



# Western Watersheds Project

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# Western Watersheds Project Thanks you for a great 2010!

**After a remarkable year of success, I invite you to make a generous end-of-the-year tax-deductible contribution to Western Watersheds Project.**

2010 has been a year of unpredictable and often challenging events for conservationists. The Obama administration has been a clear disappointment, seemingly unable to be an advocate for the President's own values regardless of the issue. Conservation and environmental protection remain very low priorities for the President and his lackluster appointees, and yet, as the national policy disappointments multiply, Western Watersheds Project continues to influence those policies affecting our public land heritage through education, public policy initiatives and litigation.

WWP is funded by the financial contributions of our members and supporters, and without your help we could not carry out our critically important and successful work to protect and restore western watersheds and wildlife. Here is a sampling of our 2010 successes, made possible by the continuing contributions of our supporters:



Western Watersheds Project has worked for several years now to protect bighorn sheep across the west. With excellent legal assistance from attorney Laurie Rule at the Boise office of Advocates for the West, Western Watersheds Project's efforts are now showing success through an unprecedented Payette National Forest decision released on July 26, 2010. The decision is a direct consequence of litigation brought by WWP and our conservation partners at the Hells Canyon Preservation Council. The Payette Forest decision closes hundreds of thousands of acres of public land to grazing by domestic sheep to protect Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from fatal diseases transmitted to bighorns by domestic sheep. The total reduction in domestic sheep use on the Payette National Forest will be about 70% of currently permitted grazing.



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In August 2010 Western Watersheds Project won litigation in federal District Court against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) over its refusal to disclose the names and addresses of thousands of grazing permittees on BLM administered public lands. As the court's opinion notes, the names and addresses are key to understanding other information about BLM's grazing program. The BLM, citing privacy issues, refused to disclose the names and addresses of most permittees. Idaho federal District Court Magistrate Judge Candy Dale found that privacy concerns were "minimal" and outweighed by a substantial public interest in the BLM grazing program. In November 2010 the U.S. Department of Justice notified WWP that the BLM would not appeal Judge Dale's decision making it final in all respects.



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In late June 2010 in an unprecedented partnership between Western Watersheds Project and the nation's leading interstate natural gas pipeline company the El Paso Corporation, El Paso's subsidiary Ruby Pipeline, LLC (Ruby) will donate \$15 million during the next 10 years to preserve sage-steppe landscapes and related wildlife habitat to mitigate for the 680 mile pipeline's negative impacts to the iconic western landscape. Ruby and WWP have established a new non-profit called the Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Fund that will protect and restore sagebrush habitats to benefit native fish and wildlife by purchasing and retiring federal grazing permits offered by willing sellers, including sage grouse and pygmy rabbit. This Fund may also acquire private lands and conservation easements to protect these species.



Pygmy Rabbit  
©Len Zeoli



In May 2010, A federal judge ruled in favor of Western Watersheds Project and reversed a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decision to allow livestock grazing on the Kanab Gulch grazing allotment on the Arizona Strip. Kanab Gulch allotment consists entirely of public lands and is within the Kanab Creek Wilderness Area, near the Grand Canyon National Park and the Kaibab National Forest. The allotment has important archeological remains, and it provides habitat for desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, pronghorn, and other wildlife.



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**Western Watersheds Project**

## We Still Face Challenges.

Even though the first two years of the Obama administration have been disappointing for Western Watersheds Project, the 2010 Congressional election outcome is a harbinger for even more difficult times for our conservation efforts.

Notwithstanding these growing political problems, Western Watersheds Project will persevere in our efforts to protect and restore western watersheds and wildlife.

Western Watersheds Project's efforts are even more important because of the growing impacts of global warming on our western public lands. Much hotter summers and shorter winters will compound stress on all native wildlife and wildlife habitat. Adding the negative impacts of livestock grazing to those stresses only increases the risks to native wildlife and fish.



*The photo above was taken at Lake Creek on October 2, 2010. The trip to the lease from Greenfire was to observe the recovery of the riparian area after 12 years without cattle. Lake Creek is a tributary of Herd Creek which flows into the East Fork of the Salmon River in central Idaho. Herd Creek is one of the most important salmon and steelhead spawning areas in central Idaho.*



*The conditions on the riparian area have improved dramatically since 1993. You can see comparison photos from 1994 and 2007 on the WWP web site here: [www.westernwatersheds.org/issues/public-lands-ranching/lake-creek](http://www.westernwatersheds.org/issues/public-lands-ranching/lake-creek)*

**From Left to Right:** Ken Cole, WWP NEPA Coordinator; Louise Wagenknecht, WWP Board; Ralph Maughan, WWP Board; Jackie Maughan, WWP member; Louise Lasley, WWP Advisory Board; Jon Marvel, WWP executive director; Debra Ellers, WWP Western Idaho Director, Dale Grooms, WWP Western Idaho Data Specialist; Natalie Havlina, attorney at Advocates For The West, Kristin Ruether, attorney at Advocates For The West; Summer Nelson, WWP Montana Legal Counsel; Jonathan Ratner, WWP Wyoming Director.



Western Watersheds Project is one of the most financially efficient and effective organizations in the country. All of the accomplishments of WWP have been achieved on a budget of less than \$900,000 in 2010. This is more than \$140,000 less than WWP expended in 2009. Only 8 percent of WWP's annual budget is spent on fundraising and administration; all the rest goes to our programs to protect and restore western watersheds and wildlife. You can be assured that your contributions are well spent.

**With your financial help 2011 will be another good year for WWP. Please support us with a generous end-of-the-year contribution with the enclosed envelope or online at WWP's secure donation web page; [www.WesternWatersheds.org/contribute](http://www.WesternWatersheds.org/contribute).**

All of us at WWP send our best wishes for the New Year!

Jon Marvel  
Executive Director

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



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