

Peak & Prairie

In this issue

P2

**Colorado Prepares
New Methods for
Stream Assessments**

P4

**Another Uranium Mill
and Dump for Colorado**

P4

**Make Your Voice
Heard for Colorado
Wilderness**

P5

**The Enos Mills Group
of the Sierra Club**

P6

**Energy Committee
Takes on Energy
Efficiency**

P6

View From the Chair

P7

**Executive Committee
State Candidate
Statements**

P8

**Salsa Night Put
"Fun" in Fundraising**

P8

**Fowler Plans for
the Future**

P9 ICO Keeps Watch over Waterways

P9 What's New for Activism in the Metro Area

P11 Population and the Environment

P11 Prairie Dogs

P13 Wild Step

P14 RMC Contacts

P15 Meetings and Outings

Colorado's Energy Efficiency Industry Ready to Prosper

By: Jonah Fruchter, Regional Conservation Organizer, Sierra Club

Some of the best and the brightest minds in our country are vigorously debating the precarious state of our nation's economy and environment. Locally, FRESC and the Sierra Club are partnering with community, labor and environmental groups to ensure that the promise of green jobs includes the creation of good jobs for traditionally underrepresented workers: women, people of color, the unemployed and veterans.

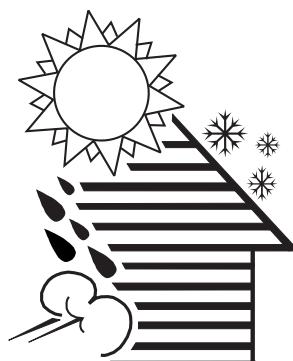
The pathway for achieving these goals begins with building America's weatherization industry. With increased Federal funding, we must ensure Weatherization is an industry that not only helps save our environment, but also uplifts our communities through jobs that provide training opportunities, family-sustaining wages and benefits and a career pathways to prosperity.

In addition to creating thousands of good jobs that can't be shipped overseas, a strong Denver weatherization industry could retrofit the estimated 200,000 energy-inefficient residential buildings in the city of Denver, according to the 2007 American Community Survey. Vice President Biden's Middle Class Task

Force recently reported, "Existing techniques and technologies in energy efficiency retrofitting can reduce home energy use by up to 40 percent per home." With these energy savings we could reduce Denver's household energy

costs by \$110 million a year and save the city the equivalent of taking 4 million cars off the road.

Sound too good to be true? It doesn't have to be. Right now, however, there just isn't the infrastructure in place to meet this potential.



Weatherization Works

We need to scale up a skilled weatherization workforce, but we need to do it right. In order to create a sustained market for retrofits, we must ensure that any weatherization worker who steps foot in someone's home has the training, skills and certification they need to do the job right the first time. We also need to pay skilled workers the wages they deserve -- wages they can support a family on and wages that will put money back into our economy.

Weatherization's benefits go beyond boosting employment. The average family can save \$350 a year on their utility bills after a retrofit. That retrofit

continued on page 3

Would you like
to advertise your
business in the Peak
and Prairie and reach
18,000 members?



Please call Katie at
303-861-8819

Peak & Prairie

Winter 2009

Volume 43 – Number 3

Published quarterly by the
Rocky Mountain Chapter
of the Sierra Club

1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 4C
Denver, CO 80202

Ph: 303.861.8819 • Fax: 303.861.2436
www.rmc.sierraclub.org

Editorial Staff

303.861.8819

EDITOR: Tersaem Tesseris
editor@rmc.sierraclub.org

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Katie Case
advertising-manager@rmc.sierraclub.org

DESIGN EDITOR: Sonia Kelly

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

for the Spring 2009
issue is
Friday,
February 5, 2010

For submission guidelines contact:
editor@rmc.sierraclub.org

Printed by Barnum Printing on recycled paper.

Colorado Prepares New Methods for Stream Assessments

By: Steve Glazer, Chair, RMC Water Sources, Quality and Habitats

The Clean Water Act outlines a strategy to protect different uses of water. There are different requirements to protect aquatic life, recreational use, drinking water supply and agricultural uses. Where multiple uses occur, the most sensitive uses must be protected. The most sensitive kind of use is usually aquatic life.

Generally, Colorado's strategy for protecting aquatic life has been to document the variety and abundance of different species. It then sets limits on different constituents to assure that those fish species will continue to thrive. EPA has suggested that a better indicator of healthy streams is to broaden the examination of biological factors to include the macro-invertebrates in streams. Macros are the bugs found in the substrate (stream bottoms) which fish feed on. Colorado has been collecting data on bugs for the past decade to help with the transition to bio-monitoring as an indicator of aquatic health. High Country Citizens' Alliance has been promoting the collection of macro data by both the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. The District has had a comprehensive water quality monitoring program throughout the Upper Gunnison Basin for over a decade, but only recently started doing bio-monitoring.

Colorado hopes to begin using bio-criteria to protect classified uses of water after a hearing in June of 2010.

Another new set of parameters will also be adopted next summer. We have long known that too much algae in streams is not healthy for aquatic life. Algae is triggered by the presence of nitrogen and phosphorus in our streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. We have never had specific limitations on these nutrients.

When high concentrations of nutrients are present in water, they trigger the growth of algae. Algae's life cycle is rather short. When it dies, it decays, drawing oxygen from the water.

Oxygen-deprived water will not support either fish or macro-invertebrate populations, therefore, a low level of algae growth can be beneficial to our aquatic ecosystems.

A natural background level of nutrients can be found in surface water. Sources of excess nutrients come from wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater runoff and from excessive application of fertilizers being applied to residential landscaping, golf courses, and farms. Groundwater that feeds streams and rivers can carry excess nutrients from individual septic systems.

Colorado's Water Quality Control Division is still developing the models that will be used to characterize stream types and determine what expected conditions should be seen based on the stream types. High Country Citizens' Alliance will continue to participate in this process to assure that our local streams are properly assessed.



Colorado's Energy Efficiency Industry Ready to Prosper

continued from page 1

improves the overall quality and value of a home, which in turn can boost the property values of a community. Retrofitting is also a cost effective way to help our environment because it's the fastest and easiest energy efficiency solution to implement.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act invested \$5 billion to expand the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program and meet the Obama Administration's goal of weatherizing one million homes a year. This is a nearly 10-fold increase in the amount typically invested in weatherizing poorly insulated homes, but it is still not enough to fix all of America's energy inefficient homes.

In order to fully expand the Denver weatherization market, middle class families need access to financing so they can invest in energy savings. The Department of Energy is offering a grant that could be worth up to \$100 million per community to create financing options and reduce barriers for average Americans. Gil Sperling, Director of Weatherization for the Department of Energy, recently came to Denver to listen to policy makers and private industry discuss weatherization. Mr. Sperling was impressed with what Denver's sustainability office, Greenprint Denver, and community partners have accomplished. Colorado and the city of Denver are ready to kick-off a new green economy with the help of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Energy Efficiency Block Grant.

We need to identify ways to ramp up both public and private investment in America's weatherization industry in order to realize the job creation, energy savings and national security benefits this industry could create. Pay-as-you-save models, utility partnerships, bonds and pension fund investments should all be on the table.

On October 30, National Weatherization Day, the Laborers International Union of America celebrated the graduation of their first Weatherization apprentices in Colorado. The graduating class consists of a diverse group of unemployed veterans, women, Mi Casa members and others recruited from the Denver community.

Any other time, National Weatherization Day might be marked



with just another mindless "X" on the calendar. But today, amidst the confluence of economic, environmental and national security woes currently gripping our nation, it deserves the serious consideration of our opinion leaders, policymakers and public.

LIUNA has developed a national weatherization training program that could train workers on the scale needed to retrofit all of the energy-inefficient homes in the U.S. LIUNA and the Sierra Club are members of the Blue-Green Alliance.



