



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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Enforcing, Prosecuting and
Defending Environmental and
Natural Resources Laws, Federal
Agency Programs and Actions

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POSITIONS & APPLICATIONS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS

An attorney who is an active member of the bar of any U.S. jurisdiction and has at least one year post-J.D. legal or other relevant experience is eligible to apply for an experienced attorney position.

HONORS PROGRAM FOR ENTRY-LEVEL ATTORNEYS

The Attorney General's Honors Graduate Program is Justice's competitive, centralized recruitment program that is the only way for new attorneys (i.e., third-year law students and students who enter judicial clerkships, graduate law programs, or qualifying fellowships within nine months of law school graduation) to enter Justice in an attorney position.

VOLUNTEER LEGAL INTERN OPPORTUNITIES

Justice selects many volunteer interns each year. These positions are uncompensated but are highly sought after because of the responsibility and experience they offer.

HOW TO APPLY

Application materials and requirements vary by position. To view current vacancy listings within the Division, visit the following website and select the program to which you would like to apply:

http://www.justice.gov/enrd/ENRD_Employment.html

For further Justice Department opportunities visit:

<http://www.justice.gov/careers/legal/>

EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE DIVISION

The Department of Justice is an Equal Opportunity/Reasonable Accommodation Employer. All candidates must pass a security background check and drug screening prior to appointment. For any questions, please contact the Office of Human Resources at (202) 616-3144 or write us at:

**United States Department of Justice
Environment & Natural Resources Division
Office of Human Resources
PO Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611**



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compacts and other issues in Supreme Court original actions in coordination with the Office of the Solicitor General. The Section’s clients include virtually every major federal executive branch agency.

WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES

The Wildlife and Marine Resources Section handles civil cases brought under federal wildlife laws and laws concerning the protection of wildlife and marine resources. The Section’s work is primarily defensive; the Section represents a wide array of federal agencies in courts across the country when they are sued under any of these laws, including the ESA, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Typical cases in the Section involve the defense of listing and critical habitat decisions under the ESA, land use plans, fisheries regulations, the operation of federal facilities such as dams and fish hatcheries, wild horse gather decisions, and military readiness activities. Many of these cases, particularly those brought under the ESA, involve the interplay between the needs of protected species and competing interests and uses for habitat and natural resources.



A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL



Every American deserves access to clean air, water and land as well as freedom from the harmful effects of pollution and toxic waste. To that end, the Environment and Natural Resources Division is dedicated to enforcing the Nation’s civil and criminal environmental and natural resources laws. We also represent the United States in court in matters concerning the stewardship of our public lands and natural resources and litigate cases concerning tribal rights and resources.

The Environment and Natural Resources Division is a core litigating component of the U.S. Department of Justice. Founded more than a century ago, it has built a distinguished record of legal excellence. The Division currently is organized into nine litigating sections (Appellate; Environmental Crimes; Environmental Defense; Environmental Enforcement; Indian Resources; Land Acquisition; Law and Policy; Natural Resources; and Wildlife and Marine Resources), and an Executive Office that provides administrative support.

Our work furthers the Department of Justice’s strategic goals to prevent crime and enforce federal laws, defend the interests of the United States, promote national security, and ensure the fair administration of justice at the federal, state, local and tribal levels. Most importantly, the Division’s efforts result in significant public health and other direct benefits to the American people through the reduction of pollution across the Nation and the protection of important natural resources.

The Environment and Natural Resources Division also has been ranked first for three straight years among all agency subcomponents as the Best Place to Work in the Federal Government by the Partnership for Public Service. This is due in no small part to the varied, challenging, and important work that we do in the Division, but also to the collegiality, expertise, dedication and professionalism of the Division’s employees.

Ignacia S. Moreno
Assistant Attorney General



IN BRIEF

THE DIVISION

The Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) of the Department of Justice handles environmental and natural resources litigation on behalf of the United States.

WHY APPLY?

Impact - Make a difference! We are the largest environmental law firm in the country, and we work on issues of nationwide importance every day.

