

**ELECTION ISSUE**  
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## Oil and Gas Industry Exemptions Put Colorado at Risk

By Gopá Ross, Oil and Gas Committee Chair  
Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter

*The Rocky Mountain Chapter Oil and Gas Campaign's mission is to ensure that Colorado water and air resources are clean, the environment, wildlife, and public health and welfare are protected, and that these are not endangered or impacted by irresponsible oil and gas drilling practices, including hydraulic fracturing. The Rocky Mountain Chapter has adopted a comprehensive regional oil and gas advisement policy that defines industry drilling/operational technology procedures required to protect ecosystems and public health in Colorado.*



Citizens of Huerfano rally in front of Huerfano County Courthouse, Colorado, on June 28.

I want to say thank you to our members actively supporting our Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Campaign promoting documentary films "Gasland" and "Split Estate", which are part of the *Community Education and Outreach Project*.

According to Sierra Club members from northern, central, southern Colorado and the western slope, oil and gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing are popping up everywhere throughout Colorado. Many Colorado residents near drilling operations want to know why corporations have the right to drill on Bureau of Land Management lands, State Trust Lands, and private lands, even if residents object. The simplest way to explain this is to look at Colorado Statute. Colorado has a "Split Estate" statute, which designates separate ownership of a surface property and the mineral rights beneath the property. As a result, most landowners do not own the mineral rights on their land.

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) oversees the oil

and gas industry in our state. The mission of the COGCC is to "foster the responsible development of Colorado's oil and gas natural resources".

And, according to the Commission's website, "responsible development" results in:

- The efficient exploration and production of oil and gas resources in a manner consistent with the protection of public health, safety and welfare
- The prevention of waste
- The protection of mineral owners' correlative rights
- The prevention and mitigation of adverse environmental impacts
- The COGCC seeks to serve, solicit participation from, and maintain working relationships with all those having an interest in Colorado's oil and gas natural resources.

Because of the commission's misleading mission statement and the revenue offered by mineral extraction, there are conflict-of-interest problems with the regulatory process

*"Oil & Gas" continued on page 12*

# PEAK & PRAIRIE

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for the November 2011  
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*Monday,  
November 7<sup>th</sup>*

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The *Peak & Prairie* is published based on the budget, volunteer, and staff capacity that is available. In 2010 and 2011, this means one printed newsletter. In 2011, we also initiated monthly e-newsletters. If you are not receiving the monthly e-newsletter, please "opt-in" here: [rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp/subscriptions](http://rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp/subscriptions). All past e-newsletters are archived here: <http://rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp>

## Letter from the Director of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, Joshua Ruschhaupt



This past year has been exhilarating for me. There was wide recognition when I was hired a year ago that this chapter had a vast amount of potential. I was excited then about working with the volunteer leadership (and recruiting more along the way) to build this chapter into a model that other Club chapters could aspire to be more like, let alone being a very effective environmental force in Colorado. We are making excellent progress on becoming just that.

To begin, the chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom) took steps to create a "Chapter Structure Team" that would over a period of several months (created in 10/2010, and "sunset" in 04/2011) review the chapter's structure and make recommendations about how to best proceed in several areas. The ExCom unanimously approved two rounds of those recommendations in January and April. What follows is a quick progress report on the implementation of those recommendations, other work happening this past year, a good idea about just how much work is being done behind the scenes, and some that has already been illuminated by Colorado media.

### Conservation: General

As outlined in my September *Peak & Prairie* e-newsletter message (subscribe here [rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp/subscriptions](http://rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp/subscriptions) if you're not receiving them every month since April), the chapter now has a conservation priority-setting process that is open to all chapter members. The basic explanation is that:

1. a member thinks of a conservation idea that impacts a region or the state (local ideas should be discussed at the local group level if a group exists in that area) and completes an application to establish a new chapter conservation priority (see the chapter's website, [rmc.sierraclub.org](http://rmc.sierraclub.org) for details, deadlines, et cetera);
2. the ExCom reviews all applications and the budget available for them, and makes decisions in January of each year;
3. the approved campaigns proceed to be implemented by the shared-leadership core team (applicants and any volunteer leaders recruited) leading it.

We already had one campaign win in April (featured on our website's homepage, the April P&P

e-newsletter, and in multiple Colorado media outlets), opposing a new nuclear power plant proposal in Pueblo! Other chapters are already adopting our conservation priority-setting process for themselves.

On another conservation front, we're working on structuring the conservation issue teams (17 of them, on issues like "energy," "wilderness," and "oil & gas") to define goals, recruit additional leaders, and to either create their own campaigns, or to use the chapter priority-setting process to carry out focused campaigns. All of this work behind the curtain has and will continue to result in shared-leadership core teams with a high capacity for igniting incredible grassroots activism across Colorado.

### Communications

One new Team that was approved by the ExCom from the recommendations of the Chapter Structure Team is the Communications Team. This team specializes in all-things media. This newsletter wouldn't have happened without their diligent and skilled work, for example. This team is setting the example for the chapter's teams, in that they are high-performing, fully functional, self-sufficient, "leaderless" (shared leadership), and are implementing their team's charge to its fullest capacity. They're beginning with the e-newsletters and this newsletter, but also working on our chapter and group emails to members, the website, our Facebook page, and are developing the area of media trainings for our volunteers and teams soon. This team is one of our most successful so far.

### Fundraising

For most of 2010, there was only little fundraising happening by the chapter, but the chapter cannot succeed without a strong fundraising plan and having really enthusiastic contributors. This year, our fundraising efforts have increased (excellent returns from the January appeal, and we almost met our \$24,000 March appeal goal). However, the chapter is expanding, and needs to increase our fundraising efforts to support our strategic growth and effectiveness. We are hitting some hard financial times right now, and so are ramping up our fundraising efforts to make sure the chapter gets back on track to long-term financial stability. You may see a letter or email, or hear directly from a volunteer or myself to share with you our chapter and group activities, activism, and advocacy, so that you, too, will have the opportunity to contribute to the chapter's successes!

### Conservation: Legislation

*"Letter..." continued on page 10*

# Lead So That Others May Follow

By Mike Whiteley, RMC, Indian Peaks Group Outings Chair, Outings leader,  
National Outings Leader

In 1892 John Muir founded the Sierra Club. It was his conviction that if people were taken into the wilderness to see for themselves the wonders of nature, they would then want to care for and preserve the wilderness that they had experienced. He believed that nature could teach intangibles that are hard to understand without a direct connection with the wilderness.

“Walk away quietly in any direction and taste the freedom of the mountaineer. Camp out among the grasses and gentians of glacial meadows, in craggy garden nooks full of nature’s darlings. Climb the mountains and get their good tidings, Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. As age comes on, one source of enjoyment after another is closed, but nature’s sources never fail.”

-John Muir

As a Sierra Club Outings Leader I see people experience nature for themselves - sometimes for the first time, but also sometimes I see a renewal of this experience in the very seasoned. This encounter is different for everybody: maybe it is their first time on top of a peak, or the first time on a trail in the winter, or the first time they see a bear or wolf in the wild. For others, maybe they have been to a particular site many times before, but this time they see a bit more, or see with more clarity and understand a profound truth between themselves and the wild.

I have learned from others who took the time to show me the way when I was young, and now it is my time to show the way, as John Muir did in the beginning.

The Sierra Club is one of the largest and most powerful environmental groups in the world, and as a member, all of you help in some way to further this cause. But, as a mostly volunteer organization, it is the “volunteer” portion that drives the club. Becoming a Sierra Club Outings Leader can be very helpful and rewarding - and what we need a great deal more of at this time. If any of you think you might like to lead trips, I would love to help you get started. It is not hard to do and there is a need for all types of trips, so whatever it is you like to do you could do as an outing.

A strong outings program helps the club in many ways: it gets more people outdoors, connects people in the club with each other and brings new people into the organization. It is a fun way to be involved and helps unite like-minded members. Most of all, however, this is what John Muir had in mind - connecting people with the wilderness in order to preserve the wilderness.

“In God’s wildness lies the hope of the world - the great fresh, unblighted, unredeemed wilderness.”

