Club Kicks Off Energy Campaign
by Susan LeFever, RMC Director

On April 18, Sierra Club volunteers joined with representatives of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation at a rally to call on Xcel to increase their investments in renewable energy.

Volunteers carrying “Clean Energy Now” signs and wearing renewable energy costumes held a rally outside of the Xcel annual shareholder meeting at the Denver Performing Arts Center. The participants spoke with shareholders entering the meeting, urging them to support a shareholder resolution calling on Xcel to invest in clean, renewable energy that will not have undue environmental impacts.

At the rally, Chief John Miswagon spoke on behalf of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation of Manitoba, Canada. His people are currently fighting the expansion of Manitoba Hydro, an energy company who sells power to Xcel, and whose production has damaged the ancestral grounds and ecology of his people’s homeland.

"The Manitoba Hydro project is destroying the environment and our people to generate cheap electricity," said Chief Miswagon at the rally. "We have traveled to Colorado to urge Xcel to invest in clean, renewable energy, and to stop relying on dirty power from destructive energy companies like Manitoba Hydro." After the rally, Chief Miswagon attended the shareholders meeting, where he spoke on behalf of a shareholder resolution calling on Xcel to obtain a significant amount of their power from non-damaging renewable sources.

We Encinit, the Chair of the Sierra Club, joined the chief in calling for Xcel to invest in renewable energy alternatives, encouraging them to "help lead Xcel’s investment in renewable energy to happen.

"Colorado has the potential to be a leader in renewable energy investments," said Casini. "Colorado has amazing potential for solar and wind energy production. With renewable energy, there’s no limit to Colorado’s power!"

Colorado currently enjoys an average of over 300 sunny and rainy days in the nation for wind potential according to the American Wind Energy Association. Currently, Colorado produces less than 1% of their power from wind and solar energy.

"Xcel’s investment in renewable energy will help Colorado take a major step in renewable energy investments," said Casini. "Xcel has the opportunity to make Colorado a leader in renewable energy production. We hope that whatever happens with this resolution, Xcel will begin to invest more in renewable energy, for Colorado’s future."

**KEY ISSUES**

"FastTracks" - what will the build out of this system mean for metro Denver, just for Denver? How can we all be involved?

AirTrain – is there really a private investor to get this built sooner rather than later?

Central Connector – what does RTD run this route to facilitate more capacity for trains or passengers into downtown – or do they use Bus Rapid Transit to upper downtown via Lincoln?

Mountain Monorail or MagLev – is RTD helping this project?

New Growth along the E-470 Corridor – how will RTD serve this largest of the new growth areas and protect existing neighborhoods between E-470 and downtown?

Lowry and Stapleton – two of the largest infill developments in all of the United States, how will RTD serve these new areas?

Your Neighborhood – how is new service provided to my neighborhood or work destination?

Please join the Sierra Club and Cal Marsella in an open discussion of the issues surrounding transit, transportation, and RTD’s role in helping keep Denver as one of America’s great cities on Thursday, June 20. Call Anne Callison, transportation issues chair, Enos Mills Group at 303.331.0704 or via swarb@rmc.org for more information.

**Enos Mills Group Presents “Sierra Club: One-on-One with Cal Marsella and RTD”**

by Anne Callison, Transportation Issues Chair, Enos Mills Group

By now, RTD either has the legislative enabling legislation needed to put FastTracks on the metro Denver ballots – or it hasn't and is preparing for a citizen-led initiative as the alternative to getting FastTracks a vote. The Enos Mills Group is hosting Cal Marsella, general manager of RTD at its June General Meeting on Thursday, June 20. The meeting will take place at RTD’s main offices at 1600 Blake Street in downtown.

The meeting will begin with a dessert reception in the RTD’s lobby at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in RTD’s boardroom. This meeting is open to all Sierra Club members and their guests. We encourage you to bring interested friends, family, and prospective members. Everyone is encouraged to take a bus or light rail to RTD’s offices. For light rail from the southwest, catch a C line and take it to the end of the line or Union Station. Walk two blocks east on 17th to Blake and make a left.

For bus or light rail information, please call RTD at 303.299.6000, or go to www.rtd-denver.com, or call RTD Talk-n-Ride at 1.888.RTD.TRIP (888.783.8747).

**RMC members, Chief John Miswagon and Mr. Billy Moore of the Crow Tribe express support for renewables.**

RMC members, Chief John Miswagon and Mr. Billy Moore of the Crow Tribe express support for renewables. Tribal representatives were in town to speak on behalf of their people at the Xcel Shareholders meeting.

**Enos Mills Group**

**RMC Director**

**General Manager of RTD**

**RMC**: Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club

**Volume XXXVI—No. 3 June/July 2002**

**Save Trees and Money!**

Tell Us How YOU Want to Receive the Peak & Prairie

The Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) of the Sierra Club is pleased to announce that members now have the opportunity to receive its bi-monthly newsletter, Peak & Prairie, in printed form, electronic form, or both.

**MONETARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS VERSUS BENEFITS**

Many people don’t realize it costs the Sierra Club over $30,000 per year to send Peak & Prairie to the 20,000 members of the Sierra Club in Colorado. If a lot of members elect to receive Peak & Prairie in electronic form, we can save a lot of money (and trees!) and put that money to work in other ways to help protect the environment in Colorado.

**REQUESTING ELECTRONIC PEAK & PRAIRIE**

If you choose to receive Peak & Prairie in electronic form, we will notify you via electronic mail each time a new issue of Peak & Prairie is available on the Rocky Mountain Chapter’s web site – usually several days before the printed version is mailed. This notification will include a link for your browser which will take you directly to the new issue of Peak & Prairie on the Rocky Mountain Chapter’s web site. If you choose to view in Adobe Acrobat Reader format or download for later viewing, please visit www.rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp/deliveryoptions.shtml to select your Peak & Prairie delivery options today.

Join the 170+ RMC members who have already chosen to receive the electronic version of Peak & Prairie instead of the printed version!

**ADOBE ACROBAT READER**

Acrobat Reader is a free viewer available for a variety of operating systems from Adobe Systems Incorporated at www.adobe.com If you don’t already have Acrobat Reader on your computer, you will need to install it the first time you try to view the electronic version of Peak & Prairie.

**NOTE:** Some older computers may not be capable of running Acrobat Reader or viewing the electronic version of Peak & Prairie. You may want to verify that your computer is capable of displaying Peak & Prairie in electronic form before you stop receiving the printed version.

**QUESTIONS?**

Please contact the Rocky Mountain Chapter office at 303-861-8819 or via electronic mail at chapter.assistant@rmc.sierraclub.org.

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**April 5, Denver’s Regional Transportation District (RTD) and hundreds of Denver residents celebrated the opening of the new C Line Light Rail extension to the Southwest Union Station. The new line provides extended light rail service to the Arvada Campus, Invesco Field at Mile High, Elitch Gardens and Pepsi Center.**

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Colorado’s Energy Future

Xcel Energy talks about the importance of a diversified energy supply, but in Colorado almost 97% of our electricity is generated from coal and natural gas. Clean, non-hydro renewable energy sources account for less than 1% of Colorado’s total supply.

Coal alone provides over 80% of Colorado’s electricity – and nearly 40% of that coal is imported into the state, exporting dollars and jobs in the process.

To keep up with Colorado’s growth, state utilities expect to need over 5,000 megawatts of additional capacity by 2015 – enough to power two cities the size of metropolitan Denver at a cost in excess of $5 billion.

If Xcel Energy continues its over-reliance on fossil fuels, growth will worsen air quality and other environmental problems, and cost consumers billions of extra dollars as natural gas prices rise. It is time to move beyond fossil fuels to a clean, reliable, cost-effective and diversified power supply for Colorado.

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission ruled last March that wind power is cost-competitive with natural gas and ordered Xcel Energy to begin negotiations to build new wind power capacity. That proposal called for just one wind farm near Lamar – and Xcel Energy fought that proposal.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates that there are at least 26,000 megawatts of potential wind powered electricity available in Colorado. That is more than five times our current total electricity usage – available today, simply by utilizing existing technologies like turbines that are on order in the state.