BARRY SATLOW, PC Bankruptcy, Divorce, Small Business and Personal Injury

Barry Satlow
Lawyer
1951 Vista Drive, Boulder, CO 80304
303-442-3535 | 303-442-1006
FAX: 303-339-0177 | b.satlow@comcast.net
www.barrysatlow.com

H. ANTHONY RUCKEL

Investment Advice & Portfolio Management

Stocks, Bonds, Tax Exempts
Registered + Sierra Life Member
Environmentally Responsible Investing

5840 E. Evans Ave.
Denver, CO 80222
• 303-756-2277 •

Another Uranium Mill and Dump for Colorado

By: Joan Seeman, Chair, RMC Toxics Committee

Colorado has a history of uranium milling since the early 1900's. This past includes a legacy of contaminated uranium mills and tons of toxic uranium mill tailings buried throughout the state. These dumpsites are located in Durango, Grand Junction, Gunnison, Maybell, Naturita, Rifle, Slick Rock, and Uravan. Also, there is a mill (in standby) called Cotter that is responsible for contamination into the Lincoln Park community in Fremont County. This site is still not cleaned up and has been on the government's National Priorities toxic list since 1984. Do the citizens of Colorado want another uranium mill and dump? Montrose County does.

They just approved a new uranium mill that will generate 7.3 million tons of toxic uranium mill tailings and that will remain buried onsite. What's interesting about this approval is a line in the Montrose County Master Plan that reads, "Each generation leaves a legacy for the next generation". Unfortunately, the Montrose County legacy includes toxic uranium mill tailing dumps and a new one on the way.

One of the most controversial dumps in the county is actually a very sad story if you think about it. Tragically, the town of

Uravan in Montrose County is gone, evacuated, scraped and buried by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Imagine if the town you were raised in disappeared! But, if you check out the Rand McNally maps, Uravan is still



there. Hopefully travelers won't look for a gas station or a corner store.

Union Carbide established this Town of Uravan in 1935 to provide housing for the uranium mine and mill workers. Except for the schools, the town was owned by Union Carbide. In its most productive days there were 6000 people.

Due to the fact that nuclear waste was generated in the town, Federal and State agencies inspected the uranium facility many times and finally brought action against Union Carbide for numerous permit violations

and hazardous material spills. Because of this, the site was placed on the USEPA National Priorities list of most toxic sites in 1986.

The clean up was a 20 year, \$120 million dollar cleanup along the San Miguel River and was complete in 2008. The burial sites will be monitored by the Department of Energy Legacy Management program; FOREVER.

With such a toxic legacy, why would Montrose County approve another uranium mill and dump site for their county? Local residents and adjacent county governments sent letters of opposition to the permanent destruction and irrevocable

impacts for future generations. The local Medical Society urged the county to consider the health risks from exposure to the daily uranium mill operation as well as radioactive and toxic waste released into the air. The local officials were not swayed.

There is still an opportunity for the public to challenge this nuclear license. Uranium mills and dumpsites have a toxic legacy that we should no longer accept. Please contact Joan Seeman at 303-916-9244 to stop another toxic mill and uranium dump in Colorado.

Make Your Voice Heard for Colorado Wilderness

By: John Stansfield, Vice-chair and Wilderness Chair, Pikes Peak Group

On a sunny September day 45 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act, one of the most significant pieces of public land law in American history. The law was the product of lengthy deliberation by a strongly bipartisan Congress.

Since 1964, the Wilderness Preservation System has grown substantially in number of areas and acres, mostly in the West and Alaska. Wilderness areas provide present and future generations with critical habitat for a multitude of plants and animals; supplies of clean water and air; health-giving recreation; life-enriching solitude and contact with nature. Economic benefits of wilderness

include steady, positive cash flow to Colorado governments and businesses, as well as low costs of agency maintenance, in contrast with other public lands where rapid development and intensive recreation require large outlays of scarce tax dollars.

In a recent statewide survey, 70% of residents from throughout Colorado called for more wilderness areas. Yet, with the recent welcome exceptions of Rocky Mountain National Park and Dominguez Canyons, there have been only two small wilderness designations in wildland-rich Colorado in more than 15 years. But change is in the air - Representatives John Salazar and Diana DeGette have, at the time of this writing,

new wilderness bills ready for introduction in Congress.

If you, our members, truly believe new wilderness is needed in Colorado, I urge you to make your voices heard. The method of action is simple, quick, and effective. Just mail, e-mail, or call the local offices of your representative and Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet with a message in support of new wilderness designations.

For contact details, see (reps last name).house.gov, markudall.senate.gov, and bennet.senate.gov.

Thank you for taking action.

Fellow Members of the Enos Mills Group of the Sierra Club

By: Wende Reoch and Libby Tart-Schoenfelder, Past Group Chairs, Enos Mills Group

While many Sierra Club groups are thriving and active, some Sierra Club groups (in Colorado and throughout the US) and many other membership-based organizations are struggling to find a way to connect with members and remain vital in an environment of competing demands on our time and energies. As many of you may be aware, our Group – the Enos Mills Group – has struggled with group vitality issues for several years. We've had difficulty with recruiting new leaders, had little to no membership, program or conservation activities over long periods of time, etc. Our group is not alone: Rachel Carson Group and the South Platte Group - two other metro groups in Colorado are also in trouble. In short, EMG is not a healthy, viable group any longer.

First and foremost, we want you to know the Club and Chapter are committed to engaging more metro volunteers in activities and campaigns—everyone recognizes the need to address the group vitality issue. The Club is alive and well even if the Group is not.

As former Group Chairs, Libby and I have a shared interest and sense of responsibility regarding the health and status of the Enos Mills Group. In July, I attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of Rocky Mountain Chapter, held in Steamboat Springs. Group vitality was a major agenda item. We wanted to share the following information as it relates to our Group:

At the meeting, Greg Casini, a former RMC Chair and now the Sierra Club's Associate Director of Volunteer Development presented an overview of what other states are doing to meet this challenge.

Georgia tried organizing around issues but found that having no structure was untenable. The issue oriented groups would spring up, solve the issue (or not solve the issue) and then peter out. This is not a good formula for maintaining a healthy membership based organization.

Montana has a large rural population. Their Chapter has one group based in Missoula (near a University and larger population base) and all other activity is on an ad hoc basis. Seems to work for them.

Minnesota has developed an alternative organizational structure based on the suburban Building Environmental Community (BEC) teams. They have traditional geographic groups (like EMG), and groups that have formed around both issues and community (like our Chapter's GLS or Singles groups). They have a group called the OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Sierrans) I thought was clever. The Chapter handled or supported membership and administrative support.

There were the three options before the Chapter Excomm at the Steamboat meeting:

1. Revitalize the Groups (individually)
2. Merge the three struggling metro Groups and revitalize as one entity

3. Dissolve the Groups and use an alternative organizational structure

Regarding the options, the consensus was:

1. Revitalize the Groups – been there, done that and it hasn't worked.
2. Merge the three Groups and revitalize as one entity – some support especially from folks who like the grassroots/traditional group-chapter-national structure of the Club. Other opinions were that this just expands the dysfunction to a larger geographic area.
3. Dissolve the Group structure and use an alternative organizational structure centered on issues or common interest.

After some healthy debate and discussion, the Chapter recognized these three metro groups are not viable. The Chapter set up a Task Force to create a pilot alternative option for our metro

groups. The Task Force, Chaired by Peggy Malchow Sass, determine HOW it would be accomplished (addressing funding, governance and communication issues, et cetera.) and worked out the details over the past 3 months while reporting regularly to the Chapter on their progress. The final proposal was presented to the Ex Comm at its December meeting. (See "What's New for Activism in the Metro Area", page 9).

We think this is good news and represents forward momentum after months (years!) of spinning our wheels/inactivity in the EMG. If you live in the Denver metro area and wish to volunteer with the Sierra Club, please contact the Chapter office at (303) 861-8819 ext. 1.