-John Muir

If you would like to become a leader or learn more about it please contact Mike Whiteley at 303-776-7396 or [mgwhiteley@q.com](mailto:mgwhiteley@q.com)

MAROON BELLS-NOMASS WILDERNESS, COLORADO

MIKE WHITELEY



# Bloomberg Pledges \$50 Million to Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign

By Bill Bruner, *Communications Team*

**O**n July 21<sup>st</sup> the Sierra Club announced an exciting partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies. From a boat overlooking Alexandria, Virginia, Michael R. Bloomberg, philanthropist and Mayor of New York City, pledged a \$50 million commitment over four years to the Beyond Coal Campaign that will fuel the Sierra Club's effort to clean the air, end the coal era, and accelerate the transition to cleaner, cost-effective energy sources.

And it is a good thing we have his support. In the U.S., coal is the leading cause of greenhouse-gas emissions, and coal's pollution contributes to four out of the five leading causes of mortality - heart disease, cancer, stroke, and respiratory illness. Coal emits almost half of all U.S. mercury pollution, which causes developmental problems in babies and young children, as well as being a major contributor to asthma attacks. Coal pollution causes \$100 billion in health costs annually.

"If we are going to get serious about reducing our carbon footprint in the United States, we have to get serious about coal. Ending coal power production is the right thing to do, because, while it may seem to be an inexpensive energy source, the impact on our environment and the impact on public health is significant," said Bloomberg during the announcement. "Coal is a self-inflicted public health risk, polluting the air we breathe, adding mercury to our water, and the leading cause of climate disruption."

This \$50 million grant will fill a significant portion of the campaign's projected \$150 million four-year budget and will catalyze the efforts of the Beyond Coal campaign; it will effectively retire one-third of the nation's aging coal fleet by 2020, replacing it with clean energy. And on August 31 of this year, Mayor William D. Euille of Alexandria and GenOn Energy, Inc. announced the planned retirement of the 62-year-old coal-fired Po-

tomac River Generating Station, the scene of this July 31 pledge. The announcement set the retirement date for October 1, 2012. Since 2003, the Sierra Club has worked on an extensive organizing campaign targeting the plant for responsible retirement due to its extensive health effects to the families of Washington, DC and Northern Virginia.

The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign started as a three-person campaign in 2002 and has quickly grown into a powerhouse effort that is changing the way America produces energy.

How does this gift affect the plans we have in Colorado? Roger Singer, Senior Organizing Manager, Sierra Club's Western Region, said in a recent interview that he believed Colorado was poised to be a leader in the fight to move beyond coal. Colorado has been at the forefront working closely with various utility companies to already reduce the coal generation in the state by 1,000 megawatts. This partnership has worked well and the state's utility companies are beginning to understand that the conversion from coal actually has little or no impact on consumer bills or the cost of producing energy, he added.

Roger pointed out that one of the biggest misconceptions about coal was that it was inexpensive and plentiful energy. However, when the cost to the environment and the effect on the health of people in the community are considered, the true cost of coal is high.

This generous gift is a chance for us to come together as a nation and move beyond the norm and will hopefully spark others to give generously to the effort so we will be able to continue to clean our air and water of the effects of being a coal consuming nation.

*For more information about the Beyond Coal campaign, visit [www.beyondcoal.org](http://www.beyondcoal.org)*



Mike Brune and Michael Bloomberg

## Sierra Club and EnergySmart Partnership Aims to Save Energy and Dollars

By Steve Bauhs and Lucas Thelosen  
*Co-Chairs, Indian Peaks Group Energy Committee*

An exciting partnership is forming between the Sierra Club IPG Energy Committee and EnergySmart, a program designed to improve the energy efficiency of homes in Boulder County.

Under this partnership, Sierra Club members will receive a full energy assessment or an in-house consultation. This full assessment offers thorough recommendations based on an energy review of your home. For the energy savvy folks that already have a pretty good idea of what to do, an advisor-only service (just \$30!) can help with contractor selection, finding and filing rebates, and installation of some quick energy-saving devices in your home such as low-flow showerheads and CFL light bulbs - included in the \$30 fee. If you've had an audit in the last three years, the \$30 fee will be waived. A list of contractors specializing in completing the suggested work will be provided. To top it off, participating contractors will offer Sierra Club members DISCOUNTS on performing the work.

Look for more information in upcoming Sierra Club publications to learn how to leverage EnergySmart replete with the bonus benefits for Sierra Club members!

*Energize!*

### Beyond Coal campaign successes to date include:

- Stopped 153 new coal-fired power plants from being built, preserving market space for clean energy
- Slated nearly 10% of the current coal fleet for retirement
- Slowed new mountaintop removal mining permits to a trickle
- Claimed victory at 16 colleges and universities, where Sierra Student Coalition members have won fights to shut down coal plants on their campuses
- Mobilized hundreds of thousands in support of strong clean air and water protections
- Struck the biggest clean air agreement in the history of the Southeast with the Tennessee Valley Authority coal retirement settlement

# FLAMING GORGE PIPELINE... A BAD IDEA

By Steve Glazer, RMC Water and Aquatic Resources Committee

**EPA** vetoed the Two Forks trans-mountain diversion proposal on the S. Platte River over a decade ago because the impacts were deemed too significant to be adequately mitigated. We thought that might be the end to proposals for large transmountain diversions. Apparently not!

You may have heard that a private entrepreneur, Aaron Million, and others are proposing to pipe up to 250,000 acre feet (80 billion gallons) of water per year from the Green River and Flaming Gorge Reservoir in southwestern Wyoming over 500 miles to the Front Range of Colorado (*see map*). The pipeline would likely drain an average of one quarter of the Green River's flow every year, while costing up to \$9 billion or \$30,000 per acre-foot, more than most water users can afford.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has reported, "[t]his project has the potential to alter hydrological ... and ecological processes downstream in both the Green and Colorado Rivers to Lake Powell, affecting riverine and riparian species and habitats ... potentially affected species and habitats are federally listed species, designated critical habitats, species that are candidates for Federal listing, and State-sensitive species." It would also undermine the boating and fishing recreation economy along the Green River from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to Lake Powell.

Colorado has not been able to precisely determine how much of the Colorado River Compact<sup>†</sup> allocation we have left to develop. This pipeline could take us over the limit triggering a call from the Lower Colorado River basin states to curtail use of water in Colorado by agriculture and municipalities.

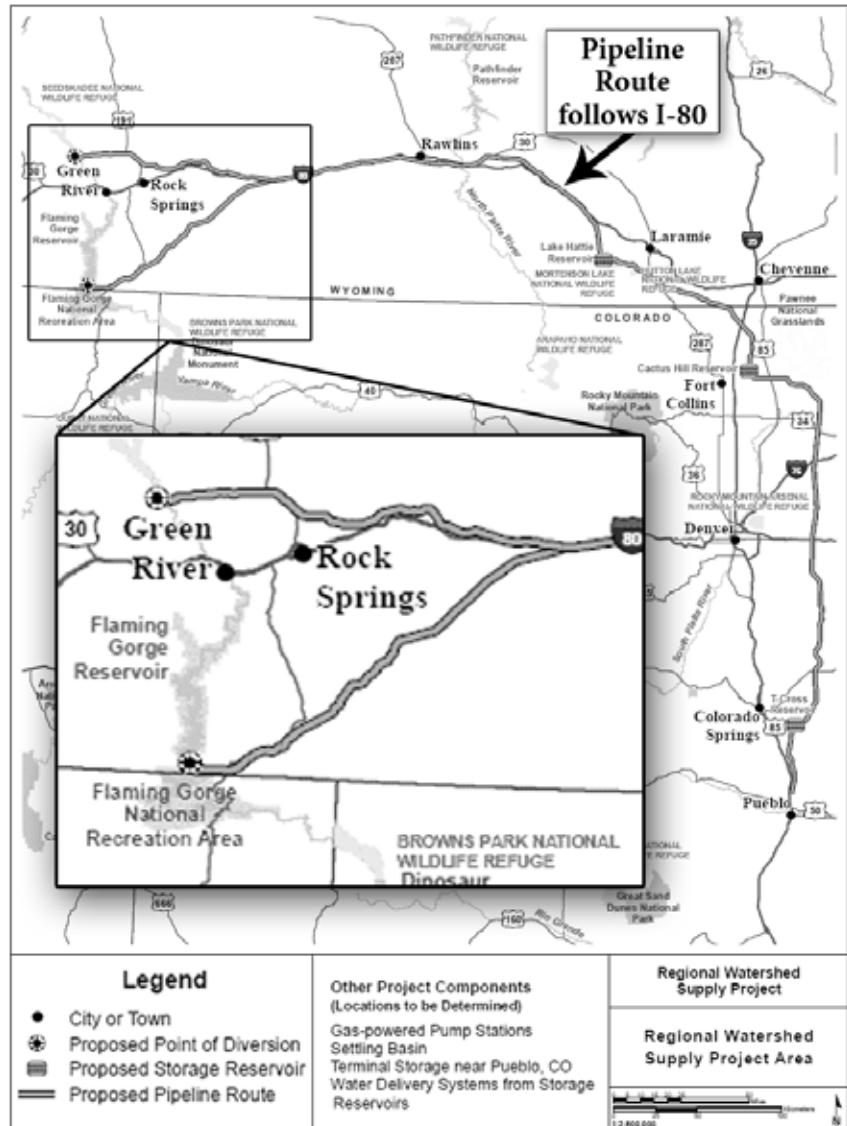
In 2005, the legislature created nine basin roundtables to assess existing supplies and future water needs through 2050 with the assistance of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The Front Range basins show significant shortages in meeting future needs. The three Front Range Roundtables have asked the CWCB to fund a task force to further study this Flaming Gorge Pipeline proposal, and have invited all of the other Roundtables to participate.

