

Why Coloradans Should Support the Responsible Growth Initiative

by **Janna Six & Ramon Ajero**
Chair & Vice Chair Poudre Canyon Group

The statewide petition drive to get the Responsible Growth Initiative onto the November ballot ended August 7, when proponents submitted 103,422 signatures to the Secretary of State's office. A week later, the signatures had been officially counted, and it was announced that we are on the ballot as Amendment 24. Coloradans for Responsible Growth and its supporting organizations (including the Sierra Club) can now begin educating the public about what the Initiative will do to reduce sprawl, promote better planning, and help ensure that the future growth that does occur is truly in our communities' best interest.

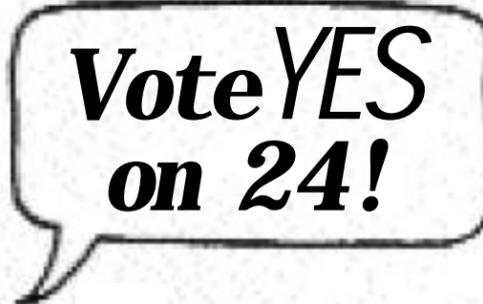
Why Is this Initiative Needed?

According to recent agricultural census statistics, we are losing farm and ranch land in Colorado at a rate of 10 acres per hour or more. The land encompassed by the Denver Metropolitan area is growing four times faster than its population growth rate. Throughout Colorado, sprawling development is paving over the natural amenities that draw people here – open spaces, clean air, access to wildlands and wildlife, and fresh water. Instead, residents are rewarded with the consequences of poorly planned growth – terrible traffic congestion, rising taxes, strip malls and subdivisions.

Growth and sprawl related issues top the list as Coloradans' number one concern, yet our elected representatives have failed over the past two years to pass any meaningful legislation to control sprawl and unchecked development in Colorado. It's time for citizens to act.

What will Amendment 24 do? It will:

- Give Voters Approval Over New Growth Areas. Cities and counties must prepare maps of where they want future growth to occur, outlining the location, general densities and uses of the new growth, then submit these maps to local voters for approval. Already developed or



approved areas would be unaffected.

- Provide the Public with Information on Growth Impacts. When submitting new Growth Area Maps for voter approval, cities and counties must also describe to voters the projected impacts of new development, including its immediate and projected long-term costs, and its effect on schools, open space, traffic, air quality, and water supplies.

- Promote Responsible, Affordable Growth. Growth areas are limited to places where localities can afford to build roads and central water and sewer systems within a ten-year period. Cities must draw their new growth areas adjacent to existing developed areas.

- Require Regional Cooperation. Counties and cities must consult with each other when drawing their growth area maps, and may not conflict with or overlap their neighbor's growth areas.

In short, the Responsible Growth Initiative is designed to help growing communities plan for and accommodate growth in the most efficient, cost-effective, and responsible ways possible, without breaking the bank. The Initiative gives citizens both the power to decide what's best for their local communities and the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions.

The Responsible Growth Initiative will enhance the long-term planning already being done by cities across the state. Existing comprehensive plans will continue to serve as the planning backbone for each local government.

The Initiative was written by a broad cross-section of Coloradans – the steering group included planners, farmers, community activists, environmentalists, businesspeople, attorneys, state legislators, and many others. The primary sponsors of the initiative are renowned Colorado photographer John Fielder, and Elise Jones, Director of the Colorado Environmental Coalition. It has been endorsed by more than a dozen statewide civic and community organizations already, including the American Planning Association, The League of Women Voters, and the Western Colorado Congress. A Talmey-Drake poll commissioned by the Rocky Mountain News in July indicated that 78% of Coloradans support the initiative.

What will Amendment 24 NOT do?

Developers and home builders have raised more than \$1.2 million to fight Amendment 24, and their spurious claims regarding the Initiative's consequences have already begun appearing in the local media. In attempt to set the record straight, the Responsible Growth Initiative will:

- Not stop growth
- Not prevent approved subdivisions from being completed
- Not enable any individual to challenge development
- Not affect constitutionally recognized property rights.

What can you do?

To read the Responsible Growth Initiative language, or to learn more about the costs of growth in Colorado, visit the web site: www.voteyes24.com. If you would like to learn how you can help with the Initiative campaign, please contact the Sierra Club at 303-861-8819, or scrmc@rmi.net.

WE CAN reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. WE CAN protect agricultural land and wildlife habitat. WE CAN avoid becoming another Los Angeles basin. WE CAN grow more responsibly – but WE MUST ACT NOW!

Sierra Club Election 2000 Endorsements

Al Gore (D) President
Joe Lieberman (D) Vice-President

U.S. House Rep.	District	Phone	Website
Diana DeGette (D)	CO 01	303-844-4988	www.house.gov/degette/
Mark Udall (D)	CO 02	303-457-4500	www.house.gov/markudall/
Ken Toltz (D)	CO 06	303-703-1734	www.toltz2000.com/

Colorado Races (www.leg.state.co.us/, Legislature, Contact Info)

State Senator	District	Phone	E-mail
Terry Phillips (D)	SD 17	303-866-5291	tphillip@sni.net
Ron Tupa (D)	SD 18	303-866-2915	rtupi@sni.net
Stephanie Takis (D)	SD 25	303-866-2912	stakis@sni.net
Doug Linkhart (D)	SD 31	303-866-4861	
Penfield Tate (D)	SD 33	303-866-2959	ptate@sni.net
Ken Gordon (D)	SD 35	303-866-5523	kgordon@sni.net

Colorado Ballot Initiatives

Amendment 21 NO
Amendment 24 YES

State House Rep.	District	Phone	E-mail
Fran Coleman (D)	HD 01	303-866-2966	coleman@sni.net
Jennifer Veiga (D)	HD 03	303-866-2921	jveiga@sni.net
Nolbert Chavez (D)	HD 05	303-866-2925	nchavez@sni.net
Dan Grossman (D)	HD 06	303-866-2015	dgrossm@sni.net
Todd Saliman (D)	HD 11	303-866-2583	reptod@aol.com
Tom Plant (D)	HD 13	303-866-2938	tplant@sni.net
Paul Zimmerman (D)	HD 31	303-866-2918	paulz@sni.net
Lois Tochtrop (D)	HD 34	303-866-2931	tochtrop@sni.net
Ann Ragsdale (D)	HD 35	303-866-2843	ragsdale@sni.net
Paula Busey (D)	HD 37		paulabusey@yahoo.com
Bob Bacon (D)	HD 53	303-866-2917	bbacon@sni.net
Al Gagliardi (D)	HD 60	303-866-2963	gagliard@sni.net

Peak & Prairie Editorial Staff

Editor

Sandy Nervig
303-680-4635
editor@rmc.sierraclub.org
calendar-editor@rmc.sierraclub.org
High Plains Group

Conservation Editor/ ExCom Contact

Kirk Cunningham
303-939-8519 (H)
kirk.cunningham@rmc.sierraclub.org
Groups: Indian Peaks, Uncompahgre
Area: Conservation, National Forests,
Public Lands, Mining

Wire Editor

Charlie Oriez
charlie.oriez@rmc.sierraclub.org

Photo Editor

Matt Lancaster
photo-editor@rmc.sierraclub.org

Layout

Chris Mancuso
layout-editor@rmc.sierraclub.org

Circulation/Mailing

Angela Medbery
303-433-2608 (H)
angela.medbery@rmc.sierraclub.org
Diane Uren
303-504-9657 (H)

Advertising Manager

Mike Reis
303-861-8819
mike.reis@rmc.sierraclub.org

Peak & Prairie

October/November 2000 issue
Vol 34 Number 5
"Peak & Prairie" is
published bimonthly by the
Rocky Mountain Chapter
of the Sierra Club,
1410 Grant Street, Suite B205
Denver, CO 80203
303-861-8819
303-861-2436 (FAX)
scmc@mi.net
http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org

Submissions

**Deadline for
December/January issue
Friday, October 27, 2000**

Email submissions as
MS Word, Wordperfect,
Appleworks attachments
to the editor at
editor@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Drop disks or photographs off
at the Sierra Club RMC Office,
The Peak & Prairie is printed
by The Colorado Daily
on recycled paper.



