidized through low grazing fees and subsidies on feed prices. I found myself wondering how such a small and unproductive industry could still govern the health of such a huge expanse of land that should represent the interests of the entire population, and who was really to blame for the colossal damage already done to the lands that every Westerner is proud to call home.

Ranchers are not making any sweeping contributions to the American economy but are still given control of millions of acres of public land for their own interests. It would be easy to blame the ranchers themselves for the state of the American West, but what I found this summer was a bit more complex than a simple blame game, the roots of public lands ranching are deeply entrenched in the bureaucratic mess that constitutes the BLM and the USFS. It is the government agencies that give rise to the success

of ranchers, and the ranchers that keep the government agencies employed. The mutual dependence each party has on one another has effectively fostered an attitude of necessary ignorance that not only hinders any efforts of environmental intervention but makes the intervening party out as extremists. Valid concerns about the state of the land are met with skepticism and animosity because the very notion that ranching could be implicated as a negative force puts both the ranchers and BLM range workers at risk of becoming obsolete.

Many people informed me, before my internship started, that Western Watersheds Project was crazy and that, for the most part, they were out to get ranchers any way they could. After a summer experiencing the extent of environmental damage that cattle had caused to the Western landscape paired with the encounters I had with BLM employees and ranchers themselves, I realized something else was going on. WWP was never acting as an extremist group, a bulk of their activities were centered around simply enforcing established land management practices, but WWP was nonetheless perceived as being extreme because there was such a strong culture of ignorance fostered in the West that any accusation of wrongdoing was tantamount to an electroshock therapy treatment in the BLM framework. My naïve assumption that the BLM was interested in accommodating all reasonable interests in the land was quickly dispelled when I saw firsthand how unaware most of them were about the actual condition of the range.

I often felt a sense of hopelessness when I was out in the field; progress in the arena of environmental health on the Western public lands seemed unlikely as the problems were ignored by the very agency that was created to manage them. WWP is not an extremist group, or a rancher hate group, they are a collection of dedicated people that only wish to propagate accountability as a necessary aspect of land management. To the general public, the ranchers and the BLM, these efforts are extreme only in contrast to the legacy of the ranchers and BLM employees; both parties are dependent on each other for survival and have developed a mutual defense of denial.

Angela Loftus was WWP's 2013 Summer Intern. She attends Whitman College in Walla Walla.

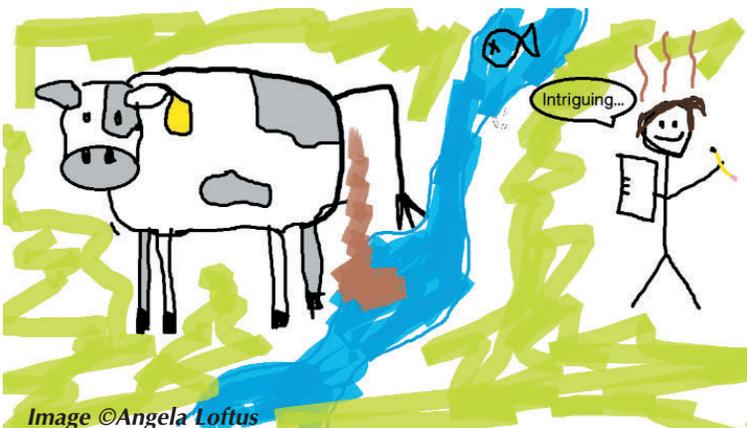


Image ©Angela Loftus



Pursuing Reality in Utah by John Carter and Jonathan Ratner



Twelve long years, countless field visits and monitoring trips, weeks of weighing and clipping and entering data, extensive testimony by expert witnesses, numerous written reports, 14 weeks of hearings and a hearing record of 15,000 pages. For what? For a satisfying win on the Duck Creek allotment in May 2013.

Since 2001, WWP has monitored on-the-ground conditions in Rich County, Utah allotments, including the Duck Creek allotment. Dr. John Carter, former WWP Utah Director, found tremendous erosion in the uplands, depleted plant communities, stream systems that were severely damaged, and springs that had literally been destroyed by livestock water developments, basically piping the water away from the source and into metal troughs for cattle. These conditions were reported to BLM along with dozens of scientific papers on the effects of livestock grazing to the environment and suggestions for proper management.