The Sierra Club is among 20 conservation groups expressing opposition to this task force investigation because there are much better alternatives to meet the future water supply needs of Colorado including more aggressive water conservation, strong land-use planning and growth management, increased water re-use and recycling, and cooperative water-sharing agreements with farmers.

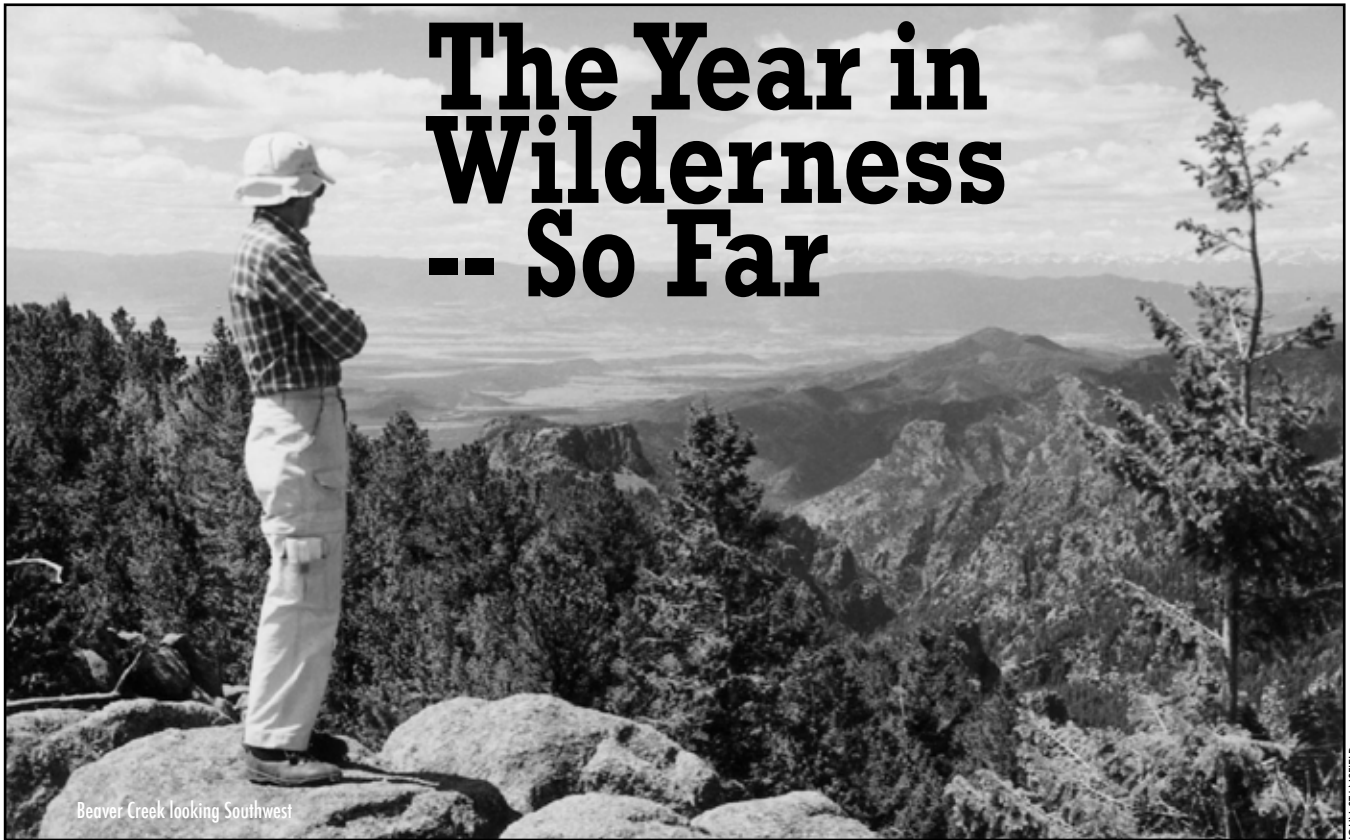
At a meeting of the CWCB on Sept. 14, the study was dramatically reduced in scope and timeline due to strong public opposition. The funding was reduced from \$240,000 to \$72,000 and the timeline shrank from 18 months to 6 months. Our continued vigilance will be focused to

prevent this harebrained idea from gaining any momentum and wasting any more public funds. We will work to again remind water providers that a project of this scope is not worth pursuing.

<sup>†</sup> The Colorado River Compact was signed in 1922 and ratified by Congress allocating the Colorado River between the seven basin states of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico (Upper Basin states), Arizona, Nevada and California (Lower Basin states). The Compact says that the Upper Basin must deliver to the Lower Basin 75 million acre feet (maf) on a 10-year running average (7.5 maf/yr). The Upper Basin states signed a Compact in 1948 that distributes the remaining annual yield of the river (approximately 6 maf) on a fixed percentage. Under this agreement, Colorado gets 51% or about 3 maf.



# The Year in Wilderness -- So Far



Beaver Creek looking Southwest

JOHN STANSFIELD

By John Stansfield,  
*Pikes Peak Group  
Wilderness Chair*

In the frazzling final days of the 111th Congress in December 2010, Senate leader Harry Reid (D-NV) decided not to push a promising Senate Omnibus Lands and Waters bill, which might have designated wilderness statewide, including areas in the Arkansas Canyon proposed by Pikes Peak Sierra Club, Wild Connections, Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition, and other groups. Despite this setback, wild land advocates made tremendous progress in raising the visibility of local wild lands in Fremont and Chaffee Counties and elsewhere during 2010. Among the achievements were:

- Collaborative grassroots organizing, especially in Fremont County, which developed strong local support
- A Fremont County forum, sponsored by wilderness champion Rep. Diana DeGette, D-CO, attended by more than 100, mostly wilderness supporters
- A unanimous resolution of support from the Fremont County Commission for wilderness designation in the Badger Creek, Beaver Creek, Grape Creek, and McIntyre Hills areas

Given the organizing progress of 2010, there is considerable interest for keeping up the momentum for wilderness protection in 2011-2012. Several positive factors are emerging.

- This spring, Rep. Jared Polis introduced the Eagle County and Summit County Wilderness Act, incorporating areas from the conservationist's Hidden Gems wilderness proposal in the White River National Forest and adjacent BLM lands.
- In July, Rep. DeGette reintroduced her Colorado Wilderness Act in the 112th Congress, including the areas in both Chaffee (Browns Canyon) and Fremont, as well as many others on the Western Slope.
- Roadless areas are the raw material through which wilderness is created and biological diversity is preserved. The US Forest Service's comment period for the Colorado Roadless Area Conservation Rule draft document ended in mid-July. While far from perfect, the plan added the concept of Upper Tier--additional protections for some roadless areas. Sadly, the draft proposed only 13 percent of 4.2 million acres of roadless lands for Upper Tier. Many more areas and acres in each Colorado national forest deserve heightened protection. Conservationists are working hard to secure more Upper Tier and other improvements in the roadless document before the final rule is put in place.