Greg Casini
RMC Chair

View from the Chair

Why Vote?

Pivotal election for environment

"This is an important election." You hear that every four years, but this November it's especially true. All three branches of the federal government are up for grabs for the first time since 1952, and the outcome of this election could take us in one of two profoundly different directions.

What's at stake?

The fate of our wildlands, progress on reducing air and water pollution, and protection for our national forests, for sure. But perhaps much more – possibly everything that we have worked for and achieved over the last thirty years is at stake in this election.

The Good News

We can win this election, and a switch in a handful of seats could restore a pro-environment majority to Congress. With a new leadership that would work with environmentalists of both parties, Congress could once again pass proactive legislation. And with a sympathetic president and Congress, we might finally get some environmental voices on the Supreme Court.

The Bad News

If voters give the election to Bush, they will be throwing away the opportunity of a lifetime – and worse.

As president, Bush says that he would reverse President Clinton's wild-forest

initiative and open up the last roadless areas in our national forests to logging. Bush's Texas appointees are lobbying to weaken federal enforcement of the Clean Air Act and Bush also wants to eliminate polluters' responsibility to clean up toxic waste sites. In short, Bush could be expected to manage the nation's environment much as he has managed that of Texas, which leads the nation in industrial toxic air pollution and in the number of facilities that violate clean-water standards.

The next president will also shape the Supreme Court for decades to come. If Bush wins, Chief Justice William Rehnquist is likely to retire, leaving Justice Antonin Scalia – the most anti-environmental voice on the court – likely to replace him.

In addition, should anti-environmentalists retain control of Congress, Bush could wield power not experienced by a Republican president since Eisenhower. How might he use it? Already this March, Representative John Doolittle (R-Calif.) was sending a letter around to conservative think tanks and industry associations soliciting items that "a new president can enact immediately upon taking office to go on the offensive against the 'extreme' environmentalists."

"What I'm looking to do," wrote Doolittle, "is not merely reverse the damage done but to enable the executive branch to counter that entire movement."

With that agenda in mind, imagine our environment's future in George Bush's hands – and see if you don't wake up screaming at night.

The Bottom Line

This election offers us a historic opportunity to clean up our air and water, protect our wildlands and improve our quality of life. It also offers our adversaries the opportunity to take away all the progress we've made in the last thirty years restoring and safeguarding our environment. The Sierra Club – with 16,000 members in Colorado and 650,000 members nationwide – can play a critical role in a close election.

Our people and our environment will be significantly better or worse off depending on what happens in voting booths on November 7.

Be there!

* And while you're in the voting booth, be sure to vote in state and local races. There's plenty at stake in the Colorado General Assembly. Environmental bills are often decided by as few as one or two votes in both chambers of the state legislature. We need to elect pro-environment state lawmakers if we are to achieve our conservation goals for Colorado. (Take the Sierra Club Endorsements with you to vote – on cover page.)

What's Happening at the Chapter Office

by Susan LeFever
RMC Director

The priority of the office, of course, has been the Responsible Growth Initiative (RGI). In July, we focussed on getting signatures on petitions, building our coalition and planning for the fall campaign. More than 100 Sierra Club volunteers hit the streets to get signatures to get the initiative on the November ballot.

On August 7, the Campaign turned in 103,000 signatures to the Secretary of State's office. The Sierra Club committed to getting 5,000 signatures, but in the end, our volunteers turned in more than 7,000 signatures! Way to Go! Office folks have been talking to the media and answering questions from the public about the effects of the initiative.

We hired a Sprawl Education Organizer, Nichole Goodman. For her first event, Nichole organized a demonstration at the Parade of Homes – we called it the "Charade of Homes." These are million-dollar model homes, built on the east side of E-470, that are open for touring to the public. On the day of the home builders' "media party" the Sierra Club and a local group called Coalition of Northeastern Douglas County Against Annexation showed up with picket signs and handouts talking about sprawl. High Plains Group Chair Dianna VanderDoes did a fantastic job of talking to the TV cameras, and was

featured that night on Channel 2 News' Cover Story (see page 5 photo).

Nichole also helped organize a successful set of Sprawl events in August. First up, 75 people turned out for a showing of "Subdivide and Conquer" in Fort Collins with Special Guest speaker Brett Hulsey, the Club's National Challenge to Sprawl Director. A showing at the Denver Public Library followed that with 45 people attending. Janna Six, Mike Doten, Ramon Ajero, Mark Easter, Jolynn Jarboe, Trish O'Neill, Bert Melcher and many more helped to make these events a success. This program is being funded by a generous grant from the national Sierra Club Sprawl Campaign.

While Brett was here, we also put together a radio ad, played over the Labor Day weekend on KOSI, K99, and TRI 102. The ad told the story of our state parks being endangered by Urban Sprawl, and asked listeners to call the Governor to protect state parks with urban growth boundaries. (See page 15 for ad text.)

Now we're into full campaign mode. Between the Campaign, CEC, Sierra Club and CoPIRG, we have 10 organizers working around the state to get the RGI passed. Though the opposition has the war chest, we have a committed crew of volunteers. Oh yeah, and we're right!

Susan worked with the coalition that

is putting together this year's Colorado Legislative Environmental Scorecard, which was released in August. You can see how your representative did by going to www.lcv.org and going to the Colorado scorecard page. (Hint – it was disappointing). But there are some heroes at the state house, as you can see in other parts of this newsletter. And we need to support them when we can.

On August 15, Ross Vincent and Susan LeFever spoke before the Board of the Denver area RTD (Regional Transportation District) as part of a coalition of labor (multiple unions), religious and environmental groups, in support of a resolution submitted by four of the seventeen RTD Board members that would result in a formal hearing on the qualifications of companies that might be considered to provide rail for an expanded Denver-area light rail system.

Staff Changes – Robyn Fugett has been managing the office while we look for a new Chapter Coordinator. For Labor Day weekend, Robyn organized volunteers from EMG, HPG and the Chapter to staff tables at the Grand Opening of EMS on Colorado Blvd in Denver. Aimee Cartier has started working out of the Denver office as an organizer for the 6th CD. And Nichole has started working full time on organizing for the ballot initiative.

And you thought the summer was slow!

2000 Colorado Environmental Scorecard Released

by **Andy Schultheiss**

League of Conservation Voters
Regional Director, Southwest

The League of Conservation Voters released its annual grade sheet for the Colorado legislature on August 23. Overall, scores were up slightly from previous years, but only because members of the House and Senate once again refused to fully consider the major issues facing the state.

As can be seen on the vote charts, no major pieces of legislation dealing with growth and sprawl made it to a final vote. Poll after poll indicates that these twin issues are the most important facing Colorado citizens – not just the most important environmental issues, the most important, period – and yet once again the legislature failed to address them. As a result, the Responsible Growth Initiative,

sponsored by a citizens' coalition that includes the Sierra Club, has been approved for the ballot this November. If the leaders won't lead, the people must!

