

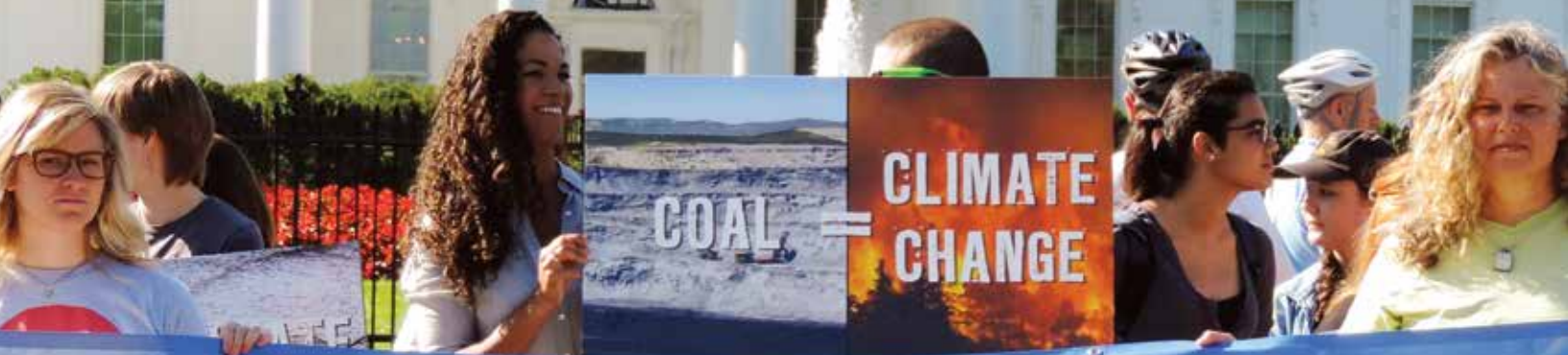
WILD AT HEART

THE WORD FROM WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

No. 24, Spring 2016



Our Climate, Our Lands, Our Future



KEEP FOSSIL FUELS
IN THE GROUND



MISSION STATEMENT

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS protects and restores the wildlife, wild places, wild rivers, and health of the American West.

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A BOLD VISION

Gaining Ground on Keep It in the Ground

John Horning

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



In late July 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency hosted a hearing in Denver about the agency's Clean Power Plan, which is the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's climate agenda.

On the very same day that the EPA unveiled its plan, which primarily requires utilities to move away from relying on coal to generate electricity, the Interior Department issued a lease to allow more

mining of federal coal in western Colorado.

While we had spent the previous four years highlighting the insanity of allowing more mining of coal from our public lands at a time of climate chaos, it wasn't until that day that we forced the issue onto the White House's agenda and exposed the hypocrisy of leasing more coal.

From that moment, I knew that it was only a matter of time before we would win on our goal to keep the coal that we all own in the ground. That time came on January 15, when President Obama announced a moratorium on the further leasing of federal coal and the initiation of a programmatic environmental review of the federal coal program.

It's one of the biggest wins in my career at WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, and I know that the work of our Climate and Energy team, especially our program director, Jeremy Nichols, had a profound influence on the president's decision.

We brought a tremendous amount of legal pressure, political pressure, and media exposure to highlight the fatal flaws in the Interior Department's decisions to fuel the climate crisis. In doing so, we helped galvanize a whole movement whose aim is to keep all of our fossil fuels in the ground—not just coal, but oil and gas as well.

The fight against coal is by no means over, and the fight against oil and gas has only just begun. Keep a close eye on GUARDIANS as we create more momentum in our campaign to *Keep It in the Ground*.

For the Wild,

GUARDIAN GIVER

Susie Tompkins Buell Foundation

foundation
SUSIE TOMPKINS BUELL

The Susie Tompkins Buell Foundation understood WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' *Keep It in the Ground* campaign even before we

started using the term. A partnership was formed at our first meeting in 2014 when Jeremy Nichols, our Climate and Energy Program Director, laid out GUARDIANS' grand vision for an end to fossil fuel extraction on our public lands. With the foundation's support and our work with many allies, that vision is being realized, most recently with the Obama administration's announcement of a moratorium on new federal coal leasing.

GET ON THE BUS

Utah activist employs direct action

Tim Ream



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



Lauren Wood.