*Your letters (email or snail mail), phone calls, texts, tweets, and shout outs to Reps. DeGette and Polis in support of new wilderness do make a difference for wild lands. Watch for an improved Colorado Roadless Area Conservation Rule, probably in early 2012. With your help, we will sustain the push for wilderness and biodiversity protection in Colorado.*



## 2011 Contributors to the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter

The *Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter* wishes to give our heartfelt thanks to all of our wonderful 2011 contributors, including all of our anonymous contributors (you know who you are). Your contributions are what enable the *Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter* and its groups to be effective at our mission to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet. New this year is our monthly giving program, which enables you to budget a small (\$10 min.) contribution that adds-up in a big way with many people. If you haven't considered making your contribution in this way, please consider it, and tell your friends about us. We need you! [www.rmc.sierraclub.org/contribute](http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/contribute)

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Carpenter	Ms Becky English	Sue & Michael Holtz	Roy & Laurie	Jennifer Pfister	Tyrone and Deidra	Ruth Wright
Robert Carrick	Connie S Esch	Richard and Elizabeth	McCanne	Earl Pitzer	Steen	Eileen Wysocki
Deborah A.	Bayard Ewing	Hoops	Diane Mc Carty	Christine & W Kirk	Paul and Arianthe C.	Jennifer Young
Carstensen	Gary and Kathy Falk	Billy Jack	Lucille McClelland	Pokrandt	Stettner	K Zeller & J Rickards
Dora Cash	Richard Farrell	Robert James	Brian Mccluskey	Betty and Dale Porter	Mark Stevens	
Victoria Cavanaugh	Mickail Farrin	Lynn and Joy Jamison	Patricia Mccool	Myrna Poticha	Diane Stine	

# WELCOME BRYCE CARTER TO SIERRA CLUB STAFF

By Roger Singer, Senior Organizing Manager – CO, NM & UT



BRYCE CARTER

I would like to introduce you to our newest staff member, Bryce Carter, a great addition to our organizing department and the Beyond Coal campaign. Bryce is working as a member of the national Sierra Club staff on our grant-funded Beyond Coal program to retire some of the oldest, dirtiest coal and oil facilities as outdated energy sources here in Colorado, and to instead promote clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency statewide.

Bryce will work in close coordination with our Rocky Mountain Chapter members, active volunteers and chapter staff to help build up a strong grassroots campaign and to create a cadre of volunteer leaders who are better empowered to influence key decision makers at the federal, state, county and

municipal level on these critical energy and environmental issues, and to protect our clean air and clean water. His office is in the Alliance Center in downtown Denver, just down the hall from the chapter offices.

Bryce graduated from Virginia Tech with a concentration in Environmental Policy. He has since gained a wealth of relevant experience working in the conservation organizing field, all around the country, with diverse groups such as Green Corps, CREDO Action, Fund for the Public Interest, Food and Water Watch and with Sierra Club in Texas to help build opposition to the awful Keystone XL tarsands pipeline.

Everyone he worked with has had a favorable impression of Bryce as friendly, outgo-

ing, professional and motivated. He's politically savvy as well, even having already run for a Town Council seat in Blacksburg, Virginia while still a college student.

He'll use that work experience, education and personality to help our Beyond Coal campaign grow and succeed here in Colorado. As I transition into my regional manager role for the southwest region of Utah, New Mexico and the great state of Colorado, I feel confident that the Beyond Coal campaign here in Colorado will continue to set the example for clean energy work across the American West.

Feel free to drop Bryce a welcome note at: [bryce.carter@sierraclub.org](mailto:bryce.carter@sierraclub.org)

## Possible Big Changes at Chatfield Reservoir & State Park

By Ann Bonnell, RMC and Mike Mueller, RMC Special Technical Advisor

**Chatfield** Lake was originally built to store flood waters, and water storage in the lake was purchased for a recreational pool. A study has been going on now for over 10 years to store an additional 12 vertical feet or 20,600 acre feet of water for residential, commercial and agricultural use. The proposal has been brought forth by 14 possible water users/districts.

The water to be stored mainly consists of junior water rights which mean the water may be available for storage in about one out of three years. To accommodate the higher water levels when present, the picnic areas, beach facilities, roads, the marinas and other recreational facilities are proposed to be moved farther out or in different locations. Lost wetlands, wildlife habitat and Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat will have to be replaced and over 200 acres of mature cottonwood forest and the stumps are to be removed. Because of evaporation loss, the extra water will not be held over from year to year. The added water in most areas will be shallow and not navigable by motor boats.

In years without incoming water rights the water levels will be where they are now with brand new facilities farther from the lake around what might be called a "bath tub ring" of dirt, sand and mud flats. The proposed water storage partners have promised to do their best to make amends for the proposed big changes around the lake.

### If you are interested, what can you do?

The public document Draft FR/EIS (Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement) on the Chatfield Reallocation Study will be coming out soon. Reallocation means changing flood storage in Chatfield Lake to water storage for residential, commercial, and agricultural uses.

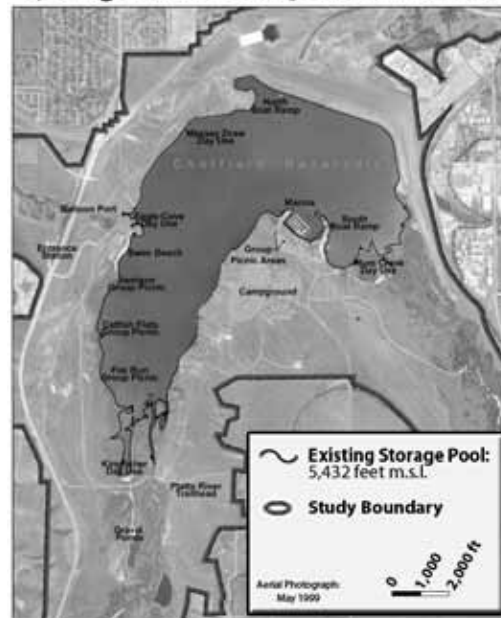
There will be three public meetings scheduled to give you information on the project and to answer your questions. The current projected date for the release of the Draft FR/EIS is the end of September, 2011. The public meetings may be in mid October. This will be when you can make comments or send them in later by a deadline set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The document itself with all its appendices is over 2,600 pages and will be available in hard copy to study at several locations in the Denver area or on the internet. You can find some advance information on the water user's public relations website at [www.chatfieldstudy.org](http://www.chatfieldstudy.org). To see the maps on the site go to Supporting Documents then Public Outreach Flyer.

Questions in advance or to get on a list for notifications may be left at 1-866-643-5875. After the public meetings and comment period the U.S. Army Corps, the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies will review

the comments and come out with what is called a Record of Decision on whether or not the plans in the study should be carried out or not.

*If you care about Chatfield Reservoir and State Park you will want to be involved in this process!*

### Proposed Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Alternatives





# A Walk in the Woods:

## *Emerald Lake*

By Bill Bruner, *Communications Team*



The Path ahead, Emerald Lake



The sound of water



The perfect framed picture

BILL BRUNER

**I**n my life, the time I'm able to spend outdoors in the inspiring panorama that is Colorado, fills me up in order that I can deal with my daily life. Without this time, I believe, I would feel empty inside and my life would become dull and unfulfilled. I began this column to share with you the passion I have for the outdoors and to bring you along on some of the hikes I've been fortunate enough to enjoy in my short time in the state. If you have a favorite hike that you think I'd enjoy going on, please feel free to contact me. My information will be at the end of the article. Regardless of what your passion is for nature I hope I can inspire you to spend more time enjoying the beauty around you.

Emerald Lake is one of the many trails in Rocky Mountain National Park. The trailhead is in the Bear Lake area of the park. During the busiest times of the year I would suggest parking at the "Park & Ride" to take the free National Park shuttle to the Bear Lake trailheads. There is ample parking at Bear Lake on most mornings but as the day goes on even this lot becomes quite full; save yourself the hassle during the summer months and enjoy the ride on the shuttle.