On other important issues, the legislature's record was decidedly mixed. While beneficial bills related to conservation easements, open space acquisition, and alternative fuel use did pass into law, the ledger was more than balanced by the large dustbin of pro-environment legislation that went down to defeat. Conservationists were unable to permanently rectify the funding shortfall at the Department of Wildlife, include a "Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment" in the state constitution, correct industry bias on the Oil and Gas Commission, or push forward a monorail project for the I-70 corridor. It was yet another legislative session in which the conservation community's biggest victories were all bad bills and

defeated: not a single idea that originated with conservationists passed.

Overall, scores ranged from a perfect 100% (18 House members and three senators) down to a paltry 10%, with an average of 58%. Most of the highest scorers were from the Denver-Boulder-Fort Collins area, while many of the worst performers were from Colorado Springs and the East. Unlike in past years, there were none that scored zero percent.

The scorecard is intended as an education tool for citizen environmentalists. Use the charts to find out how your representative and senator performed on the issues that are important to you. These are all important environmental votes, but remember that they are only the tip of the iceberg. For every environmental bill that made it to a final vote (the only ones we can score), there may be three or four critical ones that died in committee, or were

simply extinguished by the leadership.

In this and every year, it is up to the citizens of Colorado to demand of their elected officials that they represent all of the people whenever they appear publicly – not just the powerful, anti-environmental lobbies. To vote against a pro-environment bill is one thing, but to fail to even consider the most important issues facing our state is worse. For ideas on what kinds of questions to ask of your representatives, check the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund website, www.VoteEnvironment.org.

The entire Colorado Legislative Environmental Scorecard can also be found on the web. It includes full descriptions of each of the scored votes, as well as a summary of some of the other environmental bills that failed to make it that far. You can find it at www.lcv.org/scorecards/colorado2000.

2000 House Votes

	District	Score					District	Score					District	Score			
		2000	1999	1998	1997			2000	1999	1998	1997			2000	1999	1998	1997
Alexander, Kay (R)	HD 58	33	11	60	30	Kester, Kenneth (R)	HD 47	33	13	NA	NA	Smith, Matt (R)	HD 54	33	33	60	30
Allan, Debbie (R)	HD 43	33	11	44	30	King, Keith (R)	HD 21	25	11	NA	NA	Spence, Nancy (R)	HD 39	33	11	NA	NA
Bacon, Bob (D)	HD 53	100	100	100	100	Larson, Mark (R)	HD 59	67	11	NA	NA	Spradley, Lola (R)	HD 44	17	11	40	NA
Berry, Gayle (R)	HD 55	50	33	60	30	Lawrence, Joyce (R)	HD 45	58	33	70	40	Stengel, Joe (R)	HD 38	58	11	NA	NA
Chavez, Nolbert (D)	HD 5	100	100	100	90	Lee, Don (R)	HD 28	17	11	NA	NA	Swenson, Bill (R)	HD 12	58	22	60	10
Clapp, Lauri (R)	HD 37	25	11	NA	NA	Leyba, Gloria (D)	HD 2	100	100	100	100	Takis, Stephanie (D)	HD 36	100	100	90	60
Clarke, Benjamin (D)	HD 7	100	100	100	100	Mace, Frana (D)	HD 4	92	78	100	90	Tapia, Abel (D)	HD 46	100	78	NA	NA
Coleman, Fran (D)	HD 1	100	100	NA	NA	May, Ron (R)	HD 15	17	11	40	20	Tate, Penfield (D)	HD 8	91	100	100	100
Dean, Doug (R)	HD 18	17	11	11	20	McElhany, Andy (R)	HD 17	25	13	30	20	Taylor, Jack (R)	HD 56	33	0	44	30
Decker, Richard (R)	HD 19	10	22	NA	NA	McKay, Scott (R)	HD 26	25	11	NA	NA	Tochtrop, Lois (D)	HD 34	92	100	NA	NA
Fairbank, Rob (R)	HD 30	25	11	NA	NA	McPherson, Gary (R)	HD 40	25	11	30	10	Tool, Steve (R)	HD 52	33	13	70	20
Gagliardi, Al (D)	HD 60	75	100	NA	NA	Miller, Carl (D)	HD 61	42	56	70	40	Tupa, Ron (D)	HD 14	100	100	100	100
George, Russell (R)	HD 57	75	11	70	40	Mitchell, Shawn (R)	HD 33	17	13	NA	NA	Weiga, Jennifer (D)	HD 3	100	89	100	100
Gordon, Ken (D)	HD 9	100	100	100	100	Morrison, Marcy (R)	HD 22	92	38	90	70	Vigil, Valentin (D)	HD 32	92	100	NA	NA
Gotlieb, Dorothy (R)	HD 10	67	11	50	10	Ninez, Joe (R)	HD 64	25	11	NA	NA	Webster, Bill (R)	HD 48	33	11	NA	NA
Grossman, Dan (D)	HD 6	100	89	100	100	Paschall, Mark (R)	HD 29	17	13	25	22	Williams, Suzanne (D)	HD 41	100	67	90	90
Hagedorn, Bob (D)	HD 42	75	56	70	50	Riffner, Penn (R)	HD 23	17	11	10	10	Williams, Tambar (R)	HD 50	45	11	60	20
Hefley, Lynn (R)	HD 20	18	13	33	NA	Plant, Tom (D)	HD 13	100	100	NA	NA	Winkel, Sue (D)	HD 27	100	100	NA	NA
Hoppe, Diane (R)	HD 65	33	11	NA	NA	Ragsdale, Ann (D)	HD 35	100	89	NA	NA	Witwer, John (R)	HD 25	75	67	NA	NA
Johanson, Steve (R)	HD 49	25	11	70	20	Salman, Todd (D)	HD 11	100	100	100	100	Young, Brad (R)	HD 63	17	22	40	30
Kaufman, Bill (R)	HD 51	55	25	80	40	Scott, Glenn (R)	HD 62	58	50	NA	NA	Zimmerman, Paul (D)	HD 31	100	100	100	90
Keller, Maryanne (D)	HD 24	100	89	100	90	Sinclair, William (R)	HD 16	25	22	50	20						

2000 Senate Votes

	District	Score					District	Score					District	Score			
		2000	1999	1998	1997			2000	1999	1998	1997			2000	1999	1998	1997
Anderson, Norma (R)	SD 22	40	11	40	30	Hillman, Mark (R)	SD 2	30	11	NA	NA	Powers, Ray (R)	SD 10	30	11	27	25
Andrews, John (R)	SD 27	20	11	NA	NA	Lacy, Elsie (R)	SD 28	57	13	33	29	Reeves, Peggy (D)	SD 14	90	89	91	100
Arnold, Ken (R)	SD 23	20	11	18	13	Lamborn, Doug (R)	SD 9	20	11	NA	10	Rupert, Dorothy (D)	SD 18	100	100	100	100
Blickensderfer, Tom (R)	SD 26	30	11	18	25	Linkhart, Doug (D)	SD 31	90	100	100	100	Sullivan, Bryan (R)	SD 13	100	60	80	60
Chikuber, Ken (R)	SD 4	30	11	45	13	Martinez, Bob (D)	SD 25	80	88	91	75	Turner, Gloria (D)	SD 33	90	89	82	88
Congrove, Jim (R)	SD 19	30	11	18	13	Matsunaka, Stan (D)	SD 15	88	75	73	50	Tebedo, MaryAnne (R)	SD 12	30	11	13	0
Dennis, Gigi (R)	SD 5	50	33	45	25	Musgrave, Marilyn (R)	SD 1	40	11	30	10	Teck, Ron (R)	SD 7	50	22	NA	NA
Dyer, Jim (D)	SD 6	70	25	70	40	Nichol, Alice (D)	SD 24	70	56	80	60	Thibaut, Bill (D)	SD 3	80	100	100	100
Epps, Mary Ellen (R)	SD 11	30	0	40	10	Owen, David (R)	SD 16	40	11	57	20	Wattenberg, Dave (R)	SD 8	50	11	55	25
Ebrans, John (R)	SD 30	50	33	NA	NA	Pascoe, Pat (D)	SD 32	90	100	91	100	Weddig, Frank (D)	SD 29	50	67	73	63
Feeley, Mike (D)	SD 21	80	89	100	100	Perinutter, Ed (D)	SD 20	90	89	100	88	Wham, Dottie (R)	SD 35	78	33	45	29
Hernandez, Rob (D)	SD 34	90	89	100	100	Phillips, Terry (D)	SD 17	100	100	100	88						