BLM ignored WWP's input when it came out with an Environmental Assessment for the Duck Creek allotment in 2004. This assessment proposed the adoption of a six pasture grazing system and the addition of numerous water developments throughout the allotment. WWP appealed the decision and it went to hearing at the Office of Hearings and Appeals in front of Judge



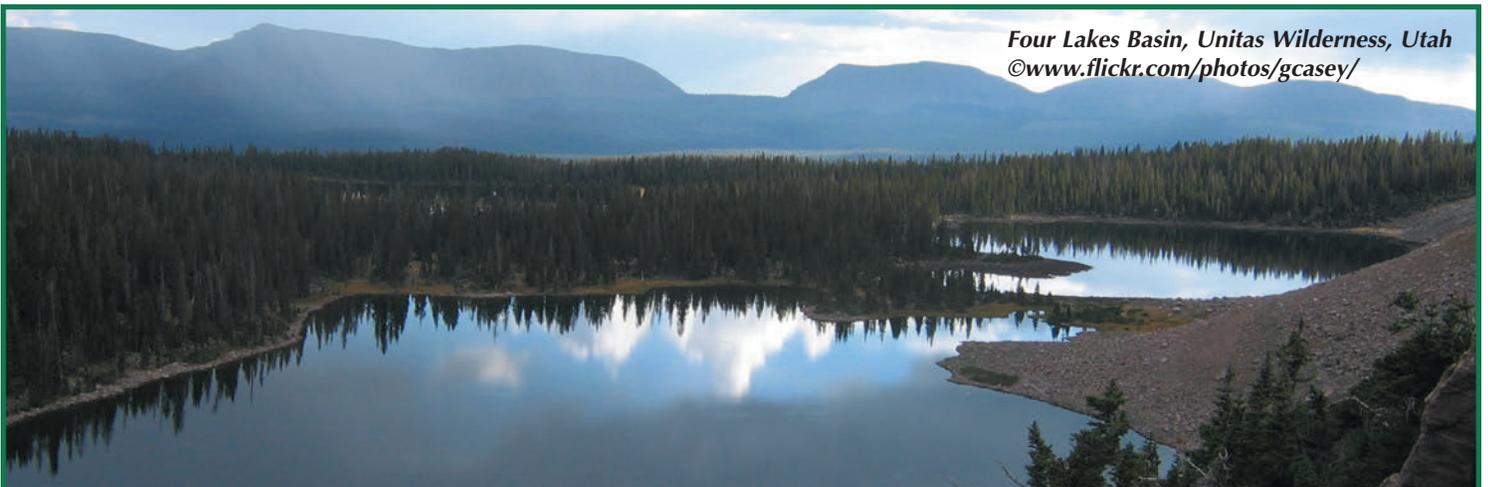
WWP's Jonathan Ratner measures riparian degradation. photo©John Carter

Heffernan. After a week of testimony, BLM withdrew the EA and Decision without further adjudication.

In 2005, Dr. Jim Catlin of Wild Utah Project (WUP) and Dr. Carter began a quantitative monitoring program on the Duck Creek allotment. This entailed placing utilization cages in many areas of the allotment to demonstrate the difference in grazed and ungrazed vegetation conditions. These data showed upland use was excessive, productivity impaired, sage grouse habitat eliminated, vegetation use in stream areas extreme, stream banks trampled and destroyed, and water polluted with E.coli.

In 2007 BLM issued another EA on the Duck Creek allotment, once again adopting a permittee and county developed plan for more water developments and fences. In 2008, WWP and WUP appealed this new decision, again going to hearing in front of Administrative Law Judge Heffernan. Extensive briefing followed and finally, in May 2013, a ruling.

