



Peak & Prairie

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Restoring Wolves - Restoring the Balance

by Delia Malone, Wildlife/Endangered Species Team

HOW THE WEST AND ITS WOLVES WERE LOST

With the Gold and Silver rush of the mid-1800s and the Homestead Act of 1862, a tsunami of change swept across the American West, altering the landscape and ecological relationships that had taken eons to evolve and which are essential to sustaining the life of the earth. Gold and silver mining resulted in roads and railroad lines, which also opened the west to ranching, logging and homesteaders, setting the stage for habitat degradation and overexploitation and loss of game species and furbearers.

Historically, predators and prey existed in a dynamic balance with their ecosystems. As the West was won, market forces resulted in once abundant prey species, such as bison, elk, deer and pronghorn, being hunted almost to extinction. Concurrent with the near-eradication of wild game, cattle drives brought tens of

thousands of livestock to the west (Fischer 1995). With their prey decimated, predators turned to livestock to survive and were rapidly persecuted for their actions. Wolves, lions, coyotes, bear, lynx and wolverine were hunted, trapped, and poisoned for their livestock transgressions as well as for their fur. Collateral damage included the poisoning of eagles and hawks when they consumed the bait meant for those predators that had compromised livestock operations. By the mid twentieth century, gray wolves and grizzly had been extirpated from most regions of the Southern Rocky Mountains.

CONNECTIONS

All of the “parts” of an ecosystem, plants, animals, insects, fungi, bacteria, soil, water, and air, play a role in maintaining ecosystem health by enabling those processes, such as water

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...

60,000 Acres of new Wilderness in Colorado!



Story on Page 8

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Did you see the super moon eclipse? Wow. I headed east of Fort Collins to a dark place and lazily marveled at the spectacle amid a chorus of coyotes yipping, yapping and howling like it was New Year's Eve. Such an invigorating little escape. Any excuse to get out into nature is a good one, not that one is needed. But check out our upcoming outings and get thee into the wilds if you can.

Are you concerned about fracking in Colorado? Pesticides? The absence of natural predators? Water? The overwhelming influence of money in politics? If so, I hope you will sign up to get involved with one of our conservation teams. You can do so online, or call one of our volunteer coordinators, Kirby Hughes (719 685 3019) or Charlotte Tournay (719 821 3325) or myself (970-690-3543) or just call the office at 303 861 8819. We'd love to hear from you and find a great fit for your talents on one of our teams.

Ten Thanks!

- Chris Applegate for all his work recruiting new Denver Metro Network leaders and organizing a welcome reception
- To our new Denver Metro Network leadership team: Lisa Watkins, Kaitlin Akers, Whitney Larson, Melissa Sotelo, Thomas Riggle, Natasha Willis, Ashley McFarland, Brent Halbert, Charlie Goodson, Ben Mountjoy
- Tiffny Shanaughy for her tireless consistency in keeping a steady stream of fresh news flowing through our Facebook page every day
- Jane Ard-Smith and Myrna Poticha for formulating a strategic plan for our chapter's political program
- Betsy and Neema for getting our ExCom minutes all published online and up-to-date
- Linda Batlin and Glory Walters for their efforts in screening dozens of applicants for our Chapter Director position
- Jonathan Stauffer for taking charge of our newsletter
- Our nominating committee Angela Medbery, Kirby Hughes, Becky English for recruiting nominees for this year's ExCom election ballot (be sure to vote!)
- Bryce Carter, Cathy Collentine, Alissa Grutske, Ashley McFarland for all their efforts to organize turnout at the recent Denver EPA methane rule hearing and associated demonstration
- All the people who took time to go to the EPA hearing and march or speak on behalf of the environment



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RIDE. WALK. SEE. - A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

by Lorie Gibb

Saturday, September 21 was a beautiful autumn day for the Ride. Walk. See event. The event was designed to encourage people to RIDE RTD's public transportation services, WALK Your Talk, SEE the Art in metro Denver.

Many people saw the new Union Station transportation hub for the first time. There were numerous organizations that set up tables at the event on the Wynkoop Station plaza to talk about their conservation and artistic endeavors.

An unofficial tally by the organizers put attendance at about 250 people.

Numerous people volunteered: Some were art docents, some helped assist people learn about public transit, some helped at the tables and with set up and take down. Volunteers used public transportation wherever possible.

Media coverage prior to the event was excellent: KUSA Channel 9 TV's morning news program at 8:50 a.m. announced the event a few days before. KGNU radio interviewed organizers and aired a 10-minute segment the day before the event. The Denver Post covered the event in their "Your Hub - West." section. The event garnered front page coverage in Prime Time for Seniors, a newspaper distributed widely throughout the Front Range. Westword covered the event in their calendar. Many conservation and art organizations also sent out information about Ride. Walk. See. All of which was helpful in making an event with no money budgeted for advertising a success.

There was a friendly and helpful feeling throughout the day. People enjoyed the the two groups of musicians who played at at Union Station, and the tours by Denver Arts and Venues staff. 12 prizes were given away in the drawing, which was highly popular with attendees. In another crowd pleasing addition, thanks to sponsorships and a donation of tickets from RTD, hundreds of RTD passes were given away.



For those who didn't participate but noticed what was going on, a seed was planted to think about how they can get out of their cars and enjoy the art in the community. Hopefully it's one more time they hear about their carbon footprint and wonder what they can do to reduce their own.

A map was distributed during the event showing three self-guided loops. Many people said they planned to come back to do the loops they didn't have time for, and will use public transportation since they now know how.

Since the maps are not time-sensitive, they can be widely used. Sierra Club's name will still be going out as the organizer of this event!

Hundreds Voice Support of Strong EPA Methane Regulations

by Catherine Collentine - Campaign Representative, Dirty Fuels Initiative - Sierra Club Our Wild America Campaign

On Wednesday, September 26th, 200 people, including many leaders, members and supporters of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club joined together in Denver to support strong Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules to regulate methane emissions from oil and gas operations.

The rules are the first of their kind and were issued by the EPA on August 18th. They build off of the rules to curb potent greenhouse gas emissions from fracking that Colorado adopted in early 2014. The hearing was held at the EPA's region 8 office.

111 people testified in favor of the rules and strengthening them, with just 8 people from industry speaking out against the rules. A big thank you to our partner organizations including: NAACP, Moms Clean Air Force, EDF, 350Colorado, the Wilderness Society, EarthJustice, Conservation Colorado/Protegete, COLOR, Climate Reality Project, Defend Our Future, Interfaith Power & Light, EcoJustice, Common Cause and Clean Energy Action.

The day began with a press conference (with our Sierra Club inflatable inhaler standing tall in the background) that included local elected officials, tribal and latino community representatives and moms for clean air.

The NM Chapter was well represented with their Chapter Director, Camilla, moderating the press conference and leading the group in some early morning chants ahead of the hearing.

After a morning of powerful testimony, a rally was held with some great speakers including voices from the Sierra Club, faith community, moms, and wonderful student voice! After the rally, participants marched with signs past downtown Denver's Union Station, the press snapping photo and video. The group stopped in front of the mobile billboard for a group photo.

