



Job Announcement

Government Affairs Director

About Western Resource Advocates

Founded in 1989, Western Resource Advocates (WRA) is dedicated to protecting the West's land, air, and water to ensure that vibrant communities exist in balance with nature. We use law, science, and economics to craft innovative solutions to the most pressing conservation issues in the region within three core program areas: Clean Energy, Healthy Rivers and Western Lands.

In the face of population growth and climate change, the Western United States needs a strong and effective advocacy voice at the regional level to address changes that are already underway and to steer the West towards a sustainable future. WRA has aggressive plans to tackle these challenges. We envision a future in the West where:

- Western rivers and lakes will have abundant clean water to support habitat for fish and wildlife, communities and agriculture, and world class recreational opportunities. The Colorado River will flow to the sea;
- Our homes, buildings and transportation systems will be powered by clean energy. The West will prosper in a zero-carbon economy;
- Half of western landscapes and habitat will be protected and connected to support thriving wildlife populations and unparalleled opportunities to enjoy the West's natural beauty; and
- The West will have clean air and clean water to support healthy communities and vital habitat.

Position Summary

WRA is seeking a Government Affairs Director that is passionate about Western communities and the protection of the natural environment to build and lead our legislative advocacy efforts. This new, senior-level, position provides a unique opportunity to apply a background in government affairs to develop focused strategies capable of driving conservation solutions throughout the region. Reporting to the Vice President of Programs and Strategy, the Government Affairs Director will collaborate with diverse partners to identify emerging threats, leverage opportunities, and advance policy solutions. The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated strategic thinker who is excited to embrace the challenges and opportunities inherent in a new venture.

Location

The position can be based in one of WRA's offices in Boulder, Carson City, Salt Lake City, Santa Fe, *or remotely* in any Intermountain West state with easy access to a major airport as travel (30%) is required.

Job Responsibilities

- Develop, oversee and implement WRA's public policy advocacy efforts with local, state, and federal elected officials;
- Work closely with WRA Program Directors and the VP of Programs and Strategy to develop targeted advocacy strategies, public policy positions, and negotiation tactics;
- Recruit and manage a team of state-based government affairs contractors throughout the region;
- Build relationships with key decision-makers from both political parties, including Governors and state legislators, and serve as a liaison between them and WRA staff;
- Identify and manage effective coalitions of diverse partners in the region to achieve results;
- Coordinate with WRA's Communications Team and consultants to execute public relations initiatives;
- Recruit and organize WRA partners to advance strategic communications with decision-makers;
- Monitor and track relevant state and federal policies;
- In coordination with Program Staff, read and analyze the potential impact of proposed legislation;
- Serve as a member of WRA's Senior Leadership Team and participate in organizational strategic planning;
- Work with WRA's President and Development Team to build and maintain relationships with philanthropic partners, draft grant proposals and complete reports to funders;

- Develop and manage program budget;
- Travel to WRA's states as necessary (30%); and
- Update, engage and collaborate with WRA's Board of Directors.

Job Qualifications

- A bachelor's degree in political science, environmental policy or related field, or equivalent relevant work experience, JD is a plus;
- At least 7-years of experience in a government affairs capacity for an elected official, government agency, private entity and/or nonprofit advocacy organization is required;
- A minimum of 2-years of experience managing staff and/or consultants in multiple locations;
- Understanding of current natural resource management trends and politics in the region, especially as they relate to electricity regulation, lands management, air quality, and water quality and quantity;
- Established relationships with key decision-makers in the region, especially Governors and state legislators;
- Proven track record of securing measurable policy results by working with diverse stakeholders;
- Experience building work plans and leading campaigns to achieve ambitious strategic, organizational, and policy objectives;
- Fundraising or philanthropic experience preferred. A commitment to actively work with our President and Development Team is required;
- Demonstrated ability to apply communication skills to persuade, influence, or lead others on complex subjects;
- Intellectual curiosity; an innovative and entrepreneurial drive; comfort with change and ambiguity; and a strong bias toward action;
- Strong organizational skills, with attention to detail and follow-through;
- Creativity, patience, and a sense of humor;
- Genuine passion for the mission and work of WRA;
- Excellent written and presentation skills; and
- Willingness to travel: 30%.

Salary and Benefits

Competitive salary based on relative experience. WRA's excellent benefits package includes health, dental and vision coverage, a 401(k) retirement plan, life & disability insurance, 3-week paid vacation leave, and for staff based in Boulder/Denver area an RTD EcoPass. Position is full-time exempt.

How to Apply

Email the following in PDF format to Richard Trilsch, Vice President of Finance and Administration, at hring@westernresources.org with "Government Affairs Director" in the subject line:

- Compelling cover letter explaining how your qualifications match the needs of the position and your interest in WRA;
- Resume;
- Complete salary history and salary request; and
- Three references with contact information and a brief description of your relationship. (WRA will not contact references without first checking with the applicant.)

Please be sure to mention in your cover letter where you saw the job advertised.

Deadline to Apply: August 8, 2017

Western Resource Advocates is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, marital status, amnesty, or veteran status.

www.westernresourceadvocates.org