



New proposals promote protection for Colorado wilderness & watersheds



photo by Michael Ace

A guide to quick, easy and important action YOU can take

By John Stansfield,
Pikes Peak Group
Wilderness Chair

From the seeming morass of Congressional gridlock, encouraging sprouts have appeared in recent months. Growing out of grassroots citizen advocacy and

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Reduce your carbon footprint — go solar —

By Carol Carpenter
RMC Communications Team

We Sierra Club members and supporters all want to make a positive difference to help improve the environment. But as individuals we wonder, sometimes, if one person can really make much of a difference.

The good news is that we can — one roof at a time.

Sierra Club has partnered with Sungevity, a California-based solar home specialist, to offer an exciting new and affordable program to install solar panels on rooftops in



Sierra Club photo

many Colorado communities. The Sungevity Website (www.sungevity.com/map) has a map showing which areas of Colorado are currently in the service area for this program, which will be expanded in the future.

With no upfront investment, one of these solar rooftops could be yours. Enter your address and energy use on our Sierra Club Website (www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes) to

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High Park Fire prompts deep reflection

By John Gascoyne
RMC, Poudre Canyon Group Executive Committee

Many of us Sierra Club members like to hike our favorite trails over and over again, not really considering

that maybe one day when we return to a certain spot, it won't be there or it will be changed beyond recognition.

That's what happened to me and fellow Sierra Club hikers this year when, following the prolonged and devastating High Park Wildfire near Fort Collins, we saw with our own eyes how a beloved, pristine outdoor area can be suddenly destroyed.

Located less than 20 miles from downtown Fort Collins, Greyrock Trail is normally a crown jewel among the many great hikes available in Northern Colorado. With a starting elevation of just over 5,500 feet; you can ascend to just over 7,600 feet by the end

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**ELECTION
ISSUE 2012**
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FOR CANDIDATE
STATEMENTS
AND BALLOT

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, Joshua Ruschhaupt

Grassroots Organizing, if you are unfamiliar with the term, can be one of the most powerful and meaningful forms of accountability for democracy in America. Grassroots organizing is the intersection of the fiery passion of citizens who take their knowledge of a problem, identify their goals and strategies around solution(s), and then – with determination – focus their energy and courage to change the paradigm of their community.

I'm inspired by the harbingers of change and the solidarity of the masses to improve the human condition, to improve our social contracts, and to improve our generational obligations to protect the planet. The kinds of people who inspire me are detailed in our chapter's monthly electronic and print newsletter *Featured Volunteers* articles. (If you're not receiving our monthly e-newsletter, check out the archive and subscribe on our Chapter website www.rmc.sierraclub.org)

These, and the yet-to-be-featured other volunteers in the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter, seem to find hours in the day that most people don't think they have available, and put them to work. I cannot thank these people enough on behalf of the Sierra Club and the environment we all work to protect here in Colorado. My working relationship with hundreds of volunteers and contributors, and tens of thousands of members and supporters in this chapter make being the sole staff person for this chapter possible.

But I may not be the sole RMC staff person much longer. Our hard work is paying off, even if it's not always visible in the media. For example, we have been making progress on building Colorado's strongest grassroots oil & gas campaign, and are preparing to hire a community organizer as the next step. To be able to do that, we have been working with some large donors who have shown the vision and fortitude in this down economy to support our campaign. And we've only just begun.

The new conservation community organizer will spend most of the time working on the chapter's priority oil & gas campaign, but will work part-time to expand the rest of the chapter's conservation issue teams, too. This staffer will build the volunteer capacity of existing issue teams (outlined on the *Contacts* page: p. 13), and help train those new volunteers to understand what grassroots organizing is, develop their skills for winning campaigns, and make progress on advancing our conservation goals.

When you hear the term "community organizer," you might even think about our community organizer-in-chief, President Barack Obama, who worked for the Public Interest Network in Chicago years ago. I went through a similar program called Green Corps in '09-'10. Our national Sierra Club *Beyond Coal* campaign organizer, Bryce Carter, came up in the subsequent Green Corps year. Some of our volunteer leaders have had formal training as well. Grassroots organizing takes tried and true skills, shares them with ordinary citizens, and empowers those citizens to become advocates and activists.

Perhaps you have taken action on one of the Sierra Club's online, social network, or emailed action alerts. The tactics of our campaigns vary greatly, but when we send you an alert, we really do seek your support in signing it. You as an individual, combining forces with your 50,000 Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter members and supporters, can make the difference between a targeted decision-maker's deciding to make a bad environmental decision flooded with the spotlight of citizen accountability

– a possible disaster for their re-election prospects, or casting a critical vote for the environment. The latest example of this is President Obama's announcement of making Chimney Rock, in southern Colorado, America's newest National Monument. We've collected and delivered thousands of your comments asking the President to make this happen, and he did at the end of September!

The RMC is expanding in campaign organizing, staff, communications, and in volunteer leaders and activists. Here are some highlights:

Over the past year, we have seen the Legal Committee help defeat the proposal to build an expensive and ill-advised pipeline from the Flaming Gorge Reservoir in southwest Wyoming across the southern part of the state and south along Colorado's Front Range. They also helped in gaining a legal win to protect the Roan Plateau from the fragmentation and likely pollution that invariably accompanies the oil & gas drilling proposed there.

The Legislative Committee (see the May e-newsletter for details), working with our contract lobbyists, stepped-up their watchdog, advocacy, and activism prowess to great effect, helping to defeat attacks on the Colorado Renewable Energy Standard, water quality, local government oversight of the oil & gas industry, and the Open Records Act. They fought to make the newly merged Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission a diverse set of people who act on behalf of ecosystems, not on behalf of business interests. And they fought Governor Hickenlooper's efforts to reorganize the now former "Governor's Energy Office," which focused on developing renewable energy markets in the state, into the Colorado Energy Office, which now also focuses on developing dirty fossil fuel markets, unfortunately. They were successful in helping pass a bill that creates many Colorado jobs in electronic waste recycling – keeping hazardous waste out of landfills and our groundwater while also generating revenue and resources for the economy.

The Communications Team – I regularly receive compliments about this team, primarily due to the wonderful job they are doing on the monthly e-newsletters and the annual print newsletter. The team has recently expanded, gaining new input from volunteers who focus on photography, social networking, ad sales, and reporting. I regularly point to the Communications Team to describe how successful a team can be in the RMC. They put in a lot of time and hard work, and the fruits of their labor speak for themselves.

The Outings Team is a burgeoning team of great outings leaders who have been offering wonderful experiences to anyone who signs up to explore and enjoy Colorado's great outdoors. Some recent offerings even have overflowed into waiting lists! The Chapter's Inner City Outings groups have been doing a great job as well, with one highlight being a visit to *Mission: Wolf* in southern Colorado. We recently started a new Meetup page (www.meetup.com/sierraclubrmc), where most of the chapter's outings are displayed in a social network audience of people whose only goal is to find



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U.N. environmental conference eye-opening for Pueblo teen

By Carol Carpenter
RMC Communications Team

If there is one overriding environmental challenge to be faced by younger generations, it will be how to find, fund and implement real solutions to the growing negative effects of climate change, says 18-year-old Pueblo, Colo., resident Lauren Howe-Kerr.