We'll keep you posted on further details regarding conservation campaign and how you can get involved!

The ONLY environmentally responsible severe weather traction tires engineered for year-round, all climate performance!

10% Discount for club members!

GREEN DIAMOND TIRE

Each Green Diamond Tire produced represents one less tire clogging a landfill.... a set of Green Diamond Tires for your vehicle saves nearly a barrel of oil.

GreenDiamondTire.com
To Order: Rich@GreenDiamondTire.com

RMC Energy Committee Takes On Energy Efficiency

By: Becky English, Chair, RMC Energy Committee

At the Chapter's quarterly Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, October 10th in Evergreen, the state Executive Committee voted to continue our flagship Cool Cities campaign, but with a twist: an emphasis on Energy Efficiency. The Rocky Mountain Chapter's Energy Committee has the distinction of leading this very important effort in the coming year.

Energy efficiency is the notion that energy can be used less wastefully than is historically the case. Often, energy efficiency is thought of in combination with energy conservation, the idea that energy not demanded is energy that doesn't have to be fueled by, say, a coal-fired power plant. Energy not needed doesn't need to be generated or transmitted. Since our end-use of most grid-based energy represents a small percentage of the energy invested to generate it and get it to us, both energy efficiency and energy conservation are goals our Energy Committee is happy to support.

But the Energy Committee needs new members in order to do justice to this very worthwhile campaign. Please contact EnergyComm chair Becky English, Becky.English@rmc.sierraclub.org to join the committee. You can also join the listserv at the chapter website www.rmc.sierraclub.org. Look under the Conservation Committee choices and choose Energy.

The Energy Committee is also involved in many efforts statewide

to encourage renewable energy generation. Lately we've been more active than usual on the national front, as the US Senate prepares to consider climate change & energy legislation. We are encouraging Senators Udall and Bennet to be outspoken leaders in the effort to pass meaningful legislation, before world leaders converge in Copenhagen in December to negotiate a follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol.

The RMC Energy Committee is approaching the coming Colorado legislative session with great anticipation. In the past two years, our state legislature has passed over a dozen favorable measures that will have the effect of increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency in our state, thanks to a handful of courageous state legislators. Energy Committee is looking for people who believe that there's great leverage for renewable energy and energy efficiency in the policy sector.

The Committee also continues its work on the Safe Skies campaign. Mayor Hickenlooper has signed a proclamation endorsing the campaign, and subcommittee chair Joe Bartell hopes that Governor Ritter will soon endorse the campaign as well. Safe Skies saves birds' lives simply by the energy-conserving practice of turning off lights in high-rise buildings at night, a practice especially important during the Fall and Spring migrations.

View from the Chair

By: Jenny Kedward, Chair, Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club

As summer gracefully advances into fall, a few of our active and cherished volunteers and staff are also moving forward into new areas.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter's esteemed Treasure, Mark Collier, has volunteered 25 years of his Colorado life to the Sierra Club. In the past few decades, Mark has held positions as Chapter Chair and Vice Chair as well as served on the IT and Finance Committees. One of his best conservation efforts he led was spearheading the James Peak Wilderness area for the Indian Peaks Group. Because of his diligence and financial savvy, quarterly financial reports are on time and easy to read. Mark has the special ability to comprehend fiscal "nonsense" and deci-

pher what our Chapter spends and takes in. This is no easy task, especially when the Chapter and National offices need statements and invoices. Mark has also lent us his skill for maintaining our many e-mail lists. As you may know, the Chapter has e-mail lists for a number of topics that must be updated with current contact information. Luckily, with Mark's help, the Chapter has recruited Jim Vandewege (303-972-1342, jim.vandewege@rmc.sierraclub.org) to take his place as Treasurer. Jim has already shown great promise, but we know Marks energy and perseverance will leave a void that is hard to fill.

We also regrettably say good-bye to our new Chapter Coordinator, Katie Case.

continued on page 7



Executive Committee State Candidate Statements

Suzanna Koeller

The environment has always been important to me and protecting it has been 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 over the years have fulfilled the roles of secretary, vice chair, and chair for the South Platte Group. I have participated in a number of activities such as a hiking fundraising event in Evergreen and I helped at Earth Day many years ago. Additionally, I have attended a number of workshops and training courses, such as the National Sierra Club Convention in San Francisco, CA and the Grassroots training in Santa Fe, NM. I have also attended political training workshops and have participated with mailing parties in the past. I most recently helped with the Spring Cleaning of the Chapter office.

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.

Gary Lindstrom

Gary has been a member of the Sierra Club for several years. He served as Conservation Chair and on the Executive Committee for the Blue River Group in Summit, Eagle and Grand Counties.

He has lived in Colorado for nearly 40 years, is a former member of the Town of Blue River Board of Trustees, Undersheriff of Summit County, Summit County Coroner, Summit County Director of Public Safety, Summit County Commissioner and Colorado State Representative for the 56th House District including Summit, Eagle and Lake Counties. Gary has taught Social and Behavioral Sciences at Colorado Mountain College, Summit Campus, since 1983.

He was elected as an at-large member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club in 2007 and serves as Legislative Chairman for the Executive Committee as well as being a member of the Political Committee.

Kerry Miller

I am a lifetime member because protecting the environment is important to me, especially the issues we face when dealing with the effects of global warming. Colorado can be the leader in creating renewable energy policy and our chapter plays an important role in this process. All of us must play a part in creating a healthy, sustainable environment.

I recently became the membership chair for the Poudre Canyon Group after relocating from Missoula, Montana, where I served on the Chapter Ex-Com and the vice and membership chairs for the BMG. I also served as the conservation and outings chairs for the Northern NJ Group.

I have served on the Board of Directors for Footloose Montana and the Sterling Forest Partnership. I led a campaign to protect watershed land that provides drinking water to 2,000,000 people. \$8,000,000 contributed by the federal government, the states of NY and NJ, and a private foundation helped to create this environmental legacy. Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Welter

I am currently Vice Chair of the Rocky Mountain Chapter Executive Committee and also serve as the Political Chair of Boulder's Indian Peaks Group. I've previously served two years as Chapter Chair, worked on political and organizational trainings with a variety of groups and group leaders in Colorado over the past decade, and lead an occasional outing. If elected, my focus will be on volunteer recruitment and building the Club's capacity throughout the state. In particular I'm interested in helping develop a strong new conservation issue campaign in the Denver Metro Area. I am asking for your vote so that I can continue to help build our Chapter's capacity for protecting Colorado's environment.

It's Election Time!

Please fill out the enclosed ballot and return it with a postcard stamp to our headquarters. Please contact Katie Case at Katie.Case@sierraclub.org if you have any questions. Thank you!

View from the Chair

continued from page 6

Katie became apart of the Chapter office earlier this year. She has been an enormous asset to the Denver office by organizing communications between volunteers, presenting at local Groups who need assistance, and coordinating the very-fun, September fundraiser, WILD Step. Katie has just been welcomed to the University of Texas to pursue her graduate degree in social work. We appreciate everything Katie has accomplished, and we know that she will be a great success in whatever she does.

If you have been on the Chapter website recently, you may have noticed an extensive change to the layout and informa-

tion. Mike Stroh, the volunteer Chapter Webmaster, was behind this creative change and should be applauded at how beautiful the website looks. Mike worked with his students at Montbello High School to reorganize the webpage and make it more appealing. Mike and his wife will be moving to Germany soon and must leave the webpage behind.

Change is never easy, both for the individual or the organization, but we congratulate these members for their successes and wish them much luck well into the future. Thank you for all of your hard work and commitment to developing the Chapter.

Join Us for the Annual Holiday Party!

Sunday, November 22, 7-9 pm

Unitarian Universalist
Church of Bolder

5001 Pennsylvania Avenue
Boulder, CO 80303

We will have good, drinks, awards and fun! It's a potluck, so bring an appetizer, main dish or dessert.