RMC Endorsements 2000

Diana DeGette

1st Congressional District

by Peggy Malchow
RMC 2000 Political Committee

The Rocky Mountain Chapter and the national Sierra Club Political Committee has once again endorsed U.S. Representative Diana DeGette in her race for another term in Congress. The Sierra Club has endorsed DeGette each time she has run for Congress, beginning in 1996, when she first ran for the seat vacated by Pat Schroeder. "Rep. DeGette has a record as a strong and consistent advocate for the environment, and we're proud to endorse her," says Greg Casini, RMC Chair.

DeGette represents the 1st Congressional District, which encompasses all of Denver County and parts of Adams and Arapahoe counties and includes the cities of Denver,



Diana DeGette

Commerce City, and part of Aurora. As an urban legislator, DeGette will continue to focus her energies on urban land use and suburban sprawl. She sponsored a successful amendment to increase

funding for the EPA's Brownfields program to cleanup and rehabilitate abandoned urban spaces.

In 1999, she introduced legislation to preserve and protect Colorado's unique open spaces and wilderness. Rep. DeGette's legislation, HR 829, calls for protection of 49 areas throughout the state with strong wilderness characteristics. The legislation designates 1.4 million acres as wilderness to ensure the lands are preserved in natural condition for future generations. "We should not jeopardize more than one million acres of Colorado to the threats of growth and overuse by failing to protect them now," says DeGette. "If we wait to act on each of the areas individually, many of these unique and beautiful areas will be lost for future generations."

Congresswoman DeGette is a fourth generation Denverite. She was educated at Denver's South High School, earned her undergraduate degree at Colorado College and graduated NYU Law School. DeGette practiced civil rights and employment law in Denver until she ran for public office. She served two terms in the Colorado House of Representatives before running for Congress.



Toltz Takes on Tancredo

by Peggy Malchow
RMC 2000 Political Committee

The Rocky Mountain Chapter and the national Sierra Club Political Committee have endorsed Ken Toltz, who is challenging incumbent Tom Tancredo to be the next U.S. Representative for Colorado's 6th Congressional District.

Toltz understands the need for cleaning up our air and water, protecting open space, and preserving wilderness. "The members of the Chapter Political Committee who participated in interviews with him were impressed with his willingness to learn and his commitment to listen to the environmental community," reports Linda Stanley, co-chair of the Political Committee. "He intends to take a leadership role on environmental protection, and he wants our input."

Toltz has stated that growth would be one of the top three issues on which he campaigns, and because he views supporting public transportation as key to changing growth patterns and traffic congestion, he vows to work to secure funding for alternative transportation and he sup-

ported the light rail initiative. He also supports the acquisition of open space and the implementation of smart growth plans.

Toltz has shown his commitment to clean air by being active in business organizations to reduce pollution. For three years he has served on the board of the Corporate Alliance for Better Air, and he was appointed to the Citizens Advisory Panel for the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, a position mandated by the Clean Air Act. Even more significantly, Toltz has actively testified in favor of stricter air quality standards, appearing at a recent EPA hearing in Denver to testify in favor of proposed regulations that would impose stricter controls on emissions from buses and heavy trucks.

He also testified against lowering water quality standards at a hearing of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). The Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority has requested DRCOG's approval of a 10-year treatment and facilities proposal that would permit increased amounts of phosphorous, which promotes the growth of algae and

decreases oxygen levels. "The challenge before the board should be to propose alternative plans to meet current standards. Therefore, we should be discussing proposals to ensure the current standard is met, not decreasing the standards so compliance is more easily achieved," stated Toltz in his testimony.

"I'm impressed that he's taking time to testify for clean air and water like this," says Mike Mueller, a Chapter member and liaison to the Toltz campaign from the environmental community. "Testifying isn't campaigning, but he does it even though it takes time during the campaign season."

Toltz's district, the 6th, encompasses portions of Jefferson and Arapahoe counties in Denver's eastern, southern, and western suburbs, including Cherry Hills, Greenwood Village, Lakewood, Littleton, Englewood, and parts of Aurora. Of the voters in the district, 38% are registered as Republicans, 34% as independents, and 28% as Democrats. In spite of the district's composition, moderate Democrats like Toltz have successfully carried the district in many past elections.



Ken Toltz

Dan Weiss, political director for the Sierra Club, has characterized Tancredo as politically vulnerable.

Although he has not previously run for office, Toltz is not a political novice. He worked on Gary Hart's 1984 presidential campaign, on Carlos Lucero's campaign for the Senate, and on several of David Skaggs' campaigns. His own campaign has raised a substantial amount for his run against Tancredo. A number of political action committees, including NARAL, CEA and NEA, the local AFL-CIO, and SAFE Colorado, have joined in endorsing Toltz.

Ken Toltz is a third generation Colorado native. He is currently an executive for his family's 70-year-old dry cleaning business, Dependable Cleaners. He lives in Littleton, and is married with 2 children. He has a B.A. from CU and an MBA from DU.

Mark Udall *2nd Congressional District*

by Peggy Malchow
RMC 2000 Political Committee

The Sierra Club has endorsed Mark Udall's candidacy for a second term representing Colorado's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. The second district, located north of Denver, includes all of Boulder, Gilpin, and Clear Creek counties and parts of both Jefferson and Adams counties.

Udall has a 100% rating from the League of Conservation Voters. "But more than just voting our way on issues, Udall has taken active leadership on environmental legislation, even as a first-term representative," says Greg Casini, RMC Chair. "He has more than earned our support."

Last year Udall introduced the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act (HR 2178) and the James Peak Wilderness Act (HR 2177). Both of these bills would designate lands in Colorado as wilderness and ensure that these natural treasures will remain in perpetuity. With Rep. Diana DeGette, he co-sponsored a bill to designate certain BLM lands in Colorado as wilderness. This year Udall won approval for a \$40 million increase for renewable energy research as an amendment to the Energy

and Water Appropriations Bill, and he was able to win a \$30 million increase in funding for solar and renewable energy in last year's Energy and Water bill. He also introduced the Rocky Flats Open Space Act (HR 2179), which would preserve more than 6,000 acres of the closed Rocky Flats weapons facility's buffer zone as open space.

During his first term in Congress, Udall was elected by his Democratic colleagues to serve as Democratic Deputy Regional Whip for the western United States and as the Democratic freshman class vice-president. He is also a co-chair of the Renewable Energy caucus. A member of the House Resources Committee, Udall sits on the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forests Health. He is also a member of the House Small Business Committee, the House Science Committee, and of its subcommittees on Technology and on Space and Aeronautics.

Before running for Congress, he served one term in the Colorado legislature. During his term in the legislature, Udall passed important legislation to strengthen Colorado's oversight of radioactive waste and to increase fines for poaching of trophy-sized wildlife.

