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Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Project (KS-Wild)

I worked with Brenna Bell, a Lewis & Clark alumnus, at the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS-Wild) here in Portland this summer. It was just her and I in a small office on a floor of non-profit organizations. It was a great atmosphere, with all of these groups working on projects they really believed in, not just what would make them the most money. Most of Brenna's work involves litigating cases with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), whose planned timber sales and restoration projects often raise legal issues. I volunteered with Brenna during the school year also so I was familiar with the issues she was working on.

I had a great experience working with her, putting to use my newly acquired legal writing and research skills and learning the 'ins and outs' of tricky environmental legislation. I know it will help me out as I start this year's environmental classes. My day to day activities involved a lot of research to resolve legal questions and writing short memos showing what I had found to help Brenna write her litigation memos and responses. The largest project I worked on was research and a memo on the Oregon and California Lands Act and what its true legislative intent was. Through my research, we found that the statute has been misinterpreted by both the BLM and the courts, making it a boon for the timber industry, in that it encourages the agency and the courts to approve timber sales. The statute was really meant as a conservation measure, to combat the razing of forests in southwestern Oregon in the early 1900s. Environmental groups are seeking to litigate this issue in the near future, so my research may provide a basis for their claims.

Thank you KS-Wild and PILP for providing me with the opportunity to work within the non-profit world, where I hope to spend my career after graduation. I would recommend (and already have) this program to any law student interested in working for a non-profit.