Challenging Experiences from Day One - New attorneys are given responsibility for their own cases, and most will have an opportunity to make court appearances within a few months of their arrival.

Growth - Learn something new. We offer professional development opportunities, including quality training programs in advocacy, federal practice, litigation, information technology and management.

Great People to Work With - Our employees come from diverse backgrounds but have a common goal - working in a collegial environment to ensure a healthy environment for our Nation.

Service to America - We are fortunate to live in one of the greatest countries in the world. Your service will help to ensure that American citizens enjoy a safe environment now and in the future.

Wonderful Benefits - Federal service offers many benefits.



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responsibilities include cases in virtually every United States district court of the Nation, its territories and possessions, the United States Court of Federal Claims, and in state courts. The subject matter involves federal land, resource and ecosystem management decisions challenged under a wide variety of federal environmental statutes and affecting more than a half-billion acres of lands managed by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture (totaling nearly one-quarter of the entire land mass of the United States) and an additional 300 million acres of subsurface mineral interests; vital national security programs involving military preparedness and border protection, nuclear materials management, and weapons system research; billions of dollars in constitutional claims of Fifth Amendment takings covering a broad spectrum of federal activities affecting private property; challenges brought by individual Native Americans and Indian tribes relating to the United States' trust responsibility; a panoply of cultural resource matters including cases related to historic buildings, repatriation of ancient human remains and salvage of shipwrecks; preserving federal water rights and prosecuting water rights adjudications; ensuring proper mineral royalty payments to the Treasury; and litigation involving offshore boundary disputes, interstate water



Attorney General Eric Holder announces the settlement of breach-of-trust lawsuits filed by more than 40 federally recognized American Indian tribes against the United States.



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United States to condemn under specific acts of Congress, ascertainment of the market value of property, and applicability of zoning and land use regulations. The work of the section is imperative to the ability of the federal government to function and serve the people. In addition, it offers a tremendous opportunity for those interested in classic complex civil litigation issues encompassing motions, depositions, settlement negotiations and significant jury trial work.

LAW & POLICY

The Law and Policy Section staff advises and assists the Assistant Attorney General on environmental legal and policy questions, particularly those that affect multiple Sections in the Division. Working with the Office of Legislative Affairs, it coordinates the Division's response to legislative proposals and congressional requests, prepares for appearances of Division witnesses before congressional committees, and drafts legislative proposals in connection with the Division's work. Other duties include responding to congressional and citizen correspondence and Freedom of Information Act requests, as well as serving as the Division's ethics officer and counselor, alternative dispute resolution counselor, and liaison with state and local governments. Attorneys in the Section coordinate the Division's amicus practice, handling many of these cases directly or together with Appellate, undertake other special litigation projects and coordinate the Division's involvement in international legal matters.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Section is responsible for a diverse and extensive docket of primarily defensive litigation involving more than 80 statutes, treaties and the Constitution. The Section's



MISSION

THE DIVISION'S MISSION IS TO:

- Enforce the Nation's environmental laws to ensure clean air, water and land for all Americans;
- Prosecute criminal cases under federal pollution and wildlife laws;
- Defend environmental and natural resources laws and federal agency programs and actions;
- Litigate cases under statutes providing for the management of public lands and natural and cultural resources;
- Litigate cases to protect the rights of Indians under treaties, acts of Congress, and Executive Orders, and defend the United States in claims brought by Indians;
- Prosecute eminent domain proceedings to acquire land on behalf of the United States for authorized public purposes;
- Conduct the Division's appellate litigation in federal circuit courts of appeals and state appellate tribunals, and assist the Office of the Solicitor General with appeals to the United States Supreme Court; and
- Advise the Attorney General, Congress, the Office of Management and Budget and the White House on matters of environmental and natural resources law.