The trail begins at the end of the parking lot and Bear Lake is just ahead of you to the right. I suggest a short walk to Bear Lake before you begin; there are many interesting things around the lake but for me, I just love to stand and take in the beauty of the lake before I begin my hike.

The trail to Emerald Lake begins just to the left of Bear Lake and is at a starting altitude of 9,475 ft. The trail is only 3.6 miles round trip and gains approximately 600 ft on your ascend to Emerald Lake. This altitude gain is fairly moderate except for the fact that you

are starting so high to begin with. The trail itself is easy to follow and most people will find it an easy hike.

As you begin, the trail is shrouded in a beautiful Alpine forest. You are drawn into this forest as you move along the path, you'll discover many wonderful places to pause and enjoy the scenery. As you journey upward you'll pass a couple of other lakes on your way. The first is Nymph Lake and the second is Dream Lake. Each of these lakes has their own special qualities. We paused at each to take in and enjoy the view.

The lakes are fed by a wide variety of streams, some very small and some bigger and faster moving. We liked the sound of the water along most of our journey and occasionally we're surprised by a beautiful waterfall.



Emerald Lake

The view through the trees can be breath taking at times as the mountains around you are almost framed perfectly by the pines in front of you. These are the moments when I become completely swept away; what I loved about this hike was that there was so much diversity to look at all around you as you walked.

When you reach Dream Lake the path shifts right to go around the lake. At this point you only have approximately 0.7 of a mile to go. You also have the choice at this point to head to Lake Haiyaha which is approximately 1.1 miles away. You can create a loop from Lake Haiyaha back to Bear Lake but your total hike will nearly double. The total mileage for this journey would be approximately 6.5 miles.

When you reach Emerald Lake you're rewarded with an amazing view of the mountains all around the lake. We sat for a good 30 minutes to take in the beauty around us. While we were relaxing we were joined by a yellow-bellied marmot on the rock next to us.

The journey back to Bear Lake is fairly easy as you continue downward the whole way. I would give 2.5 to 3.0 hours to complete this hike so you have plenty of time to take in all the scenery. Also worth noting: The Bear Lake region is a popular place to snowshoe in the winter and many of the trails are open year-round for your enjoyment.

Thanks for taking the time to go along with me on this hike. If you have a special place you think I should check out, drop me an email at: [Timberwolf123@yahoo.com](mailto:Timberwolf123@yahoo.com)

Till next time,

*Bill*

BILL BRUNER

*"Letter..." continued from page 2*

The Legislative Committee had a tough, but gratifying 2011 legislative session at the State Capitol! By the end of the session, we chalked-up some great wins, all highlighted in my May P&P e-newsletter message. Our biggest win that caught headlines in the legislative session round-up media was our fight against "the bad bear bill," HB11-1294, which would have effectively overturned the 1992 spring bear hunt ban, proposition 10, which was passed by an overwhelming 70% vote, in the poorly visioned name of reducing overall human/bear conflicts in Colorado. This bill didn't even make it to a third-reading and vote (and therefore didn't make it into the Colorado Conservation Voters' 2011 scorecard), because our effective lobbying and grassroots activism staved off would-be supporters in the Republican-controlled House. Our Legislative Committee is evolving in great ways (new leaders, new legislative priority setting, et cetera) and we're going to be ready for the 2012 session!

#### **Conservation: Political**

Our Political Committee has suffered the loss of its very effective and highly respected chair, Peggy Malchow-Sass, who stepped down, only to be replaced by an ExCom appointment of another very effective and highly respected volunteer leader, Jane Ard-Smith. A few months ago, this committee restructured its membership, and is almost complete, with Jane needing to fill her prior role with a new volunteer leader, the Chapter Political Compliance Officer. (Interested? Email: [janeardsmith@comcast.net](mailto:janeardsmith@comcast.net).) They're ready for the next volley of political endorse-

ments!

#### **Conservation: Legal**

The chapter ExCom in September decided to re-establish the much-needed Legal Committee, and has appointed its first member, Erin Eastvedt (I'm calling her the Acting-Chair until the committee is fully formed and votes for its chair). This is a committee desired by many volunteer leaders since law is such a complex arena, and this committee will fill a great need for interpretation of laws, giving legal advice to volunteer leaders working on great campaigns, and coordinating the chapter and groups with the Club's Environmental Law Program. Erin and I are well underway to interviewing the candidates for this committee membership's roles, and she's already coordinating a coal-related legal matter!

#### **Organizational Capacity**

One of the recommendations passed by the ExCom was the creation of a team of volunteer leaders who focus on building the volunteer capacity of the chapter, called the "Capacity Building Team." This team is starting out by focusing on the Denver-metro area, having processed about 400 responses from a survey mailed to this area's membership. Respondents can expect to hear from this team soon to follow up and talk about how they can begin getting involved in Sierra Club activities locally, and at the chapter level. Later, this team will expand the survey to poll the rest of the chapter's members online. We have high hopes that this will open the flood gates of passionate new volunteers, activists, organizers, and leaders to fill the roles we're

creating in the chapter, and to invigorate the 10 groups as well! Our survey is now being used as a template for other chapters to consider following to engage their members.

#### **Conservation: Outings**

The chapter's outings program is currently being formed under the leadership of the recently initiated Outings Task Force, which is charged with getting the chapter outings program up-and-running again so that it is self-sufficient and growing. The Task Force membership consists of some great existing outings leaders from some of the groups and the Boulder Valley Inner City Outings. We all love the exploring, enjoying, and protecting the outdoors so much, and we want the chapter to have a great outings program, where so many existing volunteer leaders throughout the Club started out.

As you can see, there are amazing feats of work being done in this chapter, and this was just a superficial highlighting of our work. We've chosen to take the time to get this chapter structured very strongly from the bottom up to accommodate the chapter's conservation needs on several fronts, including bolstering the design of the chapter to be democratic, shared-leadership, and scalable as strategically required for the major conservation issues of our day. Now we are fully immersed in recruitment and training to fill that structure, and to empower those and our longstanding volunteer leaders to build the needed capacity to plan and win any conservation campaign.

## HEADS-UP!!!

*This is a quick update about things flying along or soon-to-come:*

- ▶ The Communications Team will begin working on a website strategy and redevelopment project, using a new technological "platform" called Drupal. This means our website will look different, have different navigation, and will be updated with content as provided from the volunteer leaders themselves, rather than only the webmaster, giving immediate access right to those who need it. Additional features will be:
  - ▷ a new "Sierra Club activities" calendar, which incorporates event mapping for browsing the chapter and groups events by geography, along with event/outing registration (RSVP's) and a smart-phone app, and
  - ▷ a new peer-to-peer fundraising capability, which will allow you (the reader of this newsletter), to initiate your own fundraising effort with your friends and family on behalf of the chapter to support all of your favorite Sierra Club work, to honor a friend, hold a contest to see who can raise the most in a short period of time (we'll even offer a prize!), or even as a gift registry for a wedding or birthday!
- ▶ The Capacity Building Team will soon be sending out a survey to all chapter members who have not already received the Denver-metro area survey. Be sure to complete the survey, because not only will you be able to sign up as a volunteer, but even if you don't want to do that, we still want your opinion about important questions we have for you (following up with you about volunteering is your option, not required).
- ▶ The Weminuche Group (Hinsdale, Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan, Dolores, and San Miguel counties) seeks new leaders to run that group! If we can't find 'em (you?), then the chapter will be forced to "dissolve" the group itself (members will continue to be members, there will just be no local-level organized group). If you'd like to sign up for a basic group leadership role, contact Kirby Hughes, [kirby.hughes@sierraclub.org](mailto:kirby.hughes@sierraclub.org).