Prior to entering public service, Udall had a long and successful career with the Colorado Outward Bound School, as a course director and educator from 1975-85 and as the organization's Executive Director from 1985-95. His experience with environmental education led him to introduce the Stewardship Education, Recreation, and Volunteers for the Environment Act (the S.E.R.V.E. Act). The S.E.R.V.E. Act would make it easier for federal land agencies to use volunteers for natural resource projects.

Udall was born in Tucson, Arizona, and has spent all his adult life in Colorado. He graduated from Williams College in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in American Civilization. An avid mountain climber, he has climbed or attempted some of the world's most challenging peaks, including Mt. Everest. He and his wife, attorney and conservationist Maggie Fox, have two children. "One of the reasons I decided to run for office is that I wanted to make sure my children can grow up in a place with clean air, clean water, and where they can go hiking and experience the incredible beauty of the Rocky Mountains," Udall says. "In Congress I will continue to fight to protect our natural treasures and ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy all Colorado has to offer."

Developers are Top Bankrollers of Amendment 24 Opposition

September 5th, Coloradans for Responsible Growth, the citizen campaign working to pass Amendment 24, filed their financial reports with the Secretary of State. The opposition to the citizen-backed Responsible Growth Initiative had already reported their August contribution and expenditure report to the Secretary of State. The developer-funded opposition committee, Coloradoans For Responsible Reform, reported contributions for

August of nearly \$1.4 million bringing the total raised to date to \$2.6 million. The bulk of this total is composed of large contributions from developers. 76% of the contributions of a \$1,000 or more came from development interests.

to over \$270,000. The ratio of funds raised to date is over ten to one (\$2.6 million to \$210,000).

"It's very clear that the developers have bought the development process and now they're trying to buy the voters," said Monica Piergrossi, Campaign Director for the Coloradans for Responsible Growth. "The developers are outspending citizens by more than ten to one to try to convince voters that out of control growth is a figment of our imagination."

"This is going to be a classic David versus Goliath fight," said John Fielder, nature photographer and initiative proponent. "Despite what voters will hear from big money developers, Amendment 24 is a reasonable step forward to protect Colorado's future and give citizen's a much needed voice on how and where their communities will grow."

The Responsible Growth Initiative takes a bottom up, local control approach to addressing the problem of sprawl by giving citizens the deciding vote on how their communities will grow into the future. The initiative is supported by a diverse and growing coalition of supporters, ranging from citizen organizations like the League of Women Voters of Colorado, to planning groups such as the American Planning Association's Colorado Chapter, to local land use groups such as the Estes Park Association for Responsible Development, to sportsmen groups such as Colorado Trout Unlimited.

All of the top 5 contributors were developers:

1. Castle Rock Development Company \$100,000
2. Continental Homes, Inc. \$60,000
3. Oakwood Homes, Inc. \$60,000
4. Ryland homes - Denver Division \$50,000
5. Colorado Association of Realtors \$50,000

Over \$100,000 was raised by the proponents this cycle bringing the Coloradans For Responsible Growth total

Sierra Club Opposes Amendment 21

It cuts important services

by Catherine Worster
Sondermann E-Squared Partners

On the surface, Amendment 21 might almost sound like a good plan. But take a closer look and you'll find it's actually too good to be true. Amendment 21 claims to be about tax cuts, but it is really about cuts in important services. The impacts of Amendment 21 would be far-reaching – and potentially devastating.

Under Amendment 21, each individual income tax bill, utility tax, motor vehicle tax, and property tax (city, county, school, each special district, urban drainage) would be reduced by \$25. And every year, each tax bill would be reduced by an additional \$25. And so on, year after year (\$50, \$75, \$100, \$125, \$150, ...).

What does that mean for us?

We'll lose funding for special districts such as the Elk Creek Fire Protection District. In June, Coloradans watched as firefighters from the Elk Creek Fire

Protection District battled the devastating Hi Meadow Fire, often with miraculous results.

That fire protection district – and others like it – is almost wholly dependent on property taxes. If Amendment 21 were to pass, the majority of the Elk Creek's property tax revenue would disappear. Obviously, the high level of service demonstrated in fighting the Hi Meadow Fire would not be possible under Amendment 21.

This is just one example of how Amendment 21 would impact Colorado. And the cuts listed above would be applicable to every special district in the state – libraries, emergency services, water and sanitation districts, parks and recreational opportunities, and other essential and popular services.

Protect our communities. Vote NO on Amendment 21.



Photo courtesy of philg@mit.edu

Sierra Club members demonstrate at the Parade of Homes-"Charade of Homes".
L to R Nichole Goodman, Kirk Cunningham, Dianna VanderDoes.

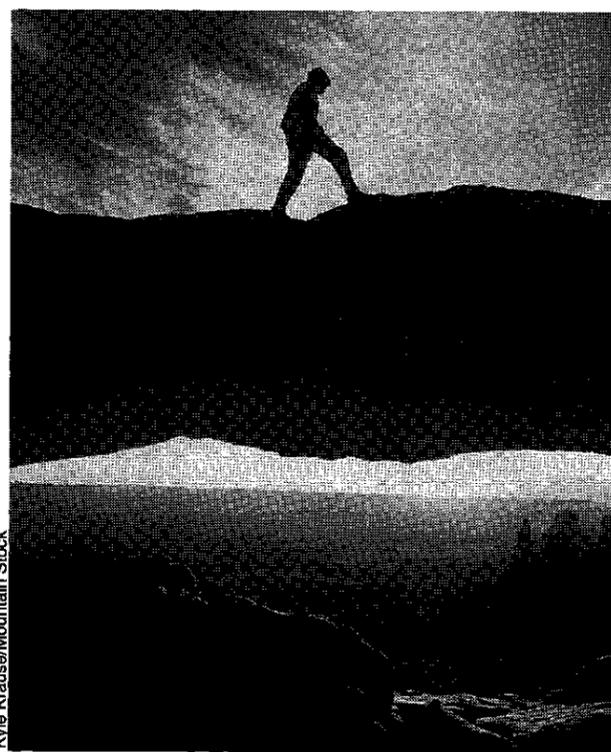


Election 2000 Voting Info

If you have moved or are not registered to vote, contact your local county election commission to register to be an eligible voter in this year's election.

- Tuesday, October 10 – Last day to make a change of address
 Tuesday, October 10 – Last day to register to vote in election
 Friday, November 3* – Last day to request an Absentee Ballot (vote by mail)
 October 23 to Nov 3* – Early Voting
 Tuesday, November 7 – Election Day!

* Date may vary from county to county in Colorado



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Sprawl –

The great wilds of our country once held to be boundless and inexhaustible are being rapidly invaded and overrun in every direction, and everything destructible in them is being destroyed. How far destruction may go is not easy to guess. Every landscape low and high seems doomed to be trampled and harried.

– John Muir
In His Own Words

National Sierra Club Endorses Gore/Lieberman

by Peggy Malchow

RMC 2000 Political Committee

Pledging to stand up to "rogue special interests" in defense of the environment, Vice President Al Gore accepted the endorsement of the Sierra Club. "Today, we are joining forces for an enduring cause: to protect the air, the water and the planet God gave us," Gore said. "I'm extremely grateful to the Sierra Club for its endorsement."

The group announced this weekend that it would back Gore over Republican rival George W. Bush, as well as Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, the long-time consumer rights advocate who has also earned a reputation as an environmentalist.

Sierra Club officials said endorsing the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee against Bush was an easy decision. Gore – author of the controversial environmental manifesto, "Earth in the Balance" – has strong ties to the movement, while Gov. Bush has come under fire for lax environmental protections in his home state of Texas.