HISTORY

The history of ENRD is rich and varied. ENRD began as the Public Lands Division in 1909, and was tasked with handling, on behalf of the United States, “[a]ll suits and proceedings concerning the enforcement of the Public Land law.” Thus, in its early years, the Division focused on cases regarding the management of the United States’ expansive holdings, dealing with suits involving mineral resource and land disputes, as well as claims impacting Indian tribes. To this day, the Division maintains exceptional expertise in these practice areas.



Just as the country has evolved, so too has the Division. During the New Deal era, ENRD saw its duties expand to include the acquisition of land for extensive federal projects such as reservoirs, hydroelectric dams, grazing districts, wetlands and irrigation. The Division’s purview expanded even further during the Second World War, when ENRD aided the military to acquire land for bases, training locations and research facilities. These new duties swelled the Division’s ranks and significantly increased the range of abilities of its attorneys.

During the 1960s and 1970s, ENRD began the essential work of protecting the nation’s environment and natural resources through a variety of environmental statutes and protections. In



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cleanup. The Superfund law is also a basis of the Section’s actions to recover damages for injury to natural resources that are under the trusteeship of federal agencies.

INDIAN RESOURCES

The Indian Resources Section represents the United States in its trust capacity on behalf of Indian tribes and their members. These suits include establishing water rights, establishing and protecting hunting and fishing rights, collecting damages for trespass on Indian lands, and establishing reservation boundaries and rights to land. The Indian Resources Section also devotes approximately half of its efforts toward defending federal statutes, programs and decisions intended to benefit Indians and Tribes. The litigation is of vital interest to the Indians and helps to fulfill an important responsibility of the federal government.

LAND ACQUISITION

The Land Acquisition Section is responsible for acquiring land through condemnation proceedings, for use by the federal government for purposes ranging from establishing public parks to creating military training centers.

The Land Acquisition Section is also responsible for reviewing and approving title to lands acquired by direct purchase for the same purposes. The legal and factual issues involved are often complex and can include the power of the



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statutes as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, RCRA and CERCLA, the Lacey Act, and the ESA, among other statutes.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

The Environmental Defense Section (EDS) represents the United States in complex civil litigation arising under a broad range of environmental statutes. EDS is the only section in the Environment Division that routinely handles cases in both federal circuit and district courts. EDS defends rules issued by EPA and other agencies under the pollution control laws, brings enforcement actions against those who destroy wetlands in violation of the Clean Water Act, and defends the United States against challenges to its cleanup and compliance actions at Superfund sites, federally-owned facilities and private sites.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

The Environmental Enforcement Section is one of the largest litigating sections in the Department and includes nearly one-half of the Division's lawyers. The Section is responsible for bringing civil judicial actions under most federal laws enacted to protect public health and the environment from the adverse effects of pollution, such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Oil Pollution Act, RCRA and CERCLA (the Superfund). The breadth of the Section's practice is extensive and challenging. It includes cases of national scope, such as cases against multiple members of an identified industry, to obtain broad compliance with the environmental laws. Through its enforcement of the Superfund law, the Section seeks to compel responsible parties either to clean up hazardous waste sites or to reimburse the United States for the cost of cleanup, thereby ensuring that they, and not the public, bear the burden of paying for



HISTORY

that time period, Congress passed the most sweeping environmental legislation in United States history, resulting in statutes such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as well as the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In conjunction with EPA and other federal agencies, ENRD has been intimately involved with the implementation, enforcement and defense of these laws. In the decades to follow, the Division has taken on these new responsibilities alongside its original duties relating to public lands and Indian tribes, resulting in an expansive and diverse legal practice.

Today the Division employs more than 400 attorneys in Washington, D.C. and around the country. As pressures on the nation's environment and natural resources present new and complex legal issues, these attorneys prove equal to the task, synthesizing long-established Justice Department positions with innovative new legal strategies to best represent the federal government. In short, ENRD attorneys represent the United States with utmost professionalism and boundless talent. What is more, they do so in a work environment that has been consistently named one of the best places to work in the federal government. Thus, ENRD is both a rewarding and enjoyable place to work.





