

Travelled with the senator throughout the state, coordinating his official work during his re-election campaign.

Regional Director for Senator Jon Tester and Natural Resource Policy Advisor
1/07 – 1/12

Directed regional office for the Senator and was lead staffer in the state for conservation, natural resources and alternative energy. Served as project manager for the Forest, Jobs and Recreation Act, a place-based collaborative bill that would designate nearly 700,000 acres of wilderness, create recreation areas and mandate forest restoration and timber harvest. The bill garnered overwhelming support in state; public opinion polls showed percentage of support in the 70s, breaking a decades-long log jam in wilderness politics. Advised the senator on other key issues including wolf delisting, HR 1505 (the borderlands “protection” bill), attacks on clean air and sportsmen’s issues.

Executive Director, Clark Fork Coalition, Missoula, MT
8/99 – 1/07

Conceived of and managed a successful and bi-partisan campaign to remove the dam at the confluence of Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers, despite a difficult political climate. Co-directed a campaign with Montana Trout Unlimited that rejected a ballot measure that would have overturned the state’s cyanide heap leach mining ban. Clean water took 58 percent of the vote, even though our campaign was outspent 7 to 1. Created a partnership with two conservation donors in order to purchase and manage a ranch in the upper Clark Fork in a Superfund site. Launched an effort bringing together ranchers, economic development specialists, teachers and citizens to use the pending Superfund cleanup as a springboard to economic and cultural revitalization.

Doubled the budget and staff of the modest organization. Launched successful capital campaign to purchase an office building.

Founding Editor, Headwaters News
10/98 – 8/99

Conceived, raised two years of start up funds, and launched Headwaters News, later called Mountain West News, an online source of news housed at the Center for the Rocky Mountain West.

Senior Fellow, Ecotrust, Portland, OR
1/97 – 9/98

Led the strategy of a community-based economic development and conservation program at the mouth of the Columbia River and directed the program from an Astoria-based field office. In a key project, helped a salmon hatchery launch a watershed restoration effort that shifted the hatchery’s focus away from producing fish to revitalizing fish habitat. Recruited, hired and trained my local replacement.