It is time for Xcel Energy to provide real leadership in the utility industry by making a commitment to meet more of Colorado’s energy needs with locally-produced wind energy and including the cost of that power in the customer rate base.

In addition to environmental benefits, wind energy has powerful economic benefits. Generating 20% of Colorado’s power from renewable sources by 2020 will result in:

- $2.4 billion in new capital investment in Colorado
- $183 million in new property tax revenues for local communities
- $45 million in lease payments to farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners
- $1.3 billion in additional revenues from the export of renewable energy credits
- $1.9 billion in lower energy bills over the next 18 years
- A net increase of 8,400 jobs in Colorado by the year 2010

Today we find ourselves at an energy crossroads. There are two paths that we can take. One path leads us back to the past, to the technology of the last century and limited supplies of coal and natural gas. This path ignores the health risks, threats to the environment and costs to consumers. The other path maximizes clean, renewable energy resources to create a healthier, more diversified and cost-effective power system for Colorado.

The Sierra Club calls on Xcel Energy to reduce its over-reliance on conventional fossil fuels by generating 20% of Colorado’s electricity from clean, non-hydro renewable sources by the year 2020. With renewable energy, there’s no limit to Colorado’s power.

Take Action to Help Colorado’s Environment

from Colorado Action Network

Join the Colorado Action Network: [http://actiononwork.org/coloradohome.html](http://actiononwork.org/coloradohome.html)

As Coloradans, we want our air clean and our spectacular wild places preserved for future generations. Armed with only an email address and an interest in protecting the environment, we can make our turn our elected representatives and government officials hear from us on these important issues.

The Colorado Action Network offers a unique service to Coloradans. Members receive alerts and updates throughout the year about the most important challenges facing the state. Leaders from local, statewide, and national organizations, all working to protect Colorado’s natural treasures and quality of life, work together to provide action network members up-to-date information about these issues. The network then allows you to send your response directly to the decision maker, in a form he or she can’t ignore!

There are alternatives to soot, smog, and smokestacks. Today, proven technologies are available to address our energy needs efficiently, without compromising either our health or our environment. Support a brighter future for energy. Join the Sierra Club.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag

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What’s Happening at the Chapter Office

Spring is a traditionally a time of rebirth. We start popping out of our holes to see what’s going on in the world. This spring has been full events and other expressions of community around Colorado. We kicked off our 2002 Elections Campaign in April with an event to train activists to get involved in candidate election campaigns. As you probably know, the Sierra Club is affiliated with a Political Action Committee. Through that PAC, we endorse candidates who support the environment, and place volunteers in their campaigns. We had 50 people from eight local groups turn out to spend the day learning about effectively working on campaigns. We had a great time, and I left feeling energized and excited.

We also kicked off our new Energy Campaign with the GREAT slogan, “With Renewable Energy, There is No Limit to Colorado’s Power.” Sierra Club activists turned out to hand out information about renewables to the Xcel Energy Stockholders’ meeting in Denver in April. We were joined by Michael Pasfield from the As You Sow Foundation, which works on stockholder resolutions, and Chief John Miswagon of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation, who was protesting Xcel’s purchase of power from Manitoba Hydro, which is destroying the local environment in Canada.

If you are interested in either our 2002 Elections Campaign or our Energy Campaign, give us a call at the office (303-861-8919).

Meanwhile, goodbye and thank you to two very wonderful Sierra Club people: Aimee Carter, who has been organizing out of our Boulder office for the last few years, is moving on to a position with the Global Greengrants Fund, which is a project of the Tides Foundation operating out of Boulder. A loss for the Sierra Club, but a gain for the planet. And Dan Doner, who has been a fabulous Administrative Assistant, is leaving us for unknown adventure. Thank you, Dan and Aimee!

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CAMPERS

We depend upon our government to enforce the environmental laws that reflect the conservation values and wildlife ethics embraced by the majority of Americans. In many states, including Colorado, a state wildlife commission is one of the most important decision-making bodies in the arena of wildlife protection.

Wildlife commissions should represent the diversity of views about wildlife and wild lands held by the citizenry, and should act in the public interest to conserve wildlife and their habitat. The appointed Colorado Wildlife Commission (CWC) fails to represent the views of most Coloradans. The homogeneity of views and backgrounds of the members of the CWC results in a minority perspective dominating this important body.

THE MAKINGS OF A WILDLIFE COMMISSION

The CWC, comprised of eight voting members, is selected by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate. Serving four-year terms, the commissioners oversee the policies and strategic direction of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), a large agency of biologists and bureaucrats with the directive of managing Colorado's 960 wildlife species.

The following must be represented on the Commission:

- Five governor-appointed members
- Two at-large members (after current legislation is passed)
- One county commissioner
- Members with connections to interest groups – livestock and agriculture, sports persons and outfitters, and a wildlife organization)

In addition to 8 voting commissioners, two ex-officio non-voting members are seated:
- Chair of the Department of Agriculture
- Director of the Department of Natural Resources

REPRESENTING THE VIEWS OF ALL COLORADIANS?

While four seats are dedicated exclusively to agricultural producers and sportsmen, only one seat is reserved for a "non-consumptive" wildlife organization – one representative for those who enjoy the outdoors without "consuming" nature (i.e., hunting or fishing). "Producing" nature something of economic value (i.e., livestock). The "at-large" member are also affiliated with ranching and hunting interests. More than half of the voting members are associated with the livestock industry and the majority of the commissioners also hunt. Yet in Colorado, less than 1% of the population produces livestock and only about 7% hunt. The Department of Interior reports that a much larger proportion of the population is interested in non-consumptive outdoor recreation.

The CWC balance needs significant reform. First, the values of the majority of non-consumptive users should be proportionately represented on the CWC to reflect Colorado's demographics. Second, commissioners should not be selected by the governor, but by a more democratic process involving interested citizens. Increased diversity among wildlife commissioners in terms of non-consumptive viewpoints, gender, race, and academic training in wildlife or environmental issues would dramatically increase the ability of the CWC to both represent the views of the majority of Coloradans and to embrace a stronger stewardship role on behalf of wildlife and the public interest.

Sinapu's practice of questioning government and involving citizens in our work ensures that our public officials are held accountable to the people, while also making certain that wildlife receives some measure of relief, even when the cards are stacked against conservationists. Join our many friends and us in calling for reform of the Colorado Wildlife Commission.

Thank you for your support of our work to ensure that wildlife has a safe home in Colorado! Contact us at www.sinapu.org.

THINGS TO REMEMBER IN BEAR COUNTRY

CAMPERs

- Keep your camp clean.
- Keep food and garbage properly at all times.
- Keep your tent and sleeping bag free of all food smells.
- Store the clothes you wore while cooking or eating with your food.
- Burn all grease off grills and camp stoves.
- Wipe table and clean eating area thoroughly.
- Store your food safely: use bear-proof containers.
- Store your food and coolers suspended from a tree at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet out from the tree trunk.
- Dispose of garbage properly. Secure it with your food and pack it out. Do not burn or bury garbage.
- Sleep some distance away from your cooking area or food storage site.
- Store toiletries with your food; the smell of toiletries can attract bears.
- Female campers should be advised the scent of a menstruating woman is sometimes an attractant to bears.

RECREATIONAL HIKERS

- Hiking at dawn or dusk may increase your chances of meeting a bear.
- Be extra cautious in places where hearing or visibility is poor, such as内衣 areas, near streams, where trails round a bend, or on windy days.
- Reduce your chances of surprising a bear on the trail by talking or singing.
- Never, or rarely, close to you or within your sight at all times.
- Leave your dog at home or have it on a leash.

MAKING CONTACT

There are definite rules about what to do if you meet a bear. Generally the bear will detect you first and back off – if you are calm and act on the advice of a few suggestions:
- Stay calm. If you see a bear and it has not seen you, calmly leave the area. As you move away, remain silent to let the bear discover your presence.
- If the bear has found you: Stop. Back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact because bears may perceive this as a threat.
- Give the bear plenty of room to escape. Bears rarely attack humans unless they feel threatened or provoked.
- Do not run or make any sudden movements. Running is likely to prompt the bear to give chase, and you cannot outrun a bear.
- If on a trail, stop off the trail on the downhill side and slowly leave the area.
- Speak softly. This may reassure the bear that you mean it no harm.
- Try not to show fear.
- Fight back if a black bear attacks you. Black bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, stones, and even their bare hands.