Lauren Wood has the water of desert rivers in her blood. She gets it from Grandpa Dee Holladay, who has been running Utah rivers—and working to protect them—since the 1960s. Together with Grandma Sue, he founded what is now known as Holiday River Expeditions, where Lauren is a third-generation employee.

Raised with a profound connection to and love of nature and a leave-no-trace ethic, Lauren found her gateway to action in rivers. Growing up queer in Utah added a social justice element to her activism. Inspired by Bidder 70 Tim DeChristopher and his action to thwart public lands oil and gas lease sales by bidding on them, Lauren helped found Peaceful Uprising.

Peaceful Uprising fights climate change by fighting the extraction of fossil fuels from public lands. Its tactics include nonviolent civil disobedience and people power, and the group makes a strong call for a just transition to a clean energy future for Utah's rural economies.

Their weeks-long protests fighting tar sands extraction have helped spur other Utah groups to form and employ similar tactics to fight fossil fuels. Lauren and allies' efforts were rewarded this month when the largest U.S. tar sands operation shut down.

Recently, Lauren's activism took a new turn with her appointment as Waterkeeper Alliance's new Green Riverkeeper affiliate. She hopes to infuse that same nonviolent civil-disobedience energy to protect the Green River watershed and inspire others in the organization to take on fossil fuels with the direct action tactics that have garnered so much attention.

"Keep It in the Ground is an incredible strategy. We've already seen more wins than I could have imagined. It's a critical moment to push full-fledged solutions, rather than piecemeal approaches."

—LAUREN WOOD

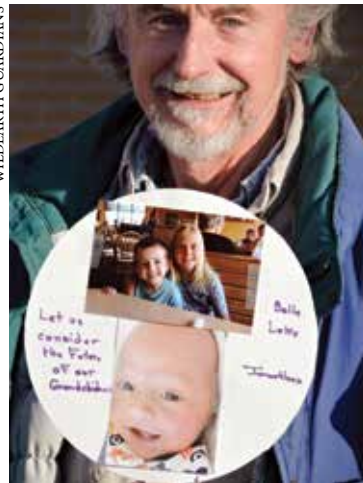
As if that weren't enough, Lauren is also helping support a new Utah group, Elders Rising. This is the group that led the *Keep It in the Ground* protest last fall in Utah that shut down a Bureau of Land Management oil and gas leasing auction.

"*Keep It in the Ground* is an incredible strategy," Lauren says. "We've already seen more wins than I could have imagined. It's a critical moment to push full-fledged solutions, rather than piecemeal approaches."

GUARDIANS couldn't agree more and couldn't be more pleased to have Lauren Wood as a strong ally helping us get there.

Visit wildearthguardians.org/ / Programs / Climate and Energy

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



Lauren's ally, Vaughn Lovejoy of Elders Rising, protests oil and gas leasing for his grandkids.



We invite you to join the Wild Bunch, our amazing monthly donors. Whether your contribution is \$5, \$20 or \$250 a month, monthly givers form the backbone of our organization, and provide the sustainability and flexibility that enables us to work on urgent and critical issues. Your pledge deepens our capacity to respond quickly and decisively.

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A GUARDIANS
MONTHLY
DONOR?

TANYA BEACH



"My husband and I used to make a year-end contribution to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS before we found out that a monthly gift provides better, sustained support that the organization can rely on. It is so much easier for WILDEARTH GUARDIANS to plan ahead and fight for wildness knowing they have our continued support."

—TANYA AND GARY BEACH,
Healdsburg, Calif.

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MALHEUR WILDLIFE REFUGE: GUARDIANS ANGLE

Oregon Standoff Shows Need for Political Leadership

Bryan Bird

Armed, antigovernment extremists seized the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon in January, ostensibly to protest the jailing of a pair of ranchers convicted of arson. As the occupation dragged on, their uncertain demands mutated into a call for the wildlife refuge to be deeded to the people of Harney County, Ore. Not only are these militants against federal public lands, but they do not believe in state or federal government.

The occupation ended Feb. 11 when the last occupiers left the site and were arrested by FBI agents.

It's yet another ill-fated chapter in a history of violence and intimidation against federal land managers in the West, most recently exemplified by the actions of Cliven Bundy in Nevada and San Juan County Commissioner Paul Lyman in Utah. These militants must now face justice in a court of law and be held accountable before their brazen actions spread to other parts of the rural West.