A student at Pueblo West High School, Lauren came to this stark and sobering realization while attending the United Nation's Conference on Sustainable Development (uncsd2012.org/rio20) — also referred to as Rio+20 — in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June this year.

"It is a little frightening, and I know that we will need to be adaptable to changes that will inevitably come as a result of climate change," Lauren, who attended the conference as part of a youth exchange with Green Cross International (www.gcint.org), said. "However, I feel like my generation is up to the challenge and will come up with innovative solutions and ideas to help counter this issue."

Lauren, whose father, Larry Howe-Kerr, is a member of the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter Sangre de Cristo Group, is familiar with many issues related to the environment.

Attending the conference was something of a natural fit for her.

The two-week international event attracted more than 45,000 participants from 188 countries around the world, including academics, scientists, corporation leaders, government officials, nongovernmental organization staff, world leaders (Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was among those who represented the United States), and other young people like Lauren.

Mixed feelings about conference

Like many others, Lauren left the conference with mixed feelings about its overall success. "I learned a lot about the dangers of climate change, nuclear weapons, etc., but I did not hear as many solutions as I would have liked," she said. "I became more informed, but not more enlightened as to how this issue will be dealt with."

She also watched as some young people, frustrated with the lack of answers to the world's looming environmental challenges, marched out of the conference, leaving their official badges and passes behind while chanting, "The future we want is not found here."

"A Green Cross speaker pointed out that words such



Lauren Howe-Kerr, left, speaks at a Rio+20 Green Cross Conference.

photos provided by
Lauren Howe-Kerr



Lauren with Green Cross Youth Exchange Group

Rio+20 failures and successes

Rio+20's final proposal, contained in a 49-page document titled "The Future We Want," (uncsd2012.org/rio20) details the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. According to many news reports, the conference made little progress beyond what was agreed upon at the original 1992 Earth Summit, also held in Rio.

In one published news report, Martin Khor, executive director of the Geneva-based South Centre and a member of the U.N. Committee on Development Policy stated, "We've sunk so low in our expectations that reaffirming what we did 20 years ago is now considered a success."

A main unresolved disagreement about implementing new environmental programs centered around the financial disparity and lack of funding and technology between developed and developing or poor countries.

However, despite the disagreements and perceived lack of progress in specific areas, many attendees believed the conference yielded some encouraging results, including:

- Creating a working group to define and quantify sustainable development goals and determine time frames to reach them related to climate change, water and sanitation, oceans and seas, energy, and sustainable cities.
- Promoting "greener" economic and development policies worldwide.
- Managing the Earth's natural resources in a more

sustainable way.

- Strengthening the U.N.'s environmental program.
- Encouraging the private sector to more thoroughly incorporate sustainability.
- Creating task forces to explore alternatives to the gross domestic product (GDP), which does not currently incorporate environmental concerns.
- Setting a deadline of 2014 for a firm decision on how to proceed with ocean conservation imperatives and the deteriorating status of marine fisheries globally.

Voluntary commitments

A positive outcome of the conference resulted in governments, the U.N. system and intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and nongovernmental organizations, businesses and government leaders worldwide voluntarily committing \$500 billion for more than 700 actions, among them:

- Planting 100 million trees in Africa by 2017.
- Greening 10,000 square kilometers of desert.
- Supporting 5,000 women entrepreneurs to create green businesses in Africa.
- Improving energy efficiency and access to energy by all populations.
- Securing an agreement by large banks and other organizations to commit staff and funds for more sustainable transportation initiatives.
- Recycling 800,000 tons of PVC by 2020. ♻️

as 'recommend,' 'reaffirm,' and 'recognize' are used over 200 times in the official Rio+20 document while the word 'decide' is used only three times," she added.

However, despite the disappointments, there were encouraging signs that many people around the world are paying serious attention to global environmental issues, Lauren said.

"In some ways, the conference was a success. Leaders from all over the world met and acknowledged that the planet faces a serious crisis. Climate change was

acknowledged as a fact and something that must be dealt with instead of a theory that must be proven."

Youth group responds

"We had many discussions within our exchange," she said, explaining that she and other Green Cross youth presented information about the environmental challenges faced in their own hometown communities. "I discussed the chemical weapons depot in Pueblo."

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wilderness & watersheds... *continued from page 1*

collaboration, new ideas for potential legislation and administrative designations have emerged, bent on protecting in perpetuity important natural and cultural values and wild places within Colorado federal lands.

Closest to fruition may be Chimney Rock Archaeological Area, a breathtaking 4,100 acre ancient cultural treasure near Pagosa Springs. As of this writing, President Obama is said to be close to designating Chimney Rock as a national monument, an action which has earned strong local support, as well as the endorsement of the national Sierra Club. You can take action to support it or thank him by calling President Obama at (202) 456-1111, writing him at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500 or going to our action page at sierraclub.org/mypieceofamerica/chimney-rock.

Some of the new legislative concepts complement bills previously introduced in Congress; others are brand new. What they have in common is that Colorado's senators and certain representatives are avidly seeking public input on the proposals before deciding whether to move ahead with actual legislation.

YOUR SUPPORT FOR THESE NOTABLE LANDS CAN TURN GOOD IDEAS INTO PERMANENT REALITIES! Your input won't take long, but can make a lasting difference.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Visit the legislators' Websites to "cast your votes" with comments, urging protection for the places described here.

Browns Canyon is a ruggedly scenic, lower-elevation complex of ridges and winding valleys adjoining the frequently rafted Arkansas River between Salida and

Buena Vista. Sen. Mark Udall proposes three options for protecting the area, described on his Web page at <http://www.markudall.senate.gov/?p=blog&id=2010>, along with maps, details, and a comment form. We urge your support for Option One, which offers full wilderness and national monument protection. Twitter @brownscanyon; Facebook at Protect Browns Canyon.

On behalf of Sen. Udall's Central Mountains proposal, please also comment on this Web page <http://www.markudall.senate.gov/?p=form&id=52>. The Central Mountains proposal could protect as many as 32 areas in Eagle, Pitkin and Summit counties, including expansion of existing wilderness areas in the region, such as Holy Cross, Eagles Nest, and the Maroon Bells. This new legislation could help promote the region as a world-class destination for outdoor recreation.

The Eagle and Summit County Wilderness Protection Act (HR 1701), an existing House bill by Rep. Jared Polis (CO-2), would designate some of the same areas as in the Udall proposal. See <http://www.polis.house.gov/wilderness/>. While Rep. Diana DeGette's (CO-1) Colorado Wilderness Act of 2011 (HR 2420) would designate wilderness in Browns Canyon and additional areas in the Central Mountains and around the state. Go to <http://www.degette.house.gov> to express your support for these measures.

The Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act, developed through public collaboration and introduced July 18, 2012 by Sen. Michael Bennet, proposes special management for the entirety of a large, diverse watershed near Durango that hosts a variety of human uses, including mountain bikers, motorcyclists, hikers and

equestrians. The senator eagerly seeks your input at <http://www.bennet.senate.gov/hermosacreek/>.

The San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act, introduced in 2011 by Sens. Udall and Bennet, would designate 33,000 acres as wilderness - mostly as expansions of the existing Lizard Head and Mount Sneffels wilderness areas. It would establish a new area called McKenna Peak, which presides over imposing sandstone cliffs rising 2,000 feet above the plain and provides important winter wildlife habitat for large numbers of deer and elk, which attracts hunters. It would also designate about 22,000 acres as the Sheep Mountain Special Management Area and withdraw over 6,000 acres within Naturita Canyon from mineral entry. For more information and to make comments, go to <http://www.markudall.senate.gov/?p=form&id=37>.

teen... *continued from page 3*

Her fellow youth group attendees also wrote reflections and statements of their opinions and what they learned at the conference, Lauren said, noting that she helped compile the individual reflections into one statement that she was privileged to read at the end of the conference.

She also learned two new and interesting facts: that the greenhouse effect was first described by Joseph Fourier in 1824, and that military forces are the largest users of fossil fuels on and off the battlefield.

"I am very glad I went," Lauren concluded. "It was great to be part of a global community that all had the same goals in mind as well as to meet other youth, other members of my generation, who are concerned about environmental issues and are working to implement solutions."

go solar... *continued from page 1*

get a free solar evaluation for your home.

The benefits of making this switch are impressive, not only for individual homeowners, but also for Sierra Club, Colorado and the planet as well. One of the big advantages for Colorado is that Sungevity contracts with local solar installers to provide jobs within the state.

Big benefits for RMC

Sierra Club's Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) will benefit in a big way from this program. Sungevity will give \$750 to the Sierra Club for everyone who goes solar through this program. This means more money for Sierra Club's important environmental work in Colorado.

Joshua Ruschhaupt, RMC director, is pleased to promote this program in Colorado. "If a Sierra Club member or supporter wants to make a tangible difference to make the world a better place, installing solar panels for electricity use is one of the best ways," he said, noting that Colorado's Renewable Energy Standard is only approaching 30 percent renewable energy within the next few years.

Colorado was selected for the program, Ruschhaupt explained, because it has a population that wants solar energy instead of dirty fossil fuels. "Demand for renewables is extremely high in Colorado," he said.

"Xcel Energy's Windsource program is in extremely high demand, so much so that they can't keep up with their customer's desire for renewable energy power, and there are even caps put in place to limit available supply."

Ruschhaupt likes to consider the positive impact of large numbers of Colorado homeowners switching to 100 percent renewable this year - actions that would not only help improve the environment but also reduce individual electricity bills. "That's the world Sierra Club is working to create: to provide solutions to answer the fossil fuel debacle," he said.

All pros, no cons

Ruschhaupt sees only pluses and no minuses related to the solar initiative.

"I'm hard-pressed to see any downsides," he said. "Hmm, let's see: fewer pollution-related deaths and health impacts from coal and natural gas; less damage to Colorado's ecosystems from fossil fuel extraction used in Colorado power plants; less carbon dioxide in our atmosphere from power plant smokestacks; a real solution to climate change and all of its symptoms that we're currently experiencing (winter snowpack instability, early runoff seasons, droughts, and bark beetle overpopulation, for example); and more jobs in the clean-energy economy."

Money raised by this campaign will support everything RMC does to explore, enjoy, and protect Colorado, Ruschhaupt said. "It will, for example, help us build an oil and gas campaign that is fighting an industry that has run amok throughout Colorado."

Funds raised will also support RMC's:

- outings program,
- work on legislative issues,
- fight against Front Range water grabs of West Slope water sources, such as the Flaming Gorge Pipeline,
- fight to save Colorado's last roadless wild lands, and
- efforts to create new wilderness and national monument areas, such as Chimney Rock and Browns Canyon.

"Sierra Club is excited to be in a partnership with Sungevity," Ruschhaupt said. "They have a great track record of excellent customer service and great solar installations."

For frequently asked questions and answers about the solar home program, go to the Sungevity Website at <http://www.sungevity.com/faq>. For a free solar evaluation for your home, go to www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes.

With conditions, Sierra Club supports Chatfield Reservoir project

By Mike Mueller,
RMC Chatfield Issues Specialist
and Steve Glazer,
Water and Aquatic Resources Committee Chair

Sierra Club has been involved in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's (Corps) proposed Chatfield Reallocation Project for over 10 years. We have been a participant in project meetings concerning environmental aspects and development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Because of our close and longtime understanding of the issue, we support the project's "Alternative Three" as an environmentally acceptable water supply endeavor, if anticipated mitigations are put in place.

If approved, the project to reconfigure Chatfield Reservoir would expand the reservoir by reallocating 20,600 acre-feet of water from flood control to usable storage.

Special technical advisor

Designated as special technical advisor to the project by the Corps, Sierra Club is privy to pre-decisional documents. As such, we have participated in meetings and conversations in the National Environmental Policy Act/EIS process.

Sierra Club's support is based on the following:

1. Using an existing infrastructure for new water storage would avoid the need for additional land and the creation of additional environmental impacts that a new dam would cause.
2. Using a planning process that is open and inclusive of the whole community is an example and model for

water supply planning in Colorado.
3. New storage will eliminate the need for increased future groundwater drilling and pumping.

4. It would eliminate greenhouse gases attendant to pumping from the additional and increasingly deeper wells in the Front Range.

period for the draft was extended to Sept. 6. The Club submitted comments, which, if accepted by the Corps, will strengthen and improve the project.

The Corps is reviewing all comments and will issue its response and the final EIS at an undetermined time in the future.

It is important to remember that Sierra Club and other environmental organizations strongly encouraged Denver



photos by Carol Carpenter

5. Enhanced in-stream flows at various times along the Denver urban corridor would provide environmental and recreational benefits.

The Draft EIS for the project was issued for public review at the end of May and was open for comments from the public for 90 days. Later the public comment

Water to enlarge existing facilities in lieu of building Two Forks or other large, new environmentally-damaging storage facilities.

This is the first of such proposals, and Sierra Club has worked diligently to try to ensure that impacts will be mitigated. We have joined most other environmental organizations in encouraging the project, while holding the proponents responsible for mitigation measures.

Quick notes from the RMC Pesticide Committee

By Angela Medbery
Conservation Committee: Pesticides



source: commons.wikimedia.org

Many pesticides and herbicides commonly used on private residences, business property, ranches, farms and public lands are toxic to humans and the environment. Our laws and enforcement procedures often fail to mitigate the potential harm to people, animals, water and soil. Please make note of these tools for addressing the hazards of pesticides and herbicides used in your community.

When pesticides are sprayed nearby and drift onto your

property, you may file a complaint with the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 303-239-4140.