LITIGATION

CLEAN WATER

The Division is responsible for litigating some of the most influential cases relating to the protection of water and waterways in the Nation’s history. As part of the multi-district litigation brought by the United States in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010, the Division entered a settlement with MOEX, one of the four defendants. Under the terms of the agreement, MOEX will pay \$70 million in civil penalties – the largest to date under the Clean Water Act – and \$20



million in supplemental environmental projects aimed at preserving habitat and resources critical to water quality. The Division has handled a range of cases that led to decisions determining what can be regulated as “waters of the United States” under the Act, several of which have resulted in significant Supreme Court decisions. More recently, the Division handled the earlier stages of litigation in Rapanos v. United States, 547 U.S. 715 (2006). In that fragmented decision, the Court established two alternative standards for determining what constitutes “waters of the United States.” Recent Division enforcement efforts have included a focus on bringing municipalities into compliance with the Clean Water Act through comprehensive settlements that require extensive improvements to the cities’ sewer collection and treatment systems to eliminate sewer overflows that pose a significant threat to the public and water quality, such as the recent settlement with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD), United States v. Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (E.D. Mo. 2011). Under the August 2011 settlement, MSD agreed to make improvements estimated to cost \$4.7 billion over 23 years, including



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APPELLATE

The Appellate Section’s work involves cases arising under the more than 200 statutes for which the Division has litigation responsibility. Section attorneys brief and argue appeals in all 13 federal circuit courts of appeals around the country, as well as in state courts of appeals and supreme courts. The Section handles appeals in all cases tried in the lower courts by any of the sections within the Division; it also oversees or handles directly appeals in cases within the Division’s jurisdiction that were tried in the lower courts by U.S. Attorneys Offices. The Section’s responsibility also includes handling petitions for review filed directly in the courts of appeals in environmental or natural resource cases involving the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Surface Transportation Board. The Section works closely with the Justice Department’s Office of the Solicitor General, making recommendations whether to appeal adverse district court decisions or to seek Supreme Court review of adverse appellate decisions. The Section writes draft briefs for the Solicitor General in Division cases before the Supreme Court.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

The Environmental Crimes Section is responsible for prosecuting individuals and corporations that have violated laws designed to protect the environment. It is at the forefront in changing corporate and public awareness to recognize that environmental violations are serious infractions that transgress basic interests and values. The Section works closely with criminal investigators for the EPA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fish and Wildlife Service in dealing with violations of such



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ardship of our public lands and natural resources. The Division's work on public lands issues encompasses topics ranging from production of energy and timber to national security issues. The Division also handles precedent-setting and significant cases arising under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). For example, in 2011, the Division successfully defended a lawsuit that challenged part of the Navy's relocation of Marine Corps troops from Okinawa, Japan to Guam, Guam Preservation Trust v. Gregory (D. Haw.), as well as a lawsuit related to changes in design for construction of the multi-billion dollar Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear Facility in New Mexico, Los Alamos Study Group v. U.S. Department of Energy (D.N.M.). In Barrio De Colores v. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, (S.D. Tex. 2010), an association of Latino residents in the City of Laredo, Texas, challenged the Customs and Border Patrol's (CBP) environmental assessment for removal of Carrizo cane with herbicides. In the settlement reached in that case, the CBP agreed to stop aerial spraying of the herbicide, limit a burn and herbicide method to certain sites, and provide public notice in local newspapers in both English and Spanish. Additionally, in 1976, the Supreme Court decided one of its first NEPA cases, Kleppe v. Sierra Club, 427 U.S. 390 (1976), which established that the role of a court is "to insure that the agency has taken a 'hard look' at environmental consequences" of an action. The Division handled Kleppe at the trial and lower appellate court levels as well as a series of other seminal cases, including Lujan v. National Wildlife Federation, 497 U.S. 871 (1990).



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a substantial commitment to an innovative green infrastructure program that also will further the Division's work to advance environmental justice.

