



# Western Watersheds Project MESSENGER

Vol. XXX, No. 1

Spring 2022

A Win for Wolves and More to Come

Documenting Livestock Problems in Utah's Famed Robber's Roost

Yellowstone Bison Win Another Chance for Endangered Species Protections



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

[www.westernwatersheds.org](http://www.westernwatersheds.org)

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Eric Kilby, Courtesy of Flickr Creative Commons.



## Western Watersheds Project Staff

Erik Molvar ..... Executive Director  
 Greta Anderson ..... Deputy Director  
 Adam Bronstein ..... Oregon & Nevada Director  
 Talasi Brooks..... Staff Attorney  
 Melissa Cain ..... Bighorn Conservation Director  
 Laura Cunningham ..... California Director  
 Patrick Kelly ..... Idaho Director  
 Nancy Linscott ..... Operations Director  
 Jocelyn Leroux ..... Washington & Montana Director  
 Josh Osher..... Public Policy Director  
 John Persell..... Staff Attorney  
 Jonathan Ratner....Colorado, Wyoming & Utah Director  
 Paul Ruprecht ..... Conservation Advocate  
 Dave Stricklan ..... Sagebrush Specialist  
 Cyndi Tuell ..... Arizona & New Mexico Director  
 Laura Welp. .... Ecosystems Specialist

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## Western Watersheds Project State and Regional Offices

Idaho Headquarters.....P.O. Box 1770 • Hailey, ID 83333  
 (208) 788-2290 • [wwp@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:wwp@westernwatersheds.org)

Arizona & New Mexico . 738 N. 5th Ave., Suite 206 • Tucson, AZ 85705  
 (520) 623-1878 • [cyndi@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:cyndi@westernwatersheds.org)

California.....P.O. Box 70 • Beatty, NV 89003  
 (775) 513-1280 • [lcunningham@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:lcunningham@westernwatersheds.org)

Wyoming, Utah & Colorado .....P.O. Box 1160 • Pinedale, WY 82941  
 (877) 746-3628 • [j.jonathan@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:j.jonathan@westernwatersheds.org)

Montana & Washington ..... P.O. Box 8837 • Missoula, MT 59807  
 (406) 960-4164 • [jocelyn@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:jocelyn@westernwatersheds.org)


Nevada & Oregon .....P.O. Box 1855 • Sisters, OR 97759  
 (541) 595-8034 • [adam@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:adam@westernwatersheds.org)

WWP's Fax Number is (208) 475-4702



**Western Watersheds Project**  
**MESSENGER**

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# A Win For Wolves And More To Come....



**By Greta Anderson**

Since our Fall 2021 newsletter article highlighting WWP's work for wolves, we've had a big court win: The challenge to the Trump administration's wolf delisting rule was

overturned! On February 4th, a federal district court order highlighted the deficient science and improper policies that led to the delisting of wolves nationwide in 2020.

While we are celebrating the restoration of ESA protection for wolves in many states, it is important to note that this win does not benefit the Northern Rockies wolves in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and eastern parts of Oregon and Washington, a subpopulation delisted through congressional legislation in 2011.

WWP's 2021 listing petition for a Western Distinct Population of *Canis lupus* would restore protections to all the Northern Rockies states, and it got a positive 90-day finding, putting wolves on the path to protection. We've also re-

cently joined with allies and submitted an emergency listing petition asking the Secretary of the Interior to immediately protect the currently unlisted wolves. The emergency listing petition is online here: <https://bit.ly/3KqHDyJ>.

