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# TRAILBLAZERS

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

### ANDREW SPIELMAN

WILMERHALE

**PIONEER SPIRIT** Andy Spielman was intent on becoming a natural resources lawyer, but he found some luck along the way. "It's always been part of my DNA. I have a tremendous sense of place and questions about how we are using resources." He was in state, local and federal policy jobs before law school, including a stint with the Philadelphia Park District and eight years at the EPA, dealing with resource management. "Then I moved to Colorado to become a natural resources lawyer, as I saw the Rockies as one of the hubs for this kind of work."

**TRAILS BLAZED** As part of his work with natural resources, Spielman helped clients conceptualize, design and implement an effort to conserve more than 1.5 million acres, which is more than twice the size of Rhode Island, in Nevada last year. "Two companies involved in livestock cattle and mining voluntarily committed to conservation measures that would affect dozens of species in exchange for just the possibility of conservation credits. Usually, these situations involve quid pro quo, but these companies wanted to plan for future generations with only potential regulatory benefits. This represents the resources management tool I'm probably most optimistic about. It's not a traditional carrot and stick approach." Spielman is also highly involved in protecting U.S. energy independence. "I've helped clients permit three gigawatts of wind energy across the United States. And there's nothing simple about it." He works with the commercial recreation business and represents "most of the ski areas in the country on public lands."

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** How we decide how resources drive our lifestyle is getting harder by the math. "The population is growing, but resources are finite. I'm interested in collaborative, smarter decision-making to better conserve and use resources at the same time."

