

Photo by Mark Pearson

Gunnison River, Black Canyon of Gunnison National Park, Colorado

Transmountain Diversion Threatens Gunnison River

by Steve Glazer, *RMC Water and Aquatic Resources Committee Chair*

With the defeat of the Union Park Project, many may think that the threat of a Front Range diversion from the Gunnison River Basin has been eliminated. The Supreme Court decision affirming that there is insufficient water available for a new appropriation has only changed the strategy of the water and real estate developers in Arapahoe, Douglas and El Paso counties. Instead of trying to get a water right, they are now asking the Bureau of Reclamation to contract for water out of Blue Mesa Reservoir.

In the 1950s, Reclamation did an economic justification assessment for Blue Mesa Reservoir. At that time, they estimated that the project was still feasible if there were 300,000 acre-feet (af) of future depletions in the Gunnison River Basin. Reclamation has recently negotiated a "subordination" for 60,000 af of in-basin depletions. This leaves 240,000 af of marketable yield.

There are some recent new obligations in the Gunnison basin that must be considered before Reclamation can sell any of its stored water. The recovery of endangered

fish in the Gunnison River is one of the federal obligations that needs to be considered. Another major factor is the recent filing by the Park Service to quantify its water rights to protect the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. These two issues are each very complex but could use up the marketable yield if given precedent over the Front Range proposal.

Under the Endangered Species Act, depletions are considered "jeopardy" to the continued existence of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. The prudent and reasonable alternative to jeopardy is to replace the depletions. Reclamation can use releases from storage in Blue Mesa to meet the downstream needs to recover endangered species and to allow historic and a modest amount of future uses to continue. As part of the Recovery Program, Reclamation is doing a study of historic and future uses for water in the Gunnison basin to determine how much water is available for release to recover the fish. Front Range water providers are asking Reclamation to include the 240,000 af marketable yield as part of this water demand study.

Earlier this year, the Park Service filed to have its water rights for the Black Canyon quantified. The Park Service is asking for flows that mimic the natural flows before Blue Mesa Dam was built. This would require more water being released in the spring and less water being released in the summer, fall and winter. To accomplish this, water would have to come from storage in the spring, reducing the amount of the marketable yield.

Big time power politics are at play here. Will the Bureau of Reclamation be allowed to meet its downstream obligations or will the Front Range water interests prevail in getting their way at the expense of environmental needs and protecting the historic agriculture responsible for the pastoral beauty of the Western Slope? The answer is in the hands of our Secretary of Interior, Gale Norton, and the Colorado water courts.

SOUTH PLATTE WATER QUALITY *Wave of the Future?*

by Kirk Cunningham, *RMC Water Quality Chair*

I'm encouraged when a bureaucrat testifying about water quality issues before a state commission tells the truth so well that I didn't need to testify at all. Dick Parachini, the Colorado Water Quality Control Division's South Platte watershed coordinator, described the impacts of mankind on the South Platte River in October. His remarks, summarized below, portend increasing, growth-related water quality problems in the South Platte and other river basins.

In the Upper South Platte basin (headwaters in South Park to the Strontia Springs Reservoir SW of Denver) the major problems are abandoned mine discharges, water supply development by Front Range cities in South Park, and sediment run-off.

- * Abandoned mine impacts (chronic acid and toxic metal pollution) are difficult and expensive to repair—little money is available.
- * Water supply development will remove at least some agricultural productivity from South Park to supply water for suburban growth.
- * Sediment run-off from Off Road Vehicle roads and trails in the Rampart Range and from soils burnt in the Buffalo Creek fire reduce fish habitat and reservoir storage capacity.

In the Middle South Platte basin (Strontia Springs to the confluence with the Cache La Poudre River), the principal problems are nutrient pollution in important recreational reservoirs, sediment load from existing highways, proposed highway expansions and from dam releases, pollution impacts to ground and surface water from failing septic systems in the foothills, and protecting the quality of drinking water supplies.

- * Cherry Creek Reservoir is an excellent example of a popular

reservoir becoming algae dominated by nitrogen and phosphorous releases in rapidly-developing Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, some from failing septic systems. Bear Creek and Chatfield Reservoirs have similar but, so far, less severe problems.

- * Highway run-off dumps thousands of tons of traction gravel, salt and oil into the South Platte river system. Highway expansion will increase pollution, despite expensive mitigation measures.
- * Dams store sediment which is released periodically in a slug, resulting in massive fish kills.
- * Drinking water quality for cities like Thornton is compromised because some is withdrawn downstream of sewage and storm water outfalls.

Finally, in the lower South Platte river basin (Cache La Poudre confluence to the Colorado border), issues are: fouling of agricultural ditches and impoundments by nutrient pollutants and pathogens, and increasing salt build-up in soil and ground water.

- * Agricultural irrigators, historically indifferent to water quality issues, now find that they suffer decreases in crop yields from nutrients and health threats to farm workers from pathogens in municipal discharges, which also have a high salt content than stream water.
- * Salt builds up in soils during irrigation, permanently reducing soil productivity and crop yield.

It is apparent that a more careful (and more expensive) use of water is not the sole answer to these problems. A growing population will progressively endanger water quality regardless. It's one of the costs of growth that we should more carefully consider.

New Chapter At-Large Ex-Com Members

Ramon Ajero • Greg Casini • Todd Chamberlin • Kathy Glatz

We had six fine candidates run for four seats on the executive committee. The real winner is the Rocky Mountain Chapter. Congratulations and best wishes to all who chose to serve in this manner!

Legislature Fails On Growth Again

by Tony Massaro
Colorado Conservation Voters Executive Director



The special session was supposed to deal effectively with the growth issue in Colorado. The legislature took a few 'baby steps' forward on land use planning, dispute resolution and annexation, while taking a major step backwards on the impact fee issue. None of these bills will curb Colorado's sprawl, ease its traffic congestion, slow the loss of open space, or protect Coloradans' quality of life. On balance, the Legislature's time and taxpayers' dollars would have been better spent elsewhere. The legislature once

again failed to listen to their constituents and did not pass meaningful legislation that would have made land use planning substantive, binding and mandatory for all counties. Legislators have a lot of work ahead of them in January if they want to make a difference on growth.

The Legislature's best ideas did not survive the special session. Both HB 1032 (Rep. Smith) and SB 04 (Sen. Perlmutter, Rep. Smith) would have required master plans be enforceable and address environmental quality, land use designations, transportation, and water. HB 1009 (Rep. Vigil) would have granted all local governments full impact fee authority, including authority to use impact fees to pay for new schools. HB 1008 (Rep. Daniel) would have required some cities and counties to plan for open space. HB 1033 (Rep. Madden, Sen. Fitz-Gerald) would have increased funding for non-highway transit projects. And, both SB 10 (Sen. Tate, Rep. Romanoff) and HB 1018 (Rep. Boyd) had provisions to promote affordable housing.

The Colorado Conservation Voters Action Fund (CCVAF) rated each member's performance for the special session and the regular session of the legislature. The Environmental Scorecard is available on the web at www.lcv.org/scorecards/Colorado for you to review your legislator's performance in 2001. CCVAF is the environmental community's political action committee and focuses on electing pro-environment candidates to the state legislature. You may contact CCVAF at ColoradoConservationVoters.att.net or 303-333-7846.

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for Feb./March 2002 issue

Monday,

December 24, 2001

E-mail submissions, as MS Word or Wordperfect **attachments** (*send info. as an attached document, rather than including it in body of e-mail*), & **photos** to accompany articles as **.tif** attachment if possible (.jpg or .bmp OK), 150 dpi, to

editor@rmc.sierraclub.org or send to chapter office.

Articles:

500 words or LESS

Letters to the Editor:

200 words or LESS

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Send an e-mail message to listserv@lists.sierraclub.org. In the body of the message, put the command

SUBSCRIBE listname yourname

Example: Subscribe RMC-CONS-COMM Jane Doe

The example above would subscribe Jane Doe to the Rocky Mountain Chapter conservation committee discussion list.

After you send in your subscription request, you'll get a message back asking you to confirm your e-mail subscription message (this is to discourage spammers who subscribe to lists solely to harvest addresses). Merely respond to that message with the word OK, and you're on the list.

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Greg Casini
RMC Chair

Reaffirming Our Values

We have all been profoundly affected by the events of September 11th. For the immediate future, our greatest

priority is to care for those who have suffered losses, to protect people from further harm, and to begin to recover and heal after our national tragedy.

While much has changed, the core values that define us as Americans have not changed. Nor has the mission of the Sierra Club changed. In fact, now is the time for these values to emerge stronger than ever. It is more important now than before that all Americans unite around one of our nation's most important, most unifying values—our love of this land, and our commitment to protect America's environment for our families and our future.

Protecting our air, land and water is a critical part of protecting our country. As policy makers take up Colorado's environmental agenda, we will continue to be vigorous, forceful and effective advocates for environmental protection. Strengthening environmental protections keeps our communities and families safe and healthy.

Our natural environment should be a source of pride and healing from recent

events. Our wild forests and our local parks are places to rejuvenate and draw inspiration. The Red Cross has urged Americans to get outdoors and appreciate nature in order to help. They urge people to "Sit under a tree, look at a brook, lake, river or ocean." We must encourage people to defend those natural areas that they care about.

The people expect that everyone, and in particular our elected leaders, will set aside narrow, partisan agendas while we deal with this crisis. We are committed to doing our part. We will conduct our policy advocacy in a fashion and in a tone that helps unite Coloradans around our common environmental values and that reflects our tradition of vigorous, but civil democratic debate.

We understand and are aware that others are trying to take advantage of the crisis to advance their agendas. We do not believe that the people of Colorado will respond positively to any effort, from any direction, to take advantage of this crisis. We will speak out forcefully and firmly when we see anyone try to take advantage of this crisis to profit at the expense of our environmental legacy.

We must recommit ourselves to our values, our policies and our vision, and provide the kind of environmental leadership that Colorado continues to need. Now is our opportunity to express what we stand for in support of and in defense of 'America the Beautiful', its forests, its wetlands, its wilderness, as well as human rights throughout the world.

What's Happening at the Chapter Office



Susan LeFever
RMC Director

We are very pleased to announce the promotion of Libby Tart from Administrative Assistant to Chapter Coordinator. If you have had any contact with the Sierra Club's Denver office in the last two years, you have probably met or spoken to Libby. She started with us as an intern, working on volunteer development. She was an organizer in Colorado Springs for the Amendment 24 campaign, and worked on outreach for Transit Alliance all around the state. And recently Libby gave an important boost to the volunteers starting up our new Singles Committee.

A Sierra Club member for five years, Libby is originally from Mississippi and spent time in Georgia and North Carolina. She is about to complete a Masters in Public Affairs from the University of Colorado at Denver. In addition to organizing events like the annual auction, Libby plans to spend time with group and volunteer development projects. We are very lucky to have someone with her skills and positive outlook.

Another graduate student from CU Denver, Dan Disner, has been working as a legislative intern since September. Dan is a native Coloradan, with a keen understanding of public policy related to land use and the environment. With Dan's help, we were able to remain sane during the 8-ring circus that was the special session of the legislature. For his next trick, Dan will help to organize a series of legislative workshops that bring activists together with their local representatives.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to organize the November political fundraiser, and the Holiday Party on December 2nd!

P.S. – The Chapter office will close for the holidays for Christmas week. We'll be back on January 2. Happy holidays and Happy 2002 to you and your families!

JOIN THE CLUB FOR HOLIDAY FUN!

December 2, the Sierra Club will be holding our annual Holiday Party at Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) in Denver. This fun event features a dessert potluck, annual awards, and a great chance to meet other Sierrans. This year, we are introducing a cookie-decorating contest for both kids and adults!

The Chapter Awards Committee will be announcing this year's volunteer, professional and community winners of Sierra Club Awards. Bring a dessert to share and we'll provide beverages.

The event is FREE, but please RSVP to 303-861-8819.

4 - 7pm, at EMS 870 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver

BE A PART OF OUR CHAPTER'S SUCCESS

TRAINING COORDINATORS The National Sierra Club is coming to Colorado next year to train Sierra Club members to lead successful outings. We need a few people to coordinate with the national Club, find a location, publicize the event and handle logistics. National will provide trainers and materials. This event will improve the quality of Sierra Club Outings, and train new leaders. For more information, contact Pat Berman at outings@rmc.sierraclub.org.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS The Colorado Legislature meets from January through May, and typically considers dozens of bills affecting our environment. During the session, the Chapter Legislative Committee meets two evenings each month to take positions on bills related to transportation, growth, recycling, hazardous wastes, and environmental justice. The committee also organizes training for volunteers who would like to influence their representatives on environmental issues. If you have a background in communication, policy or the legislative process, and would like to participate, call Susan LeFever at 303-861-8819, or susan.lefever@rmc.sierraclub.org.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS Do you want a nice easy task without too much responsibility? Do you have available time weekdays between 9-5? The Chapter office sends out large mailings about every six weeks, and we could use your help. It's a fun and easy way to help us reach out to members and the public about important environmental issues. Or, if you'd like a more regular schedule, you can help with front office and reception on a weekly basis. Since it's sometimes hard to park downtown, public transit is your best bet. Call Libby Tart at 303-861-8819, or ltart@rmc.sierraclub.org.



Oh, say can you see...?

For the past five years, the Endangered Species Act, and the many species it seeks to protect, has been under attack by politicians backed by a powerful coalition of timber, grazing and mining interests as well as real estate developers. The Bald Eagle is a success story — won't you join the Sierra Club, and add your voice to the many thousands who want to ensure that our nation's unique natural heritage is protected?