RSVP to Katie Case at
katie.case@sierraclub.org
or call
(303) 861-8819
ext.1



Salsa Night Put "Fun" Back Into Fundraising

By: Bill Myers, Chair, Rocky Mountain ICO



Rocky Mountain ICO decided to raise money in a unique way this fall. On October 15, ICO held a Salsa Night fundraiser at Quijote's Restaurant in Denver.

The night featured salsa dance lessons, drinks and appetizers and a chance to simply have fun. Quijote's generously supplied the first drink and free appetizers. The rest was up to ICO volunteers, their guests and ICO kids.

Donated door prizes were awarded including a nice fleece jacket and ski jacket from Colorado Ski Country USA. As luck would have it, one of our ICO volunteers won the fleece jacket --- and then donated it to the ICO program (a genuine two-fer!).

All of the guests had a good time, and ICO had fun raising the money!

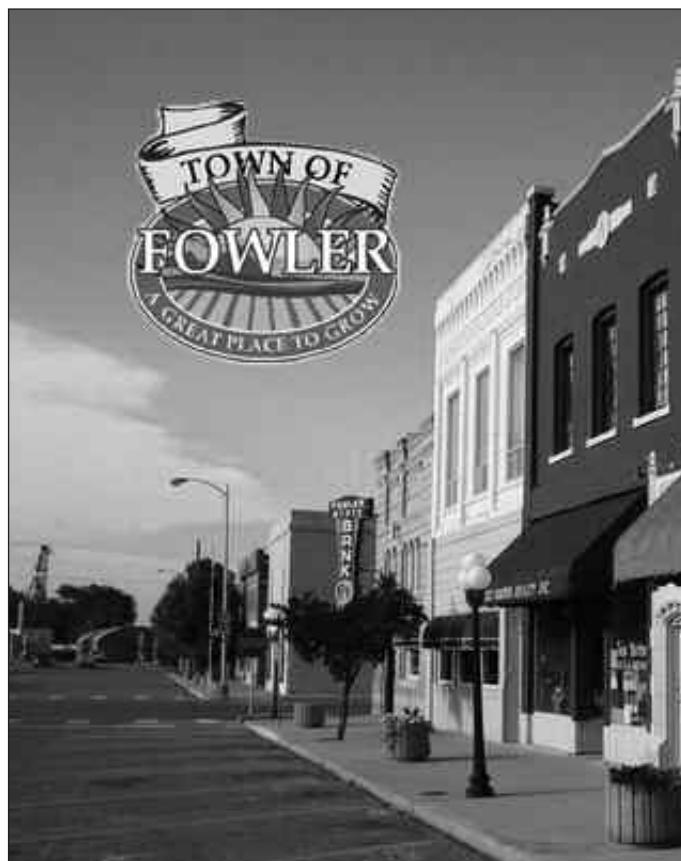
Fowler Plans for the Future

By: Jenny Kedward, Chair, Rocky Mountain Chapter

Despite the sobering news about global warming and other environmental problems in the news today, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club is optimistic—in part because of what's happening in a certain city in Southeastern Colorado. Fowler, a rural town of 1,200 in Otero County about 30 miles east of Pueblo started noticing a slowly drowning economy and ebbing population base. The town council and city manager decided it was time for a change. They saw a stable and resourceful future in renewable energy; wind, solar, biomass and geothermal became Fowler's saving ship in a sea of change.

Mayor Ray Ward recently joined more than 220 mayors, representing 43 million Americans in 39 states, in a pledge to reduce heat-trapping global warming pollution in their cities by 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. By signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, Fowler is taking the first step towards making Fowler a "cool" city. The Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign supports local communities with their sustainable efforts.

Fowler, the first Cool City on the Eastern Slope, has a master plan for its energy future. To meet the goals and derive the full benefits of the Mayors' agreement, Fowler is retrofitting public buildings, installing LED lights in parks and reducing waste. The historic school building will be adapted with solar panels and a geo-exchange heat pump system to lower utility costs. The town has also looked at turning waste to energy. While feedlots contain a ton of cattle waste—2,400 tons to be exact—Fowler has the potential to produce 1-4 megawatts of electricity per feedlot. Fowler has worked with businesses, government and organizations locally and around the nation to make the town and region stable and even prosperous. A great example of regional cooperation is the Town of Fowler Comprehensive Plan introduced this year. The plan has a goal to "grow while balancing the main principles of sustainability: economic, environmental, and social-cultural impacts" that stretches into 2035. With community education and partnerships in place, Fowler's bright future is shining in Colorado.



As more cities take action in Colorado and across the nation, literally re-energizing our nation, Fowler is using wind, solar and the innovative resource of its citizens to sustain itself. Other cities can join this force by signing onto the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. Check out Cool Cities on the web (www.coolcities.us) or call our Colorado Cool Cities advocate, Jonah Fruchter (303-861-8819 ext. 3).

Rocky Mountain Inner City Outings (ICO) Program Keeping Watch Over Our Waterways

By: Jenny Kedward, Chair, Rocky Mountain Chapter

The Rocky Mountain ICO continues taking economically challenged youth to the outdoors on skiing, hiking, camping, biking, fly-fishing, river rafting and water pollution testing activities.

As a result of a generous grant from the Water Sentinels' program of the Sierra Club, ICO was able to conduct weekly water pollution tests along Bear Creek this summer. ICO kids, under the supervision of volunteer Dan Ridgeway and others, measure water temperature, conductivity, turbidity and dissolved oxygen. In addition, water samples measure concentrations of e.coli, selenium, copper, organic nitrogen, and total phosphorus which are taken to the Colorado Department of Health & Environment's Lowry lab. These studies provide the only quality assured pollution tests for Bear Creek, and have provided valuable base-line data for this large South Platte tributary. The studies are important as the Water Quality Commission evaluates this stream as part of the triennial water quality standard setting process.

Most of the ICO kids had not been outdoors to do water sampling. The water sampling greatly improved their concepts of water pollution. Quickly, they were able to describe turbidity, use the turbidity meter and conduct the samplings professionally. Over the course of the summer, more than 100 people participated in the water sampling efforts.

To conclude our summer activities, many of the ICO kids participated in some water sampling of the Green River. These samples were in coordination with the 6-day ICO whitewater raft trip through Lodore Canyon and Dinosaur National Monument.

This fall, ICO has held a Salsa Night Fundraiser (see related article) and will be teaching a new group of kids how to telemark and cross-country ski. We hope to have a new northside 6th grade group started and ready to go later this fall.

Some of our pictures from water sampling and the raft trip certainly show how much this program means to the Sierra Club and our next generation of leaders than we could ever describe.

What's New for Activism in the Metro Area?

By: Peggy Malchow Sass, Chair, RMC Metro Task Force

At its October meeting, the Chapter Ex Comm voted to start dissolution of three metro area groups, Enos Mills Group, Rachel Carson Group, and South Platte Group. Each of these groups has struggled for at least three years to attract new members, to find people to fill all the offices, and to send out newsletters to members in their area. In addition, High Plains Group, whose territory covered Aurora and south of Aurora, was dissolved about eight years ago. The Chapter Ex Comm has decided to energize the Chapter's members in the metro area with a new approach to activism.

The new approach will be issue-based, and will be implemented with two kinds of campaigns: one sponsored by the Chapter, and one to be initiated by members concerned about a particular issue.

Chapter-Sponsored Issue Campaigns

The Chapter, its staff, and key volunteers will introduce one 501c(3) campaign based on an issue of interest throughout the metro area, with the possibility of adding a Get Out the Vote campaign in mid-2010. Issue Chairs on the Conservation Committee have been requested to propose potential campaigns based on their issues, and the Ex Comm will select one of these proposals by early November for the first Chapter-sponsored issue campaign. If you live in the metro area, you can expect a communication from the Chapter office about opportunities for getting involved on this issue campaign.