Gore pledged Monday that as president he would strengthen clean air health standards, speed cleanup of

Superfund toxic waste sites, reduce automobile tailpipe pollution, and protect America's spectacular landscapes. "We're going to fight to beat back the rogue special interests who want to mine and drill and clear-cut our national heritage into oblivion," Gore said. "This Earth is not in a liquidation sale, America is going to lead the new way toward a new day of hope and health for all of our people."

"When the Sierra Club asked our local chapters and thousands of volunteer leaders whether to endorse a Presidential candidate, the response was overwhelming: They want Al Gore in the White House, protecting America's environment," said Dr. Robert Cox, President of the Sierra Club. "Our members believe that a vote for Gore is the best way to protect our families from pollution and safeguard our nation's landscapes for future generations to enjoy."

The Sierra Club Board of Directors recognized consumer-advocate Ralph Nader's record of work for the environment, but emphasized the urgency of defeating Texas Governor George Bush as an additional reason for endorsing Vice-President Gore.

The Sierra Club also applauded Vice President Al

Gore's choice of Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) as his Vice Presidential candidate. Throughout his 12 years in the U.S. Senate, Sen. Lieberman has shown a consistent commitment to protecting the environment as a member of the Environment and Public Works committee. "The addition of Senator Lieberman makes a strong environmental ticket even stronger – the most pro-environmental ticket in history," said Cox. "Senator Lieberman has consistently voted to protect the environment."

A Gore-Lieberman ticket would stand in stark contrast to the Bush-Cheney ticket that has roundly been criticized as one of the worst environmental tickets ever.

On the Senate environment committee, Lieberman helped champion the Clean Air Act of 1990, and has since worked diligently to ensure it is implemented properly and has fought off efforts to weaken that act. In contrast to the GOP platform, which supports drilling for oil in the fragile Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Lieberman co-sponsored the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Act (S. 867) to designate the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge as wilderness, permanently protecting this rich wildlife habitat from destruction.

Gore vs. Bush

by Kirk Cunningham
RMC Conservation Chair

Why Gore? "The Sierra Club endorses Vice President Gore because he is committed to cutting air and water pollution and protecting our nation's treasured forests and wild lands," said Robert (Robbie) Cox, Sierra Club President. "As Vice President, Al Gore helped strengthen clean air health standards, speed clean-up of Superfund toxic waste sites, reduced automobile tailpipe pollution, and protected America's spectacu-

lar landscapes. This is the kind of leadership the American people are seeking in our next President."

"Governor Bush, on the other hand, has said that if he's elected, he will weaken toxic waste clean-up standards, allow oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge, and increase logging in National Forests. When it comes to protecting our environment, Al Gore is by far our best shot at a President committed to a sustainable future, tested as a political leader, and qualified to lead America into the next century," Cox said. The Club has run

controversial TV ads in Texas criticizing Bush's environmental performance.

In addition to discussions within the board and staff, the Gore endorsement capped a six-month process in which the Club surveyed each of its chapters and thousands of its volunteer leaders. Thirty-nine chapters, representing 413,000 members, favored a Gore endorsement; one chapter, with 3,000 members, supported an endorsement for Ralph Nader; and 16 chapters, with 138,000 members, did not respond.

TOXIC POLLUTION

Gore

- Expanded Community Right-to-Know program requiring that companies report toxic chemical emissions.
- Sped up and increased Superfund cleanups.

Bush

- Sought to weaken Superfund clean-ups.
- Texas leads the nation in injecting toxic waste into underground wells.

CLEAN AIR

Gore

- Strengthened soot and smog clean-air health standards, fighting legal challenges to these protections.
- Adopted the strictest emissions standards ever for cars, SUVs and light trucks.
- Required elimination of 90% of sulfur from gasoline.
- Called on electric power companies to cut air pollution and global warming emissions from power plants.
- Proposed slashing sulfur levels in diesel fuel.

Bush

- Texas leads the U.S. in toxic industrial air pollution, but Bush chose not to require outdated facilities to clean up.
- Texas state officials sought to weaken Clean Air Act.
- Has done nothing to improve air pollution in Texas; Houston passed Los Angeles last year as America's smoggiest city.
- When he came to office in 1995, canceled auto emissions testing program in Houston.

CLEAN WATER

Gore

- Expanded funding for clean water programs.
- Proposed slashing arsenic levels in drinking water.

Bush

- Proposed weakening Texas clean water standards.
- Has done nothing to improve Texas's record of leading the U.S. in violating clean water discharge standards.

WILD LANDS PROTECTION

Gore

- Has a stronger position than the Administration on protecting roadless, wild areas of our national forests. Called for an end to all logging in those unspoiled places and immediate protection for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.
- Supporting enactment of California Desert Protection Act, largest public lands protection bill ever in the Lower 48 states.
- Opposes drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- Created or expanded 10 new national monuments to protect landscapes threatened by development.
- Reduced logging in national forests by 80% since 1993.
- Extended offshore oil leasing moratorium in California and Florida for 10 years.
- Proposed Lands Legacy Initiative.
- Supports expanding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is used to buy wild lands and national park lands.

Bush

- Seeks to increase logging in National Forests.
- Would allow oil companies to drill in Arctic Refuge.
- Would reverse President Clinton's plan to protect wild, roadless national forest areas.
- Opposes newly created national monuments.
- Supports funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Gore

- Supports McCain-Feingold bill to ban soft-money donations to political parties.
- Supports quasi-public financing of congressional elections.

Bush

- Opposes McCain-Feingold reforms.
- Opposes public financing of elections.

On Activism –

When considering a problem as large as the degradation of the global environment, it is easy to feel overwhelmed, utterly helpless to effect any change whatsoever.

But we must resist that response, because this crisis will be resolved only if individuals take some responsibility for it.

– Al Gore

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AT THE PEARL STREET MALL

Poudre Canyon Group Wins National Award

by Janna Six and Susan LeFever

What do you get when you combine conservation action with membership development? The Poudre Canyon Group (PCG) got new members, increased activism, and won a national award.

PCG is one of the recipients of this year's Sierra Club Wilcher Award with a prize of \$1,500. The Wilcher Award is given to a Sierra Club entity to recognize work in either membership development or fundraising, particularly for conservation projects. Criteria for the award include success in recruitment and retention of members; efficiency in fundraising; the use of techniques that can be broadly applied to other Club activities; and original incentives.

The initial conservation goal of PCG's Challenge to Sprawl Campaign was to provide citizens, as well as activists and community leaders, with an easy-to-read, comprehensive land-use resource outlining the social, environmental and economic costs of sprawl and growth. By understanding and curbing sprawl, the Group realizes, the more likely that critical wildlife habitat and important migration corridors throughout Larimer and Weld Counties will be protected. Intending to empower citizens to advocate for stronger growth management, in 17 months the PCG:

- Recruited 55 new members locally
- Gave more than 1,000 volunteer hours to the campaign
- Distributed over 300 copies of its "Sprawl Costs Us All" report
- Passed the ballot measure renewing the Countywide Open-Space tax
- Encouraged ten Sierra Club members to apply for county and city boards and commissions having to do with land use and natural resources protection
- Gave interviews for at least 15 newspaper articles, 3 TV news programs, and 2 radio programs



Photo by Matt Lancaster

- Starred in a 30-minute video production for the City of Fort Collins
- Represented the environmental viewpoint on a League of Women Voters panel discussion on sprawl
- Completed a marketing survey on sprawl messages that appeal to the public.

The Group's goal for 2000 is to continue to educate citizens about growth and sprawl while seeing that the local cities, county, and the state of Colorado implement growth management tools such as a county-wide transfer of development units program and passage of growth management ballot initiative. An added goal for 2001 is to facilitate the establishment of regional governmental planning entities.