Over 200 people participated throughout the day -- including 150 people at the rally. The event received good press coverage in the Denver Post, Durango Herald and Greeley Tribune.

If you missed your chance to comment in person, please submit your comments to the EPA via <http://sc.org/cutmethane>

FOOD POISONING: FARMING WITH NEONICOTINOIDS

By Deb Marsh

PESTICIDES FOR HOW LONG?

It took good documentation, Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring", an EPA and 40 years to eliminate most U.S. DDT pesticide use. It took car catalytic converters, the evolution of neurotoxic science, the EPA and over 70 years to get the lead out of gasoline. How long can we expect before we have the science, documentation and guts to eliminate toxic pesticides from our environment?

Our Sierra Club pesticide committee works on baby steps on this monster issue. We encourage you to:

- Document pesticide exposure concerns – the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (<http://www.rmpdc.org/>) is our local data agency for this (800) 222-1222)
- File complaints with the Colorado Department of Agriculture (303) 869-9058 when you see or experience pesticide misuse.
- Search out alternative pest controls – the local CSU Extension services documents the types of questions they receive.
- Support your local Bee Safe Neighborhood d-braden@comcast.net <http://livingsystemsinst.org/content/bee-safe-neighborhoods>)

Got concerns? Want assistance?
Interested in special issues?

Contact: Angela Medbery
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The poisons dominating much of the U.S. agricultural system are leaking into waterways across the nation, according to an August 2015 report by the U.S. Geological Survey in Environmental Chemistry. Neonicotinoids, pesticides that act by destroying nerve tissue, were found in a little more than half of urban and agricultural streams tested in 24 states and Puerto Rico from 2011 to 2014.

The first of its kind on a national scale, the study is particularly important considering the accumulative nature of neonicotinoids (Tennekes and Sanchez-Bayo, 2011), and their numerous links in scientific studies to bee and bird deaths. Data from the study show that pollinators and birds get an additional dose of neonicotinoids from the water they drink, particularly around treated fields. Neonicotinoids are present in urban streams throughout the year, with high "pulses" of the poison typical in agricultural streams during the planting season, according to USGS research chemist Michelle Hladik, the report's lead author. Hladik previously co-authored a 2014 report that showed widespread occurrence of neonicotinoids at dangerous levels in streams in the Midwest farm belt.

Research Team Leader Kathryn Kuivila notes that the new report will serve as a baseline study for potential impacts on aquatic organisms nationwide, as well as honeybees and other terrestrial creatures. A California study already demonstrates high toxicity in aquatic invertebrates (Starner and Goh, 2012), leading to questions regarding the health of animals up the food chain. One study provides evidence that neonicotinoids can cause immune suppression in fish as well as bees (Di Prisco et al., 2013).

The use of neonicotinoid pesticides in the U.S. has boomed since their introduction 20 years ago. Nearly all corn, 90 percent of canola, and about half the soybeans planted in the U.S. are from seeds treated with neonicotinoids (CropLife Foundation, 2013). They are often the only option for



farmers, whether or not there is a need for them in the field. Farmers are also attracted by the ease of planting pre-treated seeds rather than spraying, although planting machines knock off part of the coating and emit it as poison dust (Krupke et al., 2012).

Derived from nicotine, they were originally welcomed as less toxic to humans and mammals than previous organophosphate and carbamate insecticides. Neonicotinoids are water soluble, which means they can be applied to soil or seeds before planting, and the poison is taken up through roots into all areas of the plant, including flowers and pollen.

However, numerous scientific studies have drawn relationships between pollinator deaths and neonicotinoid exposure. The death of 50,000 bumblebees in a June 2013 incident was directly linked to the application of a neonicotinoid on flowering trees nearby. A Swedish study on wild bees, one of the first of its kind, found half as many bees in areas treated with the neonicotinoid clothianidin as non-treated, and no weight gain in bees in the treated areas (Rundlof et al., 2015).

Sublethal doses of neonicotinoids show a reduced rate of growth in bees, reduced production of new queens (Whitehorn et al., 2012), and detrimental effects on honeybee feeding, learning and memory. A new study shows that bees may become hooked on the nicotine in the pesticides, preferring toxin-laced sucrose. Scientists suggested the chemicals may be affecting the reward centers in the bees' brain, much like humans with cigarettes (Kessler et al., 2015).

Birds suffer neonicotinoid poisoning as well. Dutch scientists found a strong correlation in the

number and variety of farmland birds and the presence of a neonicotinoid, imidacloprid, in area water. Where the water contained high concentrations of the neurotoxin, bird populations declined by an average of 3.5 percent annually (Hallmann and Foppen, 2014). Songbirds can be killed by eating just one poisoned seed, and the pesticide on one tenth of a seed per day can impact avian reproduction (Mineau and Palmer, 2013).

Furthermore, a March 2014 assessment of 19 peer-reviewed studies by the Center for Food Safety titled "Heavy Costs" concluded that the use of neonicotinoids provided either no benefit at all (8 studies) or an inconsistent yield benefit (11 studies) to farmers using the poison, despite its high cost. In the U.K., treated seeds cost farmers three times as much as one foliar pesticide application (Nicholls, 2013). A 2014 EPA study found neonicotinoid use failed to increase soybean yields by even one percent.

In other words, farmers are frequently investing in crop protection that is not benefitting them. But by using treated seeds and thus sterilizing the soil at every planting, farmers continue the cycle of needing to buy more nutrients to replenish soil health. In the meantime, target insects exposed to neonicotinoids increase their resistance every generation, requiring ever-increasing amounts of pesticides to control them.

Neonicotinoid manufacturers, which make billions of dollars from these poisons, have funded their own studies that they insist show "these products do not represent a long-term threat to bee colonies" (Bayer CropScience). However, beekeepers and others feel the evidence against neonicotinoids is building. In late 2014, Canadian beekeepers sued the makers of popular crop pesticides for more than \$400 million in damages, alleging that their use is causing the deaths of bee colonies.

The Sierra Club has responded to the mounting data with a lawsuit of its own against the Environmental Protection Agency. Together with other conservation groups, beekeepers and consumer groups, the Sierra Club accuses the EPA of failing to protect pollinators from neonicotinoids. The suit challenges EPA's ongoing handling of the pesticides as well as the agency's practice of "conditional registration" and labeling deficiencies.

Additionally, the Sierra Club is working to require mandatory labeling of genetically modified food. Most neonicotinoid-treated seeds are genetically modified. The House passed voluntary labeling of GMOs pushed through by the industry. By making labeling voluntary, consumers can be kept in the dark about whether or the food they are buying is modified, and often whether or not it has been treated with neonicotinoids.

The Senate is voting soon on whether to make this labeling mandatory. To find out more, see http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/1881/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=14356. You can tell the Senate to protect your right to know by opposing the Dark Act.