PUSHING FOR SOUND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

As a result of grassroots organizing and public education by the conservation community, the CWC, CDOW, and the state Legislature were pushed to make several sound decisions in favor of protecting wildlife over the past year.

COYOTE-KILLING “STUDY” DEFEATED

CDOW proposed, and CWC accepted, an eight-year, $2.6 million study to kill coyotes to determine if fewer coyotes would result in increased mule deer. There was no baseline population data or solid scientific evidence to support the study.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN WILDLIFE POLICY-MAKING

- CWC passed a resolution to direct $150,000 toward killing coyotes.
- The topic was not on the CWC's formal agenda, nor scheduled for a public forum.
- At a follow-up meeting with the director of CDOW, Sinapu, the Sierra Club, and Western Colorado Congress were assured that CDOW would embrace public participation in the future.
- The $150,000 was returned to the Division's general fund.

STOPPED SENSITIVE SPECIES TRAPPING

CDOW recommended to CWC that trappers cage trap (then kill) swift fox, pine marten, and opossum.
- CWC received 500+ letters, emails, and personal testimony opposing the plan.
- CWC rejected the proposal.

Sinapu is currently working on these carnivore protection issues in Colorado:

PROTECTING BLACK BEARS FROM SPRING HUNTING

Many Coloradans voiced resistance – the state Senate bill was tabled.
- A similar bill passed in the House, was modified, and passed by the Senate.
- At press time, it awaits a second passage in the House.

BEAR EDUCATION IN SUPPORT OF CDOW'S EFFORTS

Educate people living and recreating in Colorado's bear country about co-existing conflict-free with bears.
- Pass regulations that prevent attracting bears to one's home or business.
- Promote usage of bear-proof trashcans.

DEFENDING ENDANGERED BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS & PRAIRIE DOGS

Maintain healthy White-Tailed, Black-Tailed, and Gunnison's Prairie Dog populations in Colorado – including Black-Footed Ferret recovery areas.
- Ferrets are the most endangered land mammal in North America.
- Recreational hunting of prairie dogs – populations are imperiled – they represent ferrets' primary food source (and a significant food source to numerous other mammals and birds).

SAVING MOUNTAIN LIONS FROM INCREASED HUNTING

- CDOW recommended increased mountain lion hunting along the Front Range.
- Mountain lion kills in Colorado have increased nearly 300% since 1980.
- We need to improve protections for cougars in the Southern Rockies.

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Thank you for your support of our work to ensure that wildlife has a safe home in Colorado! Contact us at www.sinapu.org.
Two prime wildlife areas in southwestern Colorado, RIDGES BASIN/BODO STATE WILDLIFE AREA and PERINS PEAK STATE WILDLIFE AREA, are in imminent danger. The 7,000 acre Redges Basin/Bodo State Wildlife Area, bordering the city of Durango on the southwest, is scheduled to be wiped out by construction and related development of the ill-considered, financially boodsmongle of the Animas La Plata project. Just to the north of Ridges Basin, and also centered on the promontory point that overlooks the west side of Durango, lies Perins Peak Wildlife Area. This 10,000 acre refuge was set aside in 1971 to provide winter habitat for many prime species, including bobcat, bear, elk, peregrine falcon, eagle, wild turkeys, deer, and 135 species of neotropical birds. Now Perins Peak State Wildlife Area is threatened by extension of the popular Colorado Trail.

The Redges Basin/Bodo Wildlife Area was bought in the 1970's by the Nature Conservancy because it was the number one elk habitat in Colorado at that time. The Colorado Department of Wildlife (CDOW) acquired it using federal tax dollars and dedicated it to wildlife habitat in perpetuity. It is an established wildlife migration corridor, both east to west and north to south. Its low elevation meadows provide habitat for birds and small mammals, and the upland cover of pinion, juniper, and mixed ponderosa pine provides habitat for bears, elk (including elk calving areas), and lynx.

The area is facing proposed development as the reservoir site for the Animas La Plata Project, which will impact an existing golden eagle's nest as well as extensive wetlands and a perennial stream. In addition to construction of the 3000 acre reservoir, the basin will be severely impacted by the moving of a county road, the relocating of 3 major pipelines, and recreational site development. Together, the end result for this habitat will be to condemn the wildlife habitat, which was supposed to be preserved for all time.

Trail advocates are trying to expand the Colorado Trail through Perins Peak Wildlife Area. In order to create a new southern terminus with a more developed, easier-to-access parking lot. Routing this extremely popular trail through Perins Peak will dissect the wildlife area, allowing 30,000 hikers, mountain bikers, busherackers, and horse packers access every year.

In January, the Durango City Council and the La Plata County Commissioners endorsed a land swap for a less than comparable piece of Forest Service land. Both offices have public participation and no consultation with CDOW, which is now actively considering this swap and needs to hear from citizens, hunters, and taxpayers.

The State of Colorado and CDOW were very farsighted in setting aside these areas for wildlife habitat back in the 1970's prior to the onslaught of development in La Plata County. But now that juggernaut is about to roll over land which is currently one elk habitat in Colorado at that time.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
A coalition of environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, has banded together to fight the loss. Please contact groupspeakspeak@hotmail.com TODAY!

Sierra Club Wins Battle to Stop Weapons Incineration

Army to Implement Safer Disposal Method

From Sierra Club Currents

In the late 1980s, when Sierra Club volunteer Ross Vincent first challenged the Pentagon's plan to incinerate 2,600 tons of mustard gas being stored at the Pueblo Chemical Weapons Depot in Colorado, he was a lone voice. This March, the Army announced that it will "not" incinerate the mustard gas, but will instead use a safer, cleaner method that uses warm water and bacteria.

And Vincent is no longer a lone voice. Thanks to Vincent's persistence, incineration was opposed in the end by a formidable coalition of labor unions, community groups, the Catholic Diocese, county commissioners, the state Senate, the governor, and U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO). The groundswell of support is a good example, said Rocky Mountain Chapter director Susan LeFever, of "politicians seeing a parade and rushing to the front to 'lead it.'" It's also a reminder, she said, that meaningful victories take time. "If we take care of ourselves and each other, we can stick with this for the long haul and win."

Called "water neutralization followed by biodegradation," or the "bag method" for short, this alternative uses water and microbes to help break down hazardous chemicals and is much safer than incineration. In the early 1980s, Congress authorized new chemical weapons, and gave the go-ahead to incinerate existing stockpiles at Pueblo and eight other sites.

The Sierra Club supported the destruction of the weapons, but pushed for alternative methods of disposal. Incineration of these highly toxic chemicals, said Vincent, could endanger human health and damage crops and livestock. The bag method had been used for other chemical weapons, but the Army resisted nonetheless. "The Army didn't want to be told what to do," said Vincent.

Vincent credited the Kentucky-based Chemical Weapons Working Group with getting Congress to halt incineration. He says of the victory: "We didn't just fight city hall, we fought the Pentagon. If small communities working together can move giant bureaucracies, just about anything is possible."

The news bodes well for several other communities fighting chemical weapons incinerators, like those near the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. Still, there's much to be done: new incinerators have been built in Utah and the Pacific; a plant in Alabama is beginning preliminary test burns; and two more incinerators are under construction. But, as Vincent points out, the victory has changed things. "Incinerator salesmen can no longer argue that incineration is the best available technology. There's a better way."

The local coalition that Vincent helped pull together today is incorporated as Better Pueblo. In addition to weapons disposal, it's working on other issues such as air pollution from a nearby steel mill and a proposed limestone strip mine to be run by Grupo Cementos de Chihuahua, one of Mexico's largest cement companies. "What makes our group durable is that we can survive disagreement. Once people sat down and talked to each other, showed their faces were willing to listen and be respectful, we found out we liked each other. It's not magic; it's personal relationships." "Winning is hard work," he added, "but it's great fun. I recommend it highly."

This is a great reminder that meaningful victories take time. Let's take care of ourseves and take care of each other so that we can stick with this for the long haul.

One final paragraph of advice: Do not burn yourself out.