In addition to our national wolf work, our state directors continue to engage at local and regional levels in defense of wolves. We've got a multi-pronged strategy to protect this top predator from the livestock industry's agenda of extirpation. ■

*Greta Anderson is Western Watersheds Project's Deputy Director*

## Yellowstone Bison Win Another Chance for Endangered Species Protections



**By John Persell**

Yellowstone National Park, established on traditional lands of the Apsaalooké (Crow), Cheyenne, Shoshone-Bannock, and other peoples, is home to the last remaining wild herds of plains bison free

of any domestic cattle genes. Nearly eradicated from the West in the 1800s in order to destroy a subsistence source for Indigenous tribes, just 22 bison remained in Yellowstone in 1902. Today, this genetic heritage continues to distinguish the park's central bison herd from a northern herd developed from individuals transplanted from northern Montana and Texas. According to a 2012 study (authored by Natalie Halbert and others), the herds remain genetically distinct despite occasional inter-breeding.

Known as *newe guchu* in the Shoshone language and as *hotoa'e* by the Cheyenne people, bison naturally migrate to lower elevations outside the national park during the winter. Yet once Yellowstone bison step outside the park's invisible border, they face persecution in the form of hunting and culling meant to arti-

ficially keep the total population around 3,000. Livestock interests, in particular, have pushed for aggressive management and herd reductions based on an unfounded fear of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle. Bison that migrate out of the park and escape slaughter are hazed back into the park in the spring using helicopters, causing great stress to the animals.

Lethal management of bison disproportionately affect the park's central herd. Scientists have found the minimum population for a bison herd to remain genetically viable in the long-term to be at least 1,000 individuals. Yet in the face of hunting and culling, the central Yellowstone herd's numbers have dipped below 1,000 in recent years. Concerned about the survival of these descendants of the last surviving Yellowstone bison, in 2014, Western Watersheds Project (WWP) and Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) submitted a petition to the Fish and Wildlife Service asking the agency to determine within 90 days whether the Yellowstone bison may be warranted for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In 2015, the Fish and Wildlife Service rejected the petition and disregarded the 2012 Halbert study that WWP and BFC

cited. The agency asserted that a separate study by different researchers concluded that maintaining the genetic distinction between the central and northern herds might not be necessary to preserve overall genetic diversity, and found ESA listing not warranted. WWP and BFC disagreed with the agency's determination and, along with Friends of Animals, filed suit in federal court.

In 2018, the D.C. District Court agreed with us, and remanded the 90-day finding back to the Fish and Wildlife Service with directions to apply the appropriate standard in making its determination: whether listing may be warranted based on the evidence presented in the petition, not whether listing is warranted for certain. While the difference between the two questions may seem subtle, the court said that at the 90-day stage, the Fish and Wildlife Service should reach a "may be warranted" finding where there is disagreement among reasonable scientists, rather than picking between two opposing views in an ongoing scientific dispute. Resolving such disputes appropriately occurs in the subsequent 12-month finding stage provided for by the ESA if a petition presents initial evidence that listing may be warranted.

*Continued on page 4*



# Yellowstone Bison *Continued from page 3*

Following this remand, the Fish and Wildlife Service issued another 90-day finding in 2019, again determining that listing the Yellowstone bison is not warranted. This time, the Fish and Wildlife Service relied on a different study to try to discount the Halbert study cited by our petition. The agency said research published in 2016 concluded that despite two clearly independent genetic lineages, mitochondrial DNA analysis did not show the two herds should be considered geographically distinct.

Again, WWP and its partners disagreed with this determination and filed suit. And again, the D.C. District Court agreed with us. In January of 2022, the court ruled that the Fish and Wildlife Service had committed the exact same error as it had in its earlier 90-day finding: inappropriately resolving an ongoing scientific dispute rather than determining whether our petition presented credible evidence that listing may be warranted.