We live in a nation governed by the rule of law. We know what a unique and



DAVE COX

The focus of the January public lands rally at the state capitol was to show the N.M. legislature that we want to "keep it public," that is, the citizens of New Mexico do not support selling off federal lands to the states.

valuable legacy our federal public lands are to Americans, and we demand that their value be preserved through peaceful, democratic channels, not lawlessness. But a much more nefarious political crusade is emboldened by the thugs in Burns, Ore. This is the determination by some Western state legislators to seize our federal public lands. If the states were to gain control of federal lands, be confident they would be sold to the highest bidders and "no trespassing" signs would flourish like tumbleweeds.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is participating in rallies around the West to demonstrate widespread support for public lands. Polling by Colorado College confirms sturdy public support for protecting and maintaining national public lands.

The 2016 poll found 58 percent of respondents oppose giving state governments control over national public lands, and 60 percent oppose selling significant holdings of public lands like national forests to reduce the budget deficit.

But the public land seizure movement is ideologically driven and well funded. GUARDIANS will oppose privatization of public lands at every turn. We will especially support our Western senators who stand up publicly in favor of public lands and conservation.

Visit wildearthguardians.org:

/ Top Priorities / Public Lands

DAVE COX



GUARDIANS and many other groups participated in a public lands rally at the N.M. State Capitol this January that was spearheaded by the New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

Kelly Nokes

Battling a Blizzard for Yellowstone's Grizzlies

As Yellowstone's grizzly bears were settling warmly into their dens last November, I was white-knuckle driving over treacherous Teton Pass through the season's first big snowstorm to lend the bears a voice before the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee in Jackson, Wyo.



ROGER HAYDEN



ROGER HAYDEN

The committee, comprised of government officials responsible for grizzly recovery, had announced support for stripping the Yellowstone region's iconic grizzlies of their Endangered Species Act protections. I arrived in time to explain why such a move is plainly premature.

Now is not the time to rob Yellowstone's grizzlies of vital protections. Only 717 bears remain in a region that historically was home to thousands. From declining food sources, to obstructed connectivity corridors, to poaching and impending state trophy hunts, these bears face serious threats and still desperately need our help. I was proud to be there to speak out against stripping grizzlies of protections before they are truly recovered, and GUARDIANS is ready to challenge any such ill-advised plan.



SAM PARKS

Visit wildearthguardians.org: / Programs / Wildlife / Carnivore Protection

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



MICK NICKEL

"I donate what little I can regularly to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS because, as I so often experienced in my earlier years, wandering the wild lands of railroad track and shelterbelt and warm slough, wildness feels so right to me; so brave, so daring, so just, so responsible, so cooperative, so loving—so necessary. Because I am no more nor no less than this family that gives me life and allows me to be what, and who, I am."

—MICK NICKEL, Santa Fe, N.M.

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YES, WE CAN KEEP IT IN THE GROUND

Tim Ream

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



Half of all U.S. carbon is under public lands and waters, and GUARDIANS intends to keep it there.

When GUARDIANS told you in 2014 that we planned to stop the leasing of all coal, oil, and natural gas on our public lands across the American West, you would be forgiven for having thought we were just a little crazy.

After all, over 40 percent of U.S. coal and sizeable portions of oil and gas are extracted from our public lands and waters. Some of the biggest corporations in the world have huge stakes in the fracking and mining of our lands for their profits. And the gridlock in Washington, D.C., makes progress on just about any major federal issue seem impossible.

Well, have we got news for you. On Jan. 15, the Obama administration announced the first-ever comprehensive review of the climate impacts of the federal coal program. Even better, they announced a moratorium on all new coal leasing until the study is completed. It's coal down, oil and gas to go!

That's because there really is no choice. Federal leasing of fossil fuels is responsible for more than 20 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Most of this pollution can be traced back to fracking and coal mining on our public lands in the American West. Whether it's methane leaks or engines at fracking sites, or the ultimate burning of millions of tons

of strip-mined coal, the toll to our planet is enormous.

Worse, as industry exploits ever more carbon on our public lands, we've hindered our ability to fully mobilize alternatives to coal, oil, and gas and move beyond fossil fuels for good.