If you have a chemical sensitivity to pesticides, please note that Colorado currently has a Pesticide-Sensitive Registry. To enroll, you must have your doctor sign a form, available at the Colorado Department of Agriculture Pesticide Website. Pesticide applicators must attempt to notify chemically-sensitive people when pesticides are to be applied near their properties.

What changes would you like to see in our state pesticide laws? Please contact Angela Medbery at 303-433-2608 or angela.medbery@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Protecting wildlife is her goal

By Carol Carpenter
RMC Communications Team

An active Sierra Club volunteer for 10 years, one of Suzanna Koeller's most meaningful accomplishments ever - right up there with protecting wildlife - was participating in a 2007 community fight to stop a Walmart Supercenter from being built along the Platte River in Littleton, Colo.

Helping organize town meetings with members of the community where the Walmart would have been built, the Rocky Mountain Chapter at-large Executive Committee member also helped collect signatures on a petition to place the controversial issue on the election ballot. To her delight, the measure lost and a new supercenter was not built at that site.

"Walmart would have been a detriment to the community," Suzanna said. "Not only would there have been light and noise pollution in the neighborhood and road congestion on Santa Fe Drive, but also it would have been built literally just feet from the bike trail and Platte River bank. Runoff from the chemicals sold in the parking lot would have found its way into the water, and plastic bags and shopping carts would have ended up on the trail and in the river."

Negative effects of growth

But keeping big-box stores out of her community has not been her only, or even

strongest, passion. A Colorado native, she has watched, sadly, as the effects of "progress" and growth have negatively impacted the Front Range over the past 20-plus years.

She's concerned that some native

neighborhoods popping up across the eastern plains.

"New housing communities have impacted the greater ecosystem that includes hawks and other large birds of prey



photos provided by Suzanna Koeller

"Volunteering is important to me, and I will fight for the environment and help bring people together for such an amazing cause."

Suzanna Koeller

animal species, including prairie dogs and burrowing owls, have been greatly impacted by the rapid growth of entire

who rely on the prairie dogs for their food supply," she said, adding that coyotes' homes are being encroached on by people as well. "This results in loss of habitat as well as the coyotes' eradication due to their close proximity to humans and domesticated animals."

She is pleased that Sierra Club works with state elected officials to develop protective laws to ensure that natural habitat is not lost to overdevelopment. She is also thankful that the Club works to hold developers accountable and responsible for their impact on the natural environment.

"My passion is to preserve, conserve and

protect the environment and all that is in it. This drives me to continue to be an active member of the Sierra Club," Suzanna said.

Passionate, dedicated volunteers

Although she felt as an inexperienced new Sierra Club member that busy and active longtime members did not always have sufficient time to mentor her, she believes the organization is extremely worthy in the work it does. "Our members are passionate, dedicated people who unite together to fight for the conservation and preservation of our precious and beloved planet," she said.

Most recently, Suzanna helped organize and participate in the September Fundraising Hike-a-Thon at Roxborough State Park, an experience the active outdoors volunteer and Club supporter really enjoyed.

While she plans to continue volunteering for Sierra Club for a very long time, she doesn't have one particular issue - other than protecting wildlife habitat - that has attracted her attention for future activism.

"I will help where and when I am needed," she said. "Volunteering is important to me, and I will fight for the environment and help bring people together for such an amazing cause."



Create a Lasting Legacy

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.

**Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program**
85 Second St, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270 • gift.planning@sierraclub.org

fire... *continued from page 1*

of the three-mile climb. If you like vertical puzzles, you can tote your climbing gear up to the base of some classic routes.

Along the way, you will tread over the ghosts of Civilian Conservation Corps workers who built much of the trail's foundation as part of a national employment program created in response to the Great Depression. You may even encounter the ghost of young Chris, the 10-year-old boy who disappeared on a family outing many years ago.

Enough of ghosts

Just a year ago, in August 2011, the Poudre Canyon Group (PCG) hosted an outing that took nine of us hikers to the highest spire on Greyrock Mountain. We had to take turns claiming the tiny summit.

Although our hike was pleasant and mostly uneventful, other hikers we encountered reported seeing a bear at the same time we were on the mountain. As always, we kept one eye on the ground for the occasional rattlesnake. At hike's end, we cooled our tired and hot feet in the chilly waters of the Poudre River.

We never considered what would happen to this peaceful and dynamic hiking locale the following summer.

Burnt blackness everywhere

Fast forward to August 4 of this year, following the High Park Fire of June. Greyrock Trail is off limits to hikers, as are Hewlett Gulch and other favorite trails. The fire has done more damage to our beloved area than the mind can get around. There is burnt blackness



source: commons.wikimedia.org

everywhere; even the Poudre River is running slick and black.

Wanting to help, we obtained approval from Poudre Wilderness Volunteers to go to Greyrock as part of a team trail recovery effort. The cleanup and restoration came under the aegis of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, working in tandem with Colorado Mountain Club.

When PCG learned of the effort, we secured an enthusiastic okay to include our members in the crew. As a member of all three organizations, I had a brief dilemma in deciding what-to-wear, ultimately deciding on a long-sleeve, non-Sierra Club shirt and PCG cap or hard hat when required. We worked hard; the work was most rewarding.

No date has been set for the reopening of Greyrock Trail or the other trails where we like to hike, play, surrender into nature, and allow our souls to be mended. No one knows when the results of this catastrophic wildfire will be washed clean and mended.

Environmental catastrophe

How could this environmental catastrophe have happened? It's easy to assign blame and I'm willing to engage in some of that, knowing that I must recognize my own complicity in this certain-to-be-repeated tragedy.

Nature has her cycles, her ways of dealing with the Earth - sometimes as explosively and quickly as a wildfire or earthquake, sometimes as gently and slowly as a mountain stream lapping against a granite boulder. Nature builds, destroys, rebuilds, morphs, and allows species to evolve.

The bottom line - these natural cycles have worked for untold millennia and undoubtedly will continue for many more millennia. Greyrock Trail will heal.

We humans forget that we take much from nature; we exploit rather than work in harmony with her. We have turned overpopulation into something humans do without thought for the environment. We would rather pollute the ground, the waters, and the skies than look for non-corrosive energy sources. We have betrayed nature, the mother of us all.

Recovery of our destroyed natural resources - our forests, waters, and wild animals - must still seem possible or we would have to give up. The challenge is nearly overwhelming. It must, however, be met; there is no other meaningful choice. 🐾

A great autumn hike: scenic Rocky Mountain National Park lakes

By Mike Whiteley

Sierra Club RMC Outings Team

One of my favorite hikes any time of the year, but extra special during the fall, is the hike to Odessa and Fern lakes in Rocky Mountain National Park. Starting at Bear Lake, it is one of the most popular areas in the Front Range.

Although the trails can sometimes be crowded, with some care you can avoid most other hikers if isolation is what you are seeking. Either way, it is a very nice hike.

At nine miles it is a longer hike but not all that hard because most is downhill. The hike starts from Bear Lake and climbs quickly for the first mile through stands of beautiful, golden aspen trees, sparkling in the autumn light.