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag

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Home/Office Stores Taking Stands on Logging Public Lands

by Scott Hatfield, *RMC Forest Issues Co-Chair*

Since logging companies won't listen to environmentalists but will listen to their own customers, significant pressure is being brought upon wood product end user markets to reform the industry and end commercial logging on public lands.

Building and lumber suppliers have been especially targeted. After extended national protests, Home Depot announced that they would not purchase wood from endangered forests. Shortly thereafter, Lowes decided to make a similar commitment. The movement hopes to raise the bar to no wood from public lands and is asking for public pressure. This fall, Golden State Lumber pledged to phase out wood from endangered forests by 2004 and encouraged its suppliers, customers, and competitors to meet similar environmental standards. These companies are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) independent certified suppliers.

Given the domino effect of this trend, the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) has come up with a bogus Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification to compete with FSC. FSC is third party, independent, monitors chain of custody, uses performance based forest management and conservation practices that include key environmental protections, labor standards, indigenous people's interests and more. SFI fails; to protect old growth, to provide clear protection for endangered species, to control large scale clear-cutting, and more. FSC, SFI, and Home Depot recently commissioned the Meridian Institute to compare the two programs and found them to be fundamentally different. Major items include heavy influence over SFI by the AF&PA and the wood products industry and the failure of SFI to include many of the FSC's forest management and conservation standards. Meridian notes that SFI often assumes that environmental and social concerns are met by existing laws and that SFI lacks a consistent chain of custody system to ensure that labeled products actually come from certified forests. Environmentalists have decried SFI as timber industry greenwashing while conservationists are included in FSC.

Other current campaigns include a National Staples Day of Action on November 13th, which followed over 200 previous nation-wide actions. Staples is currently doing a feasibility study to decide if it can meet the demand to phase out products from U.S. public lands. Approximately one third of all USFS timber goes directly into pulp and paper manufacturing. Staples is the largest and fastest growing office supply store in the world. Please voice your support for them phasing out products made from U.S. public land logging, to Staples' CEO Ron Sargent, at (508) 258-2667.

Nationwide, the 'Tree Free Campus Campaign' kicked off October 25th. Students at many campuses are outraged by Boise Cascade's destruction to forests, and are demanding that they get off campus and not supply paper or wood products to their universities. Students and administrators are starting to respond to this multi-faceted campaign. The University of North Carolina has switched to a 100% post consumer recycled paper supplier. Maine College of the Atlantic also included a provision for an environmentally sound wood procurement policy. Indiana University announced a new policy prohibiting purchase of products derived from old growth forests. Off-campus, activists declared October 18th as 'Umpqua Bank Withdrawal Day' to send a message to board members and directors to stop their heavy roles in logging companies. People everywhere are demanding *no public lands paper, pulp, or wood products*, and positive changes are happening.

GAO FINDS COSTS OF FOREST SERVICE'S LOGGING PROGRAM "IMPRACTICAL, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE" TO DETERMINE

by Georgian Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D) and California Rep. George Miller (D) [Oct. 24, 2001]



The Bush Administration recently put federal agencies on notice: instead of business as usual, the bottom-line would be a top priority. A memo by the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs asserted its prerogative of reviewing new federal regulations and actions by carefully weighing the cost against the benefits. A General Accounting Office (GAO) report released October 22 suggests that the commercial logging program of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is a perfect candidate for a thorough review of its costs and benefits, to the taxpayer and the environment.

Conservationists have long criticized the Forest Service for its ecological mismanagement of 191 million acres of National Forests. As Members of Congress responsible for ensuring that federal tax dollars are spent wisely, we requested last year that the GAO prepare a report detailing the budgetary impact of the USFS timber sale program. After a year and half of investigation, we received an answer: the GAO concluded that it was "impractical, if not impossible, for us or anyone to accurately determine the Forest Service's timber sales program cost."

After discovering that the USFS used accounting practices that distorted program cost data, the GAO had to abandon a bottom-line analysis and focus its audit on the size and scope of the agency's ineptitude at accounting. As Members of Congress charged with the oversight of federal agency actions, we found the conclusions in the GAO report deeply disturbing. The GAO described accounting practices that would be unheard of in private industry. One practice, known as "retroactive redistribution" enabled the Forest Service to conceal the actual amount of money spent on the timber sale program by charging program costs to another program, such as recreation.

Another practice the GAO discovered was known as "charged as budgeted." This allowed staff time to be charged to a program based on the amount of time that an employee was budgeted to that program, regardless of the actual time spent working on that program. Again, costs of the timber sale program could be hidden by charging employee time to another account. The GAO noted that these practices prevent the USFS from providing accurate and reliable cost information.

Why would a public agency fail to fully and accurately disclose its use of taxpayer money? Perhaps it is because the truth would be too shocking. By the Forest Service's own admission—and even with its shoddy accounting—the agency lost \$126 million as a result of logging our national forests in 1998. Delivered as subsidies to timber companies, the program generated \$546 million but cost \$672 million to operate. Past GAO reports have estimated that losses from this program are actually much higher than USFS reports—approximately \$2 billion between 1992 and 1997.

Despite, or perhaps because of, this alarming report from the GAO, the Forest Service has decided to terminate the Timber Sales Program Information Reporting System, the only public disclosure of the logging program's costs. The USFS justified this decision by noting that these reports have only been produced because of directives of Congress, and have never been legally mandated. They also admitted that the information they have produced is known to be inaccurate. The agency further claims the timber harvest has dwindled, making the accounting program less important. But in actuality, logging has been ramped up in the name of restoration making it as important as ever to have accurate accounting and reporting.

While the Bush Administration's new emphasis on evaluating the costs and benefits of federal actions is fraught with potential pitfalls for the environment, it might just be what the Forest Service needs to clean up its act. To date, any objective analysis of the timber program has shown that the costs far outweigh the benefits. Even the agency's own fuzzy math leads to this conclusion.

We believe it is time to end the Forest Service's commercial logging program and make better use of taxpayer money by restoring National Forests. There are immeasurable benefits of intact forest ecosystems that filter pollution out of our water, prevent flooding, provide wildlife habitat and a place for us to play and find a little peace of mind. The elimination of taxpayer funded industrial-type forest management would save taxpayers money by avoiding the cost of mitigating for the environmental damage caused by commercial logging. Whether we are measuring the value of functioning forest ecosystems now or in the future, the only type of wise forest management is to leave something behind.

— Above press release copy courtesy Matthew Koehler, *Native Forest Network*
P.O. Box 8251, Missoula, MT 59807, <http://www.nativeforest.org>, (406) 542-7343

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MANY THANKS TO ALL MAILING PARTY VOLUNTEERS!

Many THANKS to all those who have helped with *Peak & Prairie* mailing parties over the years. I have thoroughly enjoyed pulling them together. As a project with a beginning and end, they were a fun and somewhat social relief from the long term issues that we as Sierra Clubbers get involved with. Due to our almost 20,000 members in the Chapter, we are having a mail house do the mailings now. Please contact the Chapter Office, 303-861-8819, to help with other mailings.

Thanks to those who helped with our MONSTER mailing in September where we stuffed the ballots for executive committee elections: Robert Berg, Linda Berteau, Paul Berteau, Marlene Buck, Rob Egemeier, Billy Funk, JoLynn Jarboe, Karen Knirsch, Marge Leight, Rita Levine, Angela Medbery, Kristi Moriarty, MaryAnne Munson, Calude Neumann, Diane Neumann, Brianna Neumann, Dave Nichol, Joan Poston, Donna Rabbitt, Wendy Roech, Jamie Rudoff, Alison Shapiro, Art Smith, Diane Uren, Bryan VanBraken, Randy Will, and Jan Zinkl.

— Angela Medbery

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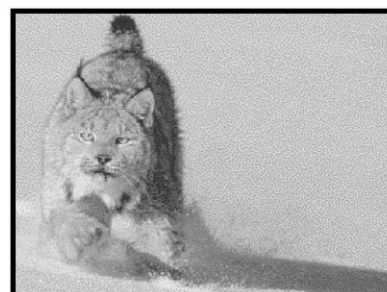
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— Mike Smith,
RMC Wildlife Chair

GROUP NEWS

by Roger J. Wendell, *RMC Secretary* ~ edited by Susan LeFever, *RMC Director*

Sierra Club Group Reports

There are 13 local Sierra Club Groups in Colorado, involved in a range of activities from conservation to outings to election action. Here are some highlights from a recent meeting of the Chapter Executive Committee.

Gay and Lesbian Section

GLS is growing in membership, with folks from as far away as Nebraska and Wyoming. They are providing members with training in CPR and map and compass use to make their outings program even better! All Sierra Club members are welcome to join them on their outings.

Enos Mills Group

EMG's October 16th general meeting featured Rick Gilliam, of the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies talking about almost everything you wanted to know about today's energy situation. At a recent strategic planning session, the group made three issues a priority:

- 1) Transportation and Growth;
- 2) Public Lands; and 3) Lifestyles.

High Plains Group

This just in! The ever-vigilant High Plains Group is working hard on the development of its "Prairie Dogs are Cool Catz!" outreach program for children. Eager volunteers were seen lining up to participate, including one suspicious, furry character with buckteeth. When asked what he was helping with, he said he was "trying out for the mascot job." So there you have it, folks. It would seem that, indeed, Prairie Dogs are Cool Catz!, and you can be too! Visit the HPG website for volunteer details www.rmc.sierraclub.org/hpg/

HPG members have participated in public hearings, protests, relocations, and letter writing campaigns to save prairie dogs along Parker Road and various development sites within Aurora City limits.



Black-tailed prairie dog eating grass

Indian Peaks Group

IPG has held two successful events recently: a yard sale in September and a fundraiser at the Redfish restaurant.

They have devised a survey to learn better what local members see as the most important priorities.

They have endorsed City Council and ballot initiative endorsements, and are in the process of printing palm cards for candidate leafleting efforts.

They are seeking new members of the executive committee.

Mount Evans Group

The MEG is very active on the issue of paving the road over Guanella Pass. They are opposing the paving, which will increase traffic and damage to habitat.

One member, Martha Mott, was recently given the Colorado Recycler of the Year award. MEG is currently attempting to raise sufficient funds to transport mixed glass from Evergreen to the Tri-R recycling center in Denver.

They are also helping to raise funds for the purchase of Brooks Ranch open space area.



Photos by Sandy Nervig (this page)

Pikes Peak dirt road

Pikes Peak Group

The Pike's Peak Highway has started to be paved—thanks to the local Sierra Club—and PPG has received favorable media attention for their efforts to prevent erosion, by paving this heavily used road.

The Group is now working on the Red Canyon Quarry, where owners want to expand into an area where there is Mexican spotted owl, an endangered species.

The PPG Singles group growing by leaps and bounds with their outings and events programs.

Poudre Canyon Group

PCG hosted the MountainFilm at Telluride—film festival in Fort Collins, their first show ever on the Front Range. Approximately 450 people attended and enjoyed the mix of Nature and culture-oriented short and long films.

Group members are very excited to participate in the PCG energy campaign, which has two goals:

- 1) To recruit hundreds of wind power subscribers, and
- 2) To encourage the local electric utility to provide incentives for conservation. In October, volunteers plan to call all 1,700 members to subscribe new wind power customers.

Prairie Dog Relocations from Fossil Creek Park to Meadow Springs Ranch are underway. Thanks to Sierra Club members Randy and Kathy Fischer, the City of Fort Collins has delayed fumigating over 100 prairie dogs. Through investigative work, the Fischers were able to convince City staff that viable receiving sites existed for the doomed dogs. Over 80 volunteers are monitoring live traps in a natural area that is destined to become an urban park.

Rachel Carson Group

RCG has been extremely active in issues relating to Rocky Flats, and sends a representative to the advisory board that sends management recommendations to the Department of Energy. They are seeking new activists for the Group executive committee.

Sangre De Cristo Group

Ann Cain reported in as the group's new Chair, with Ross Vincent as Conservation Chair.

South Platte Group

Dave Nikkel is the group's new chair, and led the effort to turnout the public to a GOCO hearing in Littleton. There was a good showing of folks who told the GOCO Board about the importance of protecting open space.

Prairie Dogs Still Under Attack

by Sandy Nervig, *Peak & Prairie Editor*

As I encounter one town after another—prairie dog towns slated for extermination (or rarely for relocation) to make way for development—and see how barren the isolation of being on urban and suburban lots has left them, I am outraged that most people stand by and let this horrendous slaughter of wildlife continue. You would think that the government as well as the citizens of this country *might* have learned some lessons from what havoc was wreaked upon the American

Indian and the Bison—destroying, or not much better, confining them to less desirable parcels of land which made existence and survival difficult. Yet the same thing is happening daily along the Front Range of Colorado to black-tailed prairie dogs! Right here in our own backyards—literally in many cases. Prairie dog colonies along with what is left of their ecosystems, continue to be killed off by the hundreds daily. The High Plains Group (Aurora/Parker) and Poudre Canyon Group (Fort Collins) are actively involved in saving prairie dogs, as well as educating the public about them and their unique place in the ecology of the High Plains (details under Group News to the left).

Black-tailed prairie dogs are a keystone species of the prairie ecosystem—between 150-200 species are dependent upon them for survival. **Warranted but Precluded** status: "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the black-tailed prairie dog meets all five biological criteria to be listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, yet has declined to formally protect the species. The black-tailed prairie dog should be listed under the Endangered Species Act. The protection of this one species would safeguard an entire ecosystem."

(From the Prairie Dog Coalition's brochure, www.prairiedogcoalition.org, 303-449-4422.)