OHA found that BLM's rangeland health



*Four Lakes Basin, Unitas Wilderness, Utah
©www.flickr.com/photos/gcasey/*

assessments were biased, that decisions were made arbitrarily and with little substantive basis, that conservation interests were treated with hostility and unfairly under the law, that the agency paid lip-service to sage-grouse protection but didn't take the requirements of its special status species policy seriously, and that range developments have profound effects on the landscape and can't be used to offset existing degradation. It was an across-the-board win and much credit goes to our attorney, Judi Brawer, Dr. Carter and Dr. Catlin who dedicated untold hours getting us to victory.

The time and effort to demonstrate this for one allotment represents an enormous commitment of resources, but Duck Creek serves as a proof of concept: BLM's land health evaluation and decision-making methods are biased, inaccurate, and insufficient to protect the natural resources on our public lands. Public lands advocates shouldn't bear the burden of proof; federal agencies should be using objective, honest, and scientific methods in determining true land health, not merely rubber-stamping status quo management proposals.

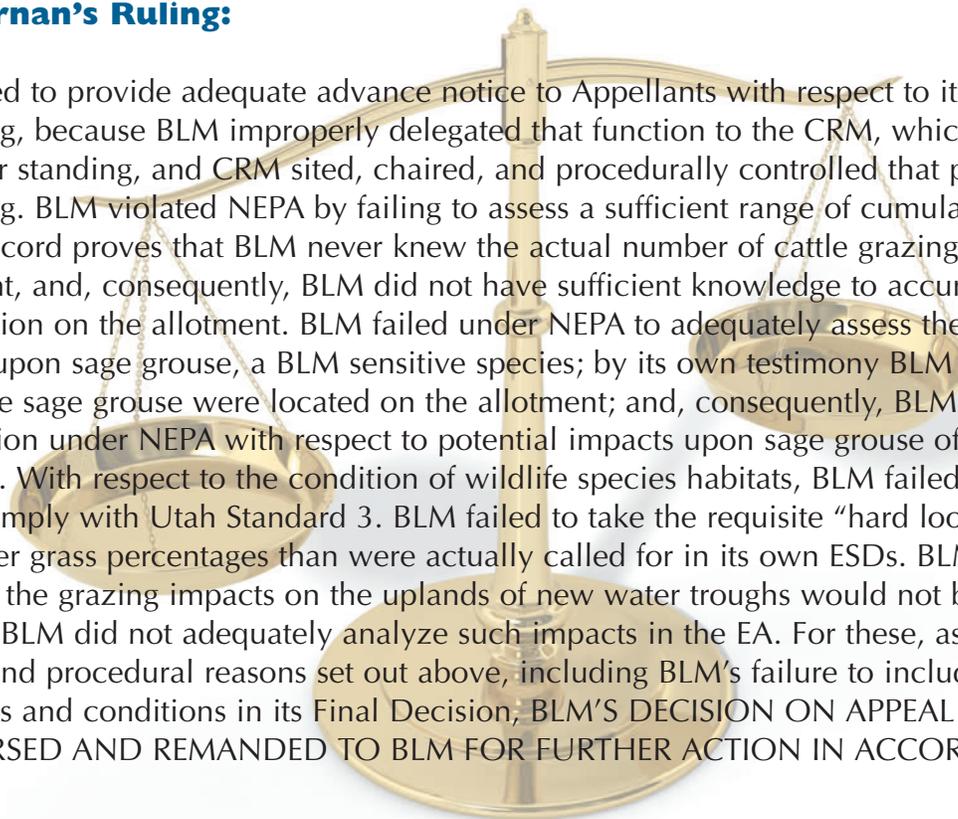
Meanwhile, BLM has appealed the ruling to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, hoping this more favorable body will reverse the lower court ruling and allow them to continue destructive grazing

practices on Duck Creek. Jonathan Ratner implemented water quality monitoring in 2009 and the work goes on with more legal briefing, more data collection to protect these sensitive watersheds, streams and wildlife, while BLM refuses to work with us to resolve the problems with their monitoring, essentially averting their eyes to the degradation and proceeding as if the Duck Creek hearing never took place. WWP won't give up until the BLM admits that grazing is harming these resources and changes management to reflect that knowledge.

