

James Quirk Senior Communications Manager



James Quirk is a communications professional and former journalist with more than 20 years of experience in the public service, nonprofit, and financial sectors.

A commitment to public service has defined much of Quirk's career, and he views working in the conservation field as a deeply meaningful way to use his skills to make a positive difference in the fight against climate change and the extinction crisis. Though he lived in New Jersey for much of his life, he quickly fell in love with the West when he relocated to Oregon in 2019, and looks to dedicate his work toward preserving the wide-open beauty of the region for his children and generations to come. This led Quirk to join Western Resource Advocates as the senior communications manager in 2022.

Quirk focuses on the organization's clean energy teams and their work on policies that will accelerate decarbonization of the electricity sector, promote the efficient use of clean energy, and support increased transportation electrification across the Interior West. He works across multiple coalitions to elevate the expertise and policy goals of WRA to the right audiences, media outlets, decision makers and partners.

Quirk previously served as deputy director of communications for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, where he helped lead proactive media outreach campaigns and response, particularly for the department's Environmental Justice Program. He also worked to improve the accessibility, functionality, and reach of the department's website.

Prior to that role, Quirk worked as a senior media specialist for the Center for Biological Diversity's endangered species and carnivore conservation programs. There he helped raise public awareness on a broad array of the Center's work, from successfully restoring federal protections to the gray wolf to defending efforts to weaken the nation's keystone environmental laws like the National Environmental Policy Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Quirk also spent four years with Bloomberg as a global data analyst at the company's Princeton, N.J. campus. There he worked as a member of the News Automation team, which used cutting-edge technology to extract market-moving data from publicly-traded companies around the globe. He also worked for more than a decade as an award-winning journalist for several publications, including *The Asbury Park Press*, *The Bergen Record*, *Asset-Backed Alert* and *Debtwire*. He reported on a myriad of topics, such as crime, the environment, local and state politics, education, and finance.

At the *Press*, Quirk's reporting shed light on why an oil facility within a Superfund site was allowed to remain in operation, and how its uncontrolled runoff continued to affect the groundwater of the Englishtown Aquifer, a critical water supply for more than 1.5 million people. And at *Debtwire*, Quirk created The Student Loan Report, a weekly publication that examined the student loan bond market and underlying weaknesses in their collateral caused by an increasing swath of borrowers who could no longer afford to make payments on their loans.

Quirk received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications/Journalism from Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J. He resides in Colorado with his wife, two daughters and three cats. He is a multi-instrumentalist who enjoys home recording, audio engineering and collaborating with musicians across a variety of genres. A poet and avid reader, Quirk constantly seeks to learn new skills and absorb the wisdom of others. He is also a lifelong enthusiast and collector of roleplaying games such as Dungeons & Dragons.

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