The Poudre Canyon Group hopes to send a representative to receive the award in person at the Club's annual dinner in San Francisco on Saturday, September 23rd.

Congratulations to PCG volunteers, and thanks to Peggy Malchow and Greg Casini for nominating this creative campaign!

You can view the Sprawl Costs Us All report on line at: <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/pcg/Sprawl>

Call for Awards Nominations

Know someone who has saved a meadow or a mouse? Cleaned up a power plant or hog farm or killed a sprawling development? Organized your Sierra Club group or chapter work in new and amazing ways?

Honor their achievements by nominating them for an award, and see the results at the Rocky Mountain Chapter 35th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, December 3rd.

The Chapter gives awards for:

- **Professional Conservationist of the year**
- **Volunteer & Chapter Conservationists Chapter Leader** (for administrative work)
- **Distinguished Service Over the Years**
- **Outstanding Legislators and Freshman Legislators**
- Someone who has rendered Extraordinary Service to the Colorado environment gets the **Columbine Award** every few years - such as past winner Former U.S. Rep. David Skaggs.
- And the **Cowchip Award** - know anyone who has done special harm to the Colorado environment in the past year or two?

Send nominations by October 31st to Awards Chair Barry Satlow, barry.satlow@rmc.sierraclub.org 303-442-1006 (h) 303-442-3535 (w).

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LIFESTYLES

The Vision of Akio Shoji

Leading the way in corporate environmentalism

by Doris Cellarius

Sierra Club Conservation Governance Committee

The writings of early American nature writers, especially John Muir, have inspired Akio Shoji, President of Aleph, Inc., a corporation based in Sapporo, Japan, to operate his businesses in ways that protect and restore the environment. Akio Shoji has read all the writings of Muir that have been translated into Japanese.

This June he brought fifty of his franchise operators to the United States to learn more about American environmentalism and to visit Yosemite. On this trip, one of their annual retreats, he hoped to inspire his associates with the spirit of caring for the earth that has shaped his own innovative work in the corporate world. To assist in this, he contacted the Sierra Club and asked for a speaker. International Vice President, Richard Cellarius prepared a presentation on John Muir and the story of how the Sierra Club has been protecting nature for over 100 years. Before the actual talk, which was simultaneously translated and also displayed on screen with historical pictures, Richard and I talked for several hours with Mr. Shoji about his concern for the environment.

Only Breath

by Rumi

*Not Christian or Jew or Muslim, not Hindu,
Buddhist, sufi, or zen. Not any religion*

*or cultural system. I am not from the East
or the West, not out of the ocean or up*

*from the ground, not natural or ethereal, not
composed of elements at all. I do not exist,*

*am not an entity in this world or the next,
did not descend from Adam and Eve or any*

*origin story. My place is placeless, and trace
of the traceless. Neither body or soul.*

*I belong to the beloved, have seen the two
worlds as one and that one call to and know,*

*first, last, outer, inner, only that
breath breathing human being.*

~

*There is a way between voice and presence
where information flows.*

*In disciplined silence it opens.
With wandering talk it closes.*

Akio Shoji's business is a chain of restaurants and related food and beverage businesses. His vision permeates the operation. He believes food is extremely important because it makes people feel better and is a healing force. His basic tenets are that customers have four basic rights: the right to food that is safe, the right to know how it is produced, the right to choose, and the right to get their opinions heard. He hopes his customers will become the "advertisers" for his business, which he considers his "investment in the future." He hopes ultimately for a "commercial revolution" where the role of business goes beyond immediate profit.

All the food served is produced with great care. He is affiliated with organic orchards in Germany where their apple juice is produced. Beef is the safest he can find; it comes from New Zealand and Australia. Mr. Shoji is opposed to genetically engineered foods and has been talking with CEOs of other Japanese businesses, urging them to also reject this technology. He knows that in addition to its dangers, it is not a panacea and can never keep up with population growth. Concern about energy and global warming led the company to cut its energy consumption in half. Water is conserved and water and sewage

are recycled. Food waste from the restaurants is taken to his Eco-farm, where it is used as compost to restore the soil and also to make methane (bio-gas) to produce electricity. Used oil from the restaurant's fryers is used to run the tractors and trucks on the Eco-farm.

In addition to operating his businesses as "sustainably" as he can, Mr. Shoji funds many important projects in Japan. Birds are his great love, and he funds the purchase of habitat for some of Japan's threatened smaller, less-known species. He has also been organizing and funding the translation of indigenous Japanese lore and language, which is being lost in Japan as it is in the United States.

Businesses in the United States could learn a lot from the environmental leadership of Aleph, Inc. I was very inspired by what Akio Shoji is doing. And I was amazed at how John Muir's message extends across time and around the world: the beauty of nature calls us to protect it.

On Change –

*By educating
ourselves and others,
by doing our part to
minimize our use
and waste of resources,
by becoming more
active politically and
demanding change –
in these ways and many
others, each one of us
can make a difference.*

– Al Gore
Earth in the Balance



The costs of sprawl are plain to see: freeway congestion; shrinking open spaces; air and water pollution; dying city centers; and the general diminishment of the quality of life.

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Human Impact on Earth's Environment

by Fred Elbel

RMC Population Committee Chair

Worldwatch Institute recently presented a State of the World 2000 Conference at the Aspen Institute. A number of speakers discussed the current environmental state of the world and steps that are being taken to address environmental issues.

One of the initial statements was that efforts must be expended to stop population growth. World population (the sum of the population of all countries in the world) is projected to increase from our current six billion to nine billion, an increase of three billion people. However, there is the possibility that with concerted effort, population can be made to stabilize near seven billion. The difference between increasing one billion versus three billion is of tremendous importance.

The second issue that discussed was that of global warming and the impact this will have on the environment. In fact the two priority issues identified at the conference, as well as in Worldwatch 2000 report, are population and climate.

Chris Flaven of Worldwatch discussed micropower in terms of photovoltaic advances and wind technology. Japan is already using photovoltaic roofing tiles. Royal Dutch Shell is transitioning from a petroleum extraction company to an energy company, presumably because they understand that within 10 years, we will have exhausted half of all discovered and undiscovered petroleum reserves. Iceland is now the focal point of a project to become self-sufficient in renewable energy.

Lester Brown discussed food and water. The overuse of wells and lowering of water tables in order to provide more water for cities is seen as a major contributor to water scarcity. This shortage will probably be the major constraining factor in food productivity and sustainability in upcoming years.

Amory Lovins gave an excellent presentation on natural capitalism. He focused on how it is advantageous for corporations to implement sustainable, environmentally friendly technologies. If they don't, the competition will, and in doing so, will become more profitable.

In all, the conference was optimistic. We have the potential to curtail our population and to implement new technologies, economic approaches and social structures which will foster sustainability and environmental protection.

All these advances are absolutely necessary, but are not sufficient without population reduction and stabilization.

For more information contact me at fred.elbel@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Wolves May Lose Protections Under the Endangered Species Act

by Tina Arapkiles

Sierra Club Southwest Office Staff

Claiming the species is no longer near extinction, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in June proposed lessening protections for the gray under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In 21 states all federal protections for the gray wolf would be eliminated, and in 18 states protections would be weakened. The proposal leaves ill-equipped state wildlife agencies responsible for most of the species' management and reduces chances for wolf recovery across the country.