Be as I am – a reluctant enthusiast... a part time crusader... a half-hearted fanatic.

Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure.

It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it.

While you can. While it is still there. So get out there and mess around with your friends, rumble and wonder and explore the forests, encounter the grizz, climb the mountains. Run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air; sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, that lovely, mysterious and awesome space. Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head active in your body. Remember your body;

"One word to you is a life. It is a life of more than your body; it is a life of more than your soul; it is a life that is more than your own. It is a life that is more than the life of the world. One word to you is a life."

– Ed Abbey
It's easy to dismiss George W. Bush as having no loyalty to anyone or anything. His sudden rejection of Enron's "Kenny Boy" Lay, from whom Bush received vast sums of money on his road toward becoming first governor of Texas and then president of the United States, suggests that our Dubya feels no obligation to vital benefactors. But his unwavering loyalty to petroleum belies all this. Bush's embrace of the goose that laid his family's golden egg proves just how dedicated he can be. For me, Bush's devotion to oil conjures images of a grizzled farmer of a hundred years ago. Said farmer stands between a horse on one side and a mule on the other, declaring that the combustion engine just doesn't have a future and that he's going to stick with what he has always known—horsepower.

Of course, the farmer lost his battle. America surrendered its allegiance to the horse-drawn carriage and plow and adopted the automobile and petroleum. It was an important choice: had America not done it, the twentieth century would not be called, "America the Beautiful." But had America adopted the horse-drawn carriage and plow, the world's petroleum reserves would not have been discovered and the oil industry would have been less interested in ANWR than Bush is, knows they need to diversify if they are to survive in the oil-less world that will be ours in several decades, when all the world's petroleum reserves are gone.

But Bush stands strong, a veritable Custer at the center of a losing and ignoble cause. His White House looks at the car-nage in Israel and declares it reason to pass his oil-dependent energy plan. It's positively mind-boggling. While other conserv-atives are beginning to murmur that clean renewables would get us out of the desper-ately unstable Middle East (my Republican parents have said as much to me), Bush's arms are resolutely encircling an oil rig. He asserts that we need only drill more oil on public lands. That'll free us from terrorist attacks.

One wonders whether our president knows that even if we drilled every corner of the world's oil reserves, as the world's most committed gas guzzler, that wouldn't keep mighty America going long. Though his is a stunningly wrong-headed stance, his unhesitant fealty is noteworthy. History will remember Bush's determination to stand by a dirty energy source that eventually and inevitably went the way of the horse.

At least I'll be able to tell my great nieces and nephews of a way in which George W. Bush impressed me.

By the way, have you heard that the G.W. of Bush's name actually stands for George Washington? I mean, Bush's devotion to oil conjures images of a grizzled farmer of a hundred years ago. Said farmer stands between a horse on one side and a mule on the other, declaring that the combustion engine just doesn't have a future and that he's going to stick with what he has always known—horsepower.

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FLOATING COLORADO'S RIVERS FIGHT
by Steve Glazer,
RMWC Water and Aquatic Resources Committee Chair
Colorado is the only state in the Union where the law does not protect kayakers and rafters who float on streams and rivers when they cross private property without permission. In 1979, in People v. Emmert, the Colorado Supreme Court upheld the conviction of Grahn and Grady of motor vehicle trespass. In that decision, the Court stated the land underlying non-navigable streams is subject to private ownership and that “preeminence of the adjacent property includes the stream bank, bed, surface and air above the stream. In an attempt to mute that decision, the State’s Attorney General opined that if you don’t touch bottom, you are not subject to criminal trespass. Last year, a commercial outfitter on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison, who has since gone out of business, was sued for civil trespass.

Under state law, the Supreme Court, in 1913, declared no rivers in Colorado navigable. So, if the right to float through private property exists in Colorado, it must rely on Federal law. In the Gunnison case, the question of whether tourism is interstate commerce is being asked. Did the U.S. cede ownership of the streambeds at the time statehood is another question. Two other questions are also involved in this case. Does the state have a right to give away public property? (i.e. The Public Trust Doctrine) And, does the use of the stream for the past 20 years create a prescriptive easement? Whatever the outcome of this suit, the issue of floating our streams will have to be resolved by the legislature or a ballot initiative.

The EPA's decision to resolve the issue through a River Surface Water Recreation Forum has been sabotaged by the Northwest Coalition who attempted to add an amendment to the Division of Wildlife bill to place the issue on the ballot in 2004. Any measure to reverse the current law will have to be worded very carefully to avoid a "taking" of private property granted by the Supreme Court in 1979. The Club will need to support and help this effort.

EPA Issues Notice of Violation to CC&V Mine
by Rob Corkran, RMC Mining Chair
The Denver Post article by Theo Stein on 4/13/01 revealed a decision of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to charge the Cripple Creek and Victor (CC&V) mine (Colorado's only active cyanide heap leach gold mine) in Teller County for violating the Clean Water Act because of discharge from the mine. Under state law, the Supreme Court, in 1913, declared no rivers in Colorado navigable. So, if the right to float through private property exists in Colorado, it must rely on Federal law. In the Gunnison case, the question of whether tourism is interstate commerce is being asked. Did the U.S. cede ownership of the streambeds at the time statehood is another question. Two other questions are also involved in this case. Does the state have a right to give away public property? (i.e. The Public Trust Doctrine) And, does the use of the stream for the past 20 years create a prescriptive easement? Whatever the outcome of this suit, the issue of floating our streams will have to be resolved by the legislature or a ballot initiative.

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What YOU Can Do to Prevent Water Pollution
from Colorado's Water Protection Project
Keeping Colorado's water clean is an important part of protecting the pristine nature of our beautiful outdoors. However, urban and suburban residents in Colorado are a significant source of water pollution. Wastes from basic household chores such as washing the dog, changing motor oil, fertilizing the lawn, or applying pesticides can be picked up from our yards and streets by rainwater and snowmelt and carried to local water sources. With nice weather enticing us to be outdoors, it is a good time to look at how we can improve our habits to keep water sources clean.

Some people think gardens and lawns need to be "perfect." However, applying fertilizer, pesticides, or herbicides creates polluted runoff. It is important to follow directions on product packaging to ensure the correct amount is used. In addition, be careful not to treat your lawn if you know that rain is imminent. Much of the product will get washed away before it has a chance to work. Use natural, not chemical fertilizer, or you use them at all. As an alternative to chemicals, try hand pulling weeds, or hoeing off insects with water. Leave grass clippings on the lawn as a source of fertilizer. If you grab his leash to take him for a walk, remember to also grab a plastic bag or pooper-scooper. Pet waste carries bacteria and pathogens and, contrary to popular thought, does not act as a natural fertilizer. Instead, it is one of the highest contributors to polluted runoff. Pick up the waste and disposing of it in the trash or down the toilet is not only good citizenship, but also a great way to help keep Colorado's water clean.

Our daily habits have a cumulative impact on the state's water. For more information on how to protect Colorado's water and make a difference in the community, visit the CWPP Web site at www.swrmc.com. IT'S OUR WATER – LET'S BE CAREFUL WHAT WE PUT IN IT!

Wildfire Danger EXTREME This Year
by Edward C. Mangold, RMC Forest Committee
The wildfire season is approaching early this year. Colorado and New Mexico are experiencing prolonged drought which intensifies the problem by drying out the forest.

Over thirty homes have been lost in Southern New Mexico and the number of local grass fires is already increasing. After a policy of forest fire suppression for a century, western forests are overgrown and more highly loaded with flammable material than in historical times. This results in many more catastrophic fires when meteorological conditions are right for rapid spread, high temperatures, and wind velocities occur.

Catastrophic fires are characterized by longer flame lengths and propagation through the crowns of trees. In many situations these fires are impossible to control and are detrimental to both the forest and to the homes in the wilderness/urban interfaces that are being built in increasing numbers.

With the emphasis on massive suppression to save farms, ranches, and homes, expensive helicopters, aircraft, and bulldozers are brought in to save as much as possible.

In the aftermath of fires, Burned Area Emergency Recovery teams are brought in to restore vegetation as quickly as possible and build structures to control erosion on steep hillsides.

Erosion following precipitation is severe on steep hills without the burned off vegetation. The runoff degrades water quality and sediment fills up reservoirs.