With a nice view of Longs Peak and a steep climb now beginning, the huge crowds from Bear Lake disappear quickly. Aspens quickly make way to fir and pines and the uphill climb continues, although not as steeply after the first half mile.

At about two miles, the trail turns right and enters Odessa Gorge, which has

spectacular views, including Flat Top, Notch Top and the Little Matterhorn as you hike down a rocky trail to Odessa Lake.

A good place to take a break or have lunch is at Odessa Lake, a scenic spot that is warm in the autumn sun. After lunch it's on to beautiful Fern Lake. By now you are back into the forest, hiking along the lake. Then it's on to Fern Falls, a nice-size water fall, although smaller in autumn than other times of the year.

The best thing about this hike is that, if you plan it right - starting at noon or early afternoon - you will find yourself finishing at sundown. This timing is beneficial in two ways: you arrive at the pool,



photo provided by Mike Whiteley

and about a mile or so from the end you are back into the aspens, which are even more breathtaking in the late afternoon light.

At the end of the hike you are in Moiraine Park, where this time of year you will almost always find rutting elk. It is tricky to get the entire day's timing right,

but if you do, the hike just gets better and better.

You will need transportation to get back to Bear Lake. You can use the bus if you get there before 7 p.m. (and before Oct. 1). Other options are to leave your car or do what I do: leave my bike and ride back up to the lake. 🐾



Winner of the Rocky Mountain Chapter FaceBook Photo Contest

Congratulations to
Kelly Lyon-Duke!
Her "Wildflowers &
Mountains of Crested Butte"
photo was the winner
of our August Facebook
Photo Contest.

The Sierra Club is proud to announce its endorsements for the November 2012 election:

President



Barack Obama

Congress



Diana DeGette (CD-1)
Jared Polis (CD-2)
Sal Pace (CD-3)
Joe Miklosi (CD-6)
Ed Perlmutter (CD-7)

Colorado State House



Jeanne Labuda (HD 1)
Mark Ferandino (HD 2)
Daniel Kagan (HD 3)
Dan Pabon (HD 4)
Crisanta Duran (HD 5)
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Angela Williams (HD 7)
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Rhonda Fields (HD 42)
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Randy Fischer (HD 53)
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Mike Johnson (SD 33)

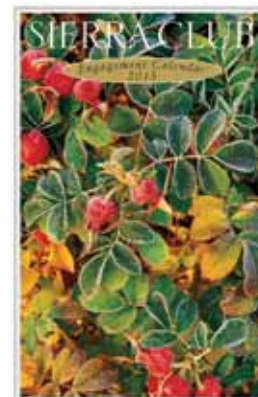


Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

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Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

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The Rocky Mountain Chapter is not presently selling the 2013 Sierra Club Calendars.
They may be ordered directly from the National Sierra Club by using this coupon.

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Hidden impacts of fracking abound in Colorado

By Shane Davis
RMC Oil and Gas
Research Manager

The State of Colorado has over 47,000 active oil and gas (O&G) wells and many are already, or will soon be, in your backyard. In my locale alone there are 18,000 active O&G wells - a whopping 75 within a 1-mile radius of my home in Firestone, Colo., which is located in Weld County about 30 miles north of Denver.

The O&G industry is slated to drill an additional 50,000 wells in the next few decades throughout Colorado. This industry is exempt from numerous federal laws such as, but not limited to: the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Superfund Law and many more.

The failures and adverse impacts the O&G industry imposes on the environment, human health and our basic ways of life can be summed up in a single word - EPIC!

O&G data and failures

The O&G failures are of unusually great size and extent. I list many of them here to give you an idea what this heavy industry has imposed on Colorado: All data was obtained from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC).

- 43 percent of all operator spills result in groundwater contamination.
- 3.1 percent of all operator spills result in surface water contamination.
- 57 percent of all protective berms fail to prevent secondary industrial liquid waste migration.
- 2003-2012 Weld County, Colo.: 1.7 million gallons of produced water and oil never recovered from the ground after operator spills. It's still in the environment.
- 2.4 billion square feet of surface has been contaminated by 1,000 O&G surface spills.
- Study: 1,000 spills have occurred in Weld County.

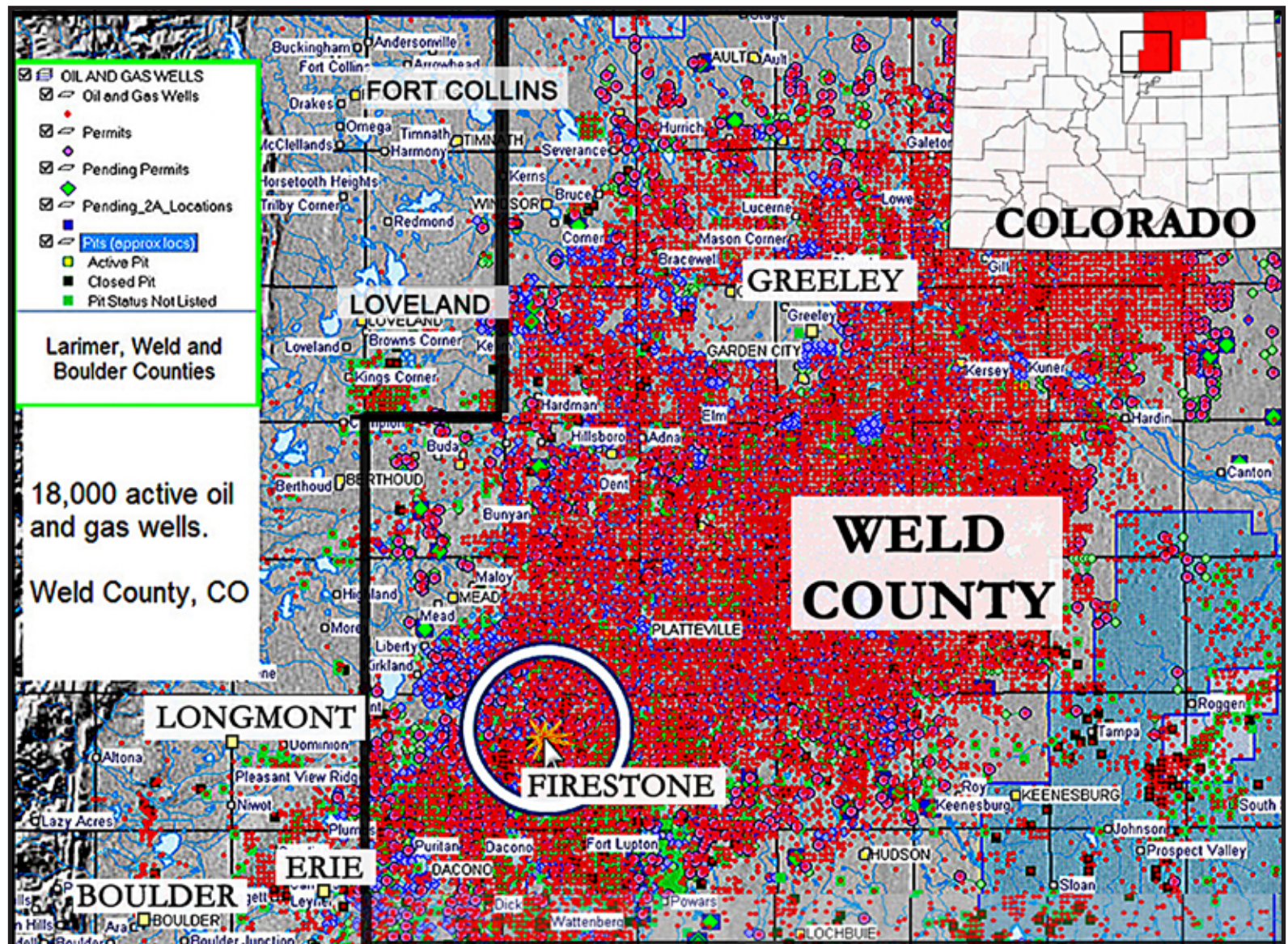
- Laramie-Fox Hills Aquifer was contaminated with toluene and thermogenic gas by an O&G operation in 2009 in Weld County.
- Colorado has 129,073 completed O&G wells: 47,000 active, 82,000 inactive.
- Early statistics show that 55 percent of all abandoned wells are being re-entered or re-drilled.
- Colorado has more than 5,000 reported industrial waste spills on record.
- 3,505 O&G-related public complaints have been filed with the COGCC.
- The burden of expense has been shifted to local emergency response departments to battle fires or mishaps. This expense has been shifted by the O&G industry to citizen tax payers, meaning YOU!
- O&G operations are considered "minor non-point sources of pollution."
- 3,935 Notice of Alleged Violations have been filed by the COGCC.
- 825 unique O&G operators are listed at COGCC.
- 693 Underground Injection Control (UIC) Simultaneous Disposal, UIC Enhanced Recovery,