CLEAN AIR

The Division has handled some of the most important cases ever litigated under the Clean Air Act and other laws designed to protect the quality of the Nation's air. The Division also has played a critical role in the development of the law governing the regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. In December 2010 and January 2011, in Coalition for Responsible Regulation v. EPA (D.C. Cir. No. 09-1322), and other related cases, the Division defeated multiple motions seeking to stay EPA's greenhouse gas endangerment finding, light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas rule, prevention of significant deterioration (PSD)/Title V "tailoring" rule, and rules governing the implementation of these regulations by the States, thus ensuring that the regulations were implemented as planned from the beginning of 2011. Since

then, the Division filed merits briefs defending each of these rules and, at the end of February 2012, presented two days of back-to-back arguments before the D.C. Circuit that secured a decision upholding EPA's efforts to



regulate in this area of vital concern. The Division also represented EPA in the D.C. Circuit and assisted the Solicitor General in the Supreme Court in Massachusetts v. EPA, 549 U.S. 497 (2007), the landmark case in which the Supreme Court confirmed EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases as "air pollutants" under the Act.



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The Division has improved the Nation's air quality by concluding a number of civil enforcement actions against industrial facilities. The settlement in United States v. LaFarge North America, Inc. (S.D. Ill. 2010), was the first company-wide settlement in the cement kiln enforcement initiative. The settlement reached with defendant LaFarge North America, the second-largest manufacturer of Portland cement in the country, requires the installation and implementation of control technologies at an expected cost of \$170 million to reduce emissions of NO_x by more than 9,000 tons per year and of SO₂ by more than 26,000 tons per year. In United States v. American Electric Power (S.D. Ohio 2007), a case involving claims relating to the Clean Air Act's new source review/PSD provisions, the Division garnered the largest environmental settlement in United States history. Under the terms of that settlement, defendant American Electric Power must install and operate over \$4.7 billion worth of air pollution controls, which will reduce air pollution by 813,000 tons from previous emission levels.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Division has played a significant role in the formation and practice of law surrounding the control of hazardous wastes. In the wake of public outcry over industrial pollution in communities around the country, the Division contributed to the development of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, and its subsequent enforcement. Throughout the decades since Superfund was



passed, the Division has enforced CERCLA. In the largest recovery of money for hazardous cleanup ever, debtor American Smelting and Refining Company, L.L.C. (ASARCO) paid \$1.79 billion pursuant to its confirmed bankruptcy reorganization in In re ASARCO,



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Tribe and the United States agreed to a historic settlement of the tribe's claims for \$380 million.



Flight 93 Memorial Design Plan

LAND ACQUISITION

Another original function set forth as part of the Division's mission is the acquisition of land for many vital United States government functions, including for military and national security purposes. Recently, the Land Acquisition Section brought suits to acquire land for the expansion of the National Defense University and Fort McNair. The Division also has initiated more than 400 eminent domain cases on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security to acquire permanent interests in privately-owned lands along the United States/Mexico border in order to meet a congressional mandate for fence construction. In the last few years, the Section has filed cases to acquire hundreds of thousands of acres of land for the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service to create and expand national parks and forests. These include Everglades National Park in Florida, the Flight 93 Memorial in Pennsylvania, and the Baca Ranch in New Mexico.

PUBLIC LANDS & NEPA

One of the Division's core responsibilities is the effective representation of the United States in matters concerning the stew-



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protect tribal treaty rights; and defend tribal jurisdiction. The Division continues to assert water rights claims for the benefit of federally recognized tribes and their members in 29 complex water rights adjudications in nearly every western state in the United States. Division attorneys are actively involved in implementing five landmark Indian water rights settlements approved by Congress in 2009 and 2010. The Division also litigates cases relating to treaty guarantees of tribal fishing rights, such as the United States v. Washington line of cases, protecting the treaty fishing rights of tribes that entered into “Stevens” treaties with the United States. The latest case in this line is United States v. Washington (W.D. Wash.), which involves 19 separate Indian tribes and numerous sub-proceedings concerning issues surrounding the fishing clause in the treaties. In 2007, the District Court ruled in favor of the tribes and the United States, finding that these treaties prevented the State of Washington from building or operating state-owned culverts that block fish passage.