What should we do to reduce the destruction caused by catastrophic fires? The flammability of structures is reduced when homeowners build a “defensible space” around their home by removing the densest vegetation and removing any dead flammable material. The closer to the house this material is located, the more significant is its removal in protecting the structure. Additional fuel reduction measures include removing small trees and other vegetation that spread flames. Cutting branches off of trees for the first 10 feet above ground level eliminates “ladder fuels” that let ground fires climb into the crowns of trees. And, of course, common sense tells us to be careful and not start forest fires by accident.

Under a Forest Service policy of fire suppression, pine forests have proliferated and are much denser than under historical conditions. The resulting higher fuel densities and more efficient flame spread can be remedied by selective forest thinning. Controlled burns under conditions selected by foresters to avoid rapid flame spread also remove fuel but are viewed suspiciously by the public, and generate smoke which hurts people with respiratory diseases.

Another effect of past fire suppression policy is that the succession of species is affected and wildlife habitat is modified. If a catastrophic fire then occurs, additional adverse effects also take place.

The long-standing Federal wildfire policy is changing and will produce many effects on the forest that need to be monitored by interested Sierra Club members. Anyone interested in pursuing this topic in detail can contact us at ed.mangold@ccpeco.org. A good informational web site is www.nfrc.gov.

On the prairie we roam, Dry as a bone Fremen take aim, Doubling the flames
Vegetation so brown, To make anyone swoon
I hear thunder yonder, Could it be? Sometimes Mother Nature Is such a tease

WATER! by Lorraine G. Michaels

Pesticide (and herbicide) spraying season is upon us! There is something simple you can do to educate the "Better Living Through Chemistry" folks in your city and neighborhood about these toxic materials - post a Sierra Club "Pesticides" yard sign on your property. The sign is made of sturdy, corrugated plastic, measures 8 1/2" x 11", and has green letters on yellow background.

These signs are available for $5 (includes shipping from the Indian Peaks Group Pesticides Committee, c/o Cosima Krueger, 977 7th St., Boulder CO 80302, 303-448-0829, CardmomonSeed@aol.com). Make checks payable to "Sierra Club."
COLORADO’S ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Electricity is central to Colorado's economic health and quality of life. Yet the energy industry's impact on our air, water, land and health is enormous. In Colorado, coal has been a reliable source of our electricity for a long time, providing over 80% of our energy needs. However, burning coal also costs society a lot. For instance, it pollutes the air and causes global warming. For this reason, it would be good to shift from a dependence on coal to clean renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.

With an average of 300 sunny days a year and ample wind, Colorado has the potential to lead the nation in renewable resources for an energy future that is cleaner, more secure, and healthier for the environment and our families.

DIVERSIFYING COLORADO’S ENERGY SUPPLY

Fossil fuels are finite resources. Once we use up our remaining reserves, they will be gone forever. According to a report by the Community Office for Resource Efficiency, natural gas production in the United States has already reached its peak, and is now on the decline. To keep up with Colorado's growth, the state's utilities expect to need over 5,000 megawatts of additional capacity by 2015 — enough to power two cities the size of metropolitan Denver at a cost well in excess of $5 billion.

It is well understood that environmental awareness has a broader meaning than merely reducing daily energy, water, and material consumption. What about the problems created by production? To extract, process, manufacture, and transport the materials needed for building and living uses enormous energy — often called the "embodied energy" of the materials. This wasteful and polluting mode of production, from source to disposal, is typical of the one-way flow of energy and resources which modern and industrial societies have come to accept as “normal.” Environmental impact studies show the devastating effect these processes can have on the environment.

Our approach to nature is to beat it into submission. We would stand a better chance of survival if we accommodated ourselves to this planet and viewed it appreciatively instead of skeptically and dictatorially.

— E. B. White

Today, virtually all electricity provided in Colorado is generated from coal and natural gas.

Coal provides over 80 percent of Colorado’s electricity. Unfortunately, the burning of coal to produce power is relatively dirty, contributing to Colorado's air quality problems. The new cleaner-burning coal technologies that are being developed are expensive and still emit more air pollutants than other technologies.

Natural gas currently provides about fifteen percent of the state's electricity, but its share is increasing. Over time, the price of natural gas is expected to rise substantially. Also, natural gas drilling can harm our land and pollute our groundwater.

...people have gradually come to understand that environmental awareness has a broader meaning than merely reducing daily energy, water, and material consumption. What about the problems created by production? To extract, process, manufacture, and transport the materials needed for building and liv ing uses enormous energy — often called the "embodied energy" of the materials. This wasteful and polluting mode of production, from source to disposal, is typical of the one-way flow of energy and resources which modern and industrial societies have come to accept as “normal.” Environmental impact studies show the devastating effect these processes can have on the environment.

— from “earth to spirit...” In Search of Natural Architecture by David Pearson

SMARter, SAFer, CHEapeR, CLEANeR.
COLORADO’S ENERGY FUTURE IS RENEWABLE!
20% renewable energy by 2020

Colorado has the natural resources and technological capacity necessary to lead the nation in clean, sustainable, and cost-effective energy production. Ranked 11th in the nation for wind energy potential and with over 300 sunny days a year, Colorado is poised to lead the move toward renewable energy. Consumers can make Colorado the nation’s leader in renewable energy by insisting that our public utilities provide more electricity from renewable sources that are good for our families and good for our future.

WHY RENEWABLE ENERGY?

Renewable Energy is Good for the Environment
Wind and Solar power . . .
- Provide sustainable sources of locally produced electricity
- Do not contribute to acid rain and snow, climate change, urban smog and regional haze
- Will not be depleted by tapping them for electricity generation
- Do not require surface or underground mining to extract energy

Renewable Energy is Good for Colorado’s Economy
Generating 20 percent of Colorado’s power from renewable sources by 2020 would result in:
- $2.4 billion in new capital investment in Colorado
- $183 million in new property tax revenues for local communities
- $45 million in lease payments to farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners
- $1.1 billion in additional revenues from the export of renewable energy credits
- $1.9 billion in lower energy bills over the next 18 years
- A net increase of 8,400 jobs in Colorado by the year 2010

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club supports diversifying Colorado’s energy supply by investing in renewable energy sources to:
- Cut pollution by producing more clean power
- Stabilize energy costs by investing in sustainable energy sources
- Save consumers billions of dollars

We call upon Xcel Energy, Colorado’s largest electricity supplier, to commit to generating 20% of our electricity from non-hydro renewable sources by 2020.

With Renewable Energy—There is No Limit to Colorado’s Power!

20% BY 2020

THE UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS HAS FOUND THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN MEET AT LEAST 20% OF ITS ELECTRICITY NEEDS WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES—WIND, BIOMASS, GEOTHERMAL, AND SOLAR—BY 2020.

Meeting these standards would:
- Save consumers a total of $440 billion by 2020, with annual savings of $350 per year for a typical family.
- Reduce our use of natural gas by 31% and coal by nearly 60%, and save more oil in 18 years than can be economically recovered from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 60 years.
- Avoid the need for 975 new power plants, retire 180 old coal plants, retire 14 existing nuclear plants, and reduce the need for hundreds of thousands of miles of new gas pipelines and electricity transmission lines.
- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 2/3, while also reducing harmful air emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides by 55%.

COLORADO has the natural resources and technological capacity necessary to lead the nation in clean, sustainable, and cost-effective energy production. Ranked 11th in the nation for wind energy potential and with over 300 sunny days a year, Colorado is poised to lead the move toward renewable energy.

Consumers can make Colorado the nation’s leader in renewable energy by insisting that our public utilities provide more electricity from renewable sources that are good for our families and good for our future.

TAKING ACTION TO HELP COLORADO’S ENVIRONMENT

from Colorado Action Network

Join the Colorado Action Network!
http://actionnetwork.org/colorado/home.html

As Coloradans, we want our air clean and our spectacular wild places preserved for future generations. Armed with only an email address and an interest in protecting the environment, we can make sure our elected representatives and government officials hear from us on these important issues.

The Colorado Action Network offers a unique service to Coloradans. Members receive alerts and updates throughout the year about the most important challenges facing the state.