and UIC Disposal sites are located in Colorado. Approximately 300 are active.

- More than 5,000 pits of all statuses are located in Colorado.
- More than 8,000 active O&G wells are located closer to homes than the COGCC 350-foot setback mandates.

Because so many O&G wells are closer to homes than the setback mandates, the COGCC is denied the ability to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts to human health. Do you agree that this loophole, which I noticed in my research of the data, is an epic failure by the state?

It's a troubling fact that COGCC has failed to prevent or mitigate adverse environmental and human health impacts in accordance with their mission statement. How long until any of these failures reach your backyard? What can you do about it? Will you let it happen? I hope the answer is no.



Colorado besieged by statewide oil and gas drilling boom

By Lauren Swain

RMC Oil & Gas Communications Specialist

Whether it's on the plains, in the mountains, or in the valleys, if you live in Colorado, the oil and gas industry is likely planning to drill new wells near your town or one of your favorite Colorado destinations, beginning in the next few weeks, months, or years.

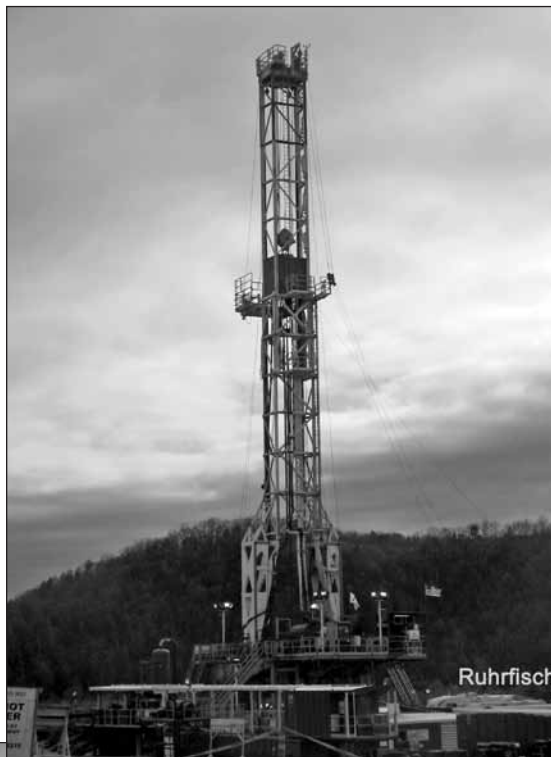
Same problem, different regional impacts

Among Front Range urban, suburban, and rural communities, the greatest concern about drilling is the threat to public health, safety, and quality of life brought about by the use of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) methods on most new wells. This method has been found to raise ozone levels, increase the risk of toxic groundwater contamination, as well as place enormous burdens on local roadways and water supplies. A newly-fracked well, with its associated condensate tanks emitting methane and other chemicals into the air around the clock, can legally be placed as close as 350 feet from residences, schools, hospitals, and other public buildings.

Some Front Range communities struggling to mitigate the impacts of new and existing oil and gas fracking operations are: Erie, Firestone, Fort Collins, Longmont, Aurora, and Colorado Springs.

On the West Slope, environmentalists say the greatest worry is the surface impacts associated with drilling, which can have a devastating impact on the natural beauty, wildlife, and water quality the region thrives on – undermining the livelihoods of local people who have built their economy and way of life around outdoor recreation, tourism, farming, ranching, hunting, and fishing.

West Slope regions fighting new oil and gas drilling plans, largely on federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public land, include White River (Meeker), the North Fork Valley (Paonia, Crawford, Hotchkiss), Thompson Divide (Glenwood Springs, Carbondale), and the Roan Plateau (near Rifle).



Help save the Thompson Divide

Bob Millette, a Roaring Fork Group leader residing in Glenwood Springs, has been working with the Thompson Divide Coalition to prevent drilling on BLM public land leased by energy companies. He describes the Thompson Divide (TD), which stretches roughly 35 miles south and west from Glenwood as “a rugged and picturesque area that involves lush forests, subalpine meadows, interesting geological formations and 15 different watersheds.” The TD supports “a thriving industry of ranching, hunting, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, camping, backpacking, and mountain biking,” Millette said. “Our biggest concerns about drilling in the TD are 1: destruction of the landscape and environment, 2: pollution of waters that irrigate nearby ranches, feed taps in local communities, and support thriving fisheries, and 3: ruining the biggest driver of our local economy — outdoor recreation.”

Millette encourages concerned RMC members to “write Sen. Michael Bennet to thank him for introducing a bill that would prevent further leasing in the TD, and urge him to stop drilling on existing leases.” To contact Sen. Bennet, go to <http://www.bennet.senate.gov/thompsondivide>.

Please check future newsletters for more actions you can take to prevent damage from the expansion of oil and gas drilling into Colorado communities and natural areas.

If you are not receiving the electronic version of the *Peak & Prairie* newsletter in your email each month, we encourage you to submit your email address by going to <http://rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp/index.shtml>.

YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Would you believe that the Sierra Club runs more from volunteer leadership than staff leadership? It's true!