Given U.S. commitments made as part of the historic Paris climate agreement last year, there is no way the United States can keep up the unbridled privatizing of fossil fuels on public lands and not cross the global redline of a maximum 1.5° C temperature rise. And studies continue to confirm that leaving fossil fuels in the ground is not only a viable but a necessary climate solution.

That's not to mention fossil fuels' horrific toll on wildlife; our clean water, forests, and deserts; and the outdoor recreation and sacred lands Americans value so highly. Taken together, the case for moving away from fossil fuels is indisputable.

GUARDIANS' lawsuits against the coal industry have been gaining momentum for some time. Our legal victories have slowed new mines, threatened shutdowns, and forced the government to honestly assess the climate impacts of ripping more coal out of the ground.

We've forced industry to start paying for some of its own messes by increasing clean-up costs and forced the government to crack down on toxic orange clouds resulting from blasting at mines. We've also formally protested nearly every attempt to expand

On Jan. 15, the Obama administration announced the first-ever comprehensive review of the climate impacts of the federal coal program.

JUSTIN SHOEMAKER, USFWS



It's hard to believe, but the Obama administration has never studied the climate impacts of the federal oil and gas program.

existing coal mines or open new ones on our public lands.

To our ongoing strategy of targeted litigation and deep immersion in the Department of the Interior's administrative process, we set about in 2014 to organize the environmental movement around ending federal fossil-fuel leasing completely. In early 2015, GUARDIANS convened a broad collection of environmental groups around this vision.

Together, we developed the *Keep It in the Ground* campaign. As part of that effort, we got 450 groups to call on President Barack Obama to end federal fossil-fuel leasing and then went in front of the White House to deliver our letter, literally driving our message home. Soon after, we began organizing a series of protests at oil and gas lease auctions around the country. So far, our protests have shut down three of those lease sales.

After the victorious battle to stop the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, major news outlets referred to the *Keep It in the Ground* campaign as the "Keep It in the Ground Movement" and declared it to be the next big climate fight.

But our biggest campaign—what the heck, let's say movement—victory came in January. In a historic announcement, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell ordered that all new coal leasing would be put on hold until the impacts to our climate and to taxpayers could be fully studied.

This was a victory that GUARDIANS has worked tirelessly to achieve. The order opens the door for us to rein in the federal coal program, ensure a fair return for the American public, and help our nation transition away from coal for good.

Not only that, but it paves the way for an honest assessment of the costs to society of coal

ROADS FOR FOSSIL-FUELS EXTRACTION CARVE UP OUR FORESTS

An often-overlooked environmental impact from fracking oil and gas is the extensive road network required. Thousands of miles of roads must be constructed to extract fossil fuels, and these roads have impacts above and beyond air quality and safety. Roads networking oil and gas fields change runoff patterns, deliver sediment and pollution to waterways, and fragment wildlife habitat.

One recent oil and gas proposal on the Ashley National Forest in Utah required 50 miles of road construction. These roads will have heavy traffic for the lifetime of the oilfield and render the lands unsuitable for most wildlife and recreation.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' Rewilding Campaign works to reduce the U.S. Forest Service's road network, which is the largest road network in the world. You could drive around the equator nearly 15 times on the Forest Service's roads alone. Most of the roads were built to open up national forests to industrial logging, but fracking is the newest reason our national forests are being carved to pieces. We are entering a new phase of advocacy as we push back on the Forest Service's insatiable need for roads—and roads built for fracking are a priority.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: / Top Priorities / Rewilding

Below: Every fracking well pad needs a road network that further carves up our national forests and other public lands.





In the coming year, GUARDIANS plans to rally for a safe climate at every public lands oil and gas lease auction.

mining and burning. This analysis is critical for exposing how charting a course for our nation away from fossil fuels is vital for the safety of our climate.

The administration's announcement of a timeout for federal coal came the same week as the State of the Union address, in which President Obama promised "to change the way we manage our oil and coal resources so that they better reflect the costs

they impose on taxpayers and our planet." Having delivered quickly on coal, we are now working to demand the same for the federal oil and gas program.

In the coming year, we expect to step up the pressure. We plan to rally for a safe climate at every public lands oil and gas lease auction, bring our legal might to bear, and press the administration to pause new leasing and to make bold reforms.

