

## **Brittany Fallon** **Policy Manager, Western Lands**



Brittany Fallon, Ph.D., is the policy manager for Western Resource Advocates (WRA), where she oversees Western lands policy initiatives across the organization's seven-state region. Her work focuses on protecting wildlands and watersheds from development, as well as pursuing expanded funding so that Western states can continue to protect and restore important landscapes for both humans and wildlife.

Some of Fallon's key policy areas include leading efforts to secure a dedicated conservation fund in New Mexico to acquire land and conservation easements, manage natural and cultural resources, and enhance equitable access to outdoor recreation. She is also involved in establishing a process for protecting outstanding waters in

Nevada and supports WRA's work on renewable energy siting in Colorado, ensuring development remains in areas that make environmental sense and protects habitat.

Fallon grew up in a commercial fishing family, spending lots of time outside on the ocean and growing an appreciation of the natural world. In college, after enrolling in a primate behavior course, she thought she found her calling studying chimpanzees. But after entering her career as a primatologist at the University of New Mexico, she quickly pivoted to working on policy that combats climate change and protects the natural world after witnessing firsthand wild chimpanzees becoming further endangered from loss of habitat due to development. She wanted to be part of the solution – to sweat the details – and she has.

Prior to WRA, Fallon led state policy and legislative efforts for Sierra Club and New Mexico Wild, where she helped negotiate and pass state legislation on clean energy, lands, water, wildlife, and the regulation of oil and gas. Over the years, she has found her niche in protecting habitat from development.

Fallon was part of the landmark Energy Transition Act, New Mexico's renewable portfolio standard law, that committed the state to 100% clean energy. She was also the lead advocate on a bill to end the proposed diversion of the Gila River and helped secure the state of New Mexico's purchase of the L Bar Ranch to protect its cultural and spiritual significance for the Tribes and Pueblos, as well as critical habitat and game species. Once the transfer is complete, it will be one of the largest wildlife management areas in the country. And she led advocacy efforts for New Mexico's historic investment of the American Rescue Plan Act, which resulted in \$45.3 million of federal funding for state conservation programs.

Fallon is most looking forward to the ability to scale her impact to protect lands across the West. She believes in taking a holistic, regional approach to protecting the environment – one that acknowledges that habitat and wildlife don't adhere to state lines.

Fallon received a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Anthropology and Linguistics from the College of William and Mary, and went on to complete a Master of Science in Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. She also received a joint Doctor of Philosophy in Cognitive Psychology and Biology from the University of St. Andrews and the University of Neuchatel in Switzerland.

Fallon lives in Albuquerque with her partner and chocolate lab. In her free time, she loves to cook and bake, kayak and raft New Mexico's rivers, and spend lots of time with friends and family. She is a proud public landowner.

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