Some of the critically-important volunteer opportunities you can sign up for are:

Webmaster with experience in HTML and Drupal, assistant chapter treasurer (CPA's welcomed), fund-raising volunteers unafraid to “make the ask”, reporters, social networking specialists, oil & gas leaders, and many, many more.

You can fill out, cut out and mail us the coupon on page 11 along with your ballot on page 15 or you can fill out the Volunteer Form on the RMC Website at: <http://rmc.sierraclub.org/volunteer.shtml>



OIL & GAS MYTHBUSTERS

By Lauren Swain
RMC Oil & Gas Communications Specialist

Myth: America should welcome rapid expansion of natural gas production on our public lands and in our communities, because doing so will promote energy independence and increase our domestic supply.

Truth: Now that foreign countries are offering a higher price for natural gas, energy companies are planning to export the fuel they extract from U.S. reserves to the highest bidder, raising the price for Americans as well.

It just stands to reason that if the U.S. government limits regulation and encourages energy companies to drill more oil and gas wells on public and private lands, then domestic supplies will be more affordable and plentiful, and our dependence on foreign energy sources will be reduced, right?

Unfortunately, now that China, Japan, and European countries are offering higher prices than American

markets, the industry is preparing to sell our domestically produced natural gas to foreign customers. There is a global market for energy commodities, and corporations are ready to take full advantage. Already, Chinese sovereign fund CIC and the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation have invested about \$500 million each in Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass liquefied natural gas (LNG) export project in Texas. If the energy industry's plan to develop several major LNG export facilities is successful, exports will climb, along with the price of natural gas on the U.S. market.

Furthermore, as the price and demand for U.S. natural gas increase, so does the pressure to drill more wells, thereby multiplying the environmental and human health risks associated with hydraulic fracturing (fracking), the air- and water-polluting method used to mine the majority of new wells in the U.S.

The Sierra Club has taken legal action to stop development of LNG export facilities on the coasts of Oregon, Texas and Maryland. In each case, corporations have plans to use LNG import facilities for new export operations by building natural gas liquefaction plants and export terminals. Our lawsuits are based partly on

the requirement that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission conduct environmental impact assessments to evaluate the harm caused by increasing levels of hydraulic fracturing that will likely be required to produce a steady supply of natural gas for the facilities.

Becky English, Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) Energy chair stated, "Converting shipping terminals in the U.S. Northwest (and other locations) to LNG export terminals is just what the industry needs to create huge markets in Asia. So let there be no more illusions that the reason the industry feels it must continue fracking is so that we can have 'energy independence' here at home. Exporting to Asia will increase demand for natural gas; therefore, prices at home will rise; once again the American consumer will be left holding the fossil fuel industry bag. The already atrocious environmental threats from fracking will grow exponentially, especially harm to our atmosphere from both the production and the consumption phases of natural gas. We must continue to work to leave all fossil fuels in the ground, where they belong."

To keep tabs on this issue, we invite you to join the Sierra Club Cross-Rockies Activist Coalition to Kill Renegade Fracking & LNG Export, otherwise known as the CRACK Frack Team. To join go to: connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Crack_Frack_Export_Team.

Oil & Gas MythBusters is a series of articles by Lauren Swain, RMC Oil & Gas Campaign Communications Specialist, digging deep for the facts behind industry myths about oil and gas production practices and impacts.



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 doesn'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 wildlife management.
- Other _____



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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER 2012 CONTRIBUTORS



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The Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) wishes to give our heartfelt thanks to all of our wonderful 2012 contributors, including all of our anonymous contributors (you know who you are). Your contributions are what enable the Sierra Club RMC and groups to be effective at our mission to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet.

Monthly contributions have become more popular during the first year we've offered it! If you are giving once annually, consider giving monthly at a level that works for your budget. Monthly contributions provide financial security for the RMC and help us to fulfill our mission. Find us online at: www.rmc.sierraclub.org/contribute. Also take a look at "Create A Lasting Legacy" on page 6 to find out how you can plan to give in your will.

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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>

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



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Becky English



I became involved with Colorado energy issues about five years ago, and it's been my privilege to serve as our chapter's Energy Issue Chair for three years. Our committee has submitted comments on a wide variety of energy related issues at state and national levels. I also serve on the chapter Legislative Committee and represent the chapter at the National Sierra Club's Council of Club leaders. Our issues in Colorado - from fracking to fish & wildlife protection, to clean energy leadership - are bellweathers for Club campaigns nationwide. Currently I serve on our Chapter's Executive Committee. I strive to be responsible for thoughtful consideration of the business of our chapter, and to achieve certain deliverables on a regular basis. I'd like to improve communications to learn more about what our members want and help them make a difference. I'd be honored to be reelected to our chapter's executive committee. □

Alison Gallensky



I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 30 years, moved to Colorado 20 years ago and currently live in Westminster. I am a founding board member of Wild Connections, a conservation organization advocating for public lands protection in Central Colorado. I work for Rocky Mountain Wild, an environmental non-profit that protects wildlands for wildlife in Colorado and the region. At work I use Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for mapping and analysis for a coalition of environmental organizations across the Southern Rockies. I am knowledgeable about conservation issues including wilderness protection, protection of rare and endangered species, and issues related

to oil and gas development. As a member of the executive committee, my knowledge of the issues and players in conservation in the region can help the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club to successfully protect and enjoy the natural places we hold so dear. □

Bill Bruner



I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 25 years & I've been involved with other organizations dating back to 1974. We must take care of the only planet we have. In the past year I have been involved with the Chapter's Communication team & I have been the author of "A walk in the woods" articles that appeared in the monthly e-newsletter & annual printed newsletter. Together we can accomplish anything; I believe in people & work well with everyone. I ask for your vote to help grow this chapter into what it truly can be in Colorado. Additional to my environmental work I've been involved with several non-profits. I was Jaycee of the year, on the board of directors of West Suburban Humane Society & President of The Beckman Theatre. I believe my background in service & professional arenas will help the chapter grow. □

Morgan Crowley



As a kid I was always happiest in the wild. All that's changed as an adult is my understanding of the challenges that face those wilds and my ability to respond to them effectively. From ecological restoration projects to landscape architecture; my studies, travels, work, volunteer experiences and personal pursuits have reinforced my nurtured and natural passion for conservation. I am continually looking

for ways in which I can engage myself more and the opportunity to become involved in leadership of the Rocky Mountain Chapter is an exciting possibility. Graduate design school taught me, among many valuable skills, the ability to see challenges as opportunities for creative solutions. I hope that I can bring this perspective to the Executive Committee and be of greater service to beautiful Colorado and the wider world. □

