Western Resources Legal Center

Dustin Van Liew Board Chair



American Sheep Industry Association January 2023





What is WRLC?



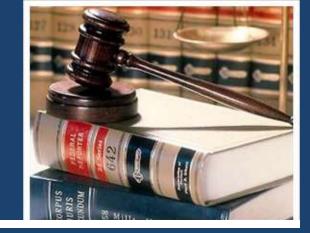
WRLC Mission Statement

The Western Resources Legal Center is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization that provides <u>law students</u> with quality <u>instruction</u> and excellent <u>opportunities</u> to develop their legal skills and knowledge of natural resources and environmental laws through the <u>legal</u> representation of clients active in natural resource related industries that <u>will lead to careers</u> as attorneys and policymakers with an appreciation for the challenges faced by, and importance of, natural resource industries.



Who We Are

WRLC Board of Directors



Chairman

Dustin Van Liew

EnerGeo Alliance/ DVL Wood Show Stock, LLC Senator (District 16)

Vice Chairman

Betsy Johnson

Former Oregon State

Secretary/Treasurer

Brenda Richards

Richards Cattle

Chase Adams

American Sheep **Industry Association**

Jim Huffman

Dean Emeritus

Lewis & Clark Law School

Travis Cushman

American Farm Bureau Federation

Dan Harmon

Hoffman Corporation

Katie Jeremiah

Aggregate Resource **Industries**

Sean Smith

Starfire Lumber

Valerie Johnson

D. R. Johnson Lumber Co.

Nikki Martin

EnerGeo Alliance

Jane O'Keeffe

O'Keefe Ranch

Rob Freres

Freres Lumber Co., Inc.

Evan Zimmerman

Offshore Operators Committee

Scott Horngren

WRLC (retired)

Myles Culhane

Occidental Petroleum

Jack Field

CKP Insurance/WA Cattle **Feeders Association**

Nathan Jackson

Umpqua Indian Development Corp.

Casey Roscoe

Gerking Ranch, LLC

Seth Crawford

Crook County Commissioner



What Does WRLC Do?



- Train a new generation of legal advocates that appreciate agriculture and natural resource industries.
- Provide balance in clinical legal education.
- Use legal cases and projects to teach students and help natural resource users.



Domestic Sheep Case Highlight: *Martinez Livestock*



Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest - "Martinez" case

- Domestic sheep grazing authorizations challenged by environmental plaintiffs' advocacy groups.
- WRLC won Preliminary Injunction hearing against bighorn advocates who sought to immediately enjoin domestic sheep grazing for the 2021 season.
- District Court Judge Peterson acknowledged intrinsic public interest in allowing continued operation of community-oriented ranching business.

"The Court agrees with Plaintiffs that there is an intrinsic public interest in preserving bighorn sheep in Washington state. However, there is also intrinsic public interest in allowing a community-oriented business to operate most effectively so as to continue to provide employment opportunities, including for minority communities, as well as educational and research support to state universities. These corollary benefits of economic sustainability benefit the local and regional communities. In considering these competing public interests, the balance does not tip so strongly in favor of one party over the other."

JUDGE R. PETERSON, ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION



Cahill Cases



Cahill v. BLM ("Cahill Plaintiff")

-Lawsuit challenging implementation of BLM's 2015 RMPAs regarding sage grouse.

ONDA v. Bushue ("Cahill Intervention")

-WRLC defeats TRO and Preliminary Injunction!

"Defendants also contend that enjoining grazing on the four pastures containing key RNAs set for grazing in April would impact the public interest in sustaining rural communities. Rural communities such as those in Lake County, Oregon depend on the availability of public lands for ranching. Mr. Cahill states that in rural ranching communities like Adel, Oregon, "ranching is a main way of life and economic driver," and that because "opportunities to earn a living are very limited," eliminating one of the few remaining ranches "causes significant harm to the local economy." Although Defendants have not shown that an injunction would lead to the elimination of ranching operations, the Court is satisfied that it could impose significant financial harm, threatening jobs and livelihoods. Further, this ranching economy contributes to national food supply, generates tax revenue, and supports families that participate as active members in their communities serving as volunteer firefighters, on school boards, and on irrigation districts."

Judge M. Simon, Order Denying Plaintiffs' Motion for Temporary Restraining Order



Student Successes and Placements



- Judicial clerkships
- High profile placement of graduating students in law firms and natural resource companies nationwide
- Placements with government agencies
- High employment rate
- Students defending WRLC program and viewpoint
- Student alumni donating and offering service to WRLC



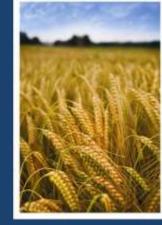
Get Involved with WRLC



- Tell someone about WRLC
- Share our newsletter
- Invest in WRLC
- Invite WRLC to your annual meeting
- Tell us about your potential case/issue











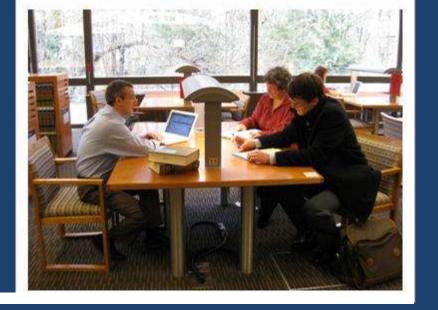








Contact Information



- Executive Director: Caroline Lobdell
- Phone: 503.768.8500
- Fax: 503.222.3255
- Email: clobdell@wrlegal.org
- Mailing Address:

 9220 SW Barbur, #119-327
 Portland, Oregon 97219