Join the Sierra Club Grassroots Network's Pollinator Protection Campaign at sc.org/pollinator. Subscribe to the Club's biotech listserv by emailing lhopwood@roadrunner.



GMO CONCERNS CONTINUE

By Julie Ott, GMO Labeling Team

The GMO debate continues and many who enjoy a healthy lifestyle are concerned about genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and how they are grown. It's not just an issue for "health nuts" or those who enjoy the out of doors.

In August one of the most prestigious medical journals, the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) published a paper by Philip J. Landrigan, M.D., and Charles Benbrook, Ph.D. on the topic of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, and public health. The authors noted that pesticide use associated with GM crops has increased sharply and further increases are scheduled to occur in the next few years. "In addition, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified glyphosate, the herbicide most widely used on GM crops, as a 'probable human carcinogen' and classified a second herbicide, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), as a 'possible human carcinogen.'"

Landrigan and Benbrook address fresh concerns about the safety of GM crops, including the, 2014 decision by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to approve Enlist Duo, a new combination herbicide comprising glyphosate plus 2,4-D. In their view, the science and the risk assessment supporting the Enlist Duo decision are flawed. Amongst their concern is that the risk assessment gave little consideration to potential health effects in infants and children, and failed to consider ecologic impact, such as effects on the monarch butterfly and other pollinators.

These scientists encourage the EPA to delay implementation of its decision to permit the use of Enlist Duo. They also recommend the Food and Drug Administration reconsider the label of GM foods noting, "It is essential for tracking emergence of novel food allergies and assessing effects of chemical herbicides applied to GM crops."

The Rocky Mountain Chapter's GMO Labeling Team encourages you to be informed and ready to let your legislators know how you feel about GMOs. For ongoing GMO reports subscribe to the RMC-Genetic-Engineering-Comm list serv, http://rmc.sierraclub.org/rmc_alerts.shtml.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

RESTORING WOLVES - RESTORING THE BALANCE

and nutrient cycles, energy flow, soil building and atmospheric balance that create ecosystems capable of supporting life. When a “part” is lost, some function and some stability is also lost. When connections between the parts are altered or lost, the ability of an ecosystem to sustain a full diversity of life is diminished.

Wolves are a critical “part” of North America’s natural ecosystems. Throughout North America, wolves evolved as the apex, keystone predator—a role that is responsible for moderating large ungulate populations and inhibiting irruptions of mesopredators (such as coyotes). In parts of North America where gray wolves have been extirpated, populations of their traditional prey— elk—have exploded, which has led to over-browsed vegetation that in turn is pushing smaller herbivores and birds that rely on these plants out of those areas (Ripple et al. 2014). Conversely, in Yellowstone where gray wolves have been repatriated, wolf activity has reduced the ability of elk to concentrate browsing on preferred species such as aspen and willow, leading to the recovery of woodlands and streamside vegetation as well as wildlife species that depend on these habitats (Ripple and Beschta 2011) including songbirds and beaver. Essentially, wolves eat elk and make ecosystems healthier places: No other species in North America serves this essential ecological role.

Wolves also make healthier elk. Wolves preferentially hunt more vulnerable animals such as sick, and older individuals. By culling the herd of inferior animals and thereby reducing competition for forage, wolves create healthier elk populations, which benefit Colorado’s sport hunting program. To be ecologically effective in their role of keystone, apex predator, Colorado’s wolf populations must be sufficiently large and also distributed over a sufficiently wide geographic area to enable their role in moderating Colorado’s elk population. An ecologically effective wolf population contains enough individuals with a wide enough geographic distribution to reestablish the species’ role in ecosystems (Carroll et al 2006). Elk in Colorado number about 280,000, almost twice as many as any other western state (Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2014). With this large prey base, Colorado could support at least 1,000 gray wolves (Carroll et al. 2006). That number of wolves would be beneficial to both Colorado’s natural ecosystems and beneficial to the health of Colorado’s elk population.

Wolves are also recognized for their role as inhibitors of mesopredator population irruptions. Mesopredators, such as coyotes, prey primarily on birds and small mammals. Apex predators, such as the gray wolf, limit the density of mesopredators so that total predation pressure is also limited (Ripple et al. 2014). Conversely, the loss of apex predators results in increased mesopredator population numbers (Crooks and Soule’ 1999) with consequent decline in songbirds and small mammals.

FAMILY

Family is the fundamental unit of wolf social systems. Family interactions enable the wolf’s role as keystone, apex predator with life-history traits such as extended parental care, alloparental care, reproductive suppression



and cooperative hunting. Protecting intact wolf families maintains the evolved social interdependencies that enable effective and sustainable predator-prey relationships (Haber and Holleman 2013) and thus the trophic interactions that structure functioning ecosystems. Hunting and trapping of wolves destroys wolf family structure, integrity and social bonds that are essential to both wolf survival and the wolf’s ecological effectiveness as apex predators (Haber and Holleman 2013). Wolf survival depends on not over-exploiting their food resource (Wallach et al. 2015). Wolves have evolved life-history traits that enable successful hunting of prey much larger than themselves and self-regulates their populations to maintain a dynamic balance with their prey populations. These traits depend on social stability.

Apex predators, such as gray wolves, are distinguished by the ability to self-regulate their populations (Wallach et al. 2015). Life-history traits, such as reproductive suppression, enable population self-regulation but is dependent on social stability (Wallach et al. 2015). Wolf families are led by the parental “alpha” male and female breeding pair who not only teach their young how to hunt but actively prevent other members of the family from breeding. Hunting and trapping often removes the adult alpha wolves, destroying the family social bonds that are key to population regulation and giving rise to several breeding pairs of young inexperienced wolves — leading to an uptick in a wolf population that must turn to hunting livestock to survive. In the Northern Rockies, where wolf hunting and trapping has resulted in the mortality of key family members, disruption of social bonds has led to increased livestock depredation (Wielgus and Peebles 2014, Brainerd et al. 2008, Harper et al.2008).

Cooperative hunting involving all members of a wolf family is essential to successfully hunting their primary prey – elk. Effective hunting of prey much larger than themselves requires the experience of the adults, close cooperation and integration of skills of all the family members. Adult wolves know what, when, and how to hunt wild prey much larger than themselves, including elk, bison and moose. Passing on this legacy of hunting knowledge – knowledge of prey sources and the ability to subdue prey - to their offspring is essential to the long-term survival of wolf families and to their role in maintaining balanced ecosystems. Culling of wolves may cause frequent breeder turnover, social disruption and loss of hunting knowledge. Orphaned, inexperienced, young wolves often turn to preying on livestock, which is easier and less dangerous to hunt than wild prey (Sand et al. 2006, Stahler et al. 2006). All of these effects potentially result in increased

livestock depredations.

COEXISTENCE

Livestock and wolves can coexist. Conditions today are not those of the late 1800's when, because elk had been extirpated from Colorado and most other game species had been decimated by market hunting, there was little to no natural prey for wolves to hunt. Since the reintroduction of elk to Colorado, and without the regulating effect of wolves, elk numbers have swelled and now provide both a sufficient prey base for predators as well as an ample population to support a robust sport-hunting industry.