In doing so, we can begin to fully wind down the production of fossil fuels on our public lands, set the stage for clean alternatives, and empower communities and people to transition to a more sustainable future.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has been and will continue to be the on-the-ground group in the *Keep It in the Ground* movement. In this role, we will continue to lead as we hasten the move away from coal, oil, and gas and safeguard our Western public lands.

We are telling you now, we will not quit until we shut down the entire federal fossil-fuel leasing program for good. It's a climate imperative that we succeed.

Visit wildearthguardians.org/ / *Priorities / Keep It in the Ground*

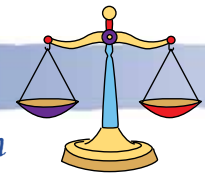
TOP 10 MILESTONES OF 2015 FOR GUARDIANS' CLIMATE AND ENERGY PROGRAM

2015 was a year of tremendous success for our Climate and Energy Program and culminated with a major victory in early 2016: a moratorium on new coal leasing! Here, in no particular order, are our top 10 wins from 2015:

- **Oil and gas lease sales canceled.** Last fall, we pressured the Obama administration to cancel plans to auction off public lands in Utah for fracking.
- **Leading the charge to *Keep It in the Ground*.** We played a key role in bringing together a coalition to end leasing of our publicly owned oil, gas, and coal.
- **Win over Colowyo and Trapper coal mining.** Our court victory last May held the Interior Department has a duty to be more transparent and account for the climate impacts of coal mining.
- **Keeping coal-fired power plants on track for retirement.** We raised the pressure for coal-fired plants to retire, including the 500-megawatt Bonanza plant in northeast Utah.
- **Coverage of coal campaign in *High Country News*.** GUARDIANS' campaign to confront the climate impacts of coal mining received front-page treatment in this widely read magazine.
- **Thwarting Chaco oil and gas leasing.** We advanced political pressure to prevent the oil and gas industry's push to despoil the Greater Chaco region of northwestern New Mexico.
- **Massive Powder River Basin coal leases withdrawn.** Industry withdrew proposals for massive coal leases in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming, keeping 2 billion tons of coal in the ground.
- **Telling the story of the federal coal program.** We assembled the first-ever maps showing the climate threats posed from leasing publicly owned coal.
- **Exposing climate denial in the Interior Department.** The Obama administration was compelled to rein in the Interior Department's failure to combat climate change.
- **Another coal win in Montana.** GUARDIANS scored another federal court win in October, overturning more illegal coal mining approval.

IN THE HALLS OF JUSTICE

Bethany Cotton, Samantha Ruscavage-Barz, Marla Nelson



WOLVES WIN, WILDLIFE SERVICES LOSES IN WASHINGTON STATE

SAM PARKS



Wolves in Washington state are much safer from cruel traps and aerial gunning, thanks to our recent court victory. GUARDIANS and our allies sued the federal wildlife-killing program, USDA Wildlife Services, over its failure to adequately analyze the impacts of its planned wolf-killing activities in Washington on both wolves themselves and the larger ecosystem. The court agreed that Wildlife Services' paltry analysis violates federal law, ordered the program to undertake a full environmental review, and halted all killing activities authorized by the

deficient analysis. Implicit in this decision is the need for the program to acknowledge the many benefits that wolves bring to ecosystems. We're continuing our work to ensure that Wildlife Services bases its decisions on science, not false anti-carnivore rhetoric, by bringing a similar challenge in Oregon.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: / Top Priorities / Carnivore Protection

GUARDIANS HOLDS U.S. AGENCY ACCOUNTABLE FOR COAL'S IMPACT

It's been a long fight, but in 2015 we finally held the U.S. Office of Surface Mining accountable to protecting the American West and our climate from coal mining. For years, the agency has rubber-stamped coal mine expansions without any public notice or environmental review. And in May 2015 and January 2016, two federal courts ruled that mining approvals in Colorado and Montana illegally ignored the impacts of coal burning and excluded the public. Both courts ordered the agency to go back and fix its mistakes or face mine shutdowns. On the heels of these victories, we've filed additional suits challenging illegal mining. Our aim? To keep our coal in the ground.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: / Priorities / Keep It in the Ground



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

GUARDIANS GOES TO BAT FOR THREATENED FISH

JOEL SARTORE



Bull trout face an uphill battle to recovery, and the U.S. Forest Service's inaction is not helping. Which is why, in December, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS sent a letter warning the Forest Service about its failure to ensure protection for the bull trout on the Colville, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests in Washington and Idaho. Threats to bull trout survival include splintering of habitat and obstacles such as culverts and roads that block migratory fish passage. Plus, badly managed forest roads and trails dump dirt and sediment into spawning areas.

