

Arizona Daily Star

Sr. Reporter: Tucson-based center rebuts claims on attorneys' fees

Tim Steller | Posted: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 10:30 am

Before I wrote yesterday's blog item about environmental groups winning taxpayer "subsidies" in the form of attorneys' fees, the Center for Biological Diversity had engaged the debate. On Nov. 11, they sent a legal slap-down letter to Karen Budd-Falen, the attorney who originally raised the concept that environmental groups are unfairly milking the government through the Equal Access to Justice Act.

In the letter (attached to this item as a pdf) the center said Budd-Falen's estimates of the money that eight environmental groups were winning in attorneys' fees were exaggerated.

"The Center for Biological Diversity had not received 'billions' in recovered attorney fees from the government, as a simple search of our federal tax returns clearly reflects. Nor have we received in combination with the other seven organizations 'billions' of recovered fees."

The letter says her claims are defamatory and demands a new publication correcting Budd-Falen's original press release on the topic. In a letter responding to the center (also attached as pdf) Budd-Falen denies that what she said is defamatory and asks for more disclosure from the center.

You can see Budd-Falen's writing on the topic at the Western Legacy Alliance Web page.