Dr. John Carter left WWP after the Duck Creek hearing in 2010 to complete his residence and establish Kiesha's Preserve in SE Idaho. In 2012, he began working as Manager of the Yellowstone to Uintas Connection, a non profit established to bring focus to the regionally significant wildlife corridor connecting the Yellowstone area to the Uinta Wilderness and southern Rockies.

For photos of how Western Watersheds Project monitored conditions in Duck Creek check out the photo-collage on pages 8 and 9.

Judge Heffernan's Ruling:



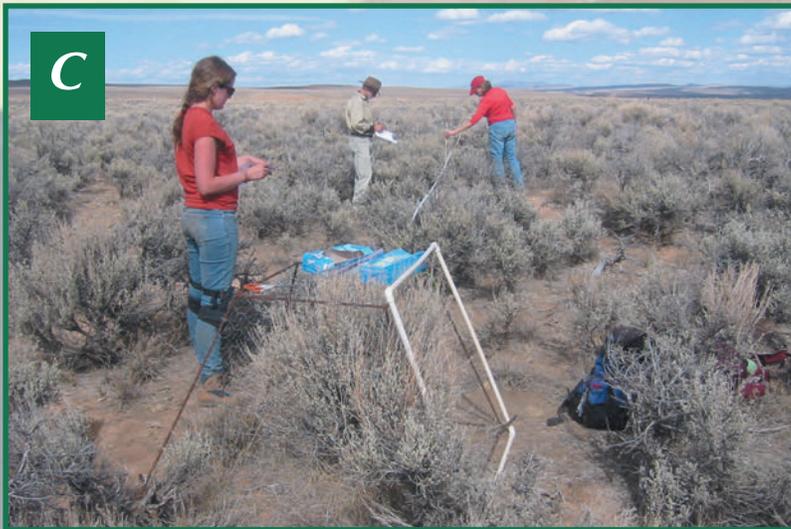
"BLM failed to provide adequate advance notice to Appellants with respect to its June 2, 2006, scoping meeting, because BLM improperly delegated that function to the CRM, which enjoyed no federal status or standing, and CRM sited, chaired, and procedurally controlled that pivotal federal scoping meeting. BLM violated NEPA by failing to assess a sufficient range of cumulative impacts. In addition, the record proves that BLM never knew the actual number of cattle grazing on the Duck Creek Allotment, and, consequently, BLM did not have sufficient knowledge to accurately assess and analyze utilization on the allotment. BLM failed under NEPA to adequately assess the multiple impacts of its decision upon sage grouse, a BLM sensitive species; by its own testimony BLM did not even know where the sage grouse were located on the allotment; and, consequently, BLM did not issue an informed decision under NEPA with respect to potential impacts upon sage grouse of its four pasture rotation system. With respect to the condition of wildlife species habitats, BLM failed completely to observe and comply with Utah Standard 3. BLM failed to take the requisite "hard look" in the EA at the impacts of lower grass percentages than were actually called for in its own ESDs. BLM incorrectly concluded that the grazing impacts on the uplands of new water troughs would not be measurable , and, therefore, BLM did not adequately analyze such impacts in the EA. For these, as well as, the other factual, legal, and procedural reasons set out above, including BLM's failure to include enforceable additional terms and conditions in its Final Decision, BLM'S DECISION ON APPEAL HEREIN IS HEREBY REVERSED AND REMANDED TO BLM FOR FURTHER ACTION IN ACCORD WITH THIS DECISION."



A

“Ecological analysis,
the land and its health, relies on indicators. The expertise of biologists outside land management is needed to objectively interpret these signs and science-based analysis of land use plans, reviews about conservation issues, expert community needs for their campaigns and Management Practices’ that incorporate effective agency practices.”

Western Watersheds Project would like to thank their assistance in Duck Creek monitoring about Wild Utah Project on the west.