*Yellowstone National Park bison.*

Photo by Zac Fox, courtesy of Flickr

Once again, the court remanded the 90-day finding back to the Fish and Wildlife Service to make its determination using the appropriate standard. We hope the agency heeds the court's direction—now given twice—to solely assess whether our petition presents credible, substantial scientific evidence that would lead a reasonable person to

conclude that the Yellowstone bison may warrant ESA protection. WWP is confident that it does, based in part on the 2012 Halbert study. WWP will remain vigilant and watchful as the next steps in the listing process for the iconic Yellowstone bison unfold. ■

*John Persell is a staff attorney for Western Watersheds Project*

## Take That, Simplot!



**By Patrick Kelly**

The beloved and wild Owyhee Canyonlands received a reprieve from a terrible Bureau of Land Management decision that would have tripled the amount of cattle grazing on an allotment permitted to a subsidiary of J.R. Simplot Corporation. Western Watersheds Project and Wilderness Watch challenged the grazing decision and won a stay at the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), stalling the bad plan pending a full administrative review.

The grazing decision at issue affects lands in Priority Habitat Management Areas for sage grouse and includes wilderness areas and rare plants like Bach's calicoflower. As the Bureau itself concedes in its planning documents, the

area in question provides "some of the best sage grouse habitat in southwestern Idaho." Despite this, and despite the allotment already failing several land health standards, Simplot's subsidiary – Dickshooter Cattle Company – convinced the Bureau to greatly increase grazing use and build additional range infrastructure.

Prevailing on a petition to stay a grazing decision requires that the requesters show the relative harms to the parties of the decision, the likelihood of success on the merits, the likelihood of irreparable harm, and whether the public interest favors granting a stay. The administrative law judge at OHA determined we demonstrated all four and granted the stay, which blocks the decision from taking effect until the full appeal can be deliberated.

We're always happy to have a win, and in this case, we're especially excited that



*Bach's calicoflower (Downingia bacigalupii), a rare plant found in the Owyhee Canyonlands.*

Photo by Wikimedia Commons

the judge ruled so strongly against the Bureau's decision. The order describes "several eyebrow-raising features" of the agency's decision and delivers a strong critique of Bureau's adaptive management plan, calling it "imprecise, untested, and unanalyzed." This bodes favorably for our full appeal, and we anticipate that Dickshooter Cattle Company's extra cows are going to have to stay off these lands for a long time. ■

*Patrick Kelly is the Idaho Director of Western Watersheds Project*



# Sage Grouse Planning: Third Time's a Charm?



*By Greta Anderson*

In November 2021, the Bureau of Land Management announced a new planning process to consider updating the existing land use plans for greater sage grouse habitat in ten

western states, in response to a lawsuit by WWP, WildEarth Guardians, Center for Biological Diversity, and Prairie Hills Audubon. Although another planning process isn't exactly what sage grouse need – they need real, meaningful, on-the-ground protection and they needed it twenty years ago – the fact that the Biden Administration has recognized the defects of the 2015 Obama-era plans and the need to revise the 2019 Trump-era plans is a good starting place. President Biden's Bureau has pledged to examine new scientific information, include the effects of climate change, and consider the still-plummeting grouse populations in the updates.

Western Watersheds Project worked with our conservation allies to submit extensive comments during the scoping period that ended in February, an effort led this time by WildEarth Guardians. We also joined an extensive proposal to designate all sage grouse habitat as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, a type of protected area provided for under the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act. By reminding the Bureau that the 2015 plans have failed to restore healthy sage grouse populations for all the reasons we feared – too much discretion at the local level, inconsistent and inadequate protections, too many loopholes – we're hoping the current process will lead to more durable and enforceable management through stronger Resource Management Plans.

One of the reasons for the range-wide management plans in the first place was a strong political desire to



*Male greater sage grouse.*

preclude the need to list sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. By putting “adequate regulatory mechanisms” in place on public lands, listing would theoretically be unnecessary. Unfortunately, Congress has also made listing impossible, by maintaining a rider on Appropriations bills that prevents money from being spent on deci-

sions to list the species. This is another reason that the range-wide plan amendments are so important, and why it's so critical that the 2022 attempt gets it right. We'll be working as hard as ever to ensure that they do. ■