Leaders from local, statewide, and national organizations, all working to protect Colorado’s natural treasures and quality of life, work together to provide action network members up-to-date information about these issues. The network then allows you to send your response directly to the decision maker, in a form he or she can’t ignore!

As an action network member, you will be informed about the most important threats to our environment - and you will know that with a few simple keystrokes, you can reach the key decision makers at just the right moment.

(Note we do not sell or exchange email addresses.)

Tell your state senator to support and encourage energy production from renewable sources!

Go to the link below and fax your own message directly to your state senator and ask him or her to encourage energy production from Colorado’s abundant sun and wind.

http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/renewables?rk=FdatM56LsD/W

One more way you can help is to tell your friends about how they can make a difference on important issues like this one in Colorado.
The Lifestyles and Education Committee of the Sierra Club's Rocky Mountain Chapter partnered with Chefs Collaborative Colorado and Colorado Hospitality Student Association of Metropolitan State College want to say thank you to all those who helped make “Reinventing The Meal: Ecological Food Choices for the 21st Century” a success.

First to our speakers:

- Patrick Callahan, Front Range Organic Gardeners
- Jacqueline Monroe, Monroe Organic Farms
- Dawn Thalmay Food Links Project, CSU
- Chef Ron Pickarski, CEC American Natural Foods
- Linda Riebel, author of "Eating to Save the Earth"
- Elaine Lipson, author of "The Organic Food Sourcebook"
- Suzanne Wuerthele, CEC, Sierra Club RMC Genetic Engineering Committee
- Dale Lasater, "Lasater Grassland Beef"
- Dan Landes, Chef / Owner, Watercourse Foods
- Suzanne Mamich, Steering Committee Member, Slow Food Denver
- Chef Carrie Balkcom, CEC

A special thank you to our Donors:

- Allegro Coffees
- Leauser Grasslands Beef
- EarthLynks
- Plan "B" Culinary Solutions
- Foundation for Global Community
- Metropolitan State College Lab School
- Ec-Cuisine and American Natural Foods
- Cooseman's Denver
- Whole Foods Denver
- Seventh Generation, Inc.
- Frontier Natural Products
- Tony Spero, Valley Farms
- Main Bar Communications

Thanks to the Exhibitors:

- Slow Food
- Hedge Row Farm
- Chefs Collaborative
- Monroe Organic Farms
- Blacksmith Ridge Farm
- The Vegetarian Society
- EarthLynks
- Front Range Organic Gardeners
- Cresset Farm Development Initiative
- Colorado Organic Producers Association
- Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Committee
- Colorado Genetic Engineering Action Network
- The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club

Volunteers for the event:

- Chef Carrie Balkcom, CEC
- Chef Phil Levy, CEC
- Chef Ron Pickarski, CEC
- Chef Michael Campes, CEC, AAC
- Chef Ian Kistman (planning & development)
- Chef Chris Wng, CEC (planning & development)
- Chef Steve Kistenman, CEC, AAC (planning & dev.)
- Anne Callison
- Mary Romano
- Betty Jo Page
- Jolynn Jarboe
- Ed Spencer
- Celeste Rasmiller
- Kathy Glatz
- Libby Tert
- Suzanne Mamich

Student assistants:

- Steven Goldsberry
- Nick Walker
- Kathy Glatz
- Ed Spencer
- Betty Jo Page
- Mary Romano

REINVENTING THE MEAL A SUCCESS!

The event included 16 exhibitors and the following speakers:

GETTING YOUR FOOD LOCALLY
- Patrick Callahan, Front Range Organic Gardeners
- Jacqueline Monroe, Monroe Organic Farms
- Dawn Thalmay, Food Links Project, CSU

VIDEO: "The Global Banquet"

MEAL BLESSING by Ron Pickarski

KEYNOTE ADDRESS by Linda Riebel, author of "Eating to Save the Earth"

GOING ORGANIC
- Elaine Lipson, author "The Organic Food Source book"
- Suzanne Wuerthele, CEC, Sierra Club RMC Genetic Engineering Committee
- Dale Lasater "Lasater Grassland Beef"

SOCIAL & CULTURAL ASPECTS OF FOOD
- Dan Landes, Chef / Owner, Watercourse Foods, Vegetarian Restaurant
- Susan Mamich, Slow Food Denver
- Carrie Balkcom, Chefs Collaborative

A BIG Thanks to all the volunteers that helped to make this event a reality!

For anyone interested in getting involved with the Lifestyle Education Committee, and to help us with future educational workshops and events related to consumer choice issues, please contact Jolynn Jarboe 303-753-0470 or Mary Romano 303-388-0911.

Review Reinventing the Meal

by Ron Pickarski, American Natural Foods, Boulder Colorado

John F. Kennedy made a statement about art that stuck home when he said, "art, by its nature, is political in that it expresses the universality of human feeling." Culinary art is a universal art that every human being understands on a level consummate with their respective lifestyles. It is generally understood that culinary art is a dynamic art affecting most of our senses (taste, smell, sight, etc.). What isn't common understanding by the general public is how our food choices affect micro- and macroeconomics, the social and cultural vitality of our lives, and our environment.

When speaking of a sustainable diet, the focus is generally on vegetarianism as the diet of choice. While it is a primary component of a sustainable diet, the focus of this discussion concerns sustainable economics (an excellent video, "Global Banquet" addressed global economics of a sustainable diet), in accordance with community-supported agriculture, while utilizing regional ingredients, and "sustainable beef" farming.

Mr. Lasater has proven the coyotes need not give way to cattle. Human hunger and starvation are generally viewed as a lack of food to support our global community. The idea that economic forces create hunger and are causing the demise of the small farmer affirms that these forces are part of the solution to a sustainable diet. Of course, organic and biotechnology's role in a sustainable diet were addressed. As an example, the principal was a wonderful lunch was served satisfying the discerning vegan and beef consuming guest palates.

The one important factor is that most in attendance seemed to have an open mind, even if they had a position on any given subject. The seminar was an open minded, dynamic, and informative series of presentations followed by discussions that left those in attendance with fresh ideas and positive steps to integrate a sustainable diet into their lives.

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s t y l e s

Featured Volunteer
by Caitlin Jenney, Peak & Prairie Features Editor

Todd Hollar, Sierra Club member for ten years, software developer, husband, and father, has been actively involved with the Rocky Mountain Chapter as webmaster for a year. Todd was raised in Oklahoma in a relatively liberal household. As he got older, he became more aware of his physical surroundings, especially after living in such environmentally conscious states as Colorado, New Mexico, and Denver. He feels that he has “learned from other people about the need to preserve our natural beauty.”

Todd, his wife and two children have been in Denver since 1989. The family tries “to do the right thing environmentally. [They] compost, recycle, partici- pate in the Rocky Mountain Conservancy’s Recycles (303-231-9972; http://www.colorado-recycles.org). Also, the Colorado Conservancy (970-535-4053; www.cff.org) offers Rural Recycling Workshops to get communities started.

A drop-off program requires a site, regular funding, and a little care. Approach local banks or merchants for support. Schools also make great partners for two reasons: 1) as potential hosts for the program, and 2) existing enthusiasm of the students to recycle. Furthermore, such programs could provide the faculty with endless educational opportunities in math, science and social studies.

Sierra ever at work building and pulling down, existing, keeping everything whirling and flowing, allowing no rest but in rhythmical motion, chasing everything in endless song out of one beautiful form into another.

– from “John Muir In His Own Words” Compiled and Edited by Peter Browning

Dear Recycle Lady
I live east of Parker and our trash company dropped curbside recycling. Are there recycling centers within a reasonable distance from my location?

Dear Overfloving Bits
You are facing one of the saddest realities of Colorado living. Among all 50 states, Colorado ranks between 45th and 50th in dollars spent on recycling and percentage of waste streams diverted to recycling.

Recent data indicate that the Denver Metro area has designated landfill space to serve the next 100 years. This “abundance” makes dumping seem relatively inexpensive. Without certain economic pressures, recycling can be comparatively costly to set up and maintain over the short term under current systems.

Also, despite recent growth, Colorado has a sparse population compared to areas with better recycling records. Thus, we do not have as plentiful a waste stream to tap.