GUARDIANS will hold the Forest Service accountable for its failure to ensure adequate protection of bull trout in the face of motorized use of roads and trails on our public lands.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: / Newsroom / Press Releases / Struggling Bull Trout Get a Defender in Pacific Northwest

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



TROY PITT

"I grew up in a small agricultural town, Torrington, Wyo., where I grew to love the big skies and mesas of the Great Plains. The ruts of the wagon wheels along the Oregon Trail and Fort Laramie are still visible from my old home. My first teachers were owls, rabbits, grasshoppers, june bugs, stink bugs, cicadas, and desert toads, and I feel strongly that WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is doing its utmost to help save their habitat. I hope to reside in southern Utah one day, where my grandchildren will roam the slot canyons!"

— JESSIE PAUL,
Eden, Utah

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WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY PARTNER



"I support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS because time and time again they are the organization that is standing most strongly for our nation's imperiled wildlife. On all of the most important issues facing our wildlife, they have consistently taken the lead. From protecting the West's dwindling Sagebrush Sea ecosystem to exposing the USDA Wildlife Services' barbaric predator killing, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has always stood with wildlife. I am proud to stand with them."

— SAM PARKS,
professional
photographer,
Cheyenne, Wyo.

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CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Stepping Up for Sage Grouse

Ramona Gault



A student, a scientist, a photographer, an activist: these are a few of the dedicated people who are stepping up for wildlife and the ecosystems across the American West. GUARDIANS recently released four documentary shorts produced by Brendan Young about how everyday activism is making a critical difference in the battle to save the imperiled sage grouse and Sagebrush Sea ecosystem.

THE STUDENT



High school student Rahul Mukherjee testified at a public hearing—and organized grassroots opposition—to stop development from destroying a major sage grouse lek, or dancing ground, in Utah. As a result, the county commission denied the zoning change necessary to turn grouse habitat into a subdivision.

Now Mukherjee is headed to Cornell University to earn a degree in ornithology.

"My hope is that when I come back from college, the numbers at the lek will be where they are right now," he says.

THE SCIENTIST



As a wildlife researcher for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Dr. Clait Braun focused on population dynamics. He started to ask hard questions about how many sage grouse remain and discovered that the population has shrunk from 12 million historically to fewer than half a million now.

Now retired, Dr. Braun has dedicated himself to trying to publish all the data he has collected on the sage grouse: "I think I know enough about the biology to know what (sage grouse) would say."

"I want people to be able to read what I've learned," he says. "(Sage grouse) represent the natural ecosystems of the West. It's part of our heritage."

THE PHOTOGRAPHER



When wildlife photographer Noppadol Paothong discovered the sage grouse, he became their dogged defender, arising before dawn for years to sit in a blind and photograph the birds as they danced.

"I get goosebumps every time I hear the birds in the mornings," Paothong says. "I want my children and my children's children's generation to be able to see this bird."

THE ACTIVIST



The vast, empty Red Desert of Wyoming hooked wildlife biologist Erik Molvar with its quiet beauty. As GUARDIANS' Sagebrush Sea Campaign Director, Molvar works to protect that region's wild beauty and the creatures that inhabit it.

"It's a place that really houses the soul of the American West," he says. "The sage grouse offers the last best hope that the West has of maintaining its wide open spaces."

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Please contact your representatives in Congress and tell them to keep federal legislation free from harmful policy riders that seek to weaken the Endangered Species Act.