*Greta Anderson is Western Watersheds Project's Deputy Director*

## **SAVE THE DATE!** **Western Watersheds Project's** **2022 Spring Meeting!**

**Saturday, May 14th, 2022**

**10:00 am to about 3:30 pm MST**

**805 Eastfork Rd., Clayton, ID 83227**

**Please RSVP to get the agenda,  
lodging, and camping information by emailing  
[wwp@westernwatersheds.org](mailto:wwp@westernwatersheds.org)**

White Clouds Preserve by Mary Beth Whitacker





Photo by Jonathan Ratner

French Spring-Happy Canyon WSA. Inset: topographical map of Robber's Roost.

## Documenting Livestock Problems in Utah's Famed Robber's Roost



**By Jonathan Ratner and Laura Welp**

In southern Utah, to the east along the banks of the Dirty Devil River, lies an area of spectacular canyonlands stretching from the network of Robber's Roost Canyons downstream to Happy Canyon. If you have been to Capitol Reef National Park, multiply that manifold and subtract nearly all

the people. This remote and gorgeous area has made a name for itself as a rugged recreation destination, with many of the finest slot canyons on the planet near the Maze section of Canyonlands National Park. The Bureau of Land Management's Robber's Roost allotment perches just to the west of the park and it contains some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. There are three Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) within it: Horseshoe Canyon South, French Spring-Happy Canyon, and the Dirty Devil. Between the three, they are known for vast sand dunes, sheer slot canyons, vibrant colors, river valleys, and Navajo sandstone domes and benches. They provide stellar opportunities to find

solitude and an undeveloped natural world. As humans fragment the landscape into smaller and smaller pieces, this almost 200,000-acre allotment could provide large intact habitat for wildlife and plants.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Robbers Roost was an ideal place to hide out for the likes of Butch Cassidy and his gang. That scofflaw tradition continues today with the Bundy-wannabee rancher running cattle there. You would think someone privileged enough to have a ranching operation in such country would have some respect for the land. That's not the case. Conditions are catastrophic throughout this allotment, including in the WSAs.





Photos by JWestern Watersheds Project staff

*Clockwise from top left: Heavily stunted Mormon tea provides meager forage for desperate cattle. Fourwing saltbush, James galleta, and native forbs grow on the semi-desert sandy loam at an ungrazed reference location. Highly degraded semi-desert sandy loam in the grazed French Spring-Happy Canyon WSA in the Robber's Roost allotment. Friendly rancher's sign welcomes us to our public lands.*

## Strip Mining Our Public Lands

Unfortunately, the absolute world-class geologic beauty is matched by utter devastation in the areas accessible to livestock. The vegetative communities have been destroyed by more than a century of year-round grazing. Most of the grasses and the edible shrubs have been stripped out of the system. All that is left is thorny, toxic or unpalatable species. The livestock are so desperate they are surviving mostly on Mormon tea. The Mormon tea is grazed so hard as to form mats a few inches tall, instead of its usual shrub form.

The last time the Bureau assessed the health of the allotment was 20 years ago, and amazingly saw nothing wrong with the severely degraded conditions.

WWP is documenting these poor conditions to show the Bureau that they need to do something about it. Using the Bureau's own methods, we go out in the spring when grasses and shrubs are starting to produce and clip, dry, and weigh forage species. We determine how much forage is produced and whether there is enough to feed the cattle the rancher turns out, and still provide for the wild creatures dependent on the same resource. Here's a synopsis for those who don't want to read any further: The land produces a tiny fraction of the amount predicted based on the vegetation that

is supposed to occur at this site, and we suspect it's because of grazing.

The Bureau's rating system goes from Excellent (75-100% of potential) to Poor (0-25% of potential). Most sites are in the single digits, so the very low end of Poor.

