Thanks to our members, the Wyoming Outdoor Council was once again able to cover the map in 2014. We continued to grow our network of friends and allies and we added a great deal of capacity to our staff. Here are just a few examples of some of what we were able to achieve last year.

Best,

1. **A Balanced Land-Use Plan for the Upper Wind River Basin**
The Bureau of Land Management released its 20-year land-use plan for this area in June 2014. Our years of dogged engagement paid off: More than 100,000 acres of public land in the Upper Wind River Valley is now off limits to oil and gas leasing. This is a crucial wildlife area in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem that’s been under threat of development for years. The plan also precludes industrial development on the surface of nearly 1 million acres encompassing the National Historic Trails corridor and the Sweetwater watershed. It also protects the viewsheds, habitats, and surface integrity of the landscapes we prioritized in this campaign for conservation.

2. **Safeguarding the Longest Known Mule Deer Migration Corridor**
The longest known mule deer migration corridor has recently been documented in Wyoming and we are collaborating with a number of conservation organizations to advocate landscape-level protections for these animals. Stay tuned.

3. **Strong Protections for the Shoshone National Forest**
The Shoshone’s long-term land-use plan was released in January 2014, and we’re pleased to report that our advocacy helped lead to better protections from oil and gas surface occupancy for more than 721,000 acres. The incredible wildlife habitat and backcountry recreational opportunities in Francs Peak and Wood River—two of the most remarkable areas on the Shoshone—are now safeguarded as a result of a successful objection we filed.

4. **The Northern Red Desert**
Our strategy to carry out steady, targeted protests of lease sale offerings in the Jack Morrow Hills area has been a huge success, helping to bring about the current situation, where just 35,000 acres are now leased in that landscape—down from 225,775 acres in 2006.

5. **Preventing Oil and Gas Lease Sales in Sensitive Areas**
In addition to successful deferrals from leasing in the Jack Morrow Hills, we also encouraged the BLM to fully defer a parcel along the stunning Absaroka-Beartooth Front in the August 2014 sale. The BLM also granted our protest of a small but important parcel in the November 2014 sale. The parcel abuts Wyoming Range Legacy Act lands and is traversed by the Red Desert to Hoback mule deer migration corridor, and is also part of the Sommers-Grindstone conservation easement.

6. **Better Disclosure of Fracking Chemicals**
In March 2014, the Wyoming Supreme Court issued a favorable ruling in our legal challenge to secure the disclosure of drilling fluid chemicals that have been withheld from the public under an exemption for “trade secrets.” The ruling gives greater preference to public disclosure.

7. **Engagement Organizing**
In 2014, we established a new “engagement organizing” program in an effort to improve citizen-based advocacy. One of the best ways we can be more effective is to greatly expand our network of members, advocates, and supporters—and then help this larger network take action on behalf of Wyoming’s environment. Stay tuned.
New Fracking Fluid Disclosure Requirements Will Benefit Wyoming

BY BRUCE PENDERY
CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL

A version of this report first appeared on the Wyoming Outdoor Council blog.

On January 23, 2015, Wyoming’s Seventh Judicial District Court approved a settlement of our lawsuit over the disclosure of chemicals used during hydraulic fracturing. This settlement capped nearly two years of legal work, and is a step in the right direction for Wyoming. It will make it more difficult for the state to grant companies “trade secret” exemptions from disclosing fracking chemical information to the public.

We engaged in this lawsuit because we believe the public has the right to know which chemicals are being injected underground during fracturing.

We credit the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and Halliburton for working cooperatively with us and our partners to improve the Commission’s disclosure policies for the benefit of Wyoming citizens. Personally, I’m confident that full transparency will ultimately win out in Wyoming because it’s the right thing to do and it’s in the best interest of both industry and the public.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council, Powder River Basin Resource Council, Earthworks, and the Center for Effective Government jointly brought the lawsuit in 2012 after the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission agreed repeatedly, at the request of industry, not to publically disclose the constituents of fracturing fluids.

Back in 2010, Wyoming became the first state in the nation to require oil and gas companies to disclose the identities of chemicals used during fracturing. Under a rule passed that year, companies were required to make known the constituents of fracturing fluids to the Oil and Gas Commission; pursuant to the Wyoming Public Records Act, that information could then be reviewed by the public.

Unfortunately, the Commission began granting a significant number of requests from industry not to reveal these chemicals, based on claims that the chemicals’ identities were protected as “trade secrets” or “confidential commercial information.”

Initially, the district court ruled against us in 2013, so we filed an appeal. In March 2014, the Wyoming Supreme Court issued a decision validating our claims and reversing the trial court decision.

The court ruled that the basis for trade-secret exemptions is narrow and that the public’s right to this information is paramount.

Following roughly eight months of laborious negotiations, the parties were ultimately able to reach a settlement. This required everyone involved—including us—to work cooperatively, with a goal of finding solutions, not perpetuating dispute.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, companies seeking a trade-secret exemption from the disclosure of fracturing fluid constituents will now have to comply with much more stringent requirements that should allow the Oil and Gas Commission to better determine whether such a request is legitimate.

Please get in touch with me (bruce@wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org) if you would like to know the details of these new requirements.

This settlement will help ensure there is better accountability to the public, and better transparency in general. It will also help ensure that significant public concerns about groundwater contamination and potential impacts on public health are fully considered and illuminated. And it will help prevent companies from evading disclosure requirements based on weak claims that the chemicals they use are so-called “trade secrets.” All of this is good progress.

Note: Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, involves pumping water, sand, and chemicals at high pressures down oil and gas drill holes to fracture rock such as shale and tight sands and thus release oil and gas. Coupled with its companion technique, directional drilling, fracking has been responsible for the large increase in the production of oil and gas in the United States in recent years.
Small Gestures Have a Big Impact

BY STEFANI FARRIS
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Once a month like clockwork, a car pulls up in front of our Lander office and a man jumps out and dashes inside. Sometimes he stops to chat, sometimes he doesn't. Always, though, he presents us with a check—a tangible means of helping to protect a place he loves. The man is longtime Wyoming Outdoor Council member Gary Blackwelder, and along with his wife, Kathy, he’s been supporting the Council’s work nearly every month for 15 years.

Hand-delivering a check is just one gesture among many that makes our work possible. In recent months we’ve also been receiving donations in memory of longtime member Clarence “Stearnie” Stearns of Wilson, a true outdoorsman and environmental steward who passed away this winter. His family generously asked friends to honor his legacy with gifts that would help protect his beloved Wyoming. Another member, former Council intern Caitlin Smith, recently gave a gift in honor of her father. And out of the blue one day last fall, Libby Paglione, newly arrived in Lander, called our office simply to see how she could help. We put her straight to work, and now our database—central to our efforts to get the word out about environmental issues in our state—is in better shape than ever.

We asked folks to send Tom Bell a message on his 91st birthday. Here are some of their well wishes. Happy birthday, Tom!

“You rallied the collective consciousness into action and your hard work will continue to benefit future generations.”

Taken together, these individual gestures of support have a profound effect. They multiply the positive impact a small organization can have on the quality of life for everyone who loves Wyoming.

Last fall we received word that Frank and Lois Layton of Casper left us a bequest in their will. They were a couple with a deep, lifelong love of Wyoming’s lands and wildlife. And now, even in their absence, their generosity is still helping to ensure that these things are protected. Former Wyomingites Larry and Debi Berger also let us know that they’ve included the Outdoor Council in their will. “We feel that we are forever in debt to Tom Bell,” Larry says, “and to all the folks who work against so many odds to save what is so important to many of us.”

For all of these gifts, large and small, we are grateful. One of the greatest strengths of the Wyoming Outdoor Council is that if we each do what we can, and if we each do it in our own ways, our efforts add up to something big and truly meaningful. That truth is the heart and soul of this group that Tom Bell started nearly 50 years ago. Day in and day out, our work to protect what’s truly best about Wyoming is powered by members. Thank you.
2014 Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2014

Assets

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<th>2014</th>
<th>Cash and Savings</th>
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<td>Donations Receivable</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Total Assets</td>
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Liabilities and Net Assets

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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
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Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2014

Support and Revenues

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<td>Total Revenue and Support</td>
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Expenses by Activity

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<tr>
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<td>Expenses by Activity</td>
<td>88%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Program 88%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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Expenses by Activity

Pre-audited figures

Expenses

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<td>Management and Administration</td>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Wyoming Outdoor Council is to protect Wyoming’s environment and quality of life for future generations.

WHO WE ARE
The Wyoming Outdoor Council is a nonprofit, member-supported, 501(c)3 conservation organization. Established in 1967, the Wyoming Outdoor Council is the state’s oldest independent statewide conservation organization.

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Laramie
Janice Harris
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Wheatland
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Beedee Ladd
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