See the videos (3 minutes each) here:
[wildearthguardians.org:](http://wildearthguardians.org/) / Top Priorities / Saving the Sagebrush Sea / Sagebrush Stories: Guardians Voices

GOOD NEWS FROM THE GUARDIANS

Bryan Bird, Tim Ream, Greg Dyson



UTAH TIMBER SALE OBJECTION

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is leading a coalition of conservation organizations that is strongly urging Utah's Fishlake National Forest to leave roadless, undeveloped forests out of a logging plan. In response to an official objection filed in October 2015 by three groups—WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, Western Watersheds Project, and Yellowstone 2 Uintas Coalition—the Fishlake forest will more carefully consider the impacts of logging in roadless areas. The Monroe Mountain Project is possibly the largest logging project to date inside Inventoried Roadless Areas protected in 2001 by the Clinton administration. Though encouraged by the response to our objection, GUARDIANS believes the national forest still isn't going far enough to protect 9,000 roadless acres from logging and is failing to address the root cause of the decline of aspen forests: overgrazing by livestock and elk herds.



USDA FOREST SERVICE

Visit [wildearthguardians.org/Newsroom/Press_releases/Utah National Forest Pushed to Protect Pristine Forests](http://wildearthguardians.org/Newsroom/Press_releases/Utah_National_Forest_Pushed_to_Protect_Pristine_Forests)

THE ACTION IS AT THE AUCTIONS

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



At WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, we do all we can to stop the Obama administration from auctioning off our public lands' oil and natural gas. We write comments and press releases; we publish photos and stories; we file petitions and lawsuits. But sometimes, it just makes sense to get out to the auction itself for a good, old-fashioned protest to shut it down. And sometimes it works. In November, we joined with Elders Rising, and just the threat of our protest shut down a Utah oil and gas lease sale. Similar threats led to shutting down

another lease sale in Washington, D.C., in December, and a third in Montana in January. Now we're promising to be at every oil and gas auction in 2016!

Visit [wildearthguardians.org/ Take Action](http://wildearthguardians.org/Take_Action)

COLORADO FOREST FORCED TO REVIEW MOTOR VEHICLE USE

Late last year, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, the Quiet Use Coalition, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Rocky Mountain Wild, and The Wilderness Society—represented by Earthjustice—settled a lawsuit challenging the Pike-San Isabel National Forest's management of where motor vehicles can and cannot travel. The 1.1-million-acre forest in Colorado borders the Continental Divide. Its rocky pinnacles, rolling ponderosa pine forests, and high peaks are recreational havens for hikers, mountain bikers, and climbers. We opposed the Pike-San Isabel's permitting of motorized vehicle use on over 500 miles of roads and trails without first consulting the public or examining the effects on wildlife. The settlement requires the Pike-San Isabel to undertake a top-to-bottom review of motor vehicle use on the forest within five years—a process we will be watching closely.

Visit [wildearthguardians.org/Newsroom/Press_Releases/Agreement Paves Way for Protection of Popular Colorado National Forest](http://wildearthguardians.org/Newsroom/Press_Releases/Agreement_Paves_Way_for_Protection_of_Popular_Colorado_National_Forest)



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



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SPOTLIGHT ON NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Kristina Martinez



KRISTINA MARTINEZ, a Santa Fe, N.M., native, joined GUARDIANS' board in 2015. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from the University of Arizona and a juris doctor degree from the University of New Mexico. Kristina has practiced law in Santa Fe for the past nine years and recently started her own firm, Coberly and Martinez, LLLP, where she focuses on civil rights, general civil litigation, and family law. Kristina serves on the Ethics and Campaign Review Board for the City of Santa Fe as well as the Board of the St. Michael's High School Foundation. She loves the Santa Fe community and the American Southwest and hopes to help preserve and enrich both by serving on GUARDIANS' board.

Esther Yazzie-Lewis



ESTHER YAZZIE-LEWIS, who grew up south of Farmington, N.M., on the Navajo Reservation, joined GUARDIANS' board in 2015. She has worked for the Navajo Police Department, the Window Rock District Court, and the U.S. District Courts in Albuquerque, N.M., as the official Navajo court interpreter. She is the lead trainer for the National Center for Interpretation Testing, Research and Policy (NCITRP) with the Navajo Interpreters Institute, University of Arizona, Tucson. She is a member and a spokesperson for the Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum (SWIUF), and she has lectured nationally and internationally on Native American issues. She is also a member of the Justice and Women of Color Committee, National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts with the National Center of State Courts. She teaches Navajo at the University of New Mexico. Esther holds a bachelor of science degree in political science, a master's in public administration, and a master's in American studies from the University of New Mexico.