It is difficult to call attention to the disastrous effects that livestock can have on upland western landscapes because we don't always know what conditions were like before non-native livestock were introduced. Some vegetation types like sagebrush communities have been so consistently overgrazed that it's hard to find any undamaged sites to compare with. Ecological Site Descriptions can help fill that gap. Specialists can predict what plants should be present on a site based on soil characteristics, and sometimes even suggest what species will (or won't) be there under different disturbance regimes like overgrazing.

For example, many of the mesa tops in the Robber's Roost area are characterized by semi-desert sandy loam (fourwing saltbush) sites. In a reference state under the best conditions, these areas are productive perennial grasslands with a variety of native grasses and shrubs and well-developed biological soil crust. Four-wing saltbush is often the dominant shrub but Cutler Mormon tea can also occur at high amounts. Indian rice-

grass is the main grass, often followed by James galleta and a variety of other desert species. Forage production ranges from 301 to 960 pounds per acre depending on precipitation and individual site variation.

However, the same type of site on this allotment is highly degraded. Four-wing saltbush, an important food source for wildlife, is functionally extirpated. Mormon tea is heavily browsed. Unpalatable shrubs like snakeweed have increased. The dominant grass is James galleta rather than Indian ricegrass, which is quite rare. Vegetative cover and species diversity has decreased and biological soil crust is nowhere to be seen, leaving soils unprotected and prone to erosion. Preliminary data for this site show that forage production ranges from 0 pounds per acre on sample points with no forage to 30 pounds per acre on sites with some vegetation, with the average of 3.5 pounds per acre. This is about 1/200th of the expected amount. These are the symptoms associated with severe overgrazing as detailed in the Ecological Site Description for this soil type. It may have crossed a threshold into a degraded state from which it is not possible to recover to the original type.

*Continued on page 8*



## Robber's Roost *Continued from page 7*

The Bureau will often pin the blame for poor resource conditions on the drought that's common in the region. Five out of every seven years have below-average precipitation. However, drought is not an excuse for poor land health. In the few small areas that are inaccessible to livestock a wide range of grass species exist in full vigor, despite the drought. The Bureau and the rancher are supposed to account for drought with measures such as keeping stocking rates low, reducing utilization, and anticipating impending drought and not turning cattle out that year. Anything less is bad management. Last year when drought was hitting the land hard there were still cattle out on the allotment.

In 1999, part of the Robbers Roost allotment was relinquished in a buy-out to the Grand Canyon Trust. Cattle were removed from that part of the allotment. It should have been a rare opportunity to measure the effects of the recovery of plants, animals, and

soils. And it might have been, except for the feral and trespass grazing that has been allowed in the closed area ever since, including in the Horseshoe Canyon South and French Spring-Happy Canyon WSAs.

As we know, climate scientists predict increasing long-term drought with higher temperatures and less precipitation, especially in the desert southwest. We need our public lands to be as healthy as possible to meet this environmental upheaval and prevent irrevocable changes in vegetation, wildlife, and soils. We can't afford to ignore these hard truths and continue to accommodate the destructive and dying public lands grazing industry, and let it operate with impunity until there's nothing left for the rest of the natural world.

WWP is continuing to advocate for Robber's Roost. We're gathering vegetation production data and photos in more locations on the allotment and comparing them with ungrazed areas

in Canyonlands National Park to show the difference between what is there now and what should be there. We also will be documenting trespass livestock and unmaintained fences in the relinquished part of the allotment that's not supposed to be grazed. We have set up a field trip with the Bureau to discuss resource problems on the ground. We want to use this information to pressure them to implement their grazing management plan rather than allow year-round use and lack of accountability for the rancher, who operates with impunity. The Bureau needs to conduct an updated range health evaluation rather than relying on the one it conducted decades ago. Finally, they need to close Robber's Roost to livestock. When they do, we will have been there every step of the way. ■

*Jonathan Ratner is the WY, CO, and UT Director of Western Watersheds Project*

*Laura Welp is an ecosystems specialist with Western Watersheds Project*

## The True Cost Of Livestock Water Developments



*By Dave Stricklan, PhD*

I had an ecologist friend ask me for my general opinion of livestock water developments. The questioner is a thoughtful and accomplished ecologist and had given the notion

considerable thought, so I considered my answer carefully.