In the Northern Rockies, with some modification of livestock management strategies, losses to wolves and other predators have become minimized and have often been reduced to zero. Humans have learned to live successfully with large predators by employing carnivore coexistence strategies (Barnes 2015). Instead of exterminating wolves or paying compensation for livestock depredations, wolf-livestock management should utilize coexistence strategies that have been proven to prevent livestock killings. For instance, at the Wood River Valley Project, on 1,000 square miles of federal land in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho, sheep grazers, government agencies, and Defenders of Wildlife collaborate to keep wolves away from livestock with nonlethal methods, including Range Riders, guard dogs, sound devices, lighting, and flagging. One participant, Lava Lake Land and Livestock, boasts of "grazing a band of 1,000 sheep for a month in the immediate daily presence of a wolf pack with no losses of sheep or wolves".

RESTORATION

Repatriation of ecologically effective populations of gray wolves requires an effort similar to that which occurred in the Northern Rockies, but with key differences. When Congress enacted the ESA, its definition for an endangered species encompassed biological bases, including extinction risk and population viability, and also a directive to restore a species across its former ecological range. Historically all of Colorado's biomes supported robust wolf populations. Currently wolves occupy less than 10 percent of their historic range in North America (Weiss et al. 2014), and none of their historic range in Colorado. Although wolves can travel substantial distances to seek mates and a territory of their own (Mech and Boitani 2003), migration from Wyoming into Colorado or from New Mexico and Arizona is greatly restricted by human-created obstacles, both physical and bureaucratic, that inhibit the establishment of ecologically effective wolf populations in Colorado.

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OUR VISION

Our vision for restoration of Gray Wolves in Colorado is one of a metapopulation of wolves that is well connected, sufficiently large to be ecologically effective and is protected from human depredation.

Our vision for gray wolves in Colorado is one in which:

1. Gray wolves experience an ecologically effective recovery in Colorado: Gray wolf populations are sufficiently large and widely distributed to be ecologically effective in their role as moderator of large ungulate prey populations and inhibitor of mesopredator population irruptions.
2. Gray wolves experience genetic recovery: Connectivity between populations of wolves is achieved so that wolves can disperse to establish new families in unoccupied habitat to enable and enhance genetic diversity and ensure the long-term genetic health of the gray wolf metapopulation.
3. Gray wolves are protected from human depredation so that wolf family structure and function is maintained.
4. Conflicts between gray wolves and humans are minimized through the development and implementation of effective carnivore coexistence strategies.
5. Gray wolves are not considered game animals and are protected from hunting, trapping and poisoning.

"This song doesn't sound good with one lonely voice. This song sounds good with the more voices on it the better, and the more out-of-tune voices the better." (Joni Mitchell)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNR877AHJAc>

Become part of the wolf choir, sign the petition to restore wolves to Colorado:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/rocky-mountain-chapter/wolves>

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CONTINENTAL DIVIDE WILDERNESS BILL GAINS MOMENTUM

BY JONATHAN STAUFER

Congressman Jared Polis's Continental Divide Wilderness Area and Recreation Act, H.R. 2554, is gaining momentum as it wends its way through the troughs and eddies of legislative approval.

In a letter to Congressman Polis signed by Executive Director Michael Brune, the Sierra Club endorsed the bill in March of this year.

Brune wrote, "These lands are some of Colorado's most precious, ecologically important public lands that provide wildlife habitat and serve as invaluable watersheds for the region."

The bill is the result of years of research and planning. Proposal areas were initially researched by the Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project in the late 1990's and early 2000's, and originally proposed for wilderness status by Wilderness Workshop.

The bill has been the subject an extensive public process involving a wide variety of local stakeholder groups including local governments, water providers, land managers, constituents, and conservation and recreation organizations.

In addition to the backing of the Sierra Club, the bill has garnered the full support of Colorado Senator Michael Bennet, who announced in late-August that he will soon be introducing a companion bill in the Senate.

The Continental Divide bill seeks to permanently protect nearly 60,000 acres of National Forest lands along the Continental Divide of Colorado, designating new Wilderness areas and expanding existing Holy Cross, Eagles Nest, and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas.

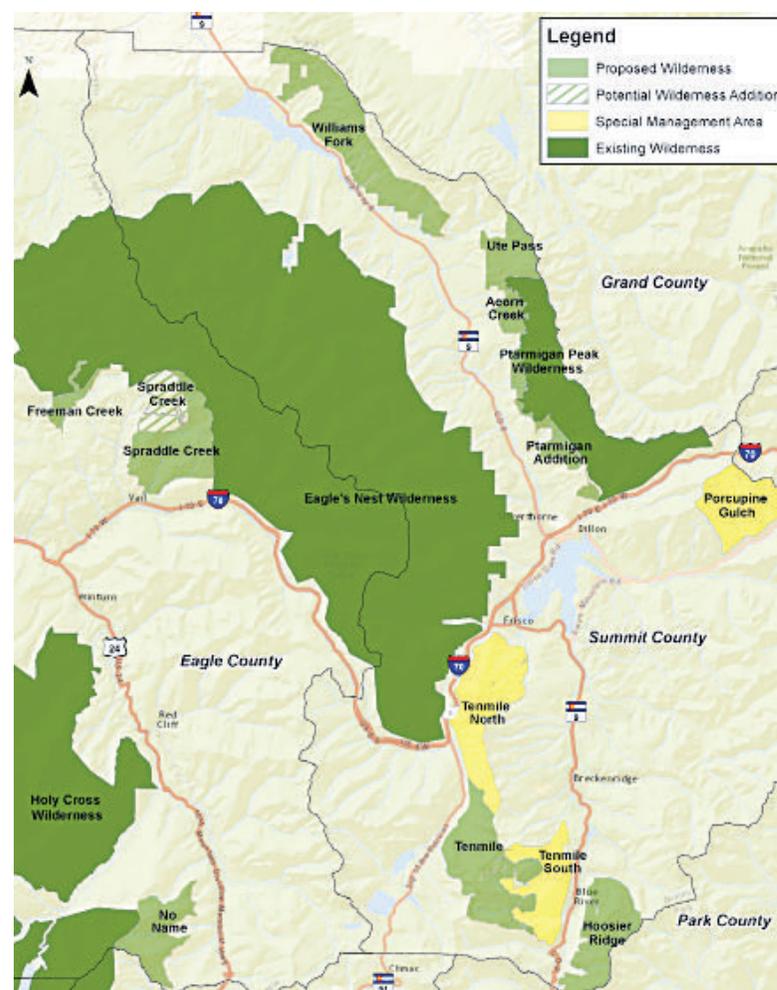
The new Wilderness areas and Wilderness Area expansions concentrate a great deal on the inclusion of lower elevation areas, areas not well represented in the current National Forest Wilderness system. These provide overwinter habitat for large populations of deer and elk. Lynx habitat is well represented as is habitat for wolverine, another species that has been returning its former range in Colorado.