C

A. *Stream drying up from decades of cattle leaving nothing except what remains (Wild Utah Project Photo)*

B. *Measuring upland vegetation using a quadrat (Wild Utah Project Photo)*

C. *Measuring upland vegetation using a quadrat (Wild Utah Project Photo)*

D. *Upland plot showing cattle and vegetation (Wild Utah Project Photo)*

E. *Jonathan Ratner measuring riparian vegetation (Wild Utah Project Photo)*

F. *Spring being destroyed by cattle (Wild Utah Project Photo)*

G. *Cattle still grazing meadow, leaving little vegetation (John Carter photo)*



E



G

an integral part of the study of
s that are not always obvious.
management agencies is often
s. Monitoring provides biological
ans and projects, literature
witnesses the local conservation
d legal efforts, and 'Best
ecological science into
-Wild Utah Project Website

to thank Wild Utah Project for
ing efforts. You can learn more
eb at WildUtahProject.Org.

of watershed and stream abuse,
hat is protected in cage.

e. (Wild Utah Project Photo)

e. (Wild Utah Project Photo)

l sheep leave little for wildlife.

rian disturbance. (John Carter photo)

e. (John Carter photo)

aving nothing for sage grouse.



Background photo ©USDA



Philanthropy Made Easy by Carter Hedberg

Everyone appreciates a little more convenience in his or her life, including when it comes to charitable giving. Increasingly, individuals are choosing the convenience of giving online when it comes to supporting their favorite cause. According to the Blackbaud Idea Lab Charitable Giving Report for 2012, online giving was up 10.7% in 2012 compared to the overall giving increase of only 1.7%. The growing interest in using the internet as a resource for philanthropy is clearly exemplified by "The Giving Library," (givinglibrary.org) founded by Laura and John Arnold.

The Giving Library offers current and aspiring philanthropists an innovative way to enhance their charitable giving. Donors can explore an online archive of video interviews that feature a representative from each nonprofit describing the important work of their organization. This allows donors to engage with and learn about hundreds of nonprofit organizations across the country. The compelling medium of video increases the organization's visibility and provides an opportunity for nonprofits to learn about peer organizations across the country.

Last spring, WWP was invited to apply for a grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation in order to participate in The Giving Library program. WWP's successful application earned the organization an all-expenses paid trip to Houston to create a professional video telling the story of WWP's mission and vision. The overview video is posted on WWP's website at westernwatersheds.org/about and the completed profile will be available for viewing at The Giving Library later this fall. Potential donors will be able to watch the video, learn about WWP's important work, and be inspired to support to our efforts.

WWP is grateful to the Laura and John Arnold Foundation for this opportunity to participate in The Giving Library Project.

***Carter is WWP's Chief Development Officer.
He lives in Hailey.***

Thanks and Farewell to the Peradam Foundation

WWP has been a regular grantee of the Peradam Foundation since 1999. Founder Robert Spertus has been an enthusiastic supporter of our work ever since the very first award letter, which said, "The Project has done a remarkable job of educating the public on land use issues and monitoring government agencies. Everyone concerned with conservation and social justice should be grateful for the Project's grit, determination, and tactical ingenuity."



The Peradam Foundation was founded in 1993 in order to honor and provide financial support to small, grassroots conservation groups with a local focus and an activist agenda. All groups benefiting would share a common goal: the protection and restoration of native plants and wildlife, particularly on public lands in the western states and Alaska.

The Peradam Foundation differs from other big foundations in that it imposes no conditions whatsoever on the organizations it funds. This distinguishes the Peradam Foundation from other sources of support that require deliverables, reports, and tracking, which eats into the principle of the donation and takes time and resources away from the primary work of the organization. Staying

“lean and mean” allows WWP to operate effectively and efficiently with every donation, exactly what the Peradam Foundation intends for its recipients.

Peradam Foundation is closing its doors at the end of the year and decided it best to divide up its assets among groups it has funded. In the letter accompanying its final gift to WWP, Peradam Foundation had this to say;

“ We’ve watched [WWP’s] remarkable growth from a small group of local activists concerned by the impact of livestock on fragile public lands in Idaho to a multistate powerhouse at the forefront of the campaign to challenge abusive grazing practices, and ultimately retire grazing permits on public lands throughout the West. We’re understandably proud of our small role in this trajectory. ... We’ve continued to provide WWP with modest annual grants in recognition of your forthright positions on controversial issues. Unlike some other well-established conservation groups, your advocacy is shaped by science and sound public policy, not on politically popular strategies.”