This “abundance” makes dumping seem relatively inexpensive. Without certain economic pressures, recycling can be comparatively costly to set up and maintain over the short term under current systems.

Also, despite recent growth, Colorado has a sparse population compared to areas with better recycling records. Thus, we do not have as plentiful a waste stream to tap.

Instead, we can choose to recycle. Furthermore, such programs could provide the faculty with endless educational opportunities in math, science and social studies.

Sierra ever at work building and pulling down, existing, keeping everything whirling and flowing, allowing no rest but in rhythmical motion, chasing everything in endless song out of one beautiful form into another.
Bush Admin: Pollute Yellowstone – HARM PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

Right now, the National Park Service is considering a proposal to weaken protections for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks from noisy and polluting snowmobiles. Your letters are needed to urge the Park Service to stick to its decision to phase snowmobiles out of the Parks. Your comments are needed by May 29, 2002.

Each winter, thousands of snowmobiles descend on Yellowstone National Park, America’s first National Park, home to buffalo, elk, grizzly bear and wolves. Snowmobiles harass and stress wildlife, including the animals that depile critical energy supplies necessary to survive Yellowstone’s harsh winters.

To address this crisis, the National Park Service developed a policy that would protect the Park from the annual onslaught of snowmobiles by gradually phasing snowmobiles out of the park over several winters. In developing the policy, the National Park Service held 22 public meetings and gathered about 65,000 comments and extensive scientific study.

Now, the Bush Administration is considering delaying and weakening the policy to keep the Park open to snowmobiles. Last winter, pollution in the Park from snowmobile emissions was so severe that some park employees wore gas masks to ward off headaches, dizziness and nausea from the fumes.

The National Park Service made the right decision to phase out snowmobiles based on science, the law and public input. This decision should not be unravelled by politics. Please send a letter telling the Park Service to move forward with their original plan and phase-out noisy and polluting snowmobiles without delays or loopholes.

To send an e-mail to the Park Service visit www.thepetitionsite.com and then click on “Stop Snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.”

Mail to:
Winter Use Draft SEIS Comments
Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks
PO Box 352
Moose, Wyoming 83012

For more information Sierra Club’s work to protect public lands from damaging off-road vehicles please visit our website at: www.sierraclub.org/wildlands/ORV/

Howling for Stewardship

by Rob Edward, Sinapu Director, Carnivore Restoration

The Endangered Species Act (ESA), enacted in the early 1970s, sets to protect plants and animals pushed to the brink of extinction through human activity. Due to the influence of special interests, some in our government refuse to stay the course with regard to stewardship of our natural heritage.

A primary goal of the ESA is to restore the species across all or a significant portion of their former range. Wolves once ranged from near Mexico City northward into the high arctic regions of North America. By the mid-1990s, wolves were driven out of nearly 95% of the lower 48 states — and gone from Mexico by the 1970s.

The federal government has restored wolves to less than 5% of their former range in the lower 48 states, yet top government officials declare the job done. We believe it is NOT.

Rugged Individualists & Political Footballs

Efforts to protect wolves migrating from Canada into Minnesota and the Great Lakes region went relatively quietly at first. When the government proposed to begin reintroducing wolves onto public lands in the western United States the debate became shrill.

Much of the West is in public ownership and under lease to the livestock industry. Repatriating America’s top dog sparked a political firestorm that refuses to die. Cultural hatred of wolves surfaced despite efforts to present the facts and to accommodate concerns of private interests. As the government took the heat over wolf reintroduction, the movement to gut the ESA reached a fevered pitch.

By the late 1990s, Congress and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service held up the wolf program as the poster child of failure.

Now, we face a government proposal to remove wolves from the protection of the ESA. The government claims they have met their obligations under the law, though wolves exist in but a few states in the northern tier of the country and the Southwest.

Turning the Tide

For nearly a decade, Sinapu has built broad public support for the need for wolf restoration in the Southern Rockies. Conservation organizations have joined forces with us under the banner of the Southern Rockies Wolf Restoration Project to ensure that the government fulfills the promise of the ESA — for the sake of Wild Nature.

Utilizing cutting-edge scientific research and resourceful legal strategies, we have engaged both the federal government and the state of Colorado in a process to determine how best to restore wolves to the Southern Rockies. The Colorado Division of Wildlife will be held to its word regarding its promise to engage the conservation community, ranchers, and other interested parties in developing a management/recovery plan for wolves in Colorado.

The participation of people who care about restoring wolves to the hunting grounds of their ancestors is needed — people who want a wild heritage restored. Contact us at www.sinapu.org today!

Why Wolves?

Although the effort to repatriate wolves to the Southern Rockies aims to ensure the survival of the species, a more important goal is to rekindle the critical ecological processes that wolves drive.

Ongoing research in Yellowstone National Park demonstrates that the restoration of wolves to the Lamar Valley may be responsible for a marked increase in the survival of young Aspen trees and other plants previously overcrowged by elk. As the plant communities rebound, more songbirds have appeared in the valley. We’re only beginning to discover nature’s balances!
Pesticide poisoning is a constant threat to farm workers' health and safety, and usually goes unnoticed. A few incidents that occurred in Colorado in 2001 illustrate the severity of the problem:

- A group of farm worker children, sitting in the family car next to the field where their parents labored, was exposed to pesticide drift when a crop duster sprayed the neighboring field. The children experienced symptoms of severe organophosphate poisoning, requiring hospitalization.

- A farm worker working to irrigate a field breathed too large a dose of insecticide. He was admitted to the emergency room with a heart rate of thirty-four.

Farm workers labor in pesticide-laden fields, hand picking fruits and vegetables – they experience chronic skin rashes, irritated eyes and no training in pesticides. The EPA says reported cases indicate that tens of thousands of farm workers are poisoned by pesticides every year. Most cases are not reported, so the actual number of poisonings is much higher.

Short-term symptoms of pesticide exposure often mimic the cold or flu. Pesticides also cause serious long-term exposure often mimic the cold or flu. Most cases are not reported, so the actual number of poisonings is much higher.

Be alert for pesticide exposures. Common symptoms include skin irritation, eye irritation, blurred vision, pinpoint pupils, difficulty breathing, nausea and dizziness. There are many other symptoms.

- If a worker has been exposed, encourage him to go to a doctor immediately. Ask the doctor to do the proper tests so the worker can prove that he was exposed. The tests must be done right away, often within 24 hours.

- Encourage the worker to contact Colorado Legal Services. Ask for Kimi Jackson at 970-353-7554 or call the Denver office, 1-800-864-4330. Staff is bilingual and services are free.

The desire for architecture to be in harmony with nature is not merely sentimental or nostalgic, it is a practical necessity if it is to be part of the ecosystem and accord with and be inspired by the same processes.

Of course, humans and their shelters are part of the ecosystem and have a rightful place there, but within limits.

~ SAVE THE DATE ~
Third Annual
Rocky Mountain Chapter Sierra Club Auction
"Wild Places, Open Spaces"
Saturday evening, October 19, 2002

Please mark the date on your calendar and join us at the Brown Palace in Downtown Denver for cocktails, dinner, Sierra Club entertainment, and many wonderful auction items – silent and live. Contact the office if you are interested in obtaining more details on the event – 303-861-8819 or libby.tarri@rmc.sierraclub.org. We will be updating you with information in the Peak and Prairie as the event gets closer.

If you are interested in donating an item from your business or craft, or volunteering to be a part of the committee, or if you are interested in receiving an auction invitation, please fill out the form listed below and mail it to the Chapter Office:

Sierra Club RMC
1410 Grant Street, Suite B-303
Denver, CO 80203

We’d love to have your involvement and we look forward to another wonderful and successful auction!

Yes! I would love to:  

□ Donate an item to the fundraiser.  
□ Volunteer to help out with the Auction  
□ Attend the Auction on October 19th.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City: ________________  State: _____  Zip:____________
Phone number (home/work):_____________________________
Fax Number (if handy):_________________________________
Email Address:_______________________________________

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Call Now!  
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wildsagecohousing.org
C A L E N D A R

SUBMISSION Deadline for August/September 2002 issue
Monday, June 24, 2002
To list your event, email calendar-editor@rmc.sierraclub.org
Please check the web site www.rmc.sierraclub.org and then click on Calendar (left menu bar)
for a complete and up-to-date listing of outings.

