



## William Myers III

Partner

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**Bill Myers provides seasoned and effective representation to clients in energy, natural resources, and public land law.**

### PRACTICES

Environmental and Natural Resources  
 American Indian Law  
 Environmental Compliance and Enforcement  
 Environmental and Natural Resources Litigation  
 NEPA, Public Lands, and Cultural Resources  
 Endangered Species and Wildlife Regulation  
 Government Affairs

### EDUCATION

University of Denver, J.D., 1981  
*Denver Law Journal* and *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*, Member  
 College of William and Mary, B.A., 1977

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Wyoming  
 District of Columbia  
 Colorado  
 Idaho

### COURT ADMISSIONS

Various U.S. Courts of Appeals and District Courts  
 United States Supreme Court

He draws from a depth of experience including his service as the Solicitor of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

As Solicitor, Bill was the chief legal officer and third-ranking official in the Department. He supervised an office of more than 300 attorneys in 19 locations nationwide. He advised the Secretary and other officials on appellate and trial matters as well as policy and administrative issues. He also worked closely with the Department of Justice and other federal agencies. Interior's jurisdiction covers approximately 20 percent of nation's surface estate and a significant amount of the nation's minerals.

Bill also served as Deputy General Counsel for Programs at the U.S. Department of Energy. He directed the work of agency attorneys in the areas of international energy, civilian nuclear energy, DOE contracts, and regulatory intervention. Prior to DOE, he served as an Assistant to the Attorney General in the United States Department of Justice. Bill began his tenure in Washington, D.C. as legislative counsel to U.S. Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming, specializing in energy and natural resources issues. Prior to that, he practiced law in Wyoming.

Bill frequently publishes and speaks on issues related to energy, natural resources, and public lands.

### EXPERIENCE

- Public Lands
- Environmental Compliance and Permitting
- Endangered Species and Other Protected Wildlife
- Government Affairs
- Indian Affairs

### CLIENT RESULTS

#### Federal Court Litigation

Lead counsel to western Governor litigating BLM and Forest Service land use plan amendments in multiple states.

Lead counsel for farm bureaus defending Presidential proclamations under the Antiquities Act.

Lead counsel for State Legislature in Congressional Review Act litigation.

Lead counsel for multiple farmers challenging USDA plant quarantine regulations.

Counsel for natural gas pipeline company's litigation over \$3.5 billion project in two circuit courts of appeals including successful opposition to five emergency motions to stay construction.

Counsel for natural gas pipeline company's \$450 million looping project in the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals.

Lead counsel in federal district court litigation against the United States Forest Service over failure to abide by the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Lead counsel in federal district court and court of appeals litigation against the Forest Service regarding NEPA violations related to bighorn sheep management.

Local counsel to the states of Wyoming and Colorado engaged in multiple animal species litigation in federal district court. Species include sage-grouse, grizzly bears, and pygmy rabbits.

Lead counsel defending corporate permittee in administrative litigation in the Department of the Interior.

Lead counsel for multiple ranchers in litigation against the United States arising from the Federal Tort Claims Act and Quiet Title Act associated with Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs projects.

### **Public Lands and Permitting**

Assisted wind energy companies with BLM and FWS permitting in four states for construction of utility-scale wind energy and solar facilities and related transmission lines.

Helped pipeline clients obtain FERC, BLM, Forest Service, ACHP, FWS, DOD, and other federal permits for construction of brownfield and greenfield projects in six states.

Negotiated Forest Service and National Park Service permit renewals for Wyoming and Idaho outfitters and guides.

Representation of numerous ranches and ranching trade associations in grazing permit matters on BLM and Forest Service lands.

Representation of state highway department in exchange of lands with National Park Service to simultaneously allow highway improvements and improve federal/state recreational facilities.

Permitting and environmental compliance counsel for phosphate mines.

### **Regulatory and Legislative Affairs**

Lead counsel for State Legislature.

Testified before the House Natural Resource Committee on the legality of the Administration's Wild Lands proposals.

Advised state legislators from Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming on gray wolf recovery and de-listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Assisted outfitters with compliance with state and federal permitting requirements related to operation of lodge facilities and guided hunting and fishing.

Testified before the Idaho House and Senate committees on natural resources regarding sage-grouse litigation and the ESA listing process.

Navigated Congressional action in response to species plan amendments spanning ten western states.

### **Indian Affairs**

Represented solar energy developer on siting and negotiating \$400 million facility on tribal lands.

Negotiated renewal of more than 800 miles of natural gas and oil pipeline rights of way across tribal lands.

Advised pipeline client on compliance with Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Litigating pipeline renewal on allotted lands before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals and in federal district court.

### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

"Antiquities Act Litigation," *Keynote Speaker, University of Arizona Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center*, Phoenix, AZ, April 2019

"This Land is ... Whose Land? Conflicts in Federal Land Management and Why They Matter," *panelist, Federal Bar Association Tri-State Seminar & University of Utah College of Law Lecture*, Park City and Salt Lake City, UT, September 2018

"Federal, State, or Private? A Discussion of Public Lands," *Practicing Real Estate Law in Idaho's Expanding Economy, Idaho State Bar Real Property Section*, February 2018

"Stockwater Rights," *Idaho Cattle Association Annual Meeting*, Sun Valley, ID, November 2017

"Solicitors' Panel," *Idaho Law Review Symposium*, Boise, ID, March 2017

"What Can We Expect from the Trump Administration?," *Idaho Environmental Forum 2017 Legislative Forecast, Panelist*, Boise, ID, January 2017

"Federalism 101," *Panel Discussion, Council of State Governments National Conference*, Williamsburg, Virginia, December 2016

"Idaho Open Range Law," *Idaho Cattle Association Annual Meeting*, Sun Valley, Idaho, November 2016

"Cooperative and Uncooperative Federalism," *Council of State Governments – West Annual Meeting*, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, September 2016

"Environmental Law," *Federal District Court Bench/Bar Program, Session Moderator*, Boise, Idaho, October 2015

"Sage-Grouse, Siting, & Strategies," *American Wind Energy Project Siting Seminar*, Austin, TX, March 2015

"Separation Anxiety – Trends in Cumulative Impact Analysis," *Southern Gas Association Conference*, San Antonio, TX, February 2015

"Pipeline Projects: From Certification to Acquisition," *Panelist, American Law Institute Webinar CLE*, January 2015

## RECOGNITION

- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Natural Resources & Environment, 2006-2019
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year, Environmental Law – Boise, 2016
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Environmental - Boise, 2013, 2017, 2020
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Environmental Law, Litigation – Environmental, 2007-2020
- Mountain States Super Lawyers®, Energy & Resources, 2008-2019
- *Idaho Business Review*, Leaders in Law, Award Recipient
- Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent® rating, 2009-present
- *Who's Who in America, in the West, and in American Law* (variously from 1995 to present)

## PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- *Idaho Statesman* Editorial Board, Member
- Governor's Sage Grouse Task Force, Appointed Member
- Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Idaho State Bar Trustee
- Federal Lands Task Force Working Group (chartered by Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners), Former Chairman
- American Bar Association Committee on Public Lands, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, Former Vice Chairman
- Volunteer Patroller, National Ski Patrol