Robert Spertus stated the following on the website of his organization;

“...(W)e find it truly astonishing that so many activists hang in there year after year, patiently struggling to safeguard a piece of forest land, a mountainside, a seasonal creek, or a stretch of desert. A famous quote from the great conservationist Aldo Leopold may offer a partial explanation:

‘One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen.’

True, to be sure. Still, there’s great consolation in knowing that there are others who also see the damage and are equally committed to its repair. One can go out into Nature and feel a little less lonely.”

WWP is so grateful to the Peradam Foundation for this level of financial and philosophical support. Thank you! Readers can learn more about what the Peradam Foundation was by visiting peradam.org online.

Wildlife First!

On October 19, 2013, Western Watersheds Project participated in “Wildlife First- A Professional Symposium to Promote Public Involvement in Rangeland Issues,” a conference presented by the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Mesa, Arizona. Jon Marvel was a plenary speaker on the topic of wildlife and livestock grazing interactions, and WWP’s Arizona office offered a perspective on low desert grazing in Arizona. Former biologists from both the Forest Service and BLM gave talks on how difficult it can be to get straight answers on ecological health due to pro-livestock bias, and the audience was provided information about participating in environmental decision-making regarding livestock grazing.

All in all, a great conference and a hopeful sign that more wildlife biologists will start speaking out on this issue!



From Left: WWP’s Jon Marvel, Greta Andersen and Laura Welp



Taking Responsibility for a Land Loved by Andrew Pfeiffer

For the past few summers, the Lost River Range near Mackay, Idaho, has been my personal paradise. I have fond memories of scrambling over exposed, broken ridges, enjoying Idaho's highest summits with my friends, and lazily meandering back into Ketchum on dirt roads after a long day. Cows always made up for the lack of cars in the Big Lost country. To me, though, they were only nuisances on the road. I didn't think much else of the impacts of these animals until this summer.

When Jon Marvel assigned the majority of my Western Watersheds work in this region—including Copper Basin, the North Fork of the Big Lost, and Antelope Valley, among other areas—I was initially hesitant to engage in my internship. I think I was worried that my love for the area would become diminished if I studied the impacts of cow grazing. From 5,000 feet above valley floors, the world is easier to process. I could see rolling sagebrush plains and endless creeks, and appreciate them for their aesthetics without analyzing the condition of the ecosystem.

But after my first few trips over Trail Creek during which I looked at egregious cow damage, I realized that I had to take more responsibility for the lands that I value. Cow feces filled decimated fields, the creeks ran a murky, translucent brown, and most disappointingly I found cows that had worked their way out of the plains and into the mountains at Bellas Lakes in Copper Basin. I purposefully walked with my Australian Cattle Dog, Gracie, into cow-infested riparian

ecosystems. Around each corner I hoped to find another wallowed out creek bed or another patch of sagebrush jutting dramatically above rocky, eroded soil so that I could capture a picture and help start the process of removing cows from the area. Just because these impacts are invisible from top of a peak or lie nestled away from the relatively ungrazed Wood River Valley does not mean that they are acceptable.

Ultimately, citizens have to provide the impetus to end grazing on public lands. This is a problem in Copper Basin and the Lost River Range because; save for the occasional ATVer, hiker, or rancher, there are not people in the area. The region is not a recreational hub like the Sawtooth or Wood River Valleys. With more people recreating in the Big Lost area, I believe there would inevitably be complaints about the health of the land. So, how do we go about saving this person-light, cow-heavy area? I advise to tread lightly on this already damaged land. But also, explore, document impacts, and most importantly, appreciate what the sweeping valleys and crooked creeks could be without the presence of cows. Most of the places I journeyed were new to me, despite their proximity to the Wood River Valley. Antelope Valley, Basin Creek, Grasshopper Creek, Toolbox Creek, Horsemallow Creek. A few months ago, these were names on a map. Now I associate these places not only with cow damage but also with desolate, unending beauty. Enjoy the Big Lost River and its tributaries for personal, recreational reasons. But out of selflessness, contact government agencies to change how these lands are managed. The grass, streams, insects, birds, pronghorn, and mountains will thank you.