The bill also seeks to protect habitat for non-mammalian species including: Rocky Mountain Cutthroat Trout, sage grouse and ptarmigan. The proposed Williams Fork Wilderness Area contains alpine tundra and bristlecone pine - considered the oldest living species on the planet.

In addition to a new Wilderness area on the Tenmile Range, the bill will protect 10,000 acres adjacent to the proposed Wilderness for recreational uses that are popular in the area now - mountain biking, hiking and backcountry skiing - with a new recreation management area.

"We are a part of the wildness of the universe, that is our nature. Our noblest, happiest character develops with the influence of wildness. Away from it, we degenerate into the squalor of slums or the frustration of clinical couches. With the wilderness, we are at home."

- Howard Zahniser, primary author, the Wilderness Act of 1964



Congressman Jared Polis's Continental Divide Wilderness Area and Recreation Bill would protect nearly 60,000 acres along Colorado's Continental Divide!

Learn more and add your support to the Sierra Club's at continentaldivide.org

NEW WILDERNESS!

The proposed Continental Divide Wilderness and Recreation Act
 Descriptions and images courtesy of the Continental Divide Coalition



NO NAME

This is an excellent place for solitude in a pristine alpine setting with outstanding views of the Sawatch Range along Homestake Ridge. If protected, the No Name proposed addition would become part of the larger Holy Cross Wilderness.



SPRADDLE CREEK

Covering half of Bald Mountain, this area serves as a buffer between Vail and the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area. If protected, the Spraddle Creek proposed addition would become part of the larger Eagles Nest Wilderness.

the area provides important mid-elevation wildlife habitat and is popular among hunters. The area also provides wolverine habitat and has been identified by Colorado Division of Wildlife as having high priority habitat.

HOOSIER RIDGE

recreationists. If protected, the area will contain two Recreation Management Areas and a new stand alone Wilderness area.



SPRADDLE CREEK POTENTIAL WILDERNESS

The Spraddle Creek Potential Wilderness will allow the Forest Service flexibility to perform certain restoration projects while managing the area to protect its wilderness quality. It will automatically become wilderness in 15 years or when the restoration projects are completed, whichever comes first.

ACORN CREEK AND UTE

Straddling the Continental Divide this area is a prime example of a native alpine ecosystem providing a roadless link between the White River and Pike-San Isabel National Forests. This diverse area provides habitat for ten rare plant species, boreal toad, Canadian lynx, and the elusive wolverine.

TENMILE RANGE

WILLIAMS FORK

Located on the western flanks of the Williams Fork Mountains above the Blue River, the area borders the Colorado Natural Heritage Program's Horse Creek Potential Conservation Area, and has a high degree of biodiversity. The area's ridge crest contains alpine tundra and even some bristlecone pines – considered the oldest living species on the planet. It was designated by the Forest Service as critical big game winter range, as it – supports a large elk herd and sizable mule deer herd. Greater sage-grouse also use this area as winter range with potential habitat for sage-grouse lek. After becoming law the area will be a new stand alone Wilderness.



FREEMAN CREEK

This area features a well-preserved lower- elevation shrub community alongside large wet meadows where moose can often be found. It's also an important summer range for elk and mule deer in addition to providing habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout, snowshoe hare, Canadian lynx, and a variety of other species. If protected, the Freeman Creek proposed addition would become part of the larger Eagles Nest Wilderness.



Located along the western flanks of the Williams Fork Mountains and adjacent to the northern portion of the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Area



This high, narrow, peak-studded divide separates Tenmile Creek from the Blue River. In close proximity to Copper Mountain, Breckenridge, and Frisco makes this a very popular destination for mountain bikers, hikers, backcountry skiers, and other

PORCUPINE GULCH

Located on the west side of the Continental Divide between Loveland Pass and Eisenhower Tunnel this area serves as the area's southernmost land bridge across Interstate 70. With limited access, no maintained trails and little recreational visitation, the proposed Porcupine Gulch Special Management Area is among the most undisturbed lands in the area.

Congressman Jared Polis's Continental Divide Wilderness Area and Recreation Bill would protect nearly 60,000 acres along Colorado's Continental Divide!

Learn more and add your support to the Sierra Club's at continentaldive.org

A Discussion with Representative Jared Polis about his Wilderness Bill and Wild Places

What inspired you to draft the Continental Divide bill?

Coloradans value their open spaces – both for their inherent beauty and the economic activity they generate. Our bill makes certain that we are protecting these lands in Eagle and Summit Counties. This proposal was very much a community-driven, grassroots process, crafted over six years with input from dozens of stakeholder groups, including the Wilderness Society, the Outdoor Industry Association, Conservation Colorado, and the International Mountain Biking Association. It took a lot of hard work to get everyone on board with the bill!

What's your favorite place in the proposal?

I can't answer that question – it's like asking me who my favorite kid is!

What role do you feel wilderness plays for society?

A huge role, especially in a place like Colorado. There's nothing like a sunrise atop Quandary Peak or the alpenglow of the Gore Range. And beyond these beautiful landscapes, wilderness plays an integral role in our state and national economy. In Colorado alone, the outdoor recreation industry adds billions to our state economy each year. We need to make sure we're protecting these spaces and assets.

What role do you feel wilderness plays for natural ecosystems?

Wilderness plays a vital role because it keeps our natural ecosystems intact and puts in place certain management protocols that allow the health and vitality of the area to thrive. The Wilderness Act itself speaks to this when it says, "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man (Section 2(c))." It allows for natural processes to take place without our interference, preserving and promoting wildlife, watershed, and overall environmental health.

Is designating wilderness the best conservation tool we have? If not, what is?

It's the highest designation for land protection and its success can be seen in the 51 years of data showing the impacts of lands effectively preserved under the Wilderness Act. There are other designation tools that can conserve and protect lands based on what is needed. For example, my legislation protects an important land corridor between Frisco and Breckenridge with both Wilderness and "Recreation Management Areas." The Recreation Management Areas give flexibility to land managers, allowing for things like mountain biking and road construction, while maintaining continuity in land conservation across these important areas. Wilderness remains the most stringent designation possible, however, for encouraging land preservation and limiting human impact.

In the not so distant past, protecting wilderness was a bipartisan, perhaps even a non-partisan, affair. Do you see us returning there? If so, how?

I certainly hope so. Obviously, there are some Republicans who are staunchly opposed to this concept, but I also believe there are some Republicans who still recognize the value wilderness adds to our lives and economies. These Republicans seem open to supporting protections as long as the proposals have strong local stakeholder support, from both sides of the aisle. Our bill does, and that's part of the reason why I'm optimistic about its passage.

Do you think this bill will achieve the bipartisan support it needs to become law?

I hope so, for the reasons I just outlined above.

As a member of the House Natural Resources Committee, what do you see as the biggest obstacles to wildlands conservation in the United States today?