The USFWS touts this as a success story – proof the ESA works. But Sierra Club activists argue that it is a false victory. "Although the wolf populations have grown in some areas, that good news could be short lived without continued federal protection under the ESA," said Bart Semcer, chair of the Club's Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee. "A level of killing would be allowed not seen since the days wolves were hunted for a bounty because the USFWS plans to be very lenient in defining circumstances under which wolves can be killed."

In Colorado and 20 other states, the USFWS plans to eliminate federal gray wolf protections. Activists fear this will doom efforts to reintroduce wolves to their native ranges – without ESA protection there is no requirement for a recovery program. "If gray wolves aren't fully protected under the ESA in these states," said Bart Semcer, "a successful reintroduction program will be almost impossible because there are no legal incentives to conserve habitat, prevent killing, or even reintroduce them at all."

"None of the state agencies have expressed eagerness to reintroduce the wolf and some state legislatures have even passed laws prohibiting reintroduction," said Semcer. "While the government plans to give the authority to manage wolves to state agencies, it does not require them to implement the reintroduction plan."

We need the federal ESA to continue to protect vul-



Photo courtesy of philg@mit.edu

nerable gray wolf populations. Reintroducing large predators in the Southern Rockies, for example, is key to restoring a balanced, diverse ecosystem – wolves keep elk and deer herds strong by weeding out the weak and old.

We have the opportunity to push the USFWS to consider the Southern Rockies as a recovery area for the wolves. Their own study indicates that over 1,000 wolves can exist in Colorado alone on the basis of available habitat.

To Take Action: The USFWS has set a public comment period for the new proposal.

Tell them you oppose their plan because it will destroy the progress made so far on wolf recovery and doom efforts to reintroduce wolves to their native ranges. Tell them to establish a recovery area in the Southern Rockies.

For more information, contact Bart Semcer at bsemcer@yahoo.com and Tina Arapkiles at 303-449-5595 or tina.arapkiles@sierraclub.org.

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Roy Young, owner of **Nature's Own** stores in 5 Colorado cities, will give 100% of your purchase price to Global Response if you **just say "Global Response" before you pay your bill**. This fabulous opportunity to support international environmental activism is good for the first 3 weeks of November at Nature's Own stores in Boulder (Crossroads Mall), Nederland, Ft. Collins, Estes Park and Breckenridge. NOTE: pay by check only at all stores except Crossroads Mall, where credit cards will be accepted.

Do your holiday shopping at Nature's Own in November – and support Global Response 100%!

Through Global Response, people of all ages and nationalities join together to protect the planet through international letter campaigns. Check out their website: www.globalresponse.org, or call 303-444-0306 for more information.

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Flood Damage Made Worse by Wetlands Drainage & Flood Plain Development

by **Brett Hulsey**
Director of Sierra Club Challenge to Sprawl Campaign

In August, Sierra Club warned the public about the danger of flooding that recently killed a Denver firefighter. The group released a report showing that flood plain sprawl and wetland destruction are causing more flood deaths and damage in Colorado and across the country. The report, *Permitting Disaster in Colorado: How Smart Growth Can Protect Your Family from More Flood Risks*, shows that the federal and state agencies gave developers 99% of the wetland destruction permits requested between 1988 and 1996.

"Permitting Disaster shows that developers and agribusiness continue to destroy wetlands and build in flood plains. The recent approval of a Super Walmart in the 100-year flood plain of the Poudre River is an invitation for disaster. We need to make these areas off limits to development for our own good," said Janna Six of Ft. Collins, Sierra Club Poudre Canyon Group Chair. "Developers have already destroyed half of our wetlands and are filling more each day. Our current flood plain land use plans are just speed bumps for the developers' bulldozers."

The report shows that from 1988-96, Colorado developers were given almost all the wetland destruction permits they requested, even in Larimer, Weld, and 11 other counties that were declared Flood Disasters by the President. Floods killed 9 in Colorado and 957 in the country from 1989-98. Floods destroyed \$390 million in Colorado homes and property, and \$45 billion in the country during that same time.

Federal taxpayers paid more than \$500 million to move more than 17,000 American homes and businesses out of the flood plains after floods from 1988-98. We are allowing developers to build

in flood plains, at the same time we are paying billions to move people out of flood plains and for flood damage. The state should not allow development in flood plains in the first place.

"You can protect yourself from worse flooding by restoring wetlands upstream and slowing flood plain sprawl," said Chicago hydrologic engineer Donald Hey, who has studied wetlands and flood-



ing. "Our studies show that watersheds with more wetlands have less severe flooding."

Wetlands, prairies, and other natural habitat soak up floodwater like sponges, filter our drinking water, and provide homes for fish and wildlife. One study showed that floods increase by 7% for every 1% of wetlands destroyed.

"Disaster by Design," a recent National Science Foundation report headed up by CU Professor Dennis Mileti shows that flood plain sprawl and flood control projects often increase flood risk and damages.

The Sierra Club is calling on Governor Owens to help protect people from floods by limiting flood plain sprawl before it happens, and moving people out of flood plains after the floods happen.

To protect yourself, your family, and home from increasing risk of flooding:

1. Make sure you don't buy a house near a flood plain or wetland. Protect wetlands and flood plains near your home and upstream that protect you from floods.

2. Ask Governor Owens and other policy makers to:

Support Smart Growth efforts to purchase more parks, wetlands, flood plains, critical habitat

Develop statewide uniform storm water rules to protect all people from wetland destruction, new sprawl development, and 100 year floods

Don't allow wetland mitigation projects unless developers prove the new wetlands have the same flood protection and habitat value

Support more flood damage mitigation programs that have moved more than 17,000 homes and businesses out of flood prone areas across the country since 1988.

3. Ask President Clinton, Vice President Gore, FEMA, and the Army Corps to:

Update 100 year flood maps to take into account new sprawl and increased rainfall

Support protecting and restoring 40 million acres of wetlands by expanding the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Wetland Reserve Program to help farmers and landowners restore and protect wetlands

Charge developers the full costs for wetland destruction and fill permits, now over \$120 million per year.

For copies of *Permitting Disaster*, see www.sierraclub.org/wetlands or send \$10 to the Sierra Club at 214 N. Henry St., Suite 203, Madison, WI 53703. The

Sierra Club has over 400 local groups working to protect America's environment, for our families, and for our future. The Sierra Club was recently awarded FEMA Distinguished Public Service award for its efforts to move people out of flood plains and reduce flood damages.

Permitting Disaster in Colorado
—Key Facts

Wetlands are marshes, forests, and bogs that are in low-lying areas that are wet for at least two weeks in the summer. Wetlands filter our drinking water, soak up floodwater, clean our river and lakes, and provide homes for fish and wildlife.

Colorado developers got 5,500 permits to drain and fill Colorado's wetlands from 1988 to 1996. State and Federal regulators rejected only 28 permits. Developers and agribusinesses have drained and destroyed almost half or 49% of America's and 50% of Colorado's wetlands through 1985, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates. That is 1,000,000 acres of drained wetlands which is like losing 300,000 small flood control dams, which assumes 3 acre-feet storage for wetlands and 10 acre-feet per dam.

There are 276 Colorado cities with 65,000 homes, businesses and other structures in flood plains and many more in unmapped high hazard areas, according to state data.

An acre of wetlands can store up to 1.6 million gallons of floodwater, according researchers, depending on the type of wetland. Prairie pothole wetlands can store more. Restoring prairie, wetlands, and soil conservation practices can reduce 100-year floods by up to 40%, according to USDA studies.

Water Issues Collaboration Proves Fruitful

by **Kirk Cunningham**
Chapter Conservation Chair

As is true in the business world, specialization and collaboration is becoming more common in the environmental community in Colorado, with considerable benefits for the collaborators and their members. For example, the High Country Citizