

Erik M. Molvar

Executive Summary

- Building and maintaining teams of top-flight professionals and creating rewarding and dynamic work environments
- Managing all aspects of conservation nonprofits, including budgeting, fundraising, strategic planning, and communications
- Working with constituent groups including boards, organization members, volunteers, committees, and external audiences
- Providing a dynamic, politically influential face for the organization as a public speaker, coalition builder, and media spokesperson

Employment Experience

2016 - present	Executive Director, Western Watersheds Project, Hailey, ID
2013 - 2016	Sagebrush Sea Campaign Director, WildEarth Guardians, Santa Fe, NM
2005 - 2013	Executive Director, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, Laramie, WY
2000 - 2004	Wildlife Biologist, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, Laramie, WY
1990 - present	Freelance Writer/Photographer, Falcon Publishing and others
1989 - 1998	Seasonal Biologist, Operation Fish Run, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pomeroy, WA
1987	Seasonal Stream Survey Crew, Clearwater National Forest, Kamiah, ID

Professional Activities

2003 - 2005	Management Team, Friends of the Red Desert
2010 - 2013	Steering Committee, Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance
2010 - 2013	Steering Committee, Rocky Mountain Energy Campaign
2013 - 2014	National Media Committee Member, Wilderness 50 th Anniversary

Board and Volunteer Activities

2007 - present	Board of Directors, Foundation for Sustainability and Innovation
2016	State and National Convention Delegate, Bernie Sanders
2008 - 2012	Laramie City Council representative
2012	Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Steering Committee, National League of Cities
2012	Wyoming Governor's Council on Impaired Driving

Board and Volunteer Activities (cont'd)

2005 - 2012	Board of Directors, Equality State Policy Center
2002 - 2008	Board of Directors, Wyoming Wilderness Assn. (President 2006-2008)
1985	Student Conservation Association Trail Crew, North Cascades N.P.

Education

9/85-3/89	University of Montana , Missoula, Montana 59801. Bachelor of Science with High Honors in Wildlife Biology, minor in Native American Studies.
9/90-12/92	University of Alaska , Fairbanks, Alaska 99775. Master of Science in Wildlife Management.
11/09-12/12	Leadership Training Institute , National League of Cities, certification in Rapid Innovation, Advocacy Skills, New Media, Managing Green Practices, Injecting Innovation into Local Government, Sustainability 101, Advocating for your City

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Organization Builder. As Executive Director, I built up Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, originally a small, underfunded local conservation group with three staff, into a polished and professional conservation organization of statewide and regional scope, influence, and recognition.

- Created, developed, and managed annual BCA budget, which grew from \$125,000 to \$300,000, while raising salaries and instituting benefits including health insurance and retirement.
- Supervised a staff of four to six, including several employees who worked remotely from out-of-state offices.
- Served as editor in chief of quarterly BCA newsletter and builder of strong web presence
- Supervised (and for 3 years, personally managed) major donor development, grantwriting and reporting, fundraising letters, and fundraising events planning and execution.

Legal Watchdog. I have served as the organizational lead for setting up and managing a large number of administrative appeals and federal court cases.

- Led numerous litigation efforts challenging violations of NEPA, FLPMA, NFMA, and ESA in the context of oil and gas development, bighorn/domestic sheep conflicts, forest management, and rare species conservation.
- Prepared briefs for Interior Board of Land Appeals cases and Forest Service appeals and objections, killing outright one coalbed methane project in the Thunder Basin and brokering a settlement for another with the strongest wildlife protections to date.

- Used Clean Water Act non-degradation standards to force abandonment of the 1,240-well Seminoe Road coalbed methane project, the largest oil and gas project to be killed during the Bush administration.
- Served as Wyoming representative in Oil Shale/Tar Sands litigation, generating a settlement that reduced the federal land available for leasing by about three-fourths.
- Successfully negotiated two-thirds of conservationists' priorities into the BiState sage grouse plan amendment on the Humboldt-Toiyabe N.F., resulting in the strongest sage grouse protections to date.

Opinion Leader. I am a prolific and hard-hitting media presence, and have appeared as a spokesperson in countless newspaper, radio, and television news stories and venues across the nation, including NPR, New York Times, the Washington Post, and many others. In this role, I have served as:

- A regular Contributing Writer to The Hill, which gives me a DC-based platform for policy-related opinion pieces.
- Regional Media Coordinator under the Rocky Mountain Energy Campaign from 2005 to 2010, generating hundreds of individual news stories, op-eds (written by myself and recruited from among diverse spokespersons), editorials, and letters to the editor.
- Developer of advanced media strategies.
- Manager of social media platforms such as 'Absolutely No CRED' and 'Save the Greater Sage-grouse' Facebook pages in addition to organizational pages
- Wyoming Humanities Council speakers' bureau traveling lecturer, in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014, and 2016.
- Public Interest Environmental Law Conference panelist and panel organizer on topics including oil and gas development, grasslands conservation, wind power, sage grouse, livestock grazing, and the right-wing public lands takeover movement.

Policy Mover and Shaker. I have worked longitudinally for conservation advocacy, in consortium with Congress and with a wide spectrum of administration policymakers including Interior, Energy, Agriculture, Office of Management and Budget, and Council on Environmental Quality. A few examples include:

- In 2009, I proposed programmatic plan amendments to increase sage grouse conservation which were adopted in a limited fashion
- I served to advance pro-active legislation such as America's Wildlife Heritage Act (codifying species viability requirements for BLM and the Forest Service) and the soon-to-be-introduced Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act.
- I petitioned for and secured 'Very Rare or Uncommon' designation for the Adobe Town proposed wilderness under Wyoming state law.
- I continue to cultivate champions and to lobby against harmful right-wing riders designed to undermine the Endangered Species Act, sage grouse protections, and public ownership of public lands.
- Recently, I negotiated IM 2014-100 (with fossil fuel leasing moratoriums, 4-mile lek buffers in interim projects, and a rangewide plan amendment for Gunnison sage grouse protection) in exchange for a six-month delay in Gunnison sage grouse listing. As a

result, this bird was listed as a 'threatened species' without a 4(d) Rule that weakens legal protections.

Science Conduit. As a published scientist, I have the necessary ability to bridge the communication gap between the ivory tower of academia and the world of policy and bureaucrats. In this role, I have:

- Recruited allies from within often-hostile institutions willing to provide tips or key information.
- Canvassed available scientific studies to compile them into strong cases for conservation in the form of citizens' alternatives for land-use plans, Endangered Species Act petitions, or NEPA comments.
- Ghost-written scientist sign-on letters to support conservation initiatives.

Campaign Strategist. I have been a central strategist and on-the-ground organizer for a number of long-term conservation campaigns. With this comes positionality and access to promote:

- Grassroots advocacy at public events, organizing public outings and media tours to threatened landscapes
- Recruiting diverse allies and building coalitions.
- Planning and executing campaign events.
- Developing strategic plans and campaign plans that map out the pathway to success, creating synergies between legal, media, organizing, and political aspects of the campaign.

Professional Publications

Jones, A.L., K. Daly, E. Molvar, and J. Catlin. 2006. Conservation planning and assessment of irreplaceability and vulnerability of conservation sites in the 'Heart of the West' region, Middle Rockies. *Journal of Conservation Planning* 2: 34-52.
<http://www.journalconsplanning.org/2006/volume2/bb10b/finalmanuscript.pdf>.

Molvar, E.M., and R.T. Bowyer. 1994. Costs and benefits of group living in a recently social ungulate: the Alaskan moose. *Journal of Mammalogy* 75:621-630.

Bowyer, R.T., M.C. Nicholson, E.M. Molvar, and J.B. Faro. 1999. Moose on Kalgin Island: Are density-dependent processes related to harvest? *Alces* 35: 73-89.

Molvar, E.M., 1993. Nursing by a yearling moose, *Alces alces gigas*, in Alaska. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 107:233-235.

Molvar, E.M., R.T. Bowyer, and V. van Ballenberghe, 1993. Moose herbivory. browse quality, and nutrient cycling in an Alaskan treeline community. *Oecologia (Berlin)* 94:472-479.

Molvar, E.M., 1992. Risky foraging in Alaskan moose and its effects on ecosystem processes. Master's Thesis, Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks, 115 pp.

Technical Publications

- Molvar, E.M. 2015. [Sage grouse conservation efforts and population trends: A Wyoming case study](#). WildEarth Guardians, 17 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 2015. [The shrinking geography of sage grouse conservation](#). WildEarth Guardians, 17 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 2015. [Adobe Town Briefing Book](#). WildEarth Guardians, 24 pp.
- Molvar, E.M., and M. Mueller. 2014. [Too little and too late](#): Inadequateregulatory mechanisms and the plight of the Gunnison sage grouse. WildEarth Guardians, 47 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 2009. A Bighorn Basin community alternative for responsible public land management, for the revision of the BLM Cody, Grass Creek, and Worland Resource Management Plans. Laramie, WY: Biodiversity Conservation Alliance et al., 182 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 2008. [Wind power in Wyoming: Doing it smart from the start](#). Laramie, WY: Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, 56 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 2003. [Drilling smarter: Using directional drilling to reduce oil and gas impacts in the Intermountain West](#). Laramie, WY: Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, 32 pp.
- Biodiversity Conservation Alliance. 2003. [The Western Heritage Alternative](#): A sustainable vision for the public lands and Resources of the Great Divide, managed by the Rawlins Field Office of the BLM. Laramie, WY: Biodiversity Conservation Alliance et al., 145 pp.
- Biodiversity Conservation Alliance. 2002. Keep the Medicine Bow Wild: An ecosystem management alternative for the Medicine Bow National Forest Plan revision. Laramie, WY: Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, 179 pp.

Books

- Molvar, E., and J. Nessel, eds. *50 Years of American Wilderness*. 50th Anniversary National Wilderness Planning Team, 100 pp.
- Molvar, E.M., ed. 2010. *Wyoming's Red Desert: A Photographic Journey*. Laguna Beach, CA: Laguna Wilderness Press, 96 pp.
- Molvar, E.M., and T. Martin. 2005. *Best Easy Day Hikes Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks*. Helena, MT: FalconGuides, 104 pp.
- Molvar, E.M., , 2001. *Hiking Colorado's Maroon Bells --Snowmass Wilderness*. Helena, MT: Falcon Publishing, 275 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 2001. *Wild Wyoming*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press. 325 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 1999. *Hiking Wyoming's Cloud Peak Wilderness*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 297 pp.

- Molvar, E.M. 1998. *Hiking the North Cascades*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 345 pp.
- Molvar, E.M., 1998. *Best Easy Day Hikes: Glacier and Waterton*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press. 92 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 1998. *Best Easy Day Hikes: North Cascades*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 1998. 112 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 1998. *Best Easy Day Hikes: Olympic National Park*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press. 120 pp.
- Molvar, E.M., and T. Martin. 1997. *Hiking Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 1997, 245 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 1996. *Alaska on Foot: Wilderness Techniques for the Far North*. Woodstock, VT: The Countryman Press, 223 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 1995. *Hiking Olympic National Park*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 225 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 1995. *Hiking Arizona's Cactus Country*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 264 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 1996. *Scenic Driving Alaska and the Yukon*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 296 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 1994. *Hiking Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 296 pp.
- Molvar, E.M. 1992. *Hiking Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 189 pp.

Contributing Author

- Molvar, E.M. 2016. Requiem for a desert elk. Pp. 80-88 in *Blood, Fire, Wind, and Stone: An Anthology of Wyoming Writers*. Lori Howe, ed. San Diego, CA: Sastrugi Press.
- Molvar, E.M. 2012. Will drilling spell the end of a quintessential American landscape? Pp. 184-187 in *Energy: Overdevelopment and the Delusion of Endless Growth*, Tom Butler and George Wuerthner, eds. Sausalito, CA: Post Carbon Institute.
- Molvar, E.M. 2012. Wyoming's mysterious range. Pp. 44-49 in *The Wild Wyoming Range*, Ron Chilcote, ed. Laguna Wilderness Press.
- Molvar, E.M. 2006. The Red Desert. Pp. 70-75 in *Wind River Wilderness*, Ron Chilcote, ed. Laguna Beach, CA: Laguna Wilderness Press.

Articles

- Molvar, E.M. 2014. A diversity of American wilderness. Pp. 62-67 in *50 Years of American Wilderness*.
- Molvar, E.M. 2013. [The allure of the Red Desert](#). Open Window Review.

Molvar, E.M. 2012. [Wind, sand, and a journey through time](#). Open Window Review.

Molvar, E.M. 2007. Wyoming's Red Desert: A last frontier. Matter 7: 70-79.

Molvar, E.M. 2004. Adobe Town: Remote, rugged, and untouched - but for how long? Trail and Timberline 983: 20-25.