Bryan Martin



Over my 12-year career in the environmental movement, I have had many valuable experiences and I feel I would be an excellent fit for the executive committee of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club. After working for The Nature Conservancy in Washington, D.C. and Boulder, I joined the Continental Divide Trail Alliance in 2003. I left CDTA to earn my Masters of Nonprofit Management at Regis University. From 2007 to 2011 I was the Director of Conservation for The Colorado Mountain Club. I currently work for the Land Trust Alliance, the national convener, strategist and representative of more than 1,700 land trusts across America. As an executive committee member I will champion the continuation of sensible advocacy on the issues that we care about as well as support practical and pragmatic projects and initiatives that would serve to bolster our standing in the communities we serve. □

Dave Bryan



I have been a member and volunteer with the Club since 2001 but my roots in the Sierra's go back farther having lived, hiked and explored the Sierra's since the 1970's. I am a

member of the Pikes Peak Group, the Chapter's Excom, and I'm a Political Committee alternate. Recently I was elected Vice-chair of the Chapter. As Sierra Club volunteers, we each bring skills and a shared passion for work. It's my experience that an effective Chapter Excom requires unique skills from its leaders. My strengths include working collaboratively with colleagues and leaders in the environmental and political communities. It's my goal to integrate social media into our toolkit, as it's the new front line in community outreach, membership recruitment, and networking. I believe integrating new messaging technology with traditional outreach will help attain our conservation goals. I welcome your vote and value your commitment to the environment. □

Delia Malone



My life has been intimately involved with conservation of Colorado's wildlands since my high school days in Pueblo Colorado when I and my high school buddies went door-to-door to gather signatures in opposition to the Winter Olympics in Colorado. Since then I've worked to protect and conserve native habitats and species throughout Colorado as a volunteer for the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies and Roaring Fork Audubon, as a graduate student at UC Denver and as an ecologist for Colorado's Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). My work as an ecologist with CNHP has taken me to every corner of Colorado to document our natural heritage with the ultimate goal of conservation. As an executive committee member I would bring knowledge of the diversity and fragility of Colorado's natural heritage and an understanding of how to maintain and protect the connections that are essential to the sustainability of these ecosystems. □

Sierra Club OFFICIAL BALLOT 2012

Rocky Mountain Chapter Executive Committee At Large Election



Ballots must be received at the Chapter Office:
Elections Committee - Sierra Club
1536 Wynkoop Street #4B • Denver, CO 80202
by November 12, 2012

Single Ballot

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Bruner (N) | <input type="checkbox"/> Alison Gallensky (N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Bryan (N) | <input type="checkbox"/> Delia Malone (N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morgan Crowley (N) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bryan Martin (N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Becky English (N) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | |

Joint Ballot

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Bruner (N) | <input type="checkbox"/> Alison Gallensky (N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Bryan (N) | <input type="checkbox"/> Delia Malone (N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morgan Crowley (N) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bryan Martin (N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Becky English (N) | |
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The Single Ballot should be used by households with one RMC membership.
The Joint Ballot should be used by households with two RMC memberships.

Please note membership status indicated by the mailing label
on the back of this page: SGL=single member DBL=joint member

Please vote for not more than THREE candidates apiece.

(N) Nominating Committee Candidate Petition Candidate



letter... *continued from page 2...*

out when and where to find and join us in person. Definitely join our Meetup page if you want to keep tabs on how to sign-up for a hike, to join a rally, or any of our Sierra Club activities, activism, and advocacy events!

The Political Committee is steadily working on candidate endorsements, as are many of the RMC's local groups around the state. After all, it is that time of year to get ready to vote! I'm preparing for a short leave of absence from my Director's position to organize for the national Club's election work here in Colorado, and will hopefully have my "deployment" assignment by the time you read this sometime in October.

I might even knock on your door and ask for your support on behalf of a Sierra Club endorsed candidate, or just to make sure you have a plan to mail in your ballot or to get out

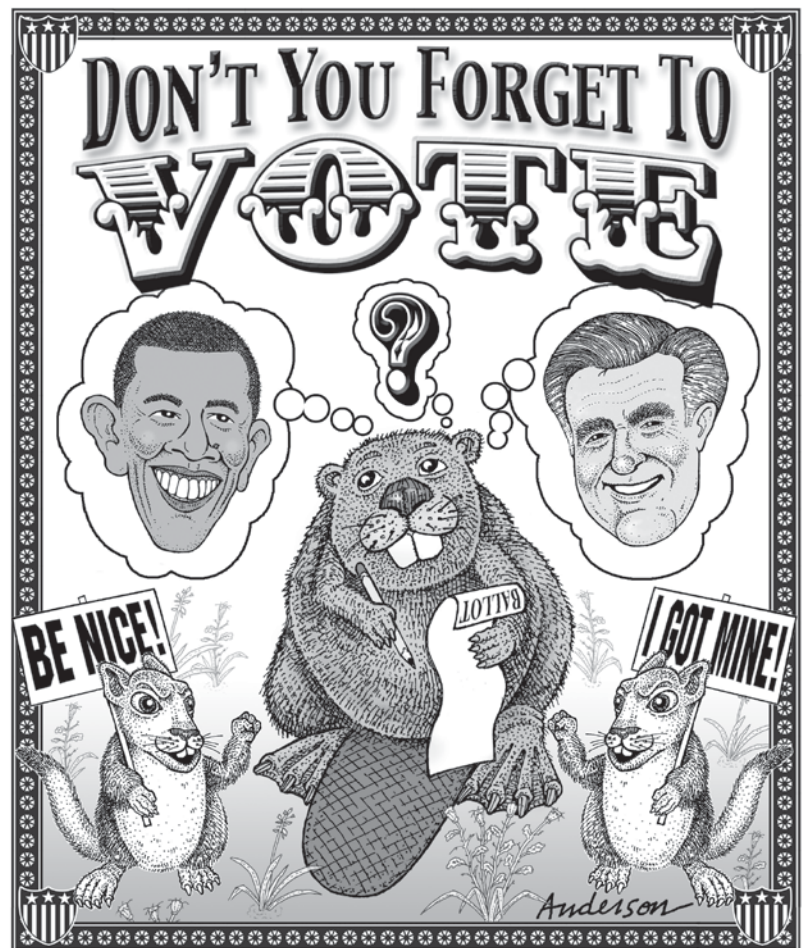
and vote! **Grassroots organizing** sometimes means making calls to a phone list, hosting a fundraiser, or wearing down your shoes and knuckles by canvassing a neighborhood. All it takes to make a difference are having passion, a few learned skills, and follow-through. If you're interested in helping during October and through the election, please let me know ASAP: 303.454.3362.

I very much look forward to 2013, because from where I'm standing the view is absolutely compelling in several ways. I hope you will join us to do everything you can to help the Sierra Club RMC succeed in our work to explore, enjoy, and protect Colorado. You, individually, indivisibly from our thousands of members and supporters, make a huge difference!

Don't Miss An Issue!

The Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter's Peak & Prairie is published 10 times a year as an electronic newsletter.

Send us your e-mail address at:
<http://rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp>
and we'll send every electronic Peak & Prairie to your e-mail in-box.



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PEAK & PRAIRIE

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- **Enter your home address:** You'll receive a firm quote by email within 2 days that shows how much you could save and what your home would look like with solar.