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club’s outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, see http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/outline/ (left menu bar) or call 415-977-5630.

Events

Saturday, June 15 – 16 TRAPPERS LAKE WEEKEND near Steamboat Springs. Contact Randy at organmikecscs.com or 303-753-9007.

Friday, June 21, 6:30pm SUMMERTIME OUTDOOR ROAD BIKE RIDE, Lookout Mountain. (15 miles RT, 1800’ elev. gain) Jeff Baysinger at 303-869-9241 or 303-445-3194 (sec).

Saturday, June 22, 7am MODERN DAY HIKE TO LINCOLN LAKE, Mt. Evans Wilderness Area. (15 miles, 1500’ elev. gain) Mary at marcopoo@frii.com or 720-855-6392. Limit 12 participants.

Sat., June 29 – 30 VALLEY VIEW HOT SPRINGS & MOUNTAIN CLIMBING (easy, 12 mi., 5000’ elev. gain) Julie at julia3@qwest.net.

Saturday, July 13, 8am HIKE TO WEST CHICAGO CREEK. Mt. Evans (7 miles RT, 1500’ elev. gain) RSVP to Tim at 303-279-9109.

Sunday, July 21, 7am WALKER WINCH HIKES & PICNIC (easy, 5 miles, 600’ elev. gain) RSVP to Joan at 303-642-7808.

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans (GLS)

Saturday, June 9 & 12 ROLLINS PASS MTN. BIKE CLIMB at the base of Red Cliff. (6 miles RT, 3000’ elev. gain) Gary at 303-449-8182. Limit 15 participants.

Sunday, June 30 MOUNT BIERSTADT DAY HIKE www.rmc.sierraclub.org or call Gary at 303-449-8182 for details.

Service Projects

Saturday, June 1, 9am - 12pm NON-NATIVE PLANT REMOVAL, Wheat Ridge. Kirk at 303-939-8519 or kirk.cunnihahm@rmc.sierraclub.org

Saturday, June 8, 8:30 – 11:30am Saturday, July 6, 9 am – 12pm HENZELL PARK CLEANUP, Denver. Call Gary at 303-433-2608

HENZELL PARK CLEANUP
Saturday, June 8, 8:30 – 11:30am the Denver Natural Areas folk will be sponsoring a massive cleanup of Henzell Park. The goals are to get the park in order, remove trash, and get the park ready for the upcoming summer season.


Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

Weekend Outings

Saturday, June 2, 8am – 5pm PEOPLE’S FAIR, Denver Libby, 303-861-8819; libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org or visit http://www.bertzow.com/festival.htm to see what shifts are available.

Saturday, June 9, 7pm – 10pm SUMMER SOLSTICE BEER & BBQ Fundraiser, Denver. Libby 303-861-8819 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org RSVP before June 18th $15 Donation.


Wednesday, June 26 BIKE TO WORK DAY Angela 303-433-2608

Monday, July 8, 5:30 – 7:30pm BREWING IDEAS IN JULY The Red Room, Colfax near Grant St. How we can be a better chapter? 303-861-8819; libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org or 703-440-5695.

Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 – 8pm CLUB BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver. Read before the event. Bring a potluck dish and beverage. RSVP to Al at 303-863-8819 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Wednesday Evening, July 17 FLAGSTAFF MOUNTAIN PICNIC Boulder. Picnic, storytelling, music. Call Kirk at 303-529-720 or steve.welger@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Events: Sierra Club Singles

Friday, May 31, 5:30 – 8pm HAPPY HOUR, DENVER BULLFROG ANNIVERSARY. RSVP sheri.mentm@gmail.com or Jane at JTempleton@ls1.k12.co.us.

Monday June 3, 7pm DENVER ACappella PROJECT Redfish Brewhouse. RSVP to Jane at JTempleton@ls1.k12.co.us or 303-777-4153 by Friday May 31.

Wednesday, June 6, 6pm CUPP HOUR AT THE HORNET Denver. RSVP to Graham at 303-733-3707 or grahmvw@springspring.com

Saturday, June 7, 7pm MEXICAN DINER AT BENNY’S. Denver. RSVP to Sherrill at sherrill moore@aol.com Limited to 12.

Saturday, June 9, 5pm – ?? At WATERTOWN'S SPRINGFIELD SHOWCASE Meeting at Falling Rock Tap House, Denver Contact Tony Martin, 303-249-4318 or tonymartin314@yahoo.com

Thursday, June 13, 5:30 – 8pm HAPPY HOUR AT CHINOOK TAVERN, Cherry Creek, 265 Detroit. Sherrill at sherrillmoore@aol.com

Saturday, June 15, 9:30am PLEIN AIR PAINTING EXCURSION RSVP to Sheila at 303-462-3738 or mcfather@mindspring.com

Wednesday, June 19, 7pm THAI DINNER AT WILD GINGER, Littleton. RSVP to gordon@rmc.sierraclub.org

Tuesday, July 2, 7 – 9pm BOULDER HAPPY HOUR & DINING, TGI Fridays, 2005 Pearl St. RSVP seev@rmc.sierraclub.org

Thursday, July 11, 5:30 – 7pm HAPPY HOUR AT DAVE & BUSTERS, Denver. RSVP to Sherrill at sherrill.moore@aol.com

Wednesday, July 14, 4 – 7pm SUM SESSION FOR SIERRA MUSICIANS, Louisville. Bring refreshments to share; soup provided. Cynthia at ctejepin@msn.com or 303-926-8009.

Chapter Meetings

Rocky Mountain Chapter RMC Normal Meetings are at 1410 Grant Street, Denver, 80303. Enter North side of the building, 826-8819.

Auction Committee
3rd Tues. each month, 6pm – 8pm, *Chapter Office. Third Annual “Wild Places, Open Spaces” Auction Saturday, June 22 at 303-861-8819, libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Chapter Executive Com.
Saturday, July 13, Durango. Sierra Club Board members are open to anyone who would like to learn more about and share in the Sierra Club. For information contact: 303-861-8819.

Energy Committee
July 3rd, 6pm – *Chapter Office. Support the Chapter’s 20% by 2020 Renewable Energy Campaign. Tabling, developing fact sheets, and organizing educational events. Cindy Johnson, cynthia.johnson@cvg.org, or Perry Rosenzweig, gqmusic@yahoo.com.

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans (GLS)
Contact Lisa Lewis at 303-777-3664 and e-mail the website at g/gls@rmc.sierraclub.org.

GENETIC ENGINEERING COM.
For info: contact Suzanne Waithrerle 303-333-2519, waithre@concental.com.

Inner City Outings (ICO)
ICO outreach program introduces disadvantaged urban young people to environmental and outdoor activities. Learn more – ICO hotline, 720-299-9967.

Lifestyles Education Com.

Outings Committee
Help our statewide outings program grow. This will be a statewide committee. Call Patrick at 303-601-8582 or email outings@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Pesticides Committee
Second Fridays. For info. call Angela Medley at 303-433-2608.

Population Committee
Island, koi, tulip, and population growth contribute to urban sprawl, U.S. population density, and resource depletion. Fred Elbel, 303-220-7499 or fred.elbel@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Retreat Committee
Inquire at the *Chapter Office. Help plan a fun a retreat for our members at the YMCA of the Rockies. Libby Bartlett at 303-861-8819 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal
First Weds., 7pm. Sandy Horrock for location / info. 303-470-1352.

Sierra Club Singles
https://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/singles for all the latest happenings!

Saturday June 1, 6:30pm MONTHLY PLANNING POTLUCK, Denver. Please bring your own plate, cup and silverware.  JoLynn Jarboe, 303-861-8819 or slefever@vanion.com.

Transportation Committee
Contact John Rapp, 303-249-4318 or visit the Governor’s Transportation plan? Buses, light rail, and bikes. Come help us put the Transit back in Colorado’s future plans. For dates call Susan Landry 303-777-4153, wuerthel@ecentral.com.

Water Quality Committee
Second Weds. Anyone interested in healthy and protecting wetlands is invited. Kirk kirk@rmc.sierraclub.org at 303-939-8519, for details.
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