Prairie dogs can either be trapped or flushed in order to relocate them to another area. Trapping is done with cat-sized traps which are baited with whole oats, sunflower seeds, corn-on-the-cob, and other prairie dog favorites. Flushing entails a big tank of soapy water and a truck, a couple of very long garden hoses, kennels, linens, and foaming down burrows so that the pdogs come out. The prairie dogs are put into kennels (the kind we use to transport our domestic cats, dogs, birds, etc.) that are filled with linens or hay.

Finally, they are put in their new homes, or burrows. Prairie dogs need to be kept in family and community groupings similar to those they originally had, to help insure their survival, as they are very socially-oriented animals. The most successful burrows for relocations being done now are created with a ditch-digger (approx. 18" wide x 4-5' deep trench), a ready-to-live-in burrow (box or biodegradable container), and some 4" drainage piping to run from the box up to be the burrow opening. The lucky pdogs are relocated to open space areas where there will at least be grasses and other vegetation for them to eat, and a more "natural" area for them to live in. It is truly a miracle to see them running about playing with abundant food!

For more information please contact me at ssnervig@home.com, 303-680-4635, or Jaime Rudoff, High Plains Group Chair, jaime@rudoff.com, 303-841-1753.



This prairie dog family and their colony were killed to make way for townhomes along Tower Road in SE Aurora.



Making A List? Checking It Twice?



Consider adding the Sierra Club to your gift list! Then send your gift check, made out to "Sierra Club," to the Rocky Mountain Chapter, 1410 Grant Street, Suite B303, Denver, CO 80203, and your full donation will be used locally.

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Defend Colorado's Public Wildlands



Photo by Bernie Boettcher/LightHawk

Deep Creek
~ May be protected

Deep Creek, an area currently under consideration for wilderness, flows from the Flat Tops about twenty miles north of Glenwood Springs to its confluence with the Colorado River near Dotsero. Along the way, it has carved an astounding canyon with sheer limestone walls, creating dozens of dramatic caves, and providing protected habitat for elk, bears, mountain lions, and many other forest creatures. Citizen activists, including Sierra Club members, are trying to improve a bill by Congressman Scott McInnis that would inadequately protect this remarkable place.

Proposals by the President and by some Members of Congress to open up public lands, including Colorado's national monuments, potential wilderness areas, and wilderness study areas, for oil drilling threaten the health and beauty of those rare places.

Contact your representatives in Congress, and let them know that you support new wilderness areas in Colorado. Remind them that:

- over 90% of federal Bureau of Land Management lands—are already available for oil and gas exploration and leasing;
- we can save more oil and gas by improving energy efficiency than we can produce by drilling in potential wilderness and other special places;
- Colorado's wild lands, in their natural state, have values worth protecting other than energy production.



See Colorado's representatives in Congress to the right.
(More contact information on page 2.)

- Representative Diana DeGette, First Congressional District (Denver)
- Representative Mark Udall, Second Congressional District (west Adams, Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, and north Jefferson counties)
- Representative Scott McInnis, Third Congressional District (west slope and Pueblo)
- Representative Bob Schaffer, Fourth Congressional District (eastern Colorado)
- Representative Joel Hefley, Fifth Congressional District (Colorado Springs)
- Representative Thomas Tancredo, Sixth Congressional District (south Denver suburbs)

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Wayne Allard
Senator Ben Campbell

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510



Photo by Bill Iker

James Peak
~ Partially protected

James Peak proposed wilderness is a high-elevation roadless area that straddles the continental divide and is characterized by several peaks, a remnant glacier and several permanent snowfields, numerous small lakes, and deep old growth forests. The area contains a mixture of Englemann spruce, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, Krummholz, sub-alpine and alpine meadows, willow and riparian areas, as well as several globally rare plant species. James Peak provides habitat for many wildlife species including the bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and black bear. It also contains potential habitat for several imperiled species including the Canadian lynx, wolverine, northern goshawk, and boreal toad. Thanks to the good work of Congressman Mark Udall, half of this sweeping high country will soon be designated Wilderness. The other half will enjoy some interim protection, but citizens must continue to insist that it, too, be designated.



Photo by Jeff Widen. Colorado Environmental Coalition

Dolores River Canyon
~ Threatened paradise

Dolores River Canyon, located in southwestern Colorado about five miles south of Paradox, is a pristine desert area that includes benchlands, mesa uplands and portions of five tributary canyons. The endangered peregrine falcon, which nests in Paradox, may hunt in the Canyon. Golden and bald eagles are also seen there. This area is currently threatened by energy development.

Black Ridge Canyons
~ Wilderness!

An area recently secured as wilderness, Black Ridge Canyons provides critical habitat for many species including desert bighorn, deer, mountain lions, golden and bald eagles, raptors, and four species of endangered fish. The deep, sheer-walled sandstone canyons of Black Ridge contain three major canyon systems, the second-largest concentration of natural arches in the Southwest, and perennial streams with rich riparian vegetation. After extensive negotiations, this diverse and colorful place was designated as Wilderness just last year.



Photo courtesy CEC



Photo by Mark Pearson

Vermillion Basin
~ Secluded, but not safe

Another area being considered for drilling is Moffat County's Vermillion Basin which includes a stunning desert canyon with sculpted sandstone layers surrounded by delicate, vividly colored badlands. The basin provides habitat for pronghorns, mule deer, golden and bald eagles, and game birds. It is also the home to one of the most spectacular collections of Petroglyphs in Colorado.

(See page 8 for details.)

Oil and Wilderness Don't Mix

Threatened Colorado lands include:
Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Colorado

A 164,000 acre area that contains the highest density of archeological sites in the U.S. and provides critical habitat to a wide variety of wildlife including golden eagles and the Mesa Verde night-snake. This area would only provide 3 hours of economically recoverable oil as a portion of total U.S. consumption.

HD Mountains Roadless Area, Colorado

This area, located in the San Juan National Forest, is home to some of the highest quality old-growth ponderosa pine in

Colorado. The area also includes the largest roadless stands of oak-brush and piñon-juniper forest in the San Juan.

We must protect these and other public lands from damage by energy policy or development and support quicker, cleaner, cheaper and safer energy choices such as increased fuel efficiency and increased use of renewable resources.

Citizens' Wilderness Proposal Area with Oil and Gas Leases

- Adobe Badlands
- Big Ridge
- Bitter Creek
- Cow Ridge

- Cross Canyon
- Demaree Canyon
- Dinosaur Additions
- Dolores River Canyon
- Dragon Canyon
- Grand Hogback
- Hunter Canyon
- Little Bookcliffs
- Mares Tail Canyon
- McKenna Peak
- Oil Spring Mountain
- Pinyon Ridge
- Prairie Canyon
- S Shale Ridge
- Sewemup Mesa
- Snaggletooth
- Thompson Creek
- Troublesome
- Roan Plateau
- Vermillion Basin

PROTECTING COLORADO'S WILDERNESS

by Steve Smith
and Grace Brooks,
Sierra Club Southwest
Regional Office,
303-449-5595

Some of the information on
pages 6-7 was provided by
the Colorado Environmental
Coalition (CEC) and
The Wilderness Society.

Aimee Cartier, Sierra Club Organizer for the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) campaign, points to statistics proving that GOCO land acquisition spending has been almost completely diverted to cover administration costs within the Division of Wildlife quadrants. The press conference was held on October 22 along the South Platte River corridor, a GOCO funded Legacy project. GOCO's Legacy projects are also suffering from reduced spending.



Photo by Mark Itkonen

Citizens' Wilderness Proposal

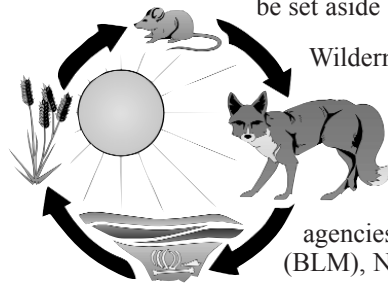


Photo courtesy Colorado Wilderness Network Website

Sewemup Mesa

~ A scenic secret

Sewemup Mesa is one of the most ecologically pristine areas in Western Colorado. The 1000 foot-high Wingate Sandstone cliffs that surround the majority of the Mesa isolate it from development and most human activity. Sewemup Mesa, lined by ponderosa pines, is an important wildlife sanctuary for many species including mountain lions, peregrine falcons, and bald eagles. The area has been identified as suitable habitat for Mexican spotted owl, southwest willow flycatcher, whooping crane and the western burrowing owl.

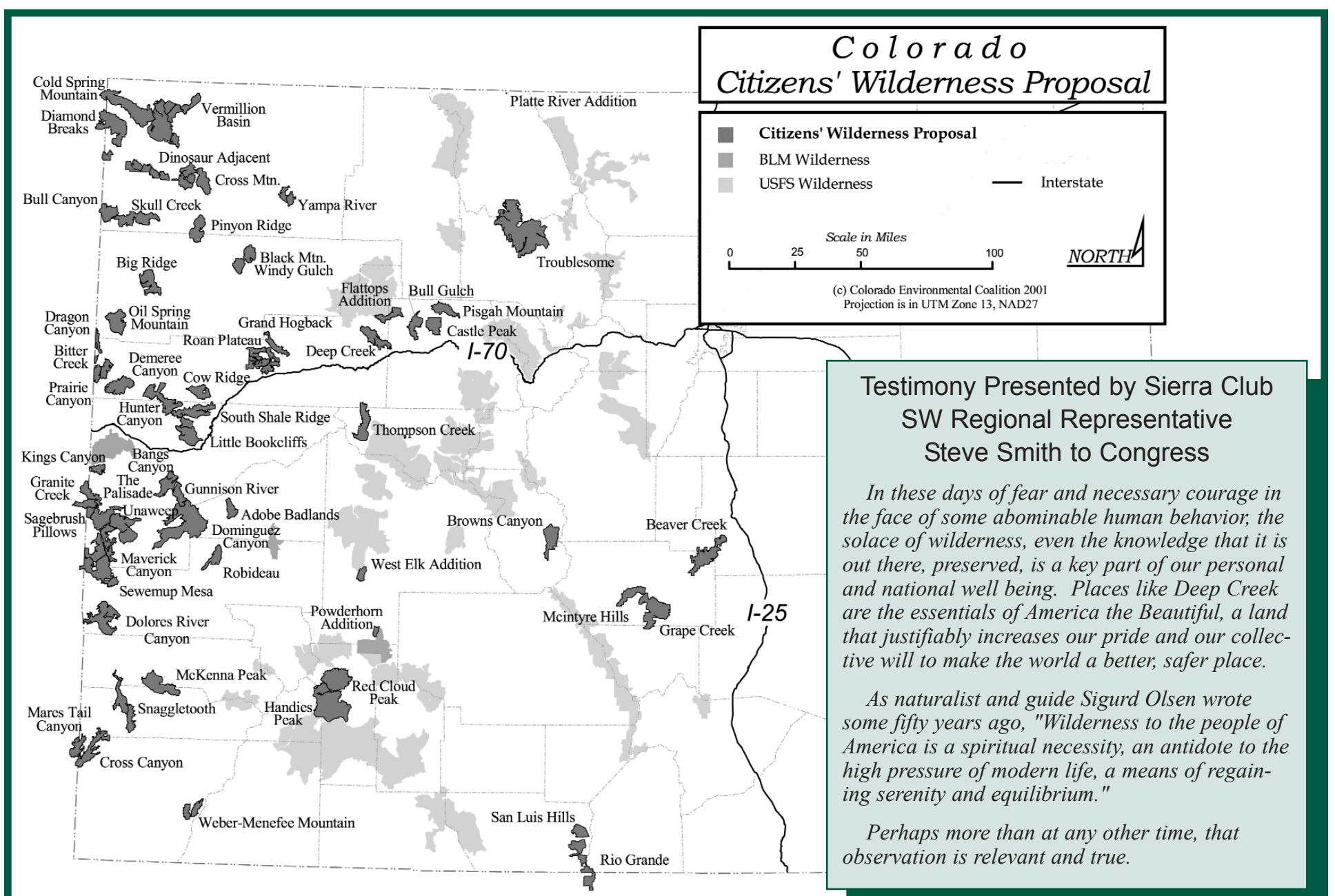


Wilderness is a land management designation that only the U.S. Congress can bestow upon public lands. It is the most protective land management designation, and it ensures that these lands will be managed as forever wild, preserving scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, and traditional uses such as hunting, fishing, and livestock grazing. Congress can designate wilderness on public lands managed by any of the federal land agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In order to be eligible for protection, the Wilderness Act requires that an area:

- (1) generally appear to have been effected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of mans work substantially unnoticeable
- (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation
- (3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition
- (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(Wilderness Act, Section 2(c))



Testimony Presented by Sierra Club SW Regional Representative Steve Smith to Congress

In these days of fear and necessary courage in the face of some abominable human behavior, the solace of wilderness, even the knowledge that it is out there, preserved, is a key part of our personal and national well being. Places like Deep Creek are the essentials of America the Beautiful, a land that justifiably increases our pride and our collective will to make the world a better, safer place.

As naturalist and guide Sigurd Olsen wrote some fifty years ago, "Wilderness to the people of America is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium."

Perhaps more than at any other time, that observation is relevant and true.

VERMILLION BASIN

In Colorado's wild canyon country, one can gaze across panoramic vistas of glowing redrock, discover hidden canyons, and walk for miles across wind swept plateaus of ancient piñons and gnarled junipers. Vermillion Basin, in the northwest corner of the state just north of Dinosaur National Monument, embodies this wild and rugged landscape—with its vividly colored badlands, rich archaeological history, and large number of rare plant species and communities.

Lookout Mountain and the adjacent Vermillion Bluffs rise in a dramatic 1,700-foot escarpment, gracing visitors with views encompassing much of northwest Colorado. Below, Vermillion Basin stretches out in a vast, undulating, rainbow-colored basin, transected by a stunning desert canyon that has cut through the sandstone layers, shaping and breaking the soft sediments. Vermillion Canyon is spectacular, with desert varnish, sculpted sandstone, and a steep crumbling cliff rising more than 1,000 feet.

Almost 90,000 acres in size, Vermillion is the second largest proposed Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness area in Colorado. It is a centerpiece of legislation introduced by Representatives Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Mark Udall (D-CO) to protect over 1.6 million acres of desert wilderness statewide.

Lands stretching to the north and east of Vermillion Basin have largely been leased for oil and gas development, and indeed driving along the Colorado/Wyoming border north of Vermillion one sees numerous drill pads where development has already occurred. However, except for its northeast corner, Vermillion Basin, as well as the adjacent Cold Spring Mountain proposed wilderness, is otherwise unleased and represents an oasis of wildness in a landscape otherwise slated for oil and gas development. Unfortunately, the industry wants to lease and drill Vermillion Basin too.

"Special places like Vermillion Basin should be protected as wilderness, not sacrificed for oil and gas development," says Claire McCullough, a Grand Junction resident, who participated in the BLM's wilderness review of Vermillion Basin. "The roads, pipelines, and drill pads associated with oil and gas development would irreversibly destroy the wild character of this spectacular landscape to the detriment of wildlife populations, backcountry enthusiasts, and the area's rich cultural heritage."

The BLM was scheduled to begin a public decision-making process to amend its management plan for Vermillion Basin this year. However, local politicians are pressuring Interior Secretary Gale Norton to derail the public process and prevent BLM from studying the area's wilderness character. During this planning process, the fate of the Vermillion Basin proposed wilderness will be decided, including whether the area will be protected from oil and gas development or not. This analysis should consider a "look before you lease" policy for the BLM to ensure that citizen-proposed wilderness lands, many of them overlooked by the BLM in its original inventories, are reviewed for their wilderness values before irreversible development is allowed.

The ultimate solution is permanent protection as a wilderness, as envisioned in the DeGette/Udall wilderness bill for Colorado BLM lands.



Photo by John Fielder



Photo by Mark Pearson

This spread
was created by –
Jean C. Smith
and
Mark Pearson



DRILLING IN THE WILD SAN JUANS?

Ongoing debate about America's national energy policy threatens public, private and tribal lands in southwest Colorado. The energy bill passed by the House last summer, H.R. 4, could accelerate the pace of drilling and open up new areas to exploration and development in the wild San Juan Mountains.

Several sections of the House bill would eliminate restrictions to drilling on federal lands. One section strips the Forest Service of its ability to stop or mitigate drilling on national forests, with major implications for pending development in the HD Mountains and Deep Canyon areas. Another provision bans stipulations that protect calving elk herds and prohibit drilling on steep slopes, for example.

It's worth noting that La Plata County surrounding Durango already produces more than 40% of the natural gas in Colorado with about 2,000 producing wells. Our neighbors just over the state line in Farmington and Aztec, New Mexico, are surrounded by a whopping 25,000 oil and gas wells! Most of the New Mexico wells are located on federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service. All told, this amounts to 40% of all the wells on federal land in the entire country! New Mexico also offers evidence about the lack of compunction oil companies and land managers have about enforcing existing laws and regulations. More than 1,800 abandoned wells litter the Farmington area that industry and BLM refuse to reclaim, and thousands of violations in the form of oil spills, unlined waste pits, livestock and wildlife fatalities, weed invasions, and other environmental transgressions go unmitigated around Farmington.

Industry has the last wild bastions of the San Juans squarely in its sights. More than 100 new gas wells and 45 miles of associated roads are proposed for the 35,000-acre HD Mountains Roadless Area southeast of Durango. The HDs include some of the last, best stands of old-growth ponderosa pine forest and one of the most pristine low-elevation riparian systems in the San Juans—the proposed Ignacio Creek Research Natural Area. The impacts of accelerated gas well drilling on the roadless forests of pine, piñon-juniper and oakbrush in the rugged HD Mountains will be analyzed by the San Juan National Forest during 2002 in a forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement.

Just across the Piedra River from the HD Mountains, industry also hopes to invade 7,000 acres in two proposed Research Natural Areas—Archuleta Creek and Deep Canyon. Situated at the lowest elevations (6,300 feet) on the Forest, the two research areas contain large expanses of ponderosa pine, piñon-juniper and Douglas-fir on sand and shale barrens that support unique assemblages of plants.

Other roadless areas on the San Juan NF identified with high probability for oil and gas potential include Hermosa, at 150,000 acres the largest remaining unprotected roadless area in the entire Southern Rockies. Hermosa contains without a doubt the most extensive stands of old-growth ponderosa pine left in southern Colorado and harbors thriving populations of the threatened Colorado River cutthroat trout. The 60,000-acre San Miguel roadless area also shows up on maps of high oil and gas potential, and consists of craggy peaks between Molas and Lizard Head Passes. A generous network of trails laces the area, including a 20-mile segment of the Colorado Trail.

Protecting these undeveloped gems in the face of immense industry lobbying campaign will require dedicated effort by all champions of wild country. Stay tuned for Sierra Club action alerts in coming months.



Photo by Mark Pearson

San Miguel



Photo by Mark Pearson

HD Mountains

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San Juan Citizens Alliance

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San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council

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Upper Arkansas and S. Platte Project

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West Slope Environmental Resources Council

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Western Colorado Congress

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White River Conservation Project

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compton@rof.net 970-963-8684

PROTECTING COLORADO'S WILDERNESS

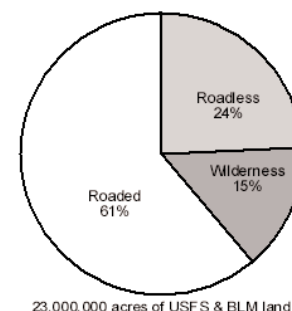
WHY PROTECT ROADLESS AREAS?

In *Crossing Open Ground*, Barry Lopez writes,

"If it is true that modern people desire a new relationship with the natural world, one that is not condescending, manipulative and purely utilitarian... then a staggering task lies before us. The initial steps to be taken seem obvious. First, we must identify and protect those regions where landscapes largely undisturbed by human technology remain intact. Within these ecosystems lie blueprints for the different patterns of life that have matured outside the pervasive influence of myriad Western technologies."

Many acres of these intact lands remain in Colorado. Of Colorado's nearly 67 million acres, national forests grasslands and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands encompass nearly 23 million acres. Of that, more than 5.6 million acres are roadless, and an additional 3,368,000 acres—4.9% of the state—are permanently protected as Wilderness.

Rock, ice, alpine tundra and high forests above 10,000 feet cover 70% of the protected areas in the Southern Rockies ecoregion, most of which is in Colorado. But 60% of roadless lands are below 10,000 feet and are a reservoir of intact lower elevation lands—ponderosa pine, piñon-juniper woodlands, the sage steppes, oakbrush thickets and desert canyon lands. This part of our earth, already severely threatened by roads, timber cutting, oil and gas drilling and intensive recreation, must be protected as well, so that life's diversity is not further diminished.



Beyond the importance of insuring the continuing richness of the earth community, there are other reasons to protect roadless areas:

- to maintain the quality of our rivers and drinking water by protecting watersheds from damaging resource extraction and intensive developed recreation activities;
- to allow sufficient habitat for all species of wildlife, especially those that need large areas in order to thrive;
- to protect important cultural and scientific resources such as ancient ruins, fossil beds, geological features and areas rich in rare plant and animal species;
- to provide a diverse range of non-motorized recreational opportunities for anglers, hunters, hikers, horsepackers, snowshoers, backpackers, kayakers, rock climbers, canoeists, birdwatchers, photographers, cross-country skiers, and other visitors;
- to pay dividends to communities with a positive influence on local economies and preservation of a quality life style.

These wildlands are precious for our future and for the earth's future. You can help by participating in Colorado's many protection activities. Two alliances, the Colorado Wilderness Network (CWN) and the Southern Rockies Forest Network (SRFN), are engaged in broad scale protection campaigns. CWN is coordinating the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for BLM Lands, and SRFN has campaigns in roadless area protection, biological diversity and responsible recreation. Both of these efforts include roadless area mapping, hikes and trips into wild areas and organizing local support for strong protection. Forest watch groups in each of Colorado's National Forests monitor agency projects and promote future oriented management such as the Wild San Juans or Wild Connections conservation plans. And local groups, including your Sierra Club, sponsor activities to educate and involve members and friends. We invite you to join in these efforts.

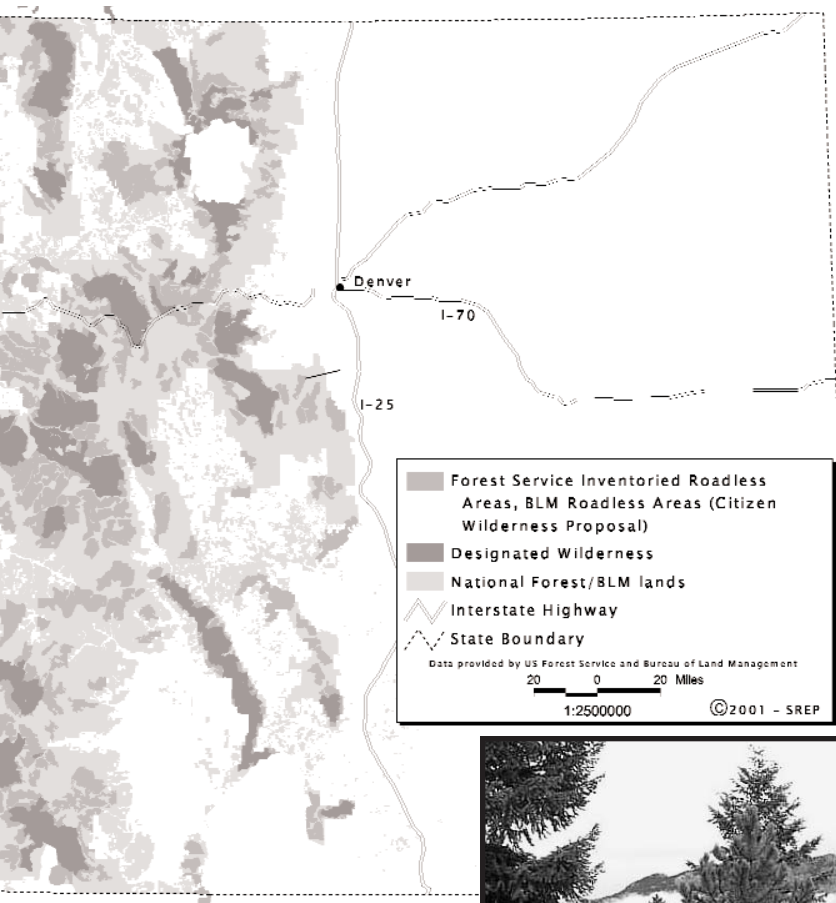


Photo by Jean C. Smith

Gunbarrel Creek—Long Scraggy's jagged crest

**FOR
INFORMATION
OR
TO VOLUNTEER**

GUNBARREL THREATENED BY PIKE NATIONAL FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT

Gunbarrel Creek runs clear in the middle of October, two feet wide and eight inches deep, running toward the South Platte River through a rich riparian corridor in the ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forests. Deer, elk, turkey, Abert's squirrels, coyotes, red-tailed hawks, and Pawnee montane skippers—threatened butterflies that live only along this part of the South Platte—live here, and Long Scraggy's jagged crest dominates the view.

Visitors who travel the perimeter logging roads by horse or bike, or take a trek into the interior on foot, will vouch for the solitude, challenge and wildness which led citizens to recommend Gunbarrel for Wilderness in the Wild Connections conservation plan.

One hundred years of fire suppression created a dense forest at risk for hot crown fires. The 1996 Buffalo Creek fire, just to the north, resulted in loss of property and lives, as well as major erosion affecting Denver's water supply. To help prevent another big fire, the Forest Service proposes to thin and create openings and do prescribed burns across 17,200 acres, trying to emulate landscape patterns of 100 years ago. The volume of timber cut would be nearly ten times that cut on the Pike and San Isabel last year. The project area includes much of

Gunbarrel and parts of Green Mountain, Thunder Butte and Rampart West roadless areas. One of the proposed "treatment" areas on the south end of Gunbarrel runs completely across the roadless area in Saloon Gulch and Gunbarrel Creek.

"While the intent of this project is laudable, the Forest Service's explanation of the project's scientific justification and description of the specific proposed actions and treatment areas was unacceptable," states Dr. Greg Aplet of The Wilderness Society.

Conservationists feared that wilderness qualities of the roadless areas would be compromised. American Lands Alliance, Aspen Wilderness Workshop, Center for Native Ecosystems, Colorado Wild, The Wilderness Society, Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads, and Upper Arkansas & South Platte Project, represented by the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, filed an administrative appeal on the "roadless" part of the project. But, in spite of extensive negotiations with the Forest Service, it appears that the project may go ahead as originally planned.

Contact Jean Smith at jeansmith@qwest.net or 303-388-3378.

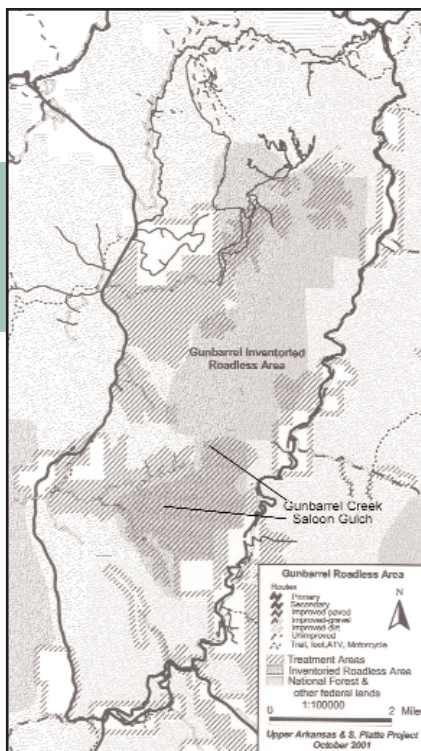


Photo by Jean C. Smith

Ponderosa Pine in Gunbarrel Creek

1st Peak and the Blair Witch

by Roger J. Wendell, RMC Secretary



Photo by Roger J. Wendell

View from Snow Mountain Ranch

In late September there were 29! (and count 'em I did) participants in our "1st Peak and Beyond" hike at the Chapter retreat near Tabernash, Colorado. Enlisting 29 participants was no small feat (feat) considering the half dozen interesting workshops taking place during the same allocated time period.

Despite the heavy competition, 28 intrepid Sierrans (that's 56 soles) put their faith in my enthusiasm, and assistant Trish Todd's leadership skills, for a steep hike, clean air, and long views. Our goal was the YMCA of the Rockies' "1st Peak," a prominence not only overlooking the YMCA's expansive Snow Mountain Ranch, but the Continental Divide and city of Grandby as well.

Our hike took place on what can only be described as the quintessential fall day. The air was electric with the season's

change and the comradeship of activists and outdoor lovers.

We gathered at the trailhead at around 8,800 feet. From there our energetic group made its serpentine way up the narrow mountain trail carpeted with fallen Aspen leaves and pine duff. The first part of the trail cut sharply through chaparral, sage and yucca. We immediately entered an Aspen grove still dappled with the yellow golden leaves of Mountain Autumn.

Past the Aspen, the trail took a sharp turn upward, where the group spread its pace out in deference to fitness and nature. Beneath the quiet of Lodgepole Pine and Ponderosa, we made our way steadily up the steep path to 1st Peak. The path was well maintained and clear throughout its relentless incline. And, unlike the three unfortunate hikers in Blair Witch, all of our group stayed on the trail.

Atop 1st Peak the landscape rolled out beneath us like a carpet of green speckled with gold, yellows and browns. Nearby, and below, was YMCA central with five score Sierrans working their workshops and preparing their plans. Further beyond we could see the city of Grandby bordered by lakes and mountains. In all other directions were more mountains and a sea of trees—leaving such beauty for the trip back to Denver will be hard...

1st Peak, our "official" goal, is about 800 feet higher than the start, or about 9,600 feet above a sea level that's 1,000 miles from here. With plenty of time and energy our group decided to undertake the "and Beyond" part of the hike's description. Without hesitation, we embarked on an even steeper trail leading to 5th Peak.

Was it 2nd Peak, 3rd Peak, or the 4th when the clouds started to roll in? I'm not sure but it was beginning to look a little more Blair Witch like the higher up we got. At around the 10,200 foot level I was convinced it was time for retreat.

The group, albeit reluctantly, took my direction and started the steep descent. Back near 1st Peak itself the thunderclaps followed each lightning flash by only a second—time to move even faster. Sprinkles followed the lightning just a few minutes later. Those sprinkles, of course, were soon followed by a steady drizzle that accompanied us throughout the last ten minutes to the trailhead.

Although we caught a bit of rain there wasn't any Blair Witch map kicking or hiking in circles for this group—all of us moved calmly and steadily, regrouping for that final head count at our cars. Despite the rain finale, I reveled in the hike's beauty and the company of like-minded Sierrans. If you haven't seen Blair Witch I recommend you rent it. If you haven't been on a Sierra Club hike I look forward to our meeting. Until then, climb high!

Cross-Country

By Sandra McNew

Like dollops of sweet mounded cream garnished with glittering spun sun-sugar crystals



Like dozens of peaked meringues climbing up the steep edges of the valley's tray

This is what I want for dessert today – the lusciousness of the land,

the feast on cross-country skis: herringboning uphill, kicking and gliding and sliding all the creamy way home.

Gifts We Remember

by Edward Spencer, Rachel Carson Group

Christmas seems to come around faster every year. The summer is barely over and we rush full steam ahead into a fall that brings Halloween and Thanksgiving. Before you know it, it's Christmas day. We get past New Year's Eve and then everything comes to a standstill. No wonder January is known for the doldrums. I am always sad to put away decorations and see the season of giving end. This is the time we think about giving and maybe even feel obligated to do so.

Christmas used to be a time for overdoing it. Like clockwork, we'd all stand around the blazing tree and marvel at the sight of presents piled up to the rafters. "Would you look at this!" we'd exclaim and shake our heads in disbelief. We'd vow to cut back, but would Christmas be the same without the joy of opening gifts, taking silly pictures and sitting in a pile of wrappings?

The gift of the Christmas story is that it isn't about material goods, but serves as a glorious reminder of the wonder and magic of moments. Every holiday season there are moments that I wait for as gifts to myself. I stand back after decorating the tree and feel the smile spread across my face and let the warmth of the vision tarry to my heart. There is something deeply satisfying in opening the oven door to find two perfect loaves of

bread that I will give away to family and friends.

I realize that what I truly long for and anticipate isn't Christmas morning with all of its presents, but the exact second the choir begins singing "Once in Royal David's City" at the Festival of Lessons and Carols. Their voices resonate within the stone church and the processional passes me standing, shivery and weepy, in the pew and this is the moment that Christmas arrives for me. And I imagine that I know how the shepherds felt that distant and miraculous night. If I'm not there to hear it, Christmas is somehow not the same. I've missed my moment.

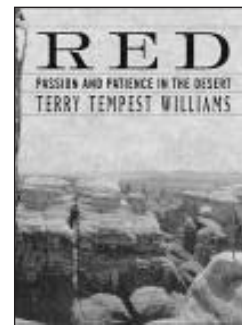
It's these glorious gifts of the season that we carry forward into the year, reminding us to give of ourselves. Provide the gift of a special moment by calling a friend in need; offer a smile of encouragement to someone who struggles. The gift of kindness, of the sort that nourishes our souls, stays with us forever and never wears out. We all cherish a sincere compliment that makes us believe in ourselves; we can achieve our dreams.

Christmas is a season of many gifts. Those moments we cherish and wait for every December is what makes it so special. The euphoria of our own fulfillment inspires us to pass it on. Christmas IS for giving.

Book Review

RED—Passion and Patience in the Desert
by Terry Tempest Williams

Reviewed by Mary Romano



"Act out of your impulse, and out of love." These are the words of author/naturalist Terry Tempest Williams, who visited the Denver Press Club with a luncheon cosponsored by the Sierra Club, October 8. As one attending Club member said, "She is so articulate, she can say exactly what I feel and I'm just so grateful for that."

Williams newest book "Red—Passion and Patience in the Desert" captures the essence and depth of her relationship with the red canyon country in Castle Valley of eastern Utah. To Williams the desert wildlands are "precious to the soul of America" and are places "where an authentic sensibility can evolve." She reminds us that "We need wilderness to be more complete human beings."

In a beautiful, eloquent, and poignant way, Williams distills the very passion of her love of and commitment to these desert canyons, and why she feels it is necessary for each one of us to fight for these wild places we love. Further she says the designation of wilderness areas is an act of "knitting the wild back together." We need "authentic home work" that integrates a land ethic into our lives and into a broader definition of "patriotism."

Williams is perhaps best known for her book "Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place." With "Red" she has again created a jewel, gently honed from the Earth, with deep love and care. A diligent activist and remarkably perceptive author, Terry Tempest Williams will continue to enthrall all those who love the land.



Sierra Club member Mary Romano (left) with author Terry Tempest Williams.

— Photo by Mark Itkonen

GIVE GEAR THIS YEAR!

Karina M. Thomas, RMC Inner City Outings Treasurer



Inner City Outings (ICO) is "powered" by dedicated club members and lovers of the outdoors who give several hours of their time, experience and patience each season leading youths on trips to their favorite destinations in the mountains and plains. Our backcountry ski enthusiast is working to organize more tele-mark and cross country ski outings this winter than ever before, and has recently secured a ski



ICO skating trip to Evergreen Lake

and gear storage location that will allow the collection of equipment sufficient to service youths of different athletic abilities and shoe sizes.

ICO is now actively looking for donations of "gently" used and well-maintained backcountry ski equipment (boots, metal-edged skis, poles, goggles, gloves, hats, parkas) to build its supplies. Please e-mail Karina Thomas at tkm2@qwest.net for equipment hand-off arrangements or to volunteer your time as an assistant leader.



Mark Itkonen (left) and his wife Ivy Leventhal (right) having lunch at the Avenue Grill in Denver with congressperson Diana DeGette. Mark was the high bidder for this lunch at the Chapter Auction in April. Itkonen said "While the food was good, the best part of the lunch was our discussion about politics and environmental issues."

— Photo by Mark Itkonen

styles

Giving Gifts

by Celeste Rossmiller, *Lifestyles Committee*

"I love you!" "You mean the world to me!" "I will always care for you!" These are messages that (hopefully) we speak to many people in our lives on a regular basis. Being bodily beings (along with a spiritual dimension, many would add), we seek to express that esteem and care through material gifts. Typically, in this issue of *Peak & Prairie*, the Lifestyles Education Committee has offered suggestions for some alternative gifts, sources and resources that are available. This year, we encourage all of us to do some critical thinking about what gift-giving is: the cherishing of those we love. How can we best express that in an interdependent world—in a year with a failing economy; in an era of steadily depleting resources; in a world where vast inequalities trouble the human family?

Thinking critically means *observing* issues by stepping outside our usual standpoint and questioning our taken-for-granted assumptions. Sierra Club members tend to do this with environmental concerns. In the case of buying patterns, cultural theorists such as Roland Barthes (see, e.g., *Mythologies* [1971, English translation]) help us to see how thoroughly our consumerist cultures drive our thinking and our habits. Barthes says that the language of the media communicates to us through "mythologies:" of glamour, high living, giddy enjoyment—telling us that this is "Reality," and (of course) can be bought. Increasingly, mega-corporations define "happiness" for us in terms of consuming their name-brands; more frighteningly, our children are imbued with expectations that their acceptability relies on wearing—eating—being—entertained—by only

certain products. How do we tell each other of our love and care in such an atmosphere?

XYV: eXamine Your Values. In order to "Take back our minds!" from the 'myth-makers,' we need to apply our ecosystemic thinking to our gift-giving patterns. Equally important is learning about alternative economic modalities that do not rely on the myth of "Growth And Progress" ("so be good Americans and go out and spend, spend, spend this season"). [See, for example, David Korten's *Post-Corporate World* (1999), or anything by Hazel Henderson.] **Life** becomes the yardstick and university, rather than abstract economic theories. We get to be the "Point-persons" in our families, offices and schools: do we really need to exchange gifts? What are alternative ways to say, "I appreciate all you do for me/the workplace/my children"?

If we choose to go the route of material gifts, ask these questions: Where and of what was it made? How long will it take to return to "nature" when it lands in the garbage? Who made it, and can their family live off their paycheck? What was extracted from the Earth to make it? Who really profits from its sale? Will this purchase help me and my loved ones build our relationship to each other, the community, the Earth? Is this purchase Life-Giving or Life-Depleting?



"Peace on Earth, Good Will to All" could be our mantra, incorporating the above questions and ideas, a truly ecological wish grounded in love for those we know, fairness toward those whose lives impinge on our own through the things they supply us with.

For more creative ideas, check out The Center for the New American Dream on the web at www.newdream.org.

SIERRA SPOTLIGHT

Featured Volunteer

by Diane Brower
Trappers Lake Group Vice Chair



Jane Toothaker
Trappers Lake Group Chair

Jane Toothaker's interest in environmental issues began while she was in college in the early '70's. As with many other college students of that time she responded to the rising awareness of the need to become better stewards of the earth.

Her priorities as a Sierra Club activist are connected to fast-paced growth in the Yampa Valley (in northwest Colorado) where she lives: air quality, wetlands, and preservation of open space. Her experience with the Sierra Club has taught her that community can be a powerful force: "Just because someone appears to be more powerful, has more money or more attorneys doesn't mean that they also have the values that our community wants to uphold. We need to explore and bring to the forefront those prevailing values."

The catalyst of Jane's involvement in the Trappers Lake Group was the proposal to develop the Lake Catamount Ski Area in the early 1990's. The proposal would have resulted in a ski area and real estate development equal in size to the city of Steamboat Springs, ten miles to the north. Jane says that working closely with Joan Hoffman and Reed Zars has taught her a lot about how the Sierra Club functions to tackle important environmental problems, and about the principles of organizing groups in that effort.

Jane credits Joan, who began the Trappers Lake Group, with inspiring her with the realization that a small group of people can have an impact on the outcome of such proposals. The Trappers Lake Group, with Jane as Chair and Reed leading the legal battle, has also been successful in suits against the Hayden and Craig power plants in northwestern Colorado, bringing them into compliance with emission requirements, and improving the opacity of the atmosphere in the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area.

Ask the Recycle Lady

by Leslie Martel Baer, MA, *Mountain Muse Publications*



Dear Readers: Since beginning this column, no inquiry has been as common as those about recycling batteries. Here is a refresher course: a repeat of my second column with some new information.

First, start with ways to reduce reliance on batteries. How does your family use them? Do you deplete batteries quickly for toys and other entertainment items? Then focus more "play time" on activities that do not require them: building sets, books, art supplies, outside sports, music and other imagination-inspiring activities are great for kids and grown-ups alike.

When external power is a must, think outside of the battery. From watches that use kinetic energy to calculators, radios and flashlights that run on springs, cranks and solar panels, we now have great options. Companies like Real Goods (phone: 800-762-7325; web: www.realgoods.com) and Freeplay (phone (South Africa): 27 21 551 2002; web: www.freeplay.net) offer products that free you from cords and batteries. Even technologies that reduce off-grid homes' battery dependence are hitting the markets.

When batteries are inevitable, begin with rechargeables. Whether requiring an equipment-specific nickel cadmium (NiCad) pack or a standard-sized battery, most mobile phones, cordless power tools and such items can rely on rechargeables. You can find NiCad and alkaline rechargeable batteries and chargers, including those powered by the sun or your car, at Jade Mountain (phone: 800-442-1972; web: www.jademountain.com), McGuckin Hardware (phone: 303-443-1822; web: www.mcguckin.com) and electronics and hardware stores. For example, Jade Mountain offers solar-powered phone and computer battery chargers.

Eventually, rechargeables may not hold a charge. When that happens, check your manual or warranty information: some manufacturers offer a rebate on a new battery with the return of the old one. Nationwide, manufacturers of rechargeable batteries and the equipment that uses them have joined to form the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC; phone: 800-822-8837, web: www.rbrc.org).



In Colorado, many Ace Hardware and Batteries Plus locations participate in the RBRC program (call RBRC to find a drop center). The Littleton Batteries Plus store (303-771-7112)

confirmed that accept any rechargeable household battery, as well as lithium ion (Li+) models. RBRC then ships them to their Pennsylvania facility, recovering cadmium for new batteries and nickel and iron for stainless steel products.

Several recycling locations and auto parts stores will accept used auto batteries, including EcoCycle (phone: 303-444-6634, web: www.ecocycle.org) and A Neighborhood Recycling Center (303-922-8822) and Checker Auto Parts locations (www.checkerauto.com). Checker stores offer a \$1 new customer rebate or "core credit" for repeat/replacement customers.

Still have some alkaline batteries? Keep using them with a "smart" recharger from Real Goods and other retailers: these can charge virtually any battery including standard alkalines. You also can use up alkalines and take them to Rocky Mountain Battery (303-423-7142). For \$2 per pound of batteries, they will ship them to an eastern smelter for recovery. You can also ship small quantities of these batteries to this company, if they are not labeled "high energy dry cell alkaline" and are not corroded or damaged. Be sure to include a check for the appropriate amount.

Batteries are going to be a part of our lives for a while, so take advantage of the many options for reducing the impact they have on our environment. Try battery-free options, turn equipment off when it is not in use, use rechargeable batteries wherever possible and recycle batteries. For the ultimate in battery convenience without the impact, Xcel Energy Windsource subscribers or other alternative energy users can recharge batteries at home without burning fossil fuels.

Mountain Muse Publications is a mixed-media communications company providing socially and environmentally responsible organizations with print and electronic media packages. Their service includes finding ways for their clients to reduce waste and environmental impacts. The information provided is based on what are believed to be reliable sources at the time of writing; no guarantees of accuracy are implied and no endorsement is made of any particular service, business or product. Recyclers and recyclees can send their corrections, suggestions and inquiries to recycle@mt-muse.com or Ask the Recycle Lady, RMC Sierra Club, 1410 Grant Street, Suite B303, Denver, CO 80203.



There is something you can do...

TAKE ACTION!

Sierra Club's **ENVIRONMENTAL 911 PROGRAM** provides you with a convenient, accessible, personal resource for obtaining information about actions you can take to address local environmental issues.

By calling the Sierra Club's **ENVIRONMENTAL 911 PROGRAM** at 415.977.5520 or e-mailing environmental911@sierraclub.org, you will have available to you the wealth of experience and depth of knowledge that over 100 years of grassroots activism can bring.



Environmental 911 Program
85 Second Street, 2nd Fl
San Francisco, CA 94105

Funded by The Sierra Club Foundation

415.977.5520
environmental911@sierraclub.org

Highway Subsidies OR Pay-as-you-go

by Don Thompson, *Enos Mills Group Transportation Chair*

Having never seen a highway project that they couldn't support, Governor Owens and Department of Transportation Chief Tom Norton would like to raid the general fund for additional highway spending. Because of reduced tax receipts, some of the recently proposed highway projects are scheduled now for delay or elimination. They would propose keeping these projects on schedule by an additional raid on general fund monies from the state coffers. Presently, and for the last five or six years, \$100 million dollars of mostly sales tax and income tax payments have been transferred to the highway budget. They would like to see this amount increased.

State Senator Stan Matsunaka, an announced opponent for Governor Owens in 2002, proposed additional funds for highways through an increase in the motor fuels tax. He did not, however, give any reasons for having made his suggestion, and was quickly quieted by Governor Owens who labeled him as a tax-and-spend liberal.

Had Senator Matsunaka done his homework he would have learned that the motor fuels taxes on gasoline and diesel have not been increased for over 10 years. Had they been indexed to the inflation rate of highway construction costs, the gas tax would be over 33 cents per gallon, not the present 22 cents per gallon. It is easy for us to call for growth to pay its own way, but as motorists we are not as likely to ask that streets and roads be done on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Governor Owens has said that he will go to the voters if the legislature will not transfer more general fund money to highways. As a taxpayer, would you choose the subsidy route or the pay-as-you-go route? Time will tell.

MORE HIGHWAYS NO TRANSIT?

by Bert Melcher, *RMC Transportation Committee Chair*

Gov. Owens, at the last Legislative Special Session, gave his plan for transportation funding. It's shown in the chart here. We believe that it must be changed to fund public transportation and bike facilities as well as highways and roads. This isn't just a Front Range issue. It affects all of us, large city and small town: health, safety, energy conservation, land use, mobility for non-driving citizens, aesthetics, ecosystem health.

Each Sierra Club Group and Member needs to be active. Contact your legislators, local officials, media. Here are points for resolutions and letters.

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) ignores its own Mission: "To provide the best multi-modal transportation system for Colorado that most effectively moves people, goods, and information." This Mission is consistent with State Law that must be adhered to.

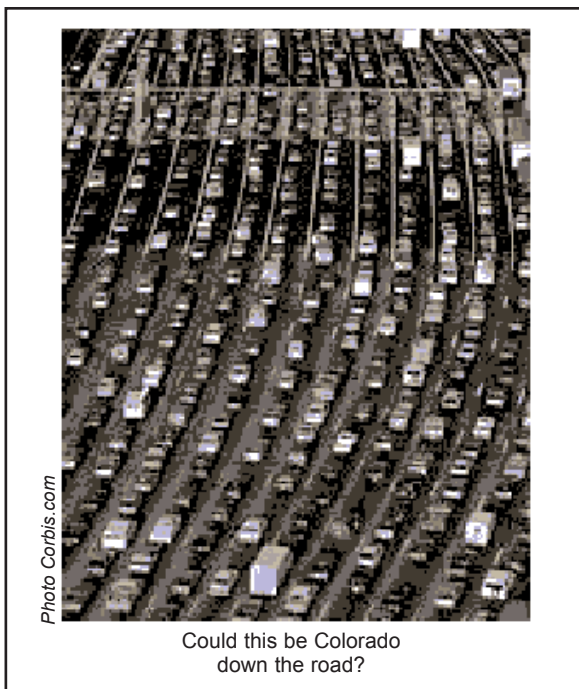


Photo Corbis.com

Could this be Colorado down the road?

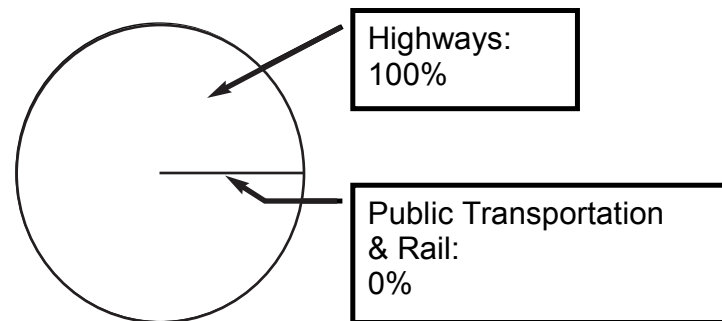
CDOT planning has recommended many rail, bus, bike and highway projects, along with highways and roads. Many communities need public transportation facilities and prompt funding for them, but under current revenue forecasts and CDOT priorities, these will not be funded until 2020 or later.

"Unfunded Transportation Needs" identified by CDOT show that financial investment needs for public transportation (including rail and bike) are about equal to highway needs

(NOTE: are you surprised?).

The unfunded needs defined for the key transportation corridors in Metro Denver are for both highways and transit; however, this area does not have the authority to ask voters for up

CDOT State Revenue Expenditures by Transportation Mode:



Do You Want This To Continue For Another 20 Years?

to a 1% sales tax for transit. Other areas have such ability, but RTD needs Legislative and Governor's approval to move ahead.

General Funds from revenue outside of gas taxes are now used to subsidize the highway system only and are not to benefit the entire population, including non-drivers and including those protected by Environmental Justice laws.

Gov. Owens proposes new "transportation" (i.e., highway) funding from General Fund Reserves up to \$2 billion in 10 years and \$7.4 billion in 25 years.

Our transit and highway legislative package in the 2002 legislative session must:

- (1) Accelerate Statewide investments in multimodal mobility and facilities, including as a high priority the Denver Metro corridors that have had Major Investment Studies (NOTE: otherwise, CDOT will screw up RTD plans).
- (2) Provide that any new funds be mandated as allocated 60% to highways, 40% to transit/rail/bike/pedestrian; any local allocations to cities and counties should be flexible for use on highway and transit projects.
- (3) Provide authority for the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to ask voters directly for up to a 1% sales tax for transit projects in key transportation corridors and other needs.
- (4) Provide that, if moneys from General Funds into the Highway Users Tax Fund cannot be spent on public transportation, a separate "pot" should be created with new funds earmarked for public transportation.

The Owens Plan will be in our legislature in January. If CDOT gets new money without earmarking for transit, it will build only highways. We must all work to change it. This is urgent. Otherwise: highways forever, no transit.

MEMORIAM AND HONORARIUM—*THANK YOU!*

Boyd S. Bailey – Memoriam Given by: Mrs. Norman D. Wiltout (Dorothy)
Dorothy wrote this about Boyd: *Former member Boyd S. Bailey died at the age of 91 on Sept. 7th, 2001. He was an avid hiker and was also very aware of the environment. He had climbed many of the fourteeners.*

Mary Fazendin Stuart – Honorarium Given by: Louis and Anita Miller
This is in honor of her complete recovery and continued good health. This donation will be used for educational programming for children (Inner City Outings or ICO).

Act Now and Save the Environment!

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

For more information and confidential assistance, please complete the form and send to:
Sage Kuhn, Sierra Club Planned Giving Program
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 977-5639 • planned.giving@sierra-club.org

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

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BARRY SATLOW, P.C.

LAWYER

DIVORCE LITIGATION
SMALL BUSINESS CONSULTATION

Former Chair Indian Peaks Group & Sierra Club Council Delegate

1942 BROADWAY : BOULDER : 442-3535
AT THE PEARL STREET MALL

ARE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS SAFE?



by Suzanne Wuerthele, RMC Genetic Engineering Chair

You've been eating genetically engineered food for six years now. Food created by chemical corporations, containing viral and bacterial proteins, yet never tested for safety by FDA.

There doesn't seem to be a difference. The potatoes, tomatoes, corn all look the same.

You haven't gotten sick. So, maybe it's safe, maybe the Europeans demanding labels are just skittish after Mad Cow. Maybe their questions about food safety are really just trade barriers.

Are GE foods safe? Here's what American scientists are saying:

"What possible risks could occur from GE foods? Could they alter the proteins of plants to make them more allergenic or carcinogenic? Could they accidentally lessen a plant's ability to make an important nutrient? No one knows. As unbelievable as it sounds, the tests haven't been done!"



"It is only logical to 'expect' some 'unexpected' side effects. Before we unleash this latest clever technology, we should all pledge, 'Above all, do no harm.' And we should make absolutely sure that we are not paying for cheap corn with the health of our grandchildren."

- Dr. Harvey Karp, M.D., Pediatrics Faculty, UCLA School of Medicine and spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics, Physicians for Social Responsibility, The Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Children's Health Environmental Coalition.

"One of their most misleading claims is, 'Well there's no evidence that anyone has ever died, gotten sick or



even gotten a rash from GE foods'; and this is their idea of scientific proof. How can anyone make a claim like this when the food is not segregated or labeled? People die, get sick, and get rashes all the time. How can we know if some of these things were caused by GE foods or not? We can't."

- Dr. Philip Regal, Professor, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota

"No one can honestly assert that a genetically engineered food is safe. This implies that an infinite number of tests have been carried out. The fact is, the tests haven't been done. We don't even know what type of ill effects to look for or which questions to ask. This oversimplification completely denies the reality of the situation. Caution must be the guiding principle."

- Dr. Liebe Cavalieri, DNA researcher at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Professor of Environmental Sciences, State University of New York

"Potentially, it could breed new animal and plant diseases, new sources of cancer, novel epidemics."

- Dr. George Wald, Nobel Laureate in Medicine, & Higgins Professor of Biology, Harvard University

"When we insert genes that would not naturally be a part of a living organisms, we should be prepared for a host of unexpected consequences—consequences for the organism being modified, the ecosystem of which that organism is a part, and for the people consuming some or all of that organism as food."

- Dr. Gary Kaplan, M.D., Ph.D., Director of Clinical Neurophysiology, North Shore University Hospital and Assoc. Professor, New York University School of Medicine

SIERRA CLUB SINGLES – THE PLACE TO BE!

If you're a single Sierra Club member and looking for activities to join, we now have the group for you! Sierra Club Singles (SCS) is now an official activities committee of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, and we're out to have a lot of fun. You'll find many events listed in this issue of Peak & Prairie, ranging from parties to potlucks, movie nights, restaurant dinners, and of course outings. This is the season for skiing and snowshoeing, and you'll find several great trips being led by skilled leaders.

We now have a web page for SCS: <http://rmc.sierraclub.org/singles> There is a link to it from the Rocky Mountain Chapter's home page under "activity sections." Check it out, bookmark it, and visit it often for all our events and outings. We also have an e-mail list to which you can subscribe for regular updates. To be added to this list, send an e-mail to steve.bortz@rmc.sierraclub.org. We will soon have a list serve in place to which you can automatically subscribe and unsubscribe.

Many SCS events will be publicized to the public, and while they are open to the public, we will have membership information at every event and will encourage people to join. Through this outreach, we hope to build membership, volunteer activism and awareness of environmental issues.

None of this would happen without the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers. We have already had many generous people come forth with ideas for events, and we will always be looking for more. There will be a regular planning potluck, the first Saturday of each month, where will get together for a fun evening but also to brainstorm for upcoming events. We ask that all event leaders be Sierra Club members. Additional qualifications apply for leading outings.

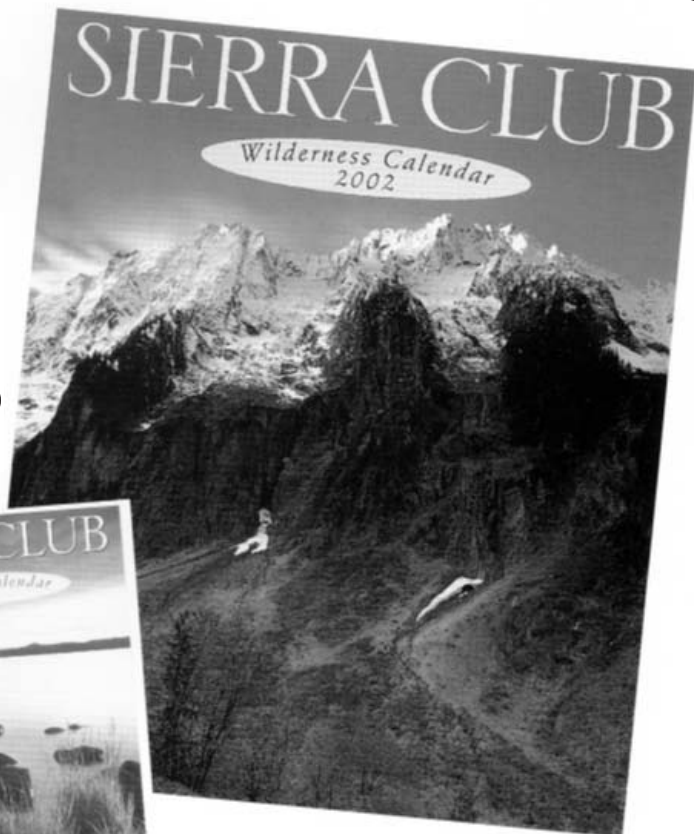
Please call or write with ideas to the Chair of Sierra Club Singles, Steve Bortz, 303-440-5459 or steve.bortz@rmc.sierraclub.org. See you at an event soon!

2002 CALENDARS

Sierra Club 2002 Wilderness Wall Calendar — majestic natural landscapes of North America

- Spiral bound
- Comes in gift box/mailer

ONLY \$10.75!
(+ tax, member price)



Sierra Club 2002 Engagement Calendar — stunning images of flora & fauna, from panoramas to close-ups

- Most popular nature calendar ever published
- Week by week format, 57 full color photos
- Spiral bound
- Comes in gift box/mailer



ONLY \$11.65!
(+ tax, member price)

Order NOW! Call **RMC Sierra Club** at **303-861-8819**

Buy from us and support local conservation work!

Calendar Order Form

Item	Quantity		Total
	Member*	Non-Member	
Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$10.75	\$11.95	\$ _____
Engagement Calendar	\$11.65	\$12.95	\$ _____
* 10% discount			
Subtotal			\$ _____
Tax 7.2%			\$ _____
Shipping			\$ _____
			\$3.00 for first calendar \$1.00 for each additional
Total (Check or money order)			\$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE, E-MAIL _____

Mail your order to:
Sierra Club RMC/Calendars
1410 Grant Street, Suite B-303
Denver, CO 80203

For further information:
Phone: 303-861-8819
Fax: 303-861-2436
E-mail: libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org

Please allow two weeks for delivery.
Thank you for supporting the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter.

C A L E N D A R

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

for
Feb./March 2002
issue

Monday,
Dec. 24, 2001

E-mail as MS Word or
Wordperfect
attachments
(send info. as an
attached document,
rather than including it in
body of e-mail)
to
calendar-editor@
rmc.sierraclub.org

**COPY EXACT
FORMAT OF
THIS PAGE
BE BRIEF.**

To list your outings, meetings, or events in this calendar please e-mail calendar-editor@rmc.sierraclub.org, or fax 303-861-2436 to Chapter office.

Late submissions may be included in the online edition. Follow format of this page and send info. as an attached document to outings@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Please check the web site – www.rmc.sierraclub.org and then click on **Calendar** (left menu bar) – for a complete and up-to-date listing of outings.

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Meetings and events are open to members and the public at no cost. They are a good way to meet activists and discuss Club issues. *Hikes begin and end at the trailhead.* Call the leader indicated for info., preferably a couple of days in advance. Appropriate experience and equipment required.

OUTINGS

* Please RSVP ALL Outings *

Saturday, December 15

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans
Snowshoe in Rocky Mountain National Park, Bear, Nymph, Dream and Emerald Lakes. Afternoon snowshoe hike a chain of mountain lakes with awesome views of Longs and Hallett peaks. **Moderate** trip, 1.8 mi. each way – go at your own pace. Dream Lake is the most photographed lake in the park. Call Lisa Lewis 303-777-3664 or go to <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/gls/act.html>

Sunday, January 6

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans
Snowshoe in Rocky Mountain National Park, Mills Lake. **Moderate** difficulty, 700' elev. difference to 9,940 ft. Prettiest destination on the backside of Longs Peak. Call Lisa Lewis 303-777-3664 or go to <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/gls/act.html>



SERVICE PROJECTS

Saturday, December 1, 2:30pm
Saturday, January 5, 2:30pm
Henzell Park Cleanup near Havana and Yale, south of Babi Yar Park. Call Angela 303-433-2608 for info.

EVENTS

Sunday, December 2, 4 – 7pm
Holiday Celebration and Dessert Potluck. Eastern Mtn. Sports, 870 S. Colorado Blvd. Join members of RMC for our annual holiday celebration. Bring a dessert to share, beverages provided. Celebrate the Chapter's 36th year in Colorado with friends & family. The event is FREE, but please RSVP at 303-861-8819.

Monday, January 28, 7 – 8:30pm
Letter Writing Party Activism at the *Chapter Office. Learn about the Rocky Mountain Chapter AND Write Your Legislator about Critical Sierra Club Issues. We'll supply you with the paper and the know-how if you'll supply the letter with your words! Discover one of the easiest & most effective tools of grassroots activism. RSVP Libby Tart by 3pm, Jan. 28, at 303-861-8819 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Tuesday, January 29, 7 – 9pm
Toxics Gathering *Chapter Office. Learn about air, water, hazardous materials, EMF, pesticides, superfund sites etc.issues. Snacks, yes! Joan Seeman 303-738-8407 for more info.

Sat., February 9, 10am – 3:30pm
Legislative Workshop at Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden, Denver. Co-sponsored by Enos Mills Group – Sierra Club and Audubon Society of Greater Denver. Early registration is \$10, \$12 at the door. Please send registration money to the Sierra Club *Chapter Office. Volunteers needed to prepare lasagna for lunch (we reimburse all costs). Call Angela for info., 303-433-2608.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Rocky Mountain Chapter or RMC

NOTE: *Chapter Office is at 1410 Grant Street, Denver, B303. Enter North side of the bldg., 303-861-8819.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 16, 6pm
Join us to plan educational events and activities for 2002. *Chapter Office. For info., call 303-861-8819.

GAY & LESBIAN SIERRANS (GLS)

Sunday, December 2, 10 am
Butterflies for Brunch
Butterfly Pavilion, Hwy. 36, Westminster. Join us for brunch at 10 and a trip to the Butterfly Pavilion. You've never lived till you're had an exotic butterfly land on your head! Contact Lisa Lewis at 303-777-3664 and check the website for more details: <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/gls/act.html>

Thursday, January 10, 7 pm
IMAX Theater – "Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure." Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. A turn-of-the-century adventure and survival story that will inspire the explorer, science enthusiast and leader in everyone. Check website for more details: <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/gls/act.html>

GENETIC ENGINEERING COM.

Saturday, December 8, 10 am
*Chapter Office, 3rd fl. conf. room. Suzanne Wuerthele 303-333-2519, wuerthel@ecentral.com
Time for a meeting! Anyone interested in activist projects, discussion of issues, or to learn about this new technology.

INNER CITY OUTINGS (ico)

ICO's outreach program introduces disadvantaged urban young people to wilderness and outdoor activities. Learn more – ICO hotline, 720-299-9967.

Give Gear and Volunteer!

ICO is now actively looking for donations of "gently" used and well-maintained backcountry ski equipment (boots, metal-edged skis, poles, goggles, gloves, hats, parkas) in preparation for plenty of youth telemark and cross country ski outings this winter. Please e-mail Karina Thomas at tkm2@qwest.net for equipment hand-off arrangements or to volunteer your time as an assistant leader.

LIFESTYLES EDUCATION COM.

Monday, January 21, 6:30 – 9pm
1410 Grant, 3rd floor conference room. Come to north door and ring buzzer for entry. Bring dish to share. Come and discuss what you can do to make a difference to preserve the quality of life on planet earth. JoLynn Jarboe, jolynn11@juno.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Help our statewide outings program grow. This will be a **statewide committee**. Call Patricia at 303-691-8852 or email outings@rmc.sierraclub.org.

PESTICIDES COMMITTEE

Friday, Dec. 14 & Jan. 11, 6pm
Second Fridays. For info. call Angela Medbery at 303-433-2608.

POPULATION COMMITTEE

Issues include how rapid population growth contributes to urban sprawl, U.S. population doubling, and world-wide resource depletion. Fred Elbel, 303-220-7499 or fred.elbel@rmc.sierraclub.org.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL

First Wednesdays, 7pm. Sandy Horrocks for location / info, 303-470-1352.

SIERRA CLUB SINGLES

Saturday, December 1, 7pm
Singles Planning Potluck. A great evening of food, friends, and planning future Singles events. Please bring your own table service. Our host is Randy Will, 1494 S. Eudora St. in south Denver. Directions at <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/singles>. RSVP Randy at 303-753-9007 or organicme@cs.com.

Friday, December 7, 5-8 pm

Denver Art Gallery Crawl Event. Tour of fine art painting and photography gallery openings in the Denver area, followed by drink and music at one of Denver's hot night spots. Specific gallery openings will be determined the week before the openings – <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/singles> or contact Judy Rosall for info. \$3 contribution for SC members, \$5 for non-SC members. Proceeds go to SC fund raising efforts. RSVP Judy at 303-744-7860 (day) or email at rjudith@qwest.net.

Saturday, December 8, 6pm

Singles Dinner and Wildlights at Denver Zoo. Wildlights is a spectacular display of over one million lights and 87 animated life-size animal light sculptures! See Wildlights after a sumptuous dinner at The Harvest Restaurant (vegan menu items). Meet at The Harvest, 430 S. Colorado Blvd., 303-399-6652, at 6pm RSVP Pam at 303-337-5521.

Saturday, December 22, 7pm

Singles Solstice Party in Boulder. Celebrate the return of the sun as we enjoy holiday festivities. Please bring food or drink to share. Kathleen, 3251 11th St. in Boulder, will host. Directions at <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/singles>. Call her to RSVP at 303-447-9697.

Saturday, December 29, 3 pm

Singles Full Moon Snowshoe Hike to Emerald Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). Meet in Boulder and carpool to Bear Lake in RMNP. The hike will be incredibly beautiful, but please be prepared for the cold of a winter's night. 6 miles RT, 1000' elev. gain. To sign up, please call Eric at 303-449-0315.

Saturday, January 5, 7 pm

Singles Planning Potluck. A great evening of food, friends, and planning future Singles events. Please bring your own table service. Our host is Tim Olsen, who lives at 1428 S. Humboldt St. near Washington Park. Directions can be found at <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/singles>. Please RSVP Tim at 303-777-3341 or Tolsen@aol.com.

Sunday, January 6

Singles Moderate Cross Country Ski Trip at Montezuma near Keystone. Ski up the beautiful St. Johns Valley with a fast return. 8 miles RT, 1500' elev. gain. RSVP Julie at 303-795-5994 or jvida@lucent.com

Thursday, January 10

Singles Movie Night in central Denver. See a current popular movie, with discussion and dessert afterwards. RSVP Sandy at 303-894-0029 by Jan. 9 for movie selection and meeting place and time.

Sunday, January 13

Singles Cross Country Ski Tour in Peaceful Valley. Good beginner trip on sheltered trail near Ward. 8 miles RT, 500' elev. gain. To sign up please call Eric at 303-449-0315.

Saturday, January 19, 7pm

Singles IMAX Movie Event See "Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure" with other adventurous Sierra Club Singles. Explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and his 27-man crew, stranded in Antarctica at the turn of the century, and survived to tell the tale! Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. Reserve your own tickets at 303-322-7009. Meet in front of IMAX lobby at 6:30pm. Desert or drink afterwards. RSVP marthaalarson@hotmail.com, or Steve at 303-440-5459.

Sunday, January 27

Easy Singles Snowshoe Hike to Mills Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park. Enjoy frozen waterfalls and great views of Longs Peak. Refreshment stop afterwards. 6 miles RT, 500' elev. gain. Steve Bortz 303-440-5459.

Tuesday, January 29, 6:30pm

Singles Night at the Ever-popular Mediterranean Restaurant in Boulder, 1002 Walnut St. RSVP Rosie at 303-494-5510 by Jan. 28 so she can make reservations.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

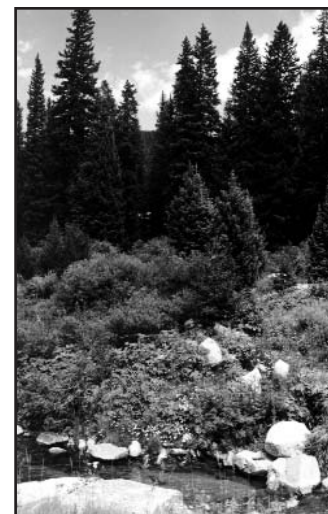
*Chapter Office. Bert Melcher, 303-770-3683, Amelcher1@compuserve.com or Shawn Winkelman, 303-722-0689, shawnw@dimensional.com

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Second Wednesdays
Wednesday, December 12, 6:30pm
Angela Medbery's home, 2205 Meade St., NW Denver. Call Angela, 303-433-2608 for directions. Meeting starts with a potluck supper; committee business at 7:30pm. Anyone interested in Colorado water quality and wetlands protection issues is invited to attend. Kirk Cunningham, 303-939-8519 or kmcunnin@juno.com for agenda details, and to confirm date and place.

Wednesday, January 9, 7pm

*Chapter Office. Kirk Cunningham, 303-939-8519, kmcunnin@juno.com for agenda details and to confirm the meeting place and date.



GROUP MEETINGS

BLUE RIVER GROUP

(Summit, Grand, & Eagle Counties)
For meeting info. Karn Stiegelmeier
970-468-9013, copycopy@colorado.net.

Water Issues Presentations Calendar
6pm on the first Monday of each month

Monday, December 3,

Blue River Room, Silverthorne Library
Lane Wyatt, Co-Director of
NWCCOG's Water Quality & Quantity
Committee, Project manager of the Upper
Colorado River Basin Project (UPCO)
will discuss UPCO's research of future
water demands (municipal, recreational
and agricultural), potential problems cre-
ated by taking water to the East Slope and
some possible solutions.

Taylor Hawes, an attorney with and
Co-director of NWCCOG's Water
Quality/Quantity Committee (QQ) will
update us on in-stream water issues in
Colorado focusing on recreational water
flow litigation and what these cases will
mean for our water futures.

Monday, January 7

Blue River Room, Silverthorne Library
Tom Long, Summit County
Commissioner, has an extensive history
of progress and frustrations with the
politics of Denver and other Water
Boards.

Monday, February 4

Mt. Royal Room, County Commons
Anne Byerly, Henderson Mines
Water Quality and Mining

ENOS MILLS GROUP (Denver)

– Ex-Com meetings
First Tuesdays, 6pm Potluck, followed by
Ex-Com meeting. Discussion of issues
and activities. Ross-University Hills
Library, 4310 E. Amherst Ave. Diane at
303-504-9657.

– General meeting.

Third Tuesdays, 7 – 8:30pm
Ford Warren Branch of the Denver Public
Library, 2825 High Street, (High Street at
East 28th Ave.) Diane at 303-504-9657
or diane.uren@rmc.sierraclub.org.

HIGH PLAINS GROUP

(Eastern Denver Suburbs)
Second Thurs., 7pm, Parker Library
(NW corner of Parker Rd. and Main)

Thursday, December 13, 7pm

**Premier screening of Prairie
Dogs Are Cool Catz!** childrens'
multimedia educational program.

Thursday, January 10, 7pm

Please visit the HPG website for
details, including speakers, locations
and directions,
www.rmc.sierraclub.org/hpg/
Jaime Rudoff, 303-841-1753.

INDIAN PEAKS GROUP

(Boulder County)
– Bugle Editorial Staff
Meets quarterly around Bugle dead-
line. Barry Satlow, 303-442-1006, 303-
442-3535 (o), barry.satlow@rmc.sierra-
club.org.

– Conservation Committee

First Wednesdays
Wednesday, December 5, 6:30pm
2260 Baseline Rd. (Environmental
Center of the Rockies, basement
conference room, SW corner of
Baseline and Broadway in Boulder).

The meeting starts with about an hour of
letter-writing on current conservation
issues. Contact Chair Kirk Cunningham
for agenda details and to confirm meeting
place, 303-939-8519,
kmcunnin@juno.com

Wednesday, January 2, 6:30pm
2260 Baseline Rd. (Environmental Center of
the Rockies, basement conf. room, SW corner
of Baseline and Broadway in Boulder). The
meeting starts with about an hour of let-
ter-writing on current conservation issues.
Contact Chair Kirk Cunningham for
agenda details and to confirm meeting
place, 303-939-8519,
kmcunnin@juno.com

Wednesday, January 22
Environmental Center of the Rockies,
2260 Baseline Rd., Boulder (SW corner
of Baseline and Broadway), basement
conference room, 6:15 for a potluck
supper and 7:00 pm for the meeting.
For agenda items and to confirm the place
and date, Barry Satlow, 303-442-2335 or
Kirk Cunningham, 303-939-8519.

– Ex-Com meetings
Fourth Wednesdays, 7pm
(Usually 4th Wed., moved up to avoid Christmas.)

Wednesday, December 19
Hoge's home, 2300 Iris Ave. on north
Boulder (look for the mailbox with the
animals on it), 6:15 for a potluck supper
and 7pm for the meeting. For agenda
items and to confirm the place and date,
call Barry Satlow, 303-442-2335
or Kirk Cunningham, 303-939-8519.

– Urban Land Use Com. (ULUC)
Third Mondays (usually)

Monday, December 17
2260 Baseline Rd. (Environmental Center
of the Rockies, basement conference
room, SW corner of Baseline and
Broadway in Boulder).
Contact Chair Matt Appelbaum,
303-499-8970 to confirm date, place and
agenda items.

Monday, January 21, 7pm
2260 Baseline Rd. (Environmental Center
of the Rockies, basement conference
room, SW corner of Baseline and
Broadway in Boulder). Contact
Chair Matt Appelbaum, 303-499-8970 to
confirm date, place and agenda items.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY**

Please clip, mail or fax (303-861-2436) this form to:
(or fill this out online at: www.rmc.sierraclub.org/volunteer.html)

Volunteer Development Committee, Sierra Club
1410 Grant Street, Suite B303
Denver, CO 80203

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (day & evening) _____

E-MAIL _____

Occupation/Educational Background _____

To receive **e-mail alerts and announcements**
(the easiest way to get involved!),
log onto our website to register for them at:
www.rmc.sierraclub.org/listserv.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Holiday Celebration & Dessert Potluck
and Chapter Awards**

Sunday, December 2, 2001, 4 – 7pm, EMS 870 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver
Join the members of the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter for our annual
holiday celebration! **Bring a dessert to share, we'll provide beverages.**
Come Celebrate the Chapter's 36th year in Colorado!
The event is **FREE**, but please RSVP to 303-861-8819.



Letter Writing Party

Monday, January 28, 2002, 7 – 8:30pm,
*Chapter Office, 303-861-8819. See "Events" page 14.

Legislative Workshop

Saturday, February 9, 2002, 10am – 3:30pm, Bethany Lutheran Church
See "Events" page 14.

Outings Training – May 2002

MT. EVANS GROUP

(SW Jefferson, Northern Park,
Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties)
Second Thurs. – Evergreen Rec Center.
Betsy 303-674-7236 or Lyn 303-838-8117.

PIKES PEAK GROUP

(El Paso & Teller Counties)
For info. Judy Bolin, 303-592-0963.

POUDRE CANYON GROUP

(Larimer & Weld Counties)
– Ex-Com meetings
Second Mondays, 6:30pm
Poudre Fire Authority Conf. Room, 102
Remington St., Fort Collins.
For info. Janna Six, 970-493-5034.

– Conservation Com. meetings

Fourth Mondays, 6:30pm
Fort Collins. Mark Easter for
location and info., 970-224-9214.

– Singles meetings

Third Thursdays, 5:30pm
Thursday, Dec. 20 & Jan. 17
County Cork Pub,
313 W. Drake, Fort Collins.
Mr. Fred for info, 970-223-4926.

RACHEL CARSON GROUP

(Eastern Jefferson County)
Meets as needed to cover topics of impor-
tance to members. To get involved,
Bill Kossack 303-464-1833.

SANGRE DE CRISTO GROUP

(Arkansas River & San Louis Valley)
– TBA- Legacy Series – Featuring promi-
nent individuals in the environmental
movement. Jim Trujillo at 719-948-4129.

SOUTH PLATTE GROUP

(Arapahoe, Douglas & Jefferson Counties)
Fourth Thursdays. 6:30 – 8:30pm.
Bemis Library, Littleton,
303-795-3961. In new study room – look
for Sierra Club sign. Dave Nikkel, 303-
972-3400, dknmail@sprintmail.com.
See our website for activities:
<http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/spg/>

UNCOMPAGRE GROUP

(Mesa, Delta & Gunnison Counties)
– Outings Meeting
Shelly 970-243-5138 or GinaMaria 970-
244-8696, jerome@thewriteparts.com.
– General meeting
Shelly, 970-243-5138.

WEMINUCHE GROUP

(Durango and surrounding counties)
Third Weds. 5:30pm, Bayou Doc's 701
E. 2nd Ave, Durango.
We welcome everyone interested in pre-
serving, protecting, and enjoying the Four
Corners' natural beauty – Executive
Committee members needed, as well as
active group members.
For info. hrlriegle@hotmail.com

YES! I'd like to participate in the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club!
So we can best utilize your time & talents, **check your top 4 priorities only.**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/Bookkeeping–Budget/Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchandise Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters–Chapter/Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Outings/Outdoor Service Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Program Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Banking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facilities Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Population |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising/Grant Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling/Simplicity/Sustainability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay & Lesbian Sierrans—a social/outings group | <input type="checkbox"/> Singles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General office work, data entry, mailing parties | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste–burning haz. wastes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genetic Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Bureau/Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials/Toxics | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology–Computers/Web | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Land Use/Sprawl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inner City Outings | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International & Trade Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources–prof. & experts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative–Contact legislators/hearings/review | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness/Forests/BLM/Public Lands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Relations/Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Endangered Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Volunteer Welcome Wagon | <input type="checkbox"/> Write letters to legislators/newspapers |

If you are a college/graduate student that has any interest in Sierra Club Student Coalition
activities or involvement, please state the name of your college/university below:

Special skills, knowledge or experience I am able to contribute as a Sierra Club volunteer:

Thanks so much for participating!

December 2001/January 2002

WHAT IS A SPECIAL PLACE?

Big majestic places, or everyday places. Solitude, great views or family
togetherness. A place that was special when you were growing up, or just
last weekend—places that mean something to you.

Spending time in nature is always important—especially so in times of
stress. As former Sierra Club president and current summer camp direc-
tor Chuck McGrady has said, "Each of us has a special place that heals
us, that quiets our confusion and helps us to hear our own voice again."

In that spirit, the Sierra Club website has added a page dedicated to mem-
bers' special places. Tell us about your favorite natural place, or just
check out what other members have to say.

<http://www.sierraclub.org/specialplace/>

**NON-Sierra Club
Activities**

*The following activities are not spon-
sored nor administered by the Sierra
Club. The Sierra Club has no infor-
mation about the planning of these
activities and makes no representa-
tions or warranties about the quality,
safety, supervision or management of
such activities. They are published
only as a reader service because they
may be of interest to the readers of
this publication.*

Thurs. – Sat., January 24 – 26

Thinking Ahead: Energy in a Changing Climate

We will explore the environmental consequences
of our energy policy upon the environment and it's
citizens, with a special emphasis on the Rocky
Mountain Region. The focus of this conference lies
with universities, businesses, and communities who
have made commitments to energy conservation and
explain how we may follow suit.

Speakers include Steve Smith, Sierra Club
(invited); David Orr, Oberlin (invited); Faith
Gemmil, Gwich'n Steering Committee; Robert
Redford (invited); Peter Morton, Four Corners
Wilderness Society; Randy Udall, CORE; Karl
Rabago, Rocky Mountain Institute; and more...

Contact Ghita Levenstein Carroll, 303-492 3229
or www.colorado.edu/cuenvironmentalcenter

SIERRA CLUB

Statement of Purpose

to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth,

to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources;

to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment;

and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.



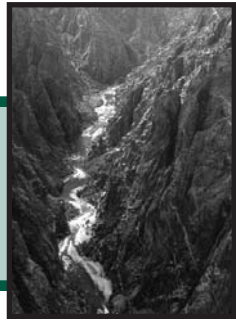
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Rocky Mountain Chapter
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Denver, CO 80203

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