The Division also defends claims brought by tribes. Under settlements reached in the spring of 2012, the United States will pay a total of more than \$1 billion to 41 tribes in compensation of the tribes’ claims regarding the government’s management of trust funds and non-monetary trust resources. And in October 2011, the Osage



Federal officials and Tribal leaders commemorate the final settlement of historic trust accounting and trust management claims.



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L.L.C. (S.D. Tex. 2009). The Division, in cooperation and collaboration with 19 States, completed four years of litigation when the bankruptcy court ultimately confirmed the final plan of reorganization. The Division also handled such pioneering cases as United States v. Occidental Chemical Corporation (W.D.N.Y. 1980), commonly referred to as Love Canal, in which the court found a chemical company liable for the pollution of a residential area in Niagara Falls, New York, where more than 700 residents were forced from their homes due to toxic chemicals polluting a nearby waterway. The pol-



luting chemicals were linked to severe health problems in the community, including cancers, nervous disorders and birth defects. These ENRD cases help to form the basis for the law surrounding toxic waste cleanup under CERCLA and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

In addition to the civil actions, ENRD has engaged in vigorous criminal prosecution of environmental laws, including those relating to oil and hazardous wastes. Under the auspices of the Vessel Pollution Initiative, in 2011 guilty pleas were entered in ten cases involving deliberate violations by vessel operators and crew members. These companies and individuals were sentenced to pay a total of \$12.4 million in fines and to serve a total of six months of incarceration. In the groundbreaking case of United States v. Elias (D. Idaho 2000), Division attorneys successfully prosecuted an Idaho



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fertilizer company owner who repeatedly ignored RCRA requirements while cleaning a storage tank used during a cyanide leaching process. One of the defendant's employees suffered irreversible brain damage as a result of the incident, despite his repeated requests for safety equipment and complaints concerning fumes. The defendant received 17 years in prison—the longest prison sentence in United States environmental criminal history.

WILDLIFE

The Division frequently litigates cases relating to fish, wildlife and plants, often involving violations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Lacey Act. Division prosecutors have brought to justice many organized criminal syndicates involved in international wildlife smuggling—an industry that in 2012 was estimated to generate \$10 billion annually. A significant recent example was “Operation Central,” in which many defendants in several districts were prosecuted for smuggling items made from endangered sea turtles to the United States from Mexico and China, after a long-term undercover investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Corporations that “take” protected species by not employing best practices in operating their facilities or vessels are also frequent defendants in Division cases. On the civil side, ENRD attorneys defended



the Fish and Wildlife Service's actions under the ESA to facilitate the recovery of the Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf, a species once decimated by hunting, in Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Salazar (D. Mont. 2011). The Division



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also successfully defended the Fish and Wildlife Service's listing of the polar bear as a threatened species under the ESA in In re Polar Bear Endangered Species Act Listing (D.D.C. 2011). Similarly, the Division has defended the National Marine Fisheries Service's actions to manage ocean commercial fishing under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, including measures designed to end overfishing of a variety of fish species. Finally, the Division worked closely with the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies to draft and negotiate a global settlement regarding the fish, water and hydro-power resources of the Klamath River Basin in Oregon and California. These efforts led to two far-reaching agreements—the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and the Klamath Hydropower Settlement Agreement—that were signed in February 2010 and are now awaiting implementing legislation.



INDIAN AFFAIRS

One of the original components of the Division's mission is to handle cases relating to Indian tribes and Native issues. The Division litigates a variety of Indian law cases, ranging from defense of tribal land held in trust by the federal government, to protecting tribal treaty rights, to litigating water rights for the benefit of tribes. The Division's Indian Resources Section litigates to protect almost 60 million acres of land and accompanying natural resources that the United States holds in trust for Indian tribes and their members. The Section acts to protect tribal rights and resources; defend the constitutionality of federal statutes enacted to benefit tribes; defend agency action; assert water rights claims for the benefit of tribes;