

Nick Schou Government Affairs Manager



Nick Schou is the government affairs manager for Utah at Western Resource Advocates (WRA). He works with WRA program staff to advance innovative legislative and administrative policy solutions critical to addressing the state's most pressing conservation challenges.

Schou is advancing WRA policy priorities by building consensus and collaboration with government entities, including the legislature and state agencies, and through coalition building with other stakeholders.

A native of Utah, the outdoors is a huge part of Schou's identity. He grew up enjoying the state's wide variety of wilderness areas and a deep desire to protect these resources was forged early in his life. Before joining WRA in 2019, Schou had more than a decade of experience in environmental work,

including serving as Conservation Director for the Utah Rivers Council where he led policy initiatives, created strategy, drafted legislation, spearheaded lobbying efforts at the Utah Legislature, and coordinated large conservation campaigns.

He also worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in remote river canyons to restore endangered fish populations, as part of the Colorado River Fish Recovery Program. It was this work that helped Schou recognize that while everyone has a part to play in protecting the West's most vibrant ecosystems, it was policy interventions that would ultimately play the biggest role in securing our environmental treasures. What the West needed was a sustainable framework for long-term solutions that work for communities, businesses, Indigenous peoples, and the environment, alike.

Schou's dedication and nimble approach to addressing the climate crisis has yielded several advantageous results. In addition to blocking legislation that would have had detrimental impacts on Utah's natural resources, including punitive measures for electric vehicle adoption, he has been instrumental in the creation of beneficial new policies. Schou played a critical role in changing how Utah accounts for and prices water use, helping to ensure that more users are conserving the West's ever-dwindling supply of water. He also helped to pass legislation implementing the state's first ever turf buy-back program and earmarked hundreds of millions of dollars for secondary water metering on untreated irrigation water, the implementation of which reduces outdoor water use by 40%.

A father of two, Schou lives in Utah with his wife and children. In his free time, he enjoys outdoor pursuits like skiing, river rafting, mountain biking, hunting, and fishing. He's also an avid gardener, and plays multiple instruments. Schou also volunteers at his neighborhood community garden and with local hunting and angling groups.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Westminster College and a Master of Science in Environmental Humanities from the University of Utah.

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