Member-Initiated Issue Teams

In addition, the Chapter would adopt a procedure that would allow any group of Sierra Club activists to form an Issue Team in response to an environmental concern, either metro-wide, like FasTracks, or specific to a locale, like the Jefferson Parkway. The staff would pro-

vide assistance to Issue Teams, but the impetus would come from volunteers concerned about an issue.

The steps in forming an Issue Team (IT) are:

1. A group of concerned Club activists develops an application consisting of a campaign plan and a Grant Proposal for any funds requested from the Chapter Issue Grant Fund. (The Chapter provides the forms for this application.)
2. The Chapter Coordinator reviews the plan and evaluates its validity according to specific criteria.
3. The relevant Issue Chair on the Chapter Conservation Committee then evaluates the plan for consistency with the Chapter's priorities on the issue involved.
4. The Chapter Treasurer reviews the financial elements of the plan, and the Issue Grant Fund Committee determines whether a grant can be made, and for what amount.
5. The Ex Comm approves the IT as a Chapter entity.
6. The IT submits reports every six months in a format provided by the Chapter showing its financial activity and its action on the issue.

The Chapter Issue Grant Fund

1. The seed money for the Grant Fund will come from the metro area groups that are being dissolved. Using group funds in this way will ensure that money intended for activism in the metro area will continue to be used for that purpose.
2. The Chapter Director can solicit money from donors and foundations designated for the c(3) purposes of the issue campaign.

continued on page 10

Metro Area Activism

continued from page 9

3. ITs themselves may seek money from donors, and they may also hold fundraising activities of their own.

4. The Chapter Ex Comm may vote each year to add to the Grant Fund some percentage of the subvention funds that would otherwise have gone to metro area groups.

IT Governance

As part of its campaign plan, an IT will need to designate at least one person who is the point person. There will also need to be at least one person in charge of the IT's funds. The Chapter will not dictate what these positions are called by the IT, just that there be a person responsible for each of those functions. The IT may also designate additional positions or committees as it sees fit to respond to the environmental issue it is working on.

No bylaws will be required, as the purpose of ITs is to allow activists to work on issues, rather than on complying with organizational requirements. It may be useful to an IT to set up procedural guidelines for interacting with public, whether to take a particular action, or how to arrive at other decisions the IT will make.

As a condition of receiving approval as a Chapter entity, the designated point person will be required to sign a statement that they have read and understood the Sierra Club's guidelines on speaking

for the Club and the Chapter and on forming coalitions with non-Sierra Club entities.

IT Interaction with the Ex Comm

ITs would not have delegates to the Ex Comm. ITs would be encouraged to send a representative to one or two Ex Comm meetings a year to provide progress reports, but no attendance would be required.

Political Endorsements in the Metro Area

As an interim measure, the Chapter Political Committee (PC) will monitor municipal and local government elections in the metro area and will serve as the first endorsing body for local elections, with the Admin Committee as the second endorsing entity. The Chapter PC invites all local activists to provide information on elections, issues, and campaigns of interest to the PC.

We hope that issue campaigns will involve the political interests of metro area activists, and some will become interested in forming a metro-area political committee. When a committee can be formed, the Chapter policies will again be amended to provide that the metro-area committee become the first voting entity for local endorsements.

Get Involved with the Rocky Mountain Chapter!

Volunteer and interest form – please indicate any areas of interest

Name _____	Address _____	apt # _____																																																																																																																										
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Phone _____	E-mail _____																																																																																																																								
<table border="0"><tr><td colspan="2">Administrative Activities</td><td colspan="3">Conservation Issues</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Advertising</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Outings, recreation</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Nuclear energy</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Oil & gas issues</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare food</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Air quality</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Permits, air, water, mines, oil & gas</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Clerical assistance</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Research</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Cherry Creek Reservoir & Cleanup</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Population</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Radioactivity</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Committee work</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Retreat</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Dumpsites /also Superfund</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Recycling</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Sprawl & affordable Housing</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Donations</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Singles Committee</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Energy issues</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Superfund sites</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Toxic chemicals</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Speaker meetings & events</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Telephone calls</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Energy, clean</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Activities, Sierra Club</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Write letters/articles</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental justice</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Water</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Water quality</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Alerts, Sierra Club</td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Genetic modification</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Water resources</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Water resources</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Computer, data entry</td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Global warming</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Water, drinking</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Water, drinking</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Computer, IT</td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse gases</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Water, ground</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Water, ground</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Computer, power point presentations</td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Issue Committee</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Weeds</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Weeds</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Computer, website design</td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson County Parkway</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness designation & management</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness designation & management</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Computer, work</td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Lifestyle issues</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, endangered</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, endangered</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Decision maker influence</td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Mines, abandoned</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, habitat</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, habitat</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Events</td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Mines, active</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, invasive species</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, invasive species</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Financial Accounting</td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> National Forest Management</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, wolf restoration</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, wolf restoration</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Gay & Lesbian group</td><td></td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Outings, work projects</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Outings, work projects</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> House parties</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Legal , lawyer</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Mailings</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Meetings</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Outings, inner city (kids)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					Administrative Activities		Conservation Issues			<input type="checkbox"/> Advertising	<input type="checkbox"/> Outings, recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Nuclear energy	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil & gas issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare food	<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Permits, air, water, mines, oil & gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerical assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Cherry Creek Reservoir & Cleanup	<input type="checkbox"/> Population	<input type="checkbox"/> Radioactivity	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee work	<input type="checkbox"/> Retreat	<input type="checkbox"/> Dumpsites /also Superfund	<input type="checkbox"/> Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Sprawl & affordable Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Donations	<input type="checkbox"/> Singles Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Superfund sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic chemicals	<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker meetings & events	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone calls	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy, clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Activities, Sierra Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Write letters/articles	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Alerts, Sierra Club		<input type="checkbox"/> Genetic modification	<input type="checkbox"/> Water resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Water resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer, data entry		<input type="checkbox"/> Global warming	<input type="checkbox"/> Water, drinking	<input type="checkbox"/> Water, drinking	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer, IT		<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse gases	<input type="checkbox"/> Water, ground	<input type="checkbox"/> Water, ground	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer, power point presentations		<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Weeds	<input type="checkbox"/> Weeds	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer, website design		<input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson County Parkway	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness designation & management	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness designation & management	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer, work		<input type="checkbox"/> Lifestyle issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, endangered	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, endangered	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision maker influence		<input type="checkbox"/> Mines, abandoned	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Events		<input type="checkbox"/> Mines, active	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Accounting		<input type="checkbox"/> National Forest Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, wolf restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, wolf restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Gay & Lesbian group			<input type="checkbox"/> Outings, work projects	<input type="checkbox"/> Outings, work projects	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing					<input type="checkbox"/> House parties					<input type="checkbox"/> Legal , lawyer					<input type="checkbox"/> Mailings					<input type="checkbox"/> Meetings					<input type="checkbox"/> Outings, inner city (kids)				
Administrative Activities		Conservation Issues																																																																																																																										
<input type="checkbox"/> Advertising	<input type="checkbox"/> Outings, recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Nuclear energy	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil & gas issues																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare food	<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Permits, air, water, mines, oil & gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Clerical assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Cherry Creek Reservoir & Cleanup	<input type="checkbox"/> Population	<input type="checkbox"/> Radioactivity																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee work	<input type="checkbox"/> Retreat	<input type="checkbox"/> Dumpsites /also Superfund	<input type="checkbox"/> Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Sprawl & affordable Housing																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Donations	<input type="checkbox"/> Singles Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Superfund sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic chemicals																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker meetings & events	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone calls	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy, clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Activities, Sierra Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Write letters/articles	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Water quality																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Alerts, Sierra Club		<input type="checkbox"/> Genetic modification	<input type="checkbox"/> Water resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Water resources																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer, data entry		<input type="checkbox"/> Global warming	<input type="checkbox"/> Water, drinking	<input type="checkbox"/> Water, drinking																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer, IT		<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse gases	<input type="checkbox"/> Water, ground	<input type="checkbox"/> Water, ground																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer, power point presentations		<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Weeds	<input type="checkbox"/> Weeds																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer, website design		<input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson County Parkway	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness designation & management	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness designation & management																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer, work		<input type="checkbox"/> Lifestyle issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, endangered	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, endangered																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Decision maker influence		<input type="checkbox"/> Mines, abandoned	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, habitat																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Events		<input type="checkbox"/> Mines, active	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, invasive species																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Accounting		<input type="checkbox"/> National Forest Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, wolf restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife, wolf restoration																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Gay & Lesbian group			<input type="checkbox"/> Outings, work projects	<input type="checkbox"/> Outings, work projects																																																																																																																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing																																																																																																																												
<input type="checkbox"/> House parties																																																																																																																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal , lawyer																																																																																																																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Mailings																																																																																																																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Meetings																																																																																																																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Outings, inner city (kids)																																																																																																																												