***Andrew Pfeiffer was a 2013 WWP intern.
He attends Northwestern University
in Evanston, Illinois.***



*The Lost River Range, Idaho
photo ©www.flickr.com/32629638@N07/*

In Memoriam: Joe Feller

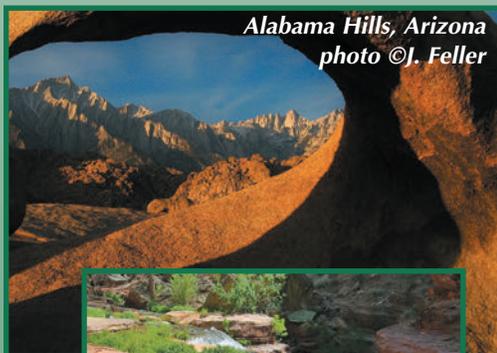
Western Watersheds Project lost a true ally on April 8, 2013, when Attorney and Law Professor Joseph Feller was killed by a vehicle while running in Tempe, Arizona. Joe was a long-time grazing activist and environmental lawyer, and a congenial colleague of many of us in the conservation community.

Professor Feller had engaged in a broad range of activities aimed at reforming the management of federal public lands in the western United States. These activities included administrative protests and appeals, litigation in the federal courts, submission of comments on proposed agency decisions and rules, and testimony at public hearings and before legislative committees. Before undertaking the study of law, Professor Feller earned a Ph.D. in physics from the University of California at Berkeley and was an Assistant Professor of Physics at Columbia University. He then achieved his law degree at Harvard Law School. Professor Feller published numerous articles on a variety of topics, including articles on public lands policy, state impeachment procedures, the interplay of federal and state environmental statutes, grazing management, air quality standards, and water law.

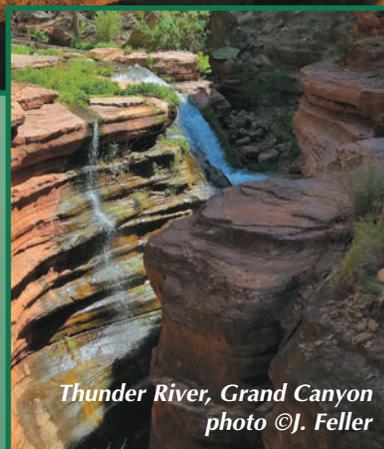
In recent years, his student clinic at the Arizona State University took on some of WWP Arizona's grazing appeals on Safford and the Arizona Strip, engaging students in the issues of false rangeland health assessments, illegal decisions, and long-delayed protest resolution. (Joe still had protests that BLM didn't resolve since 2002!) His precedent-setting case regarding Comb Wash allotment (UT) was integral to the ways we think about imposing interim management. He was a cautious and careful litigator, but he was intrigued by new ways of challenging grazing regulations and sought programmatic reform.

In addition to his professional activities, Joe was an avid mountain climber, hiker, and cross-country skier, runner, and photographer. Photos of some of Joe's adventures can be found online in his public photo albums: bit.ly/17g9TtE.

It is truly a loss for WWP to have lost one of the most brilliant minds working on how to achieve and end to public lands livestock grazing. It is also a huge loss for those of us who knew him personally and appreciated his enthusiasm and commitment to wild lands conservation.



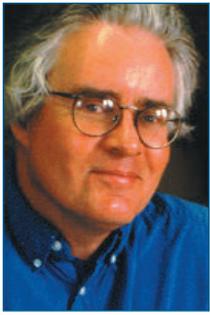
*Alabama Hills, Arizona
photo ©J. Feller*



*Thunder River, Grand Canyon
photo ©J. Feller*



*Joe Feller addressing
students on the
Twin C allotment,
October 2012.
Photo G. Anderson*



**WWP Welcomes
Future Executive Director
Travis Bruner**
by Jon Marvel

Since June, Travis Bruner has been serving as Western Watersheds Project's Public Lands Director, getting up to speed with all the operations of the organization. He will become Executive Director March 1st when Jon Marvel retires. It has been an exciting time of transition and learning for all of us as Travis travels into the field, meets with donors, works with staff and board members, and starts to bring his own style of communication and management to the group.