Like most issues we face in Congress, the difficulties surrounding wildland conservation boil down to the differing ideologies that make up Congress. Some of my colleagues – both on and off the House Natural Resources Committee – are ideologically opposed to the idea of publicly funded and maintained lands. These members often place roadblocks in front of bills like mine, arguing that the Federal Government should not acquire any more land, or designate any new wilderness.

That being said, I believe the majority of Members and Senators would be in support of bills driven by local input and interests, and will support my bill in the end.

According to biologists, connected, wild habitat is the best way to protect and restore species from detrimental human impacts, including climate change. What is the possibility we may have such connective corridors throughout the US in our lifetimes?

I think it will require forward-looking leaders and community-driven initiatives. This week's historic announcement of the protection of the sage grouse is a prime example of what can happen when people across the political divide and throughout different levels of government come together over a common cause. The Fish and Wildlife Service recognized the tireless efforts of those at the federal, state, and local levels to responsibly preserve and protect the sage grouse and its habitat. If we can continue to show this kind of foresight and collaboration, I do believe we could develop smarter and more continuous policies for effective land management.

There are perhaps hundreds of thousands of acres of wilderness quality-lands in Colorado. What is the possibility that Congress may officially designate more of them as such during the

coming decade?

While I'm very hopeful Congress will recognize and protect the lands you mention, right now it's unclear what Congress will do over the coming week(!), let alone the coming decade. In order to increase protections we need to get back to forward-thinking, bipartisan policies instead of wasting our time on partisan infighting.

As a father, do you feel wild places benefit children and if so, how?

Absolutely. Providing access for kids to explore open spaces and beautiful landscapes has enormous benefits, which is why I strongly support and have been working hard to promote the President's 'Every Kid in a Park' initiative.

What are your favorite books about wild places?

Colorado Autumn by John Fielder
National Geographic Illustrated Guide to Nature: From Your Back Door to the Great Outdoors

You spend a great deal of time representing Coloradans in Washington. What's your favorite wild place to visit there when you need to wind down from the job?

Eastern flora is so much different than Colorado flora. There are some really lush forest areas in and around Washington DC, like Turkey Run and Rock Creek. You just have to beware of the ticks because DC area has Lyme disease!

What's your family's favorite wild place in Colorado and why?

The mountains above my parents' house in North Boulder. I grew up on those trails and they bring back so many wonderful memories.

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GLEANINGS

Paonia, Colorado based author Paulo Bacigalupi has taken his readers - and himself - down the darker pathways of our possible futures in several award winners. His books discuss the more alarming possibilities of a technologically dystopian future - forced body modification, gene patenting and genetically modified organisms run amok.

Bacigalupi's latest, *The Water Knife* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015) takes us into the world of the post-climate change Southwest, which has dissolved into a failed state and where feuding interests have gone to war over the dwindling supplies of water in the Colorado River Basin.

Vividly imagined, entertaining and deeply frightening, *The Water Knife* is a suspenseful read with fantastic characters. Bacigalupi's work for *High Country News* allows him to render a totally conceivable version of an environmental and conservation nightmare.

It's the sort of future the Sierra Club struggles against daily.

The Water Knife is available at your locally owned, independent bookstore. Find yours at mountainplains.org or indiebound.org



RMC CHAMPIONS CONSERVATION CRITERIA FOR WATER PLAN

RMC Calls for Conservation, Strong Public Involvement for Colorado Water Plan

In a letter to Colorado Water Conservation Board Director James Eckland, the Rocky Mountain Chapter applauded the CWCB's efforts in drafting a forward-thinking plan to secure Colorado's water future.

The Sierra Club letter expressed the RMC's encouragement with the direction of the Colorado Water Plan (CWP), citing that the CWP has adopted a municipal conservation goal of 1% per year water use reduction.

The letter expressed support of demand-side solutions, such as municipal, industrial and agricultural conservation, are necessary to address the widening water supply gap and offered the Club's assistance to help achieve the state's conservation goals.

The Sierra Club called on the CWCB to set stringent screening criteria for any new water project the state endorses, and suggested that those criteria include:

- The benefits of a water storage project cannot be achieved through conservation and reuse;
- There will be monitoring of set water quality standards to protect beneficial uses;
- The project is more cost effective than alternative options;
- The project will adopt relevant pollution control and best management practices;
- Projects that permanently remove water from the hydrological cycle will pay a premium that will be directed to river restoration and management funding;
- Any negative environmental, health and economic consequences will be avoided.

"Ideally," the letter stated "water projects should be publicly evaluated under these criteria before receiving any state support. We are ready participants to help the CWCB formulate these criteria and state review mechanisms."

The Sierra Club cautioned against the CWCB's stated goal of improved efficiency for water projects, in favor of an open public processes and early public involvement.

These "safeguard against projects that would have a deleterious effect on public health, the environment, and the economy," the letter stated, citing the CWP's own words, "the permitting process ensures the implementation of projects that best meet Colorado's

water values—to support vibrant and sustainable cities, viable and productive agriculture, a robust tourism industry, efficient and effective infrastructure, and a strong environment."

The Sierra Club suggested that the public needed to be involved early in the process in order that valuable insight might be gleaned. It also cautioned that "The state should not partner with water projects, including by providing technical assistance or funding, until the state is near certain the project is appropriate for Colorado."

The Sierra Club urged the CWCB to identify and secure additional sources of funding for river restoration and management, stating that the \$1 million currently allocated to stream management plans (SMP) is inadequate to provide strong oversight for maintaining tens of thousands of miles of Colorado's river system. The Colorado Water Plan acknowledges the need for \$2-\$3 Billion in river restoration.

The Sierra Club called for the CWCB to at least bring spending on river restoration in line with the \$200 million recently provided for water storage projects, stating "Strong and flowing rivers are essential for fish and wildlife, as well as recreational activities like fishing and kayaking. The river recreation economy alone is a \$9 billion industry. SMP can do much to protect Colorado's river health and flow levels and maintain the vitality of a critical industry to the state. The CWP should do more to help fund SMPs."

The Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter contributed 200 individual comments on the second draft of the Governor's Water Plan and will continue the work as the plan progresses.

To get involved, please contact Christopher Raftery chris.raftery@gmail.com (425) 681-6590



Colorado's Streams:
Free to flow or dammed & diverted?

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER 2015 CONTRIBUTORS

The Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) thanks all of our wonderful 2015 contributors, including all of our anonymous contributors (you know who you are). Your contributions are what enable the Sierra Club RMC and local groups to be effective at our mission to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet. Whether you give individually or monthly at a level that works for your budget, you help Sierra Club make a difference.