Please return completed volunteer forms to:

**Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club
1536 Wynkoop, Suite 4-C, Denver, CO 80202**

Population and the Environment: How Does it Matter?

By: Kelly McNicholas, Chair, RMC Population Committee

As Environmentalists, we form connections everyday between the local issues we work on, and the effect they have on preserving our planet as a whole. Whether it be preserving stream buffers so migratory birds will continue to have water sources to visit, protecting our national parks and wildlands for children that will come many generations after us, or working towards a Cool(er) Colorado so we can take larger steps towards a cooler planet, it is clear that the local and the global are intimately intertwined. The work of the Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program Committee echoes this larger effort by discussing and advocating for the links between population growth around the world, our individual use of resources, and the basic rights of equality and justice that lead to healthier communities.

The Club starts by looking at the connection between population and the environment and concluding that they are linked to almost innumerable issues like consumption, pollution, water quality, global warming and deforestation, among others. But numbers can't, and don't, tell the whole story. A family in Niger (where I served in the Peace Corps until last December), may have ten children, but their consumptive footprint will be far smaller than a family of four here in the U.S. In fact, developed countries make up 20% of the world's population, but

account for 75% of its pollution. Global warming has of course become a milestone in the movement to bring individual aware-



ness to both our consumptive and carbon footprints. And even as scientists are stating that we have about six years to reverse global warming, we are all becoming aware that both local and global solutions must be created to solve this environmental crisis. The same approach is required of solving population growth issues.

We are at a pivotal moment. The largest generation of people ever, is coming of age as they approach the age of 25. High-end estimates place the world population at 11 billion by 2050. But there are many environmental reasons to believe that interventions which move us closer to the low-end projections of 8 billion are desirable. The

frame in which we support these interventions is of utmost importance however. The Sierra Club believes there are ways to slow population growth that address social equality, health and justice, and that these are the only tolerable approaches to doing so. By partnering with groups such as the UN Population Fund, and USAID's Population, Health and Environment (PHE) program, we support voluntary programs that allow couples all over the world to obtain access to family planning services that they desire to choose the size and spacing of their families. The GPEPC is also actively, and successfully promoting a campaign called the Population, Justice and Environmental Challenge which strives to raise \$1 billion in funding for family planning and PHE programs, pass domestic policies such as the REAL Act to provide truly comprehensive and age appropriate sexual education in U.S. schools, and seek measures of social equality such as the Millennium Development Goals for environmental sustainability, universal education, and empowerment of women and girls. To sign the PJE petition, please visit: www.sierraclub.org/population/justice

Kelly McNicholas is a voting member of the Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program Committee. To learn more or invite her to speak at your group,

A Frightening Time for Prairie Dogs

By: Eric Rechel, Chapter Delegate, Uncompahgre Group

I wake as the sun warms my burrow. I go to the surface to eat and visit with colony friends. Things have changed here. A Big-Orange sitting on 4 Big-Blacks comes and the ground shakes. Some burrows are now buried. Food is hard to find. Grass is gone. I am now afraid. OH, OH I hear the alert bark. I jump into my burrow. I can feel the ground shake as a Big-Orange moves over me. It has been a while since I was on the surface. I must have food. I venture up and look and see no Big-Orange. There is a Small-White sitting on 4 Small-Blacks off in the distance with humans watching me. I hear their noise. Uh-oh, here they come. I jump into my burrow.

"I'll mark all these burrows and you mark those over there."

I am safe now in the dark of my burrow. This is the only place for me now. Soon I hope to surface and eat.

"So where do you want the truck?"

"Right over here. This way we can foam 3 holes from one spot."

"Do we have empty cages or should I use the ones that already have prairie dogs? Wait, I found one."

"You know sometimes this little pump is hard to start. I hope we can foam this Prairie dog out

before they barricade themselves in."

Human noise is so close. There is another roar too. Maybe I should plug my burrow. There is water filling my burrow, white water. It is hard to breath. I must go to the surface but the roar up there frightens me. At the surface there is more white water and humans too. I duck into my burrow. It's full of white water. I surface again. Maybe I can run away. Maybe I can jump in other burrow. Oh, what has happened? I am lifted high and put in with wet prairie dogs in a strange place burrow with holes. We all start barking. We are moving.

continued on page 12

Prairie Dogs

continued from page 11



"That one almost slipped out of your hands Sandy. That makes 5 from this site and 12 for this morning. It's eleven o'clock. Do you want to quit?"

"It's getting a little hot, maybe we should quit. By the time we get out to Mack it will be around noon."

We are all wet in a dark place with holes. I can feel prairie dogs from my colony and sense others from strange colonies. We are all moving – for a long time.

"How many Prairie dogs have we relocated over the past 4 years? Seems like a lot. I wonder how many have survived?

Relocating is better for them than being buried alive. At least they have a chance."

"By my count we have moved close to 700 prairie dogs. I'm sure there is a good survival rate; these little guys do their best to fit in with a new colony. Don't forget to turn off at the Mack exit. Drive over here Eric, we haven't released any out there yet. Just be careful not to stick a back tire in a prairie dog burrow. I think there is enough feed for them around here. Let's stop."

We are all full of fear. We are wet and huddle together looking out through the holes. Now what will happen to us? The movement has stopped. Through the holes I can see the Small-White and plants. Our burrow with holes is put on the ground with the humans standing over us. I scratch to get out. The humans are above me and tilting the burrow with holes. There, now I see a hole for a burrow, just like home. To be in a burrow will be safe. I jump to go down this strange burrow. It is dark which I like. Above me there are still human noises.

"This is it for the year isn't it? I'll write up our annual report, but I'll need some prairie dog numbers from you."

"Yeah, this is it. Do you want me to write the report or do want to do it? I'll call you tonight about the numbers."

We join with the earth and each other

To bring new life to the land

To restore the waters

To refresh the air

We join with the earth and each other

To renew the forests

To care for the plants

To protect the creatures

We join with the earth and each other

For the healing of the earth

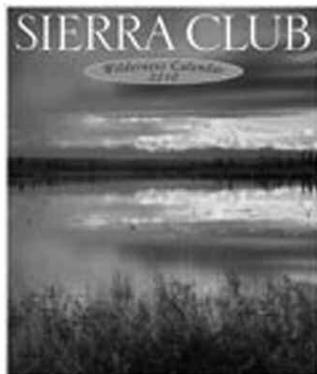
And renewal of all life.

UN Environmental Sabbath Program



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

2010 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS



Wilderness Wall Calendar

\$12.00/\$13.95

(member/non-member)



Engagement Calendar

\$11.15/\$12.95

(member/non-member)

Item	Cost (member/non-member)	Qty	Total
Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> 12.00/13.95	_____	_____
Wilderness	<input type="checkbox"/> 11.15/12.95	_____	_____
Subtotal	_____		
Shipping (\$3 per calendar)	_____		
Sales Tax 7.2% (multiply subtotal by .072)	_____		
Grand Total	_____		

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

You can also order your 2010 Sierra Club Calendar by visiting our website at www.rmc.sierraclub.org

The First Annual Wild Step was a Smashing Success

By: Katie Case, RMC Chapter Coordinator



On Saturday, September 19, 2009 sixty supporters of the Rocky Mountain Chapter hiked in the Foothills Community Park in Boulder in order to promote conservation here in Colorado. Hikers raised money that will directly benefit the Rocky Mountain Chapter's conservation efforts, with programs such as Cool Colorado. In addition to fundraising efforts by participants, the silent auction following the hike also helped raise money for the Chapter. All in all, the Chapter raised over \$4500. Congratulations to Steve Welter's team "The Misfits" for winning the top team fundraiser prize, a trip for eight from Raft Masters. Also, congratulations to Vince Calvano for winning the green costume contest and a gift certificate to Mountain Sun. Thank you to all the participants who made the Wild Step a success. We look forward to growing the Wild Step in the years to come.

We would like to recognize and thank our volunteers who dedicated time to organizing the event and our sponsors for their generous contributions.

Volunteers:

Deirdre Butler (MC)
Ken and Donna Bonetti
Chad Young (Event Chair)
Lauren Morales (Marketing Chair)
Erin Peters (Sponsorship Chair)
Tish Agos (Volunteer Recruitment Chair)
Cathy Franzese
Dafne Rivera
Rachel Merriman
Joseph Kovack
Sue Eibeck
Wende Reoch

Sponsors:

Abo's Pizza on the Hill
Adventure Buddies
Adventure Medical Kits
African Eyes Travel
Arapahoe Basin Ski Area
Autonomie Project
Caffe Sole
Colorado Backcountry
Core Power Yoga
Denver Center for the Performing Arts

Denver Nuggets
Eldorado Springs
Ellie's Eco Home Store
English Retreats
Evergreen Cat Lodge
Intrepid Travel
IZZE Beverage Co.
Justin's Nut Butters
LEKI Poles
Moe's Bagels
Mountain Sun
Oblique Design
Ocean First Divers
Old Town Inn
Outdoor Divas
Patagonia
Raft Masters
Rudi's Organic Bakery
Safeway
Sky Venture Colorado
Tattered Cover
The Organic Dish
Twist
Little Mountain
Table Mountain Inn
Twisted Pine Brewery



Team Oblique at the Wild Step - Sara Michaels, Bud Wilson, Polly Penna and Oblique Design owner, Janice Ferrante

RMC Teams Up with Oblique Design

By: Katie Case, RMC Chapter Coordinators

The First Annual Wild Step hike fundraiser was made possible through the generous donations of over thirty companies and businesses. One company that greatly contributed to the success of the Wild Step is Oblique Design. Oblique Design was generous enough to provide marketing and publicity services free of charge. In addition, Janice Ferrante, owner and creative director, and Bud Wilson, vice president of key account development, created the new name and logo for the event. One of the reasons Oblique Design and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club have such a wonderful partnership is because they share many of the same values as the Chapter. As a Boulder-based design and branding firm committed to the core values of sustainable business, Oblique shares the "green" perspective with Sierra Club members.

The design team at Oblique Design was instrumental in helping us market the Wild Step as a fun event for all ages. Thanks to Oblique Design, the Rocky Mountain Chapter now has a recognizable name and logo for our hike fundraiser that will endure for years to come. In order to show our appreciation we asked Oblique Design to submit a company profile to educate our members about all the great work they are doing here in Colorado.

Oblique Design

- Commitment to principles of Ecological Awareness
- Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility

Purpose

The founder and staff of Oblique Design are aware that everyday choices, decisions and actions taken by our executives, managers and employees make a difference in our local communities where we operate and in the world. We strive to embody core values and principles that honor nature and the ecosystems that sustain life in our biosphere. Oblique is committed to transparency and honesty in service to our clients and our community. We have a passion for being Obliquely Unique!

Background Perspective

The ecological and environmental impact that businesses have upon their communities and our world are only recently being considered and acknowledged. The climate change crisis we are facing is a case in point. There are still those few skeptics who live in denial of the human impact upon our natural systems.

The wit of Mark Twain reminds us: "There is nothing like the hangman's noose to sharpen a man's attention". It is our contention that art, skillful design and poetic expression enhance one's imagination and creativity. The ecological imperatives of global climate chaos may well represent the metaphoric hangman's noose for today's citizens of the world.

Moving past denial and facing the potentially devastating degradation of the biosphere, as we know it, represents one of these profound sharpening moments in time. In our work, we are conscious of the need for creative responses to the many challenges our human family currently face.

Clientele

Oblique is proud of its clients, including the BMW Motorcycle account, MINI, Canon (microsites for Backpacker). We also work with Teko Organic Socks, NexGen Energy, Juwi Solar International and Entegrity Wind, Ricola, Pantone (owned by X-Rite) and Gura Gear to name just a few of our excellent customers.



R M C C O N T A C T S

Elected Officers

Chair: Jenny Kedward, 719-582-0249,
jenny.kedward@rmc.sierraclub.org

Vice Chair: Steve Welter, 303-499-7261,
steve.welter@rmc.sierraclub.org

Council Delegate: Maggie Pedersen, 970-947-9613, maggie.pedersen@rmc.sierraclub.org

Council Delegate-Alternate: Myrna Poticha, 303-771-9866 myrna.poticha@rmc.sierraclub.org

At-Large: Myrna Poticha, 303-771-9866
myrna.poticha@rmc.sierraclub.org

At-Large: Becky Dickson, 303-499-7261
rebecca.dickson@rmc.sierraclub.org

At-Large: Becky English, 303-733-4064
beckyrep@aol.com

At-Large: Jenny Kedward, 719-582-0249
jenny.kedward@rmc.sierraclub.org

At-Large: Steve Welter, 303-499-7261,
steve.welter@rmc.sierraclub.org

At-Large: Gary Lindstrom, 970-485-0295
gary.lindstrom@rmc.sierraclub.org

At-Large: Maggie Pedersen, 970-947-9613
maggie.pedersen@rmc.sierraclub.org

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: www.rmc.sierraclub.org/local

Blue River Group

Serving Summit, Grand, Eagle Counties
Chair: Rick Warren, 970-513-9136
rick.warren@rmc.sierraclub.org

Enos Mills Group

Serving Denver, Glendale
Chair: Randy Will, 303-753- 9007
organicme7@hotmail.com

Indian Peaks Group

Serving Boulder County
Chair: Deirdre Butler, 303-823-8649
Deirdre@cogico.com

Mount Evans Group

Serving Evergreen, Conifer, Park County
Chair: Betsy Kelson, 303-674-7236
elizabeth.keelson@rmc.sierraclub.org

Pikes Peak Group

Serving El Paso, Elbert, Teller
Chair: Jane Ard-Smith, 719-520-5381
janeardsmith@comcast.net

Poudre Canyon Group

Serving Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland
Chair: Ward Luthi, 970-498-0500
ward@walkingtheworld.com

Rachel Carson Group

Serving Lakewood, Arvada, Wheatridge
Chair: Judy Johnson, 720-963-1325
judy.johnson@rmc.sierraclub.org

Roaring Fork Group

Serving Roaring Fork Valley

Chair: Bob Milette, 970-947-9613
peregrine@rof.net

Sangre de Cristo Group

Serving Southeast Colorado & Arkansas drainage

Chair: Ross Vincent, 719-561-3117
ross.vincent@sierraclub.org

South Platte Group

Serving Littleton, western Arapahoe, Douglas County, northern Elbert

Chair: Suzanna Koeller, 303-948-9192
suzannakoeller@msn.com

Trappers Lake Group

Serving Northwest Colorado

Chair: Rich Levy, 970-871-8799
rich.levy@rmc.sierraclub.org

Uncompahgre Group

Serving Mesa, Montrose, Delta, Gunnison

Co-Chair: N J Fulmer, 970-241-8036,
njfulmer@q.com

Co-Chair: Kathleen Hedlund, 970-245- 5727

Weminuche Group

Serving Southwest Colorado

Interim Chair: Justin McBryer
mcbrayer_j@fortlewis.edu

Appointed Officers

Secretary: Peggy Malchow, 303-758-1371
peregrina7@msn.com

Treasurer: Jim VanDeWege, 303-979-6556
jvandewege@comcast.net

Assistant Treasurer: David Mastronarde
303-440-0253, mast@colorado.edu

Committee Chairs

Awards: Vacant – can you help?

Computer Co-Chair: Steve Bailey, 303-554-1424
moatmtn@yahoo.com

Computer Co-Chair: Mark Collier, 303-443-5482, collier@juno.com

Computer Co-Chair: Roger Wendell, 303-984-5141, rogerwendell@rogerwendell.com

Conservation Co-Chair: Kirk Cunningham
303-939-8519
kirk.cunningham@rmc.sierraclub.org

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

Elections: JoLynn Jarboe, 303-753-0470
jolynn.jarboe@rmc.sierraclub.org

Finance: Vacant – can you help?

Fundraising: Lara Lee Hullinghorst, 720-226-7430, laralee.hullinghorst@rmc.sierraclub.org

Inner City Outings: Bill Myers, 303-935-6810
bill.myers@rmc.sierraclub.org

IT: Vacant – can you help?

Legislative: Gary Lindstrom, 970-485-0295
gary.lindstrom@rmc.sierraclub.org

Legal: Vacant – can you help?

Membership Engagement: Vacant – can you help?
Newsletter Editor: Teri Tesseris, 720-255-3975
editor@rmc.sierraclub.org

Nominating Committee: Vacant – can you help?

Outings: Dave Hawley, 303-443-2332
dave_Hawley@comcast.net

Personnel: Maggie Pedersen, 970-947-9613
maggie.pedersen@rmc.sierraclub.org

Political: Peggy Malchow, 303-758-1371
peregrina7@msn.com

Volunteer Coordinator: Kirby Hughes, 719-685-3019, kirbyhughes@springswisp.com

Webmaster: Mike Stroh, 303-458-9230
mike.stroh@rmc.sierraclub.org

Soon to be vacant – can you help?

Conservation Issue Chairs

To get involved in specific conservation issues, please contact the Issue Leader of your choice below.

Agriculture: Judith Rice-Jones, 719-262-3175
jricejon@gmail.com

Air Quality: Vacant – can you help?

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

Energy: Becky English, 303-733-4064
beckyrep@aol.com

Environmental Education: Vacant – can you help?

Environmental Justice: Eric Levine
eric.levine@juno.com

Genetic Engineering: Suzanne Wuerthele
303-333-2519, wuerthele@ecentral.cm

Mining/Oil/Gas: Kirby Hughes, 719-685-3019
kirby.hughes@rmc.sierraclub.org

National Forest/ECL: Elyse and Daniel Salazar
720-870-6256, elysellvas@yahoo.com

Pesticides: Angela Medberry, 303-433-2608
angela.medberry@rmc.sierraclub.org

Sprawl/Affordable Housing: Bill Myers
303-935-6810, bill.myers@rmc.sierraclub.org

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

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

Transportation Co-Chair: Betsy Hand
303-447-8073

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

Waste/Recycling: Vacant – can you help?

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

Water Quality/Habitats: Steve Glazer, 970-349-6646, steve.glazer@rmc.sierraclub.org



CONTACTS

Campaign Chair

Cool Colorado: Jenny Kedward, 719-582-0249
jenny.kedward@rmc.sierraclub.org

Chapter Office

1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 4C
Denver, CO 80202
Chapter Director: Robyn Fugett, 303-861-8819 ext. 2, robyn.fugett@sierraclub.org

Chapter Coordinator: Katie Case, 303-861-8819 ext 1, katie.case@sierraclub.org
Conservation Organizer: Jonah Fruchter 303-861-8819 ext. 3 jonah.fruchter@sierraclub.org

MEETINGS AND OUTINGS

Pikes Peak West Proposed Wilderness Dayhike or Snowshoe

Saturday, December 12, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Join Pikes Peak Sierra Club Group and co-sponsors CCWC and Wild Connections for a moderate hike or snowshoe hike on the Ring the Peak Trail on the north side of Pikes Peak. Although this hike is intended as a snowshoe hike, if snow conditions are light, we will conduct it as a regular hike. We will explore a part of the Ring the Peak trail crossing the Pikes Peak North Slope watershed and will discuss possible impacts to the watershed and adjoining potential wilderness area resulting from Colorado Springs Utilities ongoing planning process to allow public access to Colorado Springs watersheds. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing and footgear. For information and to register, contact Jim Lockhart at (719) 385-0045 or e-mail jlock@datawest.net.



Be a Part of our Chapter's Success!

We need volunteers, whether daily, weekly or monthly, to help us at the Rocky Mountain Chapter office. We're located in downtown Denver, 2 blocks from Union Station, so it's easy to take the bus or light rail!

Webmaster • Conservation outreach Office administration • IT management

For more opportunities, call 303-861-8819 or visit www.rmc.sierraclub.org

Become A Sierra Club Outing Leader!

By: Dave Hawley, Chair, RMC Outings

Have you always wanted to explore new trails? Learn new leadership techniques? Learn how you lead most effectively - i.e., "your way" (there are many roads to success)? Be motivated to learn more about the outdoors and nature? Follow in John Muir's footsteps (big footprints for sure)?

Your opportunity is here and now. You too can become a Sierra Club Outings Leader anywhere in Colorado. And after your skills are honed here in Colorado, if you move out of State, those credentials will follow you to wherever you go. An added bonus is that the Sierra Club leadership training will invariably translate into greater success in the workplace as well as in interpersonal relationships!

What does it take to become a Sierra Club Outings Leader? It's simple – be at least 18, be a member of the Sierra Club, complete an OL101 course (can be done on-line or via reading the manual in a few hours), complete a Basic First Aid course (Red Cross or equivalent), and have the support of the local Outings Chair. The Sierra Club does require that one or more Mentor-Protégé hikes be led by the Protégé to ensure he/she is aware of a few Sierra Club processes that are important to participant safety and well-being. These Protégé-led outings are also confidence builders for the Protégé.

Our goals during Outings are (a) participant safety, (b) having fun, and (c) getting there and back – in that order. You can help us achieve these goals, and have fun in the process.

You too can be a leader – all it takes is to call your local Group/Section Outings Chair and say "how do I get started?" If you need to find that Outings Chair, contact me at 303-443-2332 (h) or Dave.Hawley@rmc.sierraclub.org – I'll be happy to help.

Interns Needed!

We are Looking for Interns!

Do you have an interest in environmental non-profit work? If so, we would love you to join our team.

We need outgoing, energetic people who are passionate about conservation, legislation, outreach and education.

Please contact
Katie Case at
katie.case@sierraclub.org
or call
(303) 861-8819 ext.1



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

Rocky Mountain Chapter
1536 Wynkoop Street #4C
Denver, CO 80202

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Denver, CO
Permit #389

Return Service Requested



SUPERNOVA SOLAR

\$1,000 off for Sierra Club Members!



Solar electricity has never been more affordable & efficient



Free online quote



Better Business Bureau member



Colorado owned

(303) 47-SOLAR (76527)

(877) 470-NOVA (6682)

www.47SOLAR.com