Travis is a recent graduate of the University of Colorado Law School. When Travis applied to law school, he wrote his application essay about his hope to use his law degree to eliminate grazing from public lands. During his first year of law school, Travis persuaded Mark Squillace and Joe Feller to advise him on his first public comment, a comment to the Forest Service regarding the Draft Planning Rule's failure to sufficiently address grazing. As an intern at WildEarth Guardians, Travis submitted public comments on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest failure to consider

impacts to the Mexican Gray Wolf in its grazing allotment decisions. During his final year at the University of Colorado Law School, Travis benefitted from the guidance of Charles Wilkinson in his continued study of public land law.

In addition to his theoretical and academic understanding of the issues WWP works on, Travis has a deep love of the outdoors. He grew up in Bozeman, Montana and has spent his time hiking, camping, fly-fishing, and hunting. He went out to the East Coast for college but came to his senses quickly and returned to the West afterwards, forever. Travis then lived in Oregon for about three years and Colorado for the past ten. Throughout these years, Travis has spent significant time exploring out-of-the-way places, particularly in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Oregon.

In May 2013. He then moved to Hailey with his partner Courtney and their two dogs, Hawk and Raji. When he isn't working, Travis also enjoys playing music, and he's completed three music CDs: solo classical guitar, string quartet compositions, and a country album. He entertained staff and board at the September 2013 Greenfire staff retreat.

Welcome Travis! May the Force Be With You!



*Travis Bruner canoeing on Idaho's Silver Creek Preserve.
The photo was taken by his wife Courtney.*

WWP is pleased to announce that Karen Perry was elected to join the Board of Directors at the September 2013 meeting!

Karen has an undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley in Zoology. Her professional background is in editorial management of digital and print media for a major publishing company. An avid photographer and videographer, she has been using photographic and video media as a voice to create awareness for conservation, to tell compelling stories about why wild places are important to our way of life.



A year and a half ago Karen refocused her energies from her professional endeavors working in the corporate world to engage others in her passion for preserving wild places. She began combining her past professional skills with her vision as a photographer and videographer, and worked to produce media for several non-profits including Save Mount Diablo, the Teton Raptor Center, and the Teton Regional Land Trust.

An avid reader of Ralph Maughan's *The Wildlife News*, she was introduced to the work of Western Watersheds. Since then, Karen and Ralph have been working on documenting the impact of cattle on public lands in key grizzly bear habitat such as Squirrel Meadows.

A resident of the Bay Area in California and Teton Valley, Idaho, Karen is excited about the prospect of educating and inspiring people in both locations about western wildlife and land conservation issues, as well as possible solutions. WWP is grateful for Karen's willingness to serve on the board.

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Western Watersheds Project State and Regional Offices

Main OfficeP.O. Box 1770 • Hailey, ID 83333
 (208)788-2290 • fax: (208)788-2298
 www.westernwatersheds.org

Idaho (Boise office)P.O. Box 2863 • Boise, ID 83701
 (208)429-1679 • katie@westernwatersheds.org

ArizonaBox 2264 • Tucson, AZ 85702
 Erik Ryberg: (520)622-3333 • Greta Anderson: (520) 623-1878
 arizona@westernwatersheds.org

CaliforniaP.O. Box 2364 • Reseda, CA 91337
 california@westernwatersheds.org

Colorado, Wyoming & UtahP.O. Box 1160
 Pinedale, WY 82941
 (877)746-3628 • fax: (208)475-4702
 wyoming@westernwatersheds.org

MontanaP.O. Box 7681 • Missoula, MT 59807
 (406)830-3099 • fax: (208)475-4702
 montana@westernwatersheds.org

OregonP.O. Box 8359 • Bend, OR 97708
 (541)255-6039 • fax: (208)475-4702
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WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT

P.O. Box 1770
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