If you would like to see your name added to this list of thanks next year, find us online at: sc.org/colorado/contribute

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

KATE AKERS

My name is Kate Akers and I am passionate about environmental issues in the Rocky Mountain region. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a member of the Executive Committee for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club, and contribute to the Committee's work in overseeing the operations of the Chapter aimed at fulfilling the Sierra Club's conservation mission. I believe the greatest current needs of the Chapter include the improvement of diversity within its membership pool and a focus on bringing new energy to its existing membership ranks. My skills are an excellent match for this position and, given my related experiences and capabilities, I am confident that I will be a valuable asset to the Executive Committee. Specifically, I am a local attorney with experience in and knowledge of civil litigation, environmental and natural resources law, and mediation. My prior experience in environmental law involved the legal research and analysis of many important federal and state environmental statutes and regulations. My legal services resulted in the law firm's clients having a clear understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities, and a solid foundation of knowledge for taking actions to comply with the applicable environmental laws. Although I have no prior volunteer experience with the Sierra Club, my knowledge of environmental laws and experience advising clients would allow me to function as an effective advocate on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Rocky Mountain Chapter, in both internal and external matters. Additionally, as a proud member of a Native American tribe, I believe I can provide a unique perspective to the Executive Committee in its work on increasing diversity within the Rocky Mountain Chapter. If selected to serve on the Executive Committee, I will do my best to help the Rocky Mountain Chapter achieve its goals.



TODD CHAMBERLIN

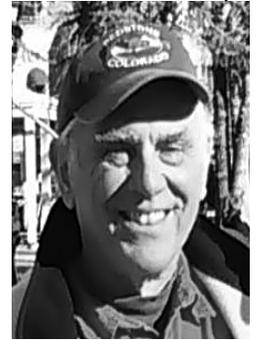
I joined the Sierra Club, when I was a freshman in college some 25 years ago where I pursued a degree in Environmental Conservation. I have been active at the local, state and regional level on and off during those years. I was an Ex-com member and Vice-Chair of the Rocky Mountain Chapter in the early 2000s.



After graduating from college my career took me in several directions including working for the National Park Service, National Geographic, and a brief stint at the High Country News. I also took almost a year-in-half to travel here in the U.S. and internationally. I have volunteered to serve on the board of several other organizations so I bring a vast array of marketing, fundraising, and partnership development experience.

Going into an election year, I believe the Rocky Mountain's biggest challenge

will be to stay very relevant in the election. This means getting people to be active in the election and speaking out about the importance of environmental issues. We need to coordinate effectively with other like-minded organizations (labor, minority groups, youth, etc.) to ensure we elect politicians that not only hear us, but actively work for the causes that impact our health and our environment, both locally and globally.



MARK HILBERMAN, MD

I am a retired physician and former NIH funded researcher living in Redstone, Colorado. My dual role was to solve complex biological problems to sustain and improve human life. To sustain health, components of both our bodies and natural ecosystems must function well. Greenhouse gases began to rise 8,000 years ago with the agricultural revolution and accelerated with industrialization. Global warming now threatens more extreme weather and a 6th mass extinction. Glaciers and snow pack, critical to fresh water supplies disappear. Unchecked the East Antarctic Ice Sheet melts and sea level rises 200-300 feet, submerging seacoasts, cities and homes. Mass migration and conflict will ensue. Mustn't happen.

My expertise in understanding, organizing and implementing solutions to complex biological problems can be directly applied to the ecological problems associated with our Changing Climate. I would like to be a part of the RMC Executive Committee to help develop solutions to both stop Climate Change and to remediate the impacts of a warming world on earth's biological systems. My life-skills in developing solutions to complex biological illnesses will be an immense benefit to developing solutions to the climate change-induced ills of the planet.

I don't have any Sierra Club volunteer experience. Currently I volunteer as Secretary of our local County Caucus Board. I am on our HOA Board and volunteer in other Redstone activities.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter-Sierra Club needs to reach out to all of Colorado's communities. Climate Change education is a great need especially important is learning to communicate with people of different backgrounds. Developing and implementing solutions to complex problems is a skill that I would like to bring to the Chapter. Climate Change is literally a "life and death" challenge a solution to which must be found in the next decade or two.

WHITNEY LARSON

The Environmental Justice Policy of the Sierra Club begins with a statement by the founder, John Muir: "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike." It is sharing this belief, and believing in the Club's vision that everybody, including those who have long been disenfranchised from discussions impacting our natural spaces, have a voice, that makes me excited to seek a leadership

role in our Rocky Mountain chapter.

Though my volunteer experience with the Sierra Club is just beginning, as I am

a somewhat recent re-transplant back to this beautiful state where I spent much of my childhood and early college years, I have a wealth of volunteer as well as professional experience with non-profit organizations, from leading outdoor excursions and assisting with therapeutic horsemanship lessons to doing event planning, grant writing, media communications, and more. I currently serve as a grants administrator at a Denver-based non-profit serving individuals experiencing homelessness, and am looking to bring my skills and experience to an organization focused on conservation in a volunteer capacity.



Our Rocky Mountain Chapter is entering an exciting time, as we ramp up to meet the great potential we have as one of the places richest in both wild spaces and passionate lovers and protectors of the outdoors. In order to achieve this potential, the chapter needs committed, professional, and enthusiastic leaders from the many different walks of life represented in our state. As a young, energetic, and driven non-profit professional with a Masters in Economic Development that focused on the inclusion of native and other minority voices in our conversations around development and conservation, I would bring new perspectives, a broad knowledge base, and youthful exuberance to our chapter administration team.

CLIFF SMEDLEY

Cliff Smedley is a businessman in Lafayette, CO with a small retail store called My Earth, LLC. The store reflects Cliff's character as it seeks to turn idealism into action by selling items that are sustainably made, union made, and/or American made. Cliff is also bringing to market a proprietary natural gas derived from manure and sewage to be used for transportation, heating, and cooking. He will be selling this at a future date through his My Earth store. In pursuit of a solution-based path, Cliff actively pursues positive progressive change by participating in County and State Democratic Party organizations, grassroots organizations, and governmental meetings.



Cliff's Sierra Club experience includes:

- Co-Coordinator of Stewards of the Land – a grassroots group in Kansas that successfully fought factory hog farms and successfully advocated for wind energy for a period from 2000-2005
- IPG Oil and Gas Committee member (now largely inactive)
- RMC Transportation Issue Team Lead – coordinating and organizing transportation specialists building a robust Transportation Team.

Some of the greatest needs which Cliff would like to help develop within the RMC would be:

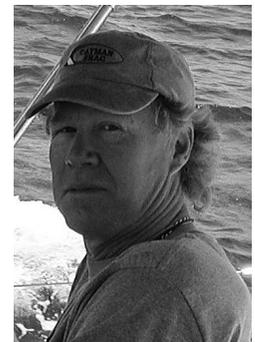
- connecting to various like-minded groups
- becoming a political force
- offering REAL sustainable solutions to the public which can replace fossil fuels

Some important skills that Cliff Smedley brings to the RMC to advance these goals are:

- community organizing skills (Stewards of the Land, ColoradoCareYes, Grassroots Action Team, Citizens Legislative Action Network)
- political skills (BA in Political Science/Govt)
- administrative skills (minor in Public Administration)
- marketing/communication skills (owns business and has been a City Council Candidate)

MARK STEVENS

Growing up in a ranching family in western Colorado allowed me to experience the flora and fauna of the old west. My greatest satisfactions have been the outdoors, feeding my curiosity, pondering the mysteries of life, riding my bike, and my relationships with people and animals. Volunteer work for the Roaring Fork Group and the Rocky Mountain Chapter in the past 10 years has been a wonderful opportunity to work for the environment. After serving as Executive Committee Co-chair I have continued my work in a variety of administration functions in the chapter made possible by my involvement in the Executive Committee. It is my desire to bring better management and stronger administrative functions to the chapter. I need your support to continue. Your vote to elect me as one of your at-large representatives will allow me to continue in my current capacity. I want to help a great team improve our capacities to support our environmental goals.