The basic idea of the science of range management is to maximize the harvest of photosynthetic product (grass) by domestic livestock without damaging the grass plant or the soil. Ancillary notions of range restoration, soil development, riparian protection, biodiversity, community structure, and carbon sequestration among others are often incorporated into this basic paradigm, but the core tenets of the discipline remain dominant and remarkably static.

The most common way to maximize the intake of the pounds of grass by domestic livestock without "over harvesting" it is by spreading the livestock use (both grazing and trampling) evenly over the entire grazing area. The idea being that the livestock will eat the grass relatively uniformly and use can then be calibrated and regulated by the length of time livestock are permitted on the range. However, distributing domestic animals evenly across the range landscape requires substantial investments in fencing and water systems. On public land, the cost of these is paid with tax dollars. Theoretically, the rancher, who already pays a remarkably low [subsidized] rate of \$1.35/month per cow to graze their cows on public land, is responsible to maintain the fences and water developments for their cows after the U.S. taxpayer gave them the materials. Unfortunately, water developments are often not maintained and quickly become non-functional.



*Broken polyethylene pipe typical of non-functional livestock and livestock water developments. BLM Crossman Peak allotment.*

Photo by Dave Stricklan, PhD



Some other reasons that livestock water developments can turn out to be problematic are:

- Livestock stocking numbers are often set under the assumption that there is available water throughout the entire grazing landscape; if water is no longer available because of non-functioning water developments, livestock congregate where the water is still available and then overgraze that landscape.

- Livestock water systems often capture and/or develop water from small mountain springs and pipe it downhill to livestock water tanks. Much of the water from the spring then becomes unavailable for wildlife and plant life.

- Depending on the size of the cow, season of year and if the cow is lactating, a range cow drinks 20 plus gallons of water a day.

- Some spring developments are constructed in a way to attempt to make “excess” water available to wildlife, but research has shown that spring head fencing, poly pipelines or overflow arrangements are rarely effective in the long-term, for a variety of reasons.

- Springs are no longer available for plant life or aquifer recharge.

- Big game can use livestock water troughs, but small mammals, amphibians, arthropods, and birds species tied to vegetation common around mountain springs cannot. However, big game animals are often displaced by cattle from water troughs.

- Birds and other animal life can become entrapped in water troughs and eventually drown.

- Sometimes federal agencies require ranchers to put “wildlife ladders” in stock tanks, but sometimes the ladders aren’t operational or have been removed or damaged.

- Additional livestock troughs result in additional sacrifice bare dirt zones from heavy cattle use.

It is worth considering that natural landscapes are not livestock pastures. They naturally have non-regular topography and plant community



Photo by Dave Stricklan, PhD

*Damaged spring with broken poly pipe on the Mountain Springs BLM allotment near Mackay, Idaho.*

distributions that promote differential grazing use, hiding and thermal wildlife cover, and a whole host of other resource values that are not uniformly distributed across the landscape. This is a positive condition for wildlife and plant communities. Attempts to homogenize habitat reduce plant and wildlife diversity.

Grazing by domestic livestock at this intensity means the removal of all of the grass plant that is not required for plant survival and reproduction. The grass is removed by a domestic animal that is then shipped away from the landscape. This circumvents the natural nutrient cycling and energy transfer between trophic levels of the nutrients and energy within the cow’s body. Unlike wildlife, domestic livestock rarely die on the landscape, so the nitrogen, carbon, calcium, phosphorus and other minerals in their body do not return to the soil to cycle. Those nutrients go to the slaughterhouse and are distributed far and wide from where they were harvested. Also important in the long term, afterbirth and bones do not break down on the landscape with nutrient cycling. Those nutrients are essentially mined from the soil.

If because of drought, or for other reasons public land managers have miscalculated the maximum allowable

grazing intensity and domestic livestock remove too much grass structure it weakens the plant, precludes plant reproduction and can lead to soil erosion. After the damage done by management miscalculation, the range is damaged long term and can no longer support the original baseline number of domestic livestock or wildlife. In such instances, which are common, we are basically one-cropping our public lands in a monoculture, mono-economic effort. Even when wildlife accommodations are nominally functional, the majority of the water goes for livestock use. And finally, rural economies that diversify are more robust and resilient during times of economic downturn.

Developing natural water sources on public lands to be distributed by pipelines into water troughs for consumption by non-native herbivores is clearly to the detriment of wildlife and native plants. Those water developments are funded by taxpayers, who own the public lands, but they only benefit private businesspersons or corporations. So my answer on water developments on public land for livestock is a hard no. ■

*Dave Stricklan, Ph.D., is a sagebrush ecosystem specialist & the liaison with the Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Fund for Western Watersheds Project*



## In Memoriam: Keene Hueftle



One of WWP's longtime supporters, Keene Hueftle, of Pocatello, Idaho, passed away on March 18, 2022.

Keene organized the Southeast Idaho Environmental Information Net-

work, through which he distributed information on key conservation issues. He also organized a technical conference on sagebrush ecosystems that helped shed light on some of the management problems plaguing this ecosystem, long before the federal sage grouse planning effort.

An avid outdoorsman and bird hunter, Keene had articles and

photography published in national sporting magazines, was one of the first members of Pheasants Forever, and often kept company with his favorite birding dogs. Later on, Keene became a major donor to Western Watersheds Project, and also supported several other hard-hitting conservation groups.

Happy trails, Keene, and thank you!

## Healthy Public Lands Conference: June 1-3, 2022 Salt Lake City, UT

Everyone is invited to attend the first annual conference of the Healthy Public Lands Project!

We're excited to be a key part of organizing this conference that will take a deep dive into the issues facing public lands and sharing information about how to improve management to ensure that healthy ecosystems are available for wildlife and future generations. It's been a long time since there's been a big, national grazing conference.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the conference will include panels on grazing in Wilderness, recent science of grazing impacts, public lands extremism, and drought in the American West. There will be keynote speakers and engaging side conversations, plenty of opportunities for networking, and a field trip on Friday, June 3.

More information and registration are online at [www.healthypubliclands.org/conference](http://www.healthypubliclands.org/conference). While you are there, check out the whole new website dedicated to these issues.

Most of WWP's staff will be in attendance, so it's a good time to meet with us too.

Hope to see you there! ■

*The Inaugural*

# Healthy Public Lands Conference

## *Salt Lake City*

June 1-3, 2022

Panel Topics include:

- \*Future of Public Lands Management\*
- \*Wilderness Grazing\*
- \*Domestic Livestock Impacts: The Latest Science\*
- \*Drought and Water in the West\*
- \*Indigenous Perspectives: Public Lands and Wildlife\*
- \*Coexistence with Predators\*
- \*Public Lands Extremism\*
- \*Grazing, Big Agriculture and our Food Systems\*

- Registration -

[www.healthypubliclands.org](http://www.healthypubliclands.org)

Healthy Public Lands Project





Photo courtesy of Shelby family.

T.R. Shelby & his wife Emily Stone Shelby, 1971.

## Longtime WWP Supporter Makes \$100,000 Challenge Grant

Longtime member and supporter T.R. Shelby of Sheridan, Wyoming has just announced a matching grant of \$100,000 to Western Watersheds Project in honor of his late wife of 50 years, Emily Stone Shelby.

This gift is intended to advance WWP's efforts to protect and restore wildlife and watersheds on western public lands, and to also have a matching component in order to stimulate expanded financial support from others for WWP and our work. We are excited to announce that the next \$100,000 in contributions to Western Watersheds Project will be matched dollar-for-dollar through this funding.

T.R. Shelby first became interested in Western Watersheds Project during its early years, during efforts to acquire state grazing leases for conservation. As owner of the Eighteen Mile Ranch in northeastern Idaho, T.R. and Emily have participated in the competitive state leasing program for years with the dual goals of recovering and stabilizing riparian habitat, while ensuring responsible grazing management practices.

A strong supporter of wilderness designations and healthy public lands, T.R. has been a conservationist from the get-go. He has also been a lifelong supporter of unions, particularly railroad unions, dating from his days as a former railroad engineer.

Please join us in thanking T.R. for his incredible generosity, and you can honor his gift by having your donation matched over the coming months to support the drive toward healthy ecosystems and abundant wildlife throughout the West! ■

## Western Watersheds Project 2021 Annual Report

### INCOME

Memberships & Major Donors.....	281,504
Grants .....	892,200
Events & Earned Income .....	143,323
Legal Fee Recovery .....	3,097
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$1,320,124</b>

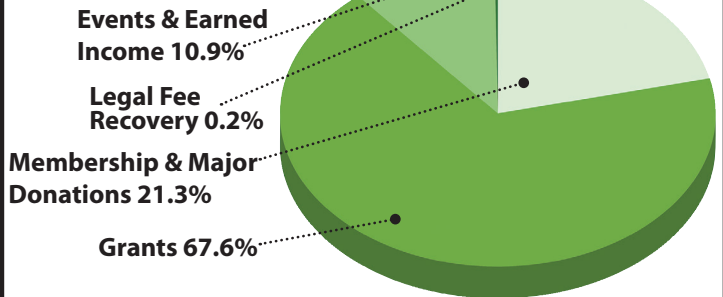
### EXPENSES

Accounting .....	7,814
Bank Fees & Donation Processing .....	1,368
Conferences & Meetings.....	575
Contract Services.....	47,448
Employee Benefits .....	145,171
Equipment Rental & Maintenance .....	4,578
Grazing Leases.....	1,410
Insurance .....	22,863
Legal.....	6,076
Occupancy .....	17,095
Payroll .....	852,322
Payroll Expenses .....	68,668
Postage & Shipping .....	4,354
Printing & Publications .....	13,463
Program Expenses (Reports & Filing Fees) .....	4,302
Special Events.....	300
Supplies .....	16,239
Taxes.....	55
Telephone/Internet.....	11,483
Travel.....	34,769
Website .....	5,739
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$1,266,092</b>

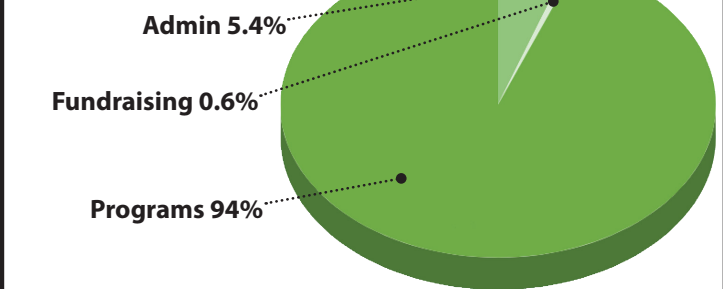
**2021 Budgeted Expenses..... \$1,310,109**

**2022 Budgeted Expenses..... \$1,566,372**

### INCOME



### EXPENSES







## WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT

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Every day the public lands, streams and wildlife throughout the West benefit because of the work done by the dedicated staff of Western Watersheds Project. Everything WWP does to influence the protection and restoration of public lands is based on a vision that western North America may be one of the only places on earth where enough of the native landscape and wildlife still exists to make possible the preservation of a wild natural world.

*None of this work would be possible without your generosity and shared passion.*



#### Donate online or by mail!

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Talk to your accountant or financial planner about the potential tax benefits of making this type of donation



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