*Have you seen our Facebook page?*



**FACEBOOK.COM/  
SIERRACLUBRMC**



**STAFF:**



**Chapter Director:** Joshua Ruschhaupt 303-861-8819 joshua.ruschhaupt@sierraclub.org

**CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**OFFICERS:**



**Chair:** Will Walters 970-690-3543 will.walters@rmc.sierraclub.org



**Vice Chair, At-Large:** Myrna Poticha 303-771-9866 mpoticha@aol.com



**At-Large:** Kerry Miller 970-372-1681 kerry.miller@rmc.sierraclub.org



**At-Large:** Suzanna Koeller 303-948-9192 suzannakoeller@msn.com



**At-Large:** Salley Rickenbacker 303-656-0907 salley7iron@yahoo.com



**At-Large:** Alan Apt 303-258-2456 alanrapt@gmail.com



**At-Large:** Becky English 303-733-4064 becky.english@rmc.sierraclub.org



**Secretary:** Betsy Kelson 720-219-7165 elizabeth.kelson@rmc.sierraclub.org



**Treasurer:** Jim Van DeWege 303-979-6556 jvandewege@comcast.net

**GROUPS**

A great way to get involved in your Chapter is by joining and participating in a local group. Each group has a website. For maps and additional information on each group, visit the website:

<http://rmc.sierraclub.org/local.shtml>

**Blue River Group**

*Serving Summit, Grand, Eagle Counties*

**Group Chair & ExCom Delegate:** Rick Warren 970-513-9136 rick.warren@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Indian Peaks Group**

*Serving Boulder County*

**Group Chair:** Becky Dickson 303-499-7261 rebecca.dickson@comcast.net  
**ExCom Delegate:** Linda Batlin 303-494-6407

lbatlin@aol.com

**Mount Evans Group**

*Serving Evergreen, Conifer, Park County*

**Group Chair & ExCom Delegate:** Betsy Kelson 720-219-7165 elizabeth.kelson@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Pikes Peak Group**

*Serving El Paso, Elbert, Teller*

**Group Chair:** Jane Ard-Smith 719-520-5381 janeardsmith@comcast.net  
**ExCom Delegate:** Kirby Hughes 719-685-3019 kirby.hughes@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Poudre Canyon Group**

*Serving Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland*

**Group Chair:** Shane Davis 509-570-4422 shanedv@yahoo.com  
**ExCom Delegate:** Will Walters 970-690-3543 will.walters@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Roaring Fork Group**

*Serving Roaring Fork Valley*

**Group Chair & ExCom Delegate:** Maggie Pedersen 970-947-9613 maggie.pedersen@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Sangre de Cristo Group**

*Serving Southeast Colorado & Arkansas drainage*

**Group Chair:** Ross Vincent 719-561-3117 ross.vincent@sierraclub.org  
**ExCom Delegate:** Jenny Kedward 719-582-0249 jenny.kedward@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Trappers Lake Group**

*Serving Northwest Colorado*

**Group Chair & ExCom Delegate:** Rich Levy 970-871-8799 rich.levy@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Uncompahgre Group**

*Serving Mesa, Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, Ouray*

**Group Chair:** Carole Chowen 970-256-1851 carole\_chowen@yahoo.com  
**ExCom Delegate:** Eric Rechel 970-242-4863 eric.rechel@rmc.sierraclub.org

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Awards:** Jenny Kedward 719-582-0249 jenny.kedward@rmc.sierraclub.org

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**Conservation Co-Chair:** Kirby Hughes 719-685-3019 kirby.hughes@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Boulder Valley Inner City Outings:** Michael LeDesma michael.ledesma@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Denver Inner City Outings:** Bill Myers 720-339-3639 bill.myers@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Elections Chair:** Jolynn Jarboe jolynn234@yahoo.com

**Legislative Chair:** Dianne Primavera 720-937-7694 diannep Primavera@yahoo.com

**Legislative Vice Chair:** Mary Coday Edwards 402-213-8463 mcodayedwards@gmail.com

**Legal Chair:** Erin Eastvedt 303-827-3434 erin.eastvedt@gmail.com

**Political Chair & Compliance Officer:** Jane Ard-Smith 719-520-5381 janeardsmith@comcast.net

**Political Vice Chair:** Myrna Poticha 303-771-9866 mpoticha@aol.com

**Political Treasurer:** David Mastronarde 303-440-0253 mast@colorado.edu

**Webmaster:** Rick Warren 970-513-9136 rick.warren@rmc.sierraclub.org

**CONSERVATION ISSUE CHAIRS**

*To get involved in specific conservation issues, please contact:*

**Agriculture:** Judith Rice-Jones 719-473-2154 jricejon@gmail.com

**Endangered Species/Wildlife:** Deirdre Butler 303-823-8649 deirdre.butler@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Energy:** Becky English 303-733-4064 becky.english@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Environmental Justice:** Eric Levine 970-493-6341 eric.levine@juno.com

**Federal Facilities:** Ross Vincent 719-561-3117 ross.vincent@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Groundwater:** Kirby Hughes 719-685-3019 kirby.hughes@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Mining:** Kirby Hughes 719-685-3019 kirby.hughes@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Oil/Gas:** Gopa Ross gopa@centurytel.net

**Pesticides:** Angela Medberry 303-433-2608 a.medberry@juno.com

**Sprawl/Affordable Housing:** Bill Myers 720-339-3639 kbill.myers@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Public Lands/BLM:** Rich Levy 970-871-8799 rich.levy@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Toxics:** Joan Seeman 303-738-8407 joan.seeman@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Transportation Chair:** Bill Roettker 303-530-3482 wilroe@mindspring.com

**Water Sources:** Steve Glazer 970-349-6646 steve.glazer@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Water Quality/Habitats:** Kirk Cunningham 303-939-8519 kirk.cunningham@rmc.sierraclub.org

**Wilderness:** Alan Apt 303-258-2456 alanrapt@gmail.com

*"Oil & Gas" continued from page 1*

overseeing oil and gas operations in Colorado. Current state regulations are not strong enough to protect the welfare of communities in our state.

During the Bush administration, major regulatory exemptions were passed by Congress in the 2005 Energy Policy Act (Cheney held financial ties to Halliburton, a corporation that patents hydraulic fracturing chemicals used in oil and gas drilling). Laws covered under these exemptions include Safe Drinking Water Act; Clean Water Act; Clean Air Act; National Environmental Policy Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Toxic Release Inventory under the Emergency Planning; and Community Right-to-Know Act. These exemptions create loopholes for the oil and gas industry that other industries don't have, placing our ecosystems on public and private lands in danger of being contaminated. Public safety is also at great risk without federal oversight.

Well drillings are being permitted too quickly by the COGCC, and the number of active wells is increasing at an alarming rate. Oil and gas wells are encroaching upon community developments throughout the state, literally in the backyards of property owners. With only eight inspectors on the regulatory staff for the COGCC and nearly 45,000 active oil/gas wells statewide, how could communities be adequately protected? The very statute of regulation becomes fundamentally flawed when the agency only responds to oil and gas incidents reported by citizens. The COGCC website portrays hundreds of unresolved water, air and accidental toxic chemical spills.

State and local officials deny the impacts to our environment, water, air, and public health. They insist that hydraulic fractur-

ing and drilling is safe. Drilling technologies have changed over the past eight years. Where there is oil and gas drilling, there are consistent citizen complaints about contamination. Financial benefit must not be allowed to take precedence over the welfare of our ecosystems or the welfare of the people.

Drilling and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) uses 2 to 8 million gallons of water for each fracking, depending on the geological formation being perforated (after a well is drilled, line charges are placed at multiple intervals vertically OR horizontally to fracture the formation allowing gas to release), and fracking is done multiple times during the lifetime of a well. This depletes surface and ground water supplies in communities. Colorado is already running short of water statewide. The chemical mixture (which is stated as only 1 percent of the fracking mixture) used each time the industry fracks contains 20,000-80,000 gallons of poisonous chemicals such as biocides, polymers, benzene, ethane, toluene, xylenes (diesel fuels), perchlorates (jet fuel), 2BE, hydrochloric acid, methyl ethyl ketone and hundreds of other toxic substances. The director of the COGCC has publically stated that these are no different than products under every kitchen sink, yet residents of Colorado would not willingly add these to their water supplies! Rural residents depend on clean groundwater for their domestic drinking water and ranchers need clean water for agricultural use and livestock.

Recent public information meetings, sponsored by county officials, COGCC, Colorado Oil and Gas Association, and scientists supporting oil and gas development, feature presentations by oil and gas industry representatives planning operations in our state. Law enforcement is asked to attend the meetings and local citizens are being told they can't ask questions or comment. If they attempt

to participate, they will be removed from the meeting by the officers. Public process and participation is being suppressed (Citizens for Huerfano County have filed a lawsuit against Shell western and COGCC because they have not been given a hearing to express their concerns for the community's safety).

#### **What can YOU do? Please get involved!**

- **Want to learn about the issues?** Join the [Sierra Club Activist Network](#) "Fracking Team" and our Colorado site "Community Education and Outreach Project".
- **You can make a difference!** We need members to write letters to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Government Oversight in support of repealing federal exemptions, and demand public disclosure of chemicals used in all phases of oil and gas operations (copied to David Neslin at COGCC and your legislator/senator).
- **We need volunteers** to help raise funds for independent baseline water studies and monitoring near oil and gas drilling statewide. We also need volunteers to help host showings of "Gasland" and "Split Estate" in every community.

*Please help us connect the coalitions across the state to peacefully rally against irresponsible oil and gas drilling, and use your voice to demand better regulations to protect our communities in Colorado. Caring Governments Don't Frac(ture) Communities!*

Contact: [gopa.ross@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:gopa.ross@rmc.sierraclub.org)

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Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

**Sierra Club  
Gift Planning Program**

85 Second St, Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org) • (800) 932-4270



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

GIFT PLANNING

# Have a say - vote for your Executive Committee

**VOTING  
DEADLINE  
Nov. 8, 2011**

Make your voice heard in the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter by voting in our annual Executive Committee (ExCom) election.

Note that included are ballots for three elections: the Rocky Mountain (RM) Chapter Executive Committee; the Roaring Fork Group (RFG) Executive Committee; and the Poudre Canyon Group (PCG) Executive Committee. All members can vote in the RM Chapter ExCom election, BUT ONLY MEMBERS OF THE RFG OR PCG, RESPECTIVELY, CAN VOTE IN THE RFG OR PCG EXCOM ELECTIONS.

Here's how to vote:

- 1) Your ballot will be counted only if it is received by the Elections committee before close of business on Tuesday, Nov. 8.
- 2) Use the ballot on page 15. Duplicate ballots will not be accepted unless they were issued by the Elections Committee. Please mail or deliver your ballot to:

Elections Committee  
Sierra Club RMC  
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 4B-1  
Denver, CO 80202

The mailing label from this newsletter is on the reverse of the ballot, so we will know this is a valid ballot; this label will not be considered when the ballot is counted in order to maintain secrecy. Ballots sent by FAX or e-mail are not acceptable and will not be counted.

- 3) Each Chapter member can vote in the Chapter-wide Executive Committee election and in the election for the Executive Committee of his or her local group. To determine which group you belong

to, look at the four digit number that begins with 18 [chapter number] near the middle of the second line of your mailing label (first line for labels sent outside the U.S.). The groups are designated as follows:

Number	Group
1822	RFG
1802	PCG

- 4) The Sierra Club national office assigns a membership number to each member when their membership paperwork was originally processed. This number is on your mailing label. \*The Elections Committee cannot accept any ballot lacking this number.

- 5) Your mailing label also indicates, just after the group number whether your household has a single (S) membership or a joint (J) membership. With a joint membership, two members' votes can be recorded on the same ballot.

The ballot indicates how many candidates you may vote for in each race.

You'll find your ballot on page 15. Candidate names have been listed in random order. The candidates' ballot statements are found on pages 13 and 14. If you have any questions about the election process or would like to volunteer to help count ballots, contact JoLynn Jarboe, Chair of the Elections Committee, at 303-753-0470 or email her at [jolynn234@yahoo.com](mailto:jolynn234@yahoo.com).

## Rocky Mountain Chapter Executive Committee Candidacy Statements

### Myrna Poticha

My major accomplishments have been in the field of water quality and riparian issues. I researched, wrote, proposed, and worked for adoption of the first wetland ordinance in Colorado. Among my accomplishments during 10 years of service on the State Water Quality Control Commission was researching and working for the adoption of the first numeric standard in the United States for soluble uranium. Appointed to Mayor Webb's South Platte River Advisory Commission, I worked successfully for the adoption of a master plan, management strategies, and a Natural Areas Program intended to protect and develop a continuous wildlife corridor along the Platte. During this past year I served on the RMC Legislative Committee, Political Committee, and as Vice-Chair of the ExCom. Awards: EPA's Outstanding Citizen Award; Named by National Clean Water Network, in 2002, as one of 30 national heroes under the first 30 years' of the Clean Water Act.

### Shane Davis

I currently serve as the Executive Committee Chair and Conservation Chair of the Poudre Canyon Group. B.S. Biology -Dickinson State University/University of Maryland/Europe, Research Biologist. National Science Foundation and EpScor grant recipient, Molecular genetics invention-DNA isolation, extraction, amplification, Department of Defense, awarded NATO medal, Dept. of Natural Resources, Park Ranger, and Interpreter Naturalist. Federal Observer, Marine Biologist for NMFS. I founded and currently direct an environmental conservation organization: 'Footprints of Nature'. Nature and humans are inseparable companions and I am strongly committed to ecological sustainability

and the protection of Coloradans. I would seek to bridge my experiences to be of benefit to the Sierra Club's Rocky Mountain Chapter's proposed major system-wide goals.

### Will Walters

I am currently serving on the ExCom as its Chair. We are working to rebuild the chapter's capacity to fight and win important environmental battles. I want to continue to help move those wins along.

### Suzanna Koeller

The environment has always been important to me and protecting it a priority. I believe conservation and preservation are the keys to maintaining a healthy and balanced environment. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2001 and have filled the roles of secretary, vice chair, and chair for the South Platte Group and was elected chapter at-large Excom member two years ago. Over the years, I have participated in a number of chapter activities including fundraising and mailing parties. Additionally, I have attended a number of national Sierra Club workshops and trainings on political issues and grassroots activism. I want to make a difference where the environment is concerned and do what I can to promote stewardship through education, conservation, and preservation so that we can live in harmony with our planet and leave the wild places for future generations.

## Roaring Fork Group Executive Committee Candidacy Statements

### Maggie Romance

Last summer, shortly after my college graduation, I moved from Kentucky to Colorado after obtaining my first teaching position. Not only was I eager to explore my amazing new home, but I also wanted to protect it. Joining the Executive Committee for our local Roaring Fork Group has provided me with that opportunity. It has been both refreshing and motivating to see the true impact that a united group of people can have in creating positive change for the environment and our community. I want to continue to participate in this process. As a member of the RFG's Executive Committee, I have worked with others on important local issues, from energy development to land protection. In addition, it continues to be my goal to engage more young people in our area, and I've worked with members to expand our social networking outreach. I also want to extend our educational programs down valley, sharing ideas and expanding our network of support. I've enjoyed the past year as an executive committee member, and I look forward to continuing to work with others in our community to carry out Sierra Club's mission.

### Ann Hopkinson

I feel the club is having a positive effect here in the valley, offering activities and meetings on environmental issues. I am particularly impressed by the respectful manner in which the club presents itself and the issues, respectful of other opinions, but firm in the core beliefs, and I would strive to maintain this cooperative stance.

My relevant background: I have worked for 30+ years at Valley View Hospital as a lab technologist, was ski patrol director at Sunlight Mt. Resort for two years, ran the Sunlight Nordic Center for several years, co-authored the guidebook *Rivers of the Southwest*, served on the Glenwood Springs River Commission in the 1980s, and served on the Glenwood Springs Energy Commission's core group of five which wrote Glenwood's climate action plan a few years ago.

### Dorothea Farris

My public interests and activities revolve around educational opportunity, public policy, protection of our wildlife and habitat, historic preservation, trails and open space, appropriate use of our wild lands, protection of our air and water quality, our quality of life, and our rural character. I support public transit, a valley-wide trail system, and protection of the scenic and historic values we treasure.