WILL WALTERS

Every person I've encountered in 20 years of Sierra Club volunteering has been a kindred spirit. Our camaraderie of spirit nourishes and inspires me. I am driven toward helping our chapter become stronger and achieve meaningful goals, I am getting smarter and more articulate about how to do so, and I bring creativity, energy, and a happy, inclusive, collaborative attitude every day. If our mission is important, and I believe it is, then we as leaders must hold each other accountable to our own standards and commitments. Warm bodies don't get the job done, nor does acrimony. I am enthusiastic about diversifying our leadership and cultivating and mentoring new energetic leaders who will inspire all of us to be better.



Sierra Club OFFICIAL BALLOT 2015
Rocky Mountain Chapter Executive Committee At Large Election

Ballots must be received at the Chapter Office:
 Elections Committee - Sierra Club
 1536 Wynkoop Street #200 • Denver, CO 80202
by November 9, 2015

Please do not tear/split ballots • Only valid ballots will be counted

Single Ballot

Joint Ballot

Mark Stevens (N)

Will Walters (N)

Mark Stevens (N)

Will Walters (N)

Cliff Smedley (N)

Kate Akers (N)

Cliff Smedley (N)

Kate Akers (N)

Whitney Larson (N)

Todd Chamberlin (N)

Whitney Larson (N)

Todd Chamberlin (N)

Mark Hilberman, MD (N)

Mark Hilberman, MD (N)

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 FOUR candidates apiece.

(N) Nominating Committee Candidate

Petition Candidate

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
 CONTACT LIST**

Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter office:

1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 200
 Denver, CO 80202
 303-861-8819

Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter staff and volunteer
 leaders

Email addresses linked at: [http://www.sierraclub.org/
 rocky-mountain-chapter/contact-us](http://www.sierraclub.org/rocky-mountain-chapter/contact-us)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chair: Will Walters 970-690-3543
 Vice Chair: Becky English 303-733-4064
 Secretary: Betsy Kelson 720-219-7165
 Treasurer: Jim Van DeWege 303-979-6556
 Political Treasurer: David Mastronarde 303-440-0253

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Blue River: Kent Abernethy 970-485-2081
 Indian Peaks: Karen Dike karenkdike@gmail.com
 Mount Evans: Betsy Kelson 720-219-7165
 Pikes Peak: Kirby Hughes 719-685-3019
 Poudre Canyon: Kelly Giddens 503-866-5962

Roaring Fork: Elliot Branson 970-274-3320
 Sangre de Cristo: David Cockrell davidcockrell@com-
 cast.net
 Trappers Lake: Rich Levy 970-871-8799

Uncompahgre: Eric Rechel

AT LARGE (ELECTED) MEMBERS

Will Walters 970-690-3543
 Becky English 303-733-4064
 Erin Eastvedt erin.eastvedt@gmail.com
 Delia Malone deliamalone@earthlink.net
 Myrna Poticha 303-771-9866
 Mark Stevens 970-948-3097

OTHER COMMITTEES

Awards: Mark Stevens 970-274-3320
 Webmaster: Neemaa Bagavathinathan aswnith@gmail.
 com

PROGRAM LEADERS

Communications Team: rmc-communications-team@
 lists.sierraclub.org
 Fundraising Chair: Meg Trausch megtrausch@gmail.
 com
 Legal Chair: Erin Eastvedt 303-827-3434
 Legislative Chair: Kirk Cunningham 303-939-8519
 Political Chair: Jane Ard-Smith 719-520-5381
 Political Vice Chair: Myrna Poticha 303-771-9866
 Political Compliance: Jane Ard-Smith 719-520-5381
 Inspiring Connections Outdoors - Denver: Bill Myers
 720-339-3639
 Inspiring Connections Outdoors - Boulder Valley: Mi-
 chael LeDesma michael.ledesma@rmc.sierraclub.org

For Roger Singer, Senior Organizing Manager for the
 Beyond Coal Campaign in CO, NM, and UT:

Western Regional Office
 1650 38th St, Boulder, CO 80301
 Telephone (303) 449-5595
 For Bryce Carter, Organizing Representative, Our Wild
 America Campaign:

Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter Office
 1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 200, Denver, CO 80202

Bryce Carter, Organizing Representative,
 Our Wild America Campaign:
 (303) 454-3364

Catherine Collentine, Colorado Campaign
 Representative for the Keep Dirty Fuels in the
 Ground Initiative of the Our Wild America Cam-
 paign:
 Telephone (303)454-3363

For Jesse Prentice-Dunn, Campaign Representa-
 tive for the Responsible Trade Program:
 Telephone (303) 454-3365

For Matt Kirby, Senior Campaign Representative
 for the Our Wild America Campaign:
 Telephone (303) 454-3366

To report changes of address: [address.changes@sierra-
 club.org](mailto:address.changes@sierra-club.org)



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1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 200
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TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL!

Return Service Requested

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Blue River Group Wolf Presentation October 29th at 5:30pm to 7pm,
County Commons Building, Buffalo Mtn Room - Frisco, CO 80443

The Gray Wolf, a part of the heritage of Colorado, has not been restored to its historic range and population since its elimination in the 1930's. This presentation advocates for the restoration of this iconic and ecologically essential species to the state and for strong protection of wolves in Colorado. Learn more about the wolf's niche in Colorado.

"The Gift of Wolves" November 9th, 5:00-6:00 pm

Where: CMC, 690 Colorado Avenue, Carbondale, Colorado.
Cost: Free

Each of us has been blessed with some knowledge or wisdom that someone else was generous enough to share with us. CMC would like to honor this spirit of generosity by inviting you to our Gift of Learning Series, a number of free lectures and workshops presented by CMC students and staff at our Lappala Center in Carbondale. To learn more, call 963-2172.

Bi-Monthly, RMC Water Quality and Wetlands Committee. The committee holds meetings every other month to learn about recent water quality/wetlands issues. We follow the workings of the Colorado Health Dept.'s Water Quality Division. For more information contact Kirk Cunningham at 303-939-8519 or kmcunnin@juno.com.

June, August 2016, Teasel Weed Control. The RMC Water Quality Committee will be doing teasel weed removal on some Saturdays (specific dates to be determined) in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt. To be included on the notification list, contact Betty Jo Page at 303-232- 9105 or bettyjpage1@comcast.net.

Scan this QR code with
your phone to access
archived e-newsletters:

