

Western Resources Legal Center

Dustin Van Liew
Board Chair

American Sheep Industry Association
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What is WRLC?



WRLC Mission Statement

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



Western Resources
Legal Center

Who We Are

WRLC Board of Directors



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DVL Wood Show Stock, LLC

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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 WRRLC



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



Questions?





Contact Information



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