Board experiences:

Aspen School District (1997-2008)

Pitkin County Commissioner, (1998-2010)

*Colorado Parks and Wildlife* (1998-99, 2008-2012)

*Roaring Fork Transportation Authority* (2001-2008)

*West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway* (1993-current)

*Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association* (2008-current)

*Thompson Divide Coalition* (2010-current)

### Maggie Pedersen

I have been a Sierra Club member for over 30 years, but only became active when I retired from college teaching in Oregon and moved to Glenwood Springs nine years ago. My husband and I have worked over the past eight years to restore the local Roaring Fork Group and want to keep it strong. For the past two years I have served as chair of your local RF group and "communicator" to the members. As an Ex-Com member I try to use my organizational development, psychology and facilitation experience to help the group run smoothly. I have served on the Executive Committee of the RMC, serving as co-chair for two years. I love being outdoors - both in the mountains and on the sea - and love living in Colorado, except that I miss the ocean. Living here provides many opportunities to enjoy the environment and I want to work in whatever way I can to preserve that experience for all future generations.

## Poudre Canyon Group Executive Committee Candidacy Statements

### John Gascoyne

I have been on PCG's Executive Committee for the past three years. I was one of the organizers of the very successful recycling and composting events connected with the Horsetooth Half Marathon and Colorado Marathon this year. My best skills are in writing and editing and I have composed a number of newsletters and other documents for PCG. My main interest related to our group right now goes to the environmental dangers posed by the fracking industry. I believe in a very activist Executive Committee and a very activist membership of the PCG.

### Mark Easter

I have served on the PCG Executive Committee for more than a decade, focusing historically on issues involving land use and endangered species. Over the past term I have served as liaison between Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper and the PCG. I currently serve as Board Chair for Save The Poudre, and I intend to keep my focus on that liaison role. Issues affecting the Cache la Poudre River have become multi-state and International. The proposed Green River and Yampa River pipelines as well as the proposed Windy Gap Firing Project have a critical connection to our home river, and I intend to work on these issues while continuing in the fight against the proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project and Glade Reservoir.

### Tyler Wilson

I am a Colorado native, and have been an environmental and wildlife advocate for nearly 20 years. I have a B.S. Visual Communications/Graphic Design from Westwood College. I am very active in environmental sustainability: zero waste, renewable energies and public outreach. As an avid hiker, camper and nature photographer, I find myself most often cleaning trails of litter and engaging others to become stewards. For the past six years I have contributed to the design and development of poster and flyer designs for non-profit organizations, including the Sierra Club. I believe that my experience and expertise can be of important value for the PCG's overall objectives and goals. It is through public outreach and education that we can win our objectives for the people and the environment. I would be honored to be a part of such a great team to assist in our collective environmental goals.

### Caroline Krumm

I currently am Founder/Director of the Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy ([www.catconservancy.org](http://www.catconservancy.org)). I have a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and an M.S. in Ecology from Colorado State University. My experience includes: research technician for Colorado Division of Wildlife and Ecologist for USGS on mountain lion ecology in Rocky Mountain National Park; a study on mountain lion selective predation featured in Science section of NY Times and on Colorado Public Radio; a consultant for the Wilderness Society and instructor for Front Range Community College Natural Resources program. I consult for the Natural Resource Ecology Lab at CSU on a chronic wasting disease study. I believe in sound scientific research on wildlife to best understand our resources and then effectively relating that research to the community to instill stewardship for wildlife. I would seek to bridge my experiences to be of benefit to the Sierra Club's PCG's proposed major system-wide goals.

### Ted Manahan

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1986, and a member of PCG Executive Committee for two years. I have served as an outings leader and as the PCG outings chair. I recently earned an M.S. in Forest Sciences from CSU. I look forward to continuing to represent the PCG on natural resource policy issues.

### Andrea Cleland

I currently volunteer with the PCG. My qualifications include: an M.L.I.S. from Wayne State University with a Youth Services focus; an A.A.S. Veterinary Technology from Wayne County Community College and am a Licensed Veterinary Technician; a B.A. English Language Arts - Wayne State University, Presidential Scholar; Youth Services Librarian, on the American Library Association's Association for Library Services to Children Quicklists Committee; Young Adult Library Services Association, Freedom to Read Foundation, Colorado Association of Libraries; former Literacy Americorps Seattle member. As Anna Kirkpatrick so eloquently stated, "I think we need public libraries the same way we need wilderness .... Both are storehouses of diversity." As a librarian dedicated to outreach in my community and as an PCG.

# 2011 Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter Ballot

\*Membership number: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter ExCom <i>(vote for no more than 4)</i>	Single Member or First joint member	Second joint member
Will Walters		
Suzanna Koeller		
Myrna Poticha		
Shane Davis		
_____		

Roaring Fork Group ExCom <i>(vote for no more than 4)</i>	Single Member or First joint member	Second joint member
Maggie Pedersen		
Maggie Romance		
Ann Hopkinson		
Dorothea Farris		
_____		

Poudre Canyon Group ExCom <i>(vote for no more than 4)</i>	Single Member or First joint member	Second joint member
Tyler Wilson		
Caroline Krumm		
Ted Manahan		
John Gascoyne		
Andrea Cleland		
Mark Easter		
_____		

## Volunteer!

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club. Please complete the following form so that we can find the best opportunity for you, and mail it to us. Or, you can fill out our online form here:

<http://rmc.sierraclub.org/volunteer.shtml>

\* = required.

Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_

City\*: \_\_\_\_\_

State\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip\*: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one) Are you a member of the Sierra Club?    **Yes**                      **No**

(Circle one) I'm interested in volunteering:  
                   **Locally**    **RMC Chapter**    **Both**

**If you picked three or less from the entire list below, which would they be?**

**General:**

- Student Internship
- Denver office work on a fixed schedule

**Specialized skills:**

- Fundraising
- Accounting
- Legal
- Lobbying/Legislative
- Campaign/Community Organizing

**Outings:**

- Taking inner-city kids on outings (ICO) trips.
- I want to go on conservation outings, then I want to do something about it.
- I just want to get out for fun- from museums to mountains (general outings).

**Conservation issues:**

- Farmers are our friends, responsible **agriculture** is paramount.
- Fighting for **renewable energy** is our future! Sign me up!
- Justice for all- **environmental justice** needs me.
- Some **federal facilities** are ravaging the surrounding ecosystems, and I want it fixed.
- The proposed **Jefferson County Parkway** is irresponsible and dangerous.
- Mining** causes serious and extensive environmental damage- how can I help?
- I want to work on a nationally-coordinated

**Move Beyond Coal** campaign!

- The **oil & gas** industry don't know what's coming... just lemme at 'em!
- Pesticides**... Rachel Carson summed it up in *Silent Spring*. 'nuff said.
- Political** campaigns make some people queasy, but not me!
- What the world needs now is to slow the human **population** growth.
- Public lands** need public protection... I'm stepping forward.
- Reduce, re-use, **recycle!** We can never do enough.
- Sprawl makes me shudder, but **affordable housing** makes my heart flutter!
- Let's get **toxics** cleaned-up!
- Colorado's **transportation** systems need my attention.
- Water** is the life-blood of Colorado, and we need to treat it as such.
- Edward Abbey says: "**Wilderness** is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit." Let's explore, enjoy, and protect it.
- Colorado's **wildlife**: threatened and endangered. We can do better with our wild-life management.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



Rocky Mountain Chapter  
 1536 Wynkoop Street, #4B-1  
 Denver, CO 80202  
 www.rmc.sierraclub.org

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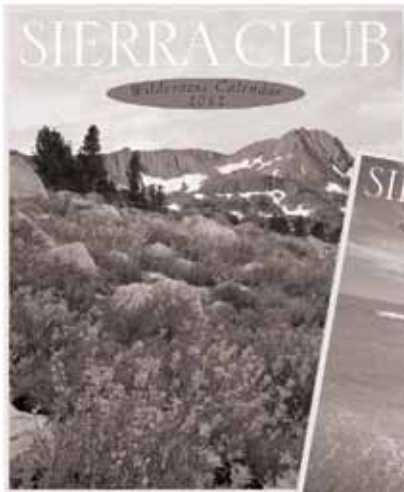
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## 2012 Sierra Club Calendars



**100% of  
sales go to  
RMC!**

### Order Form

Item	Cost	Qty	Total
Engagement Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>	\$14.00	_____	_____
Wilderness Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>	\$13.00	_____	_____
Subtotal:			_____
Shipping (\$5.00 per calendar):			_____
Sales Tax:			_____
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>			_____

Please make checks payable to "Sierra Club RMC" and mail to the return address shown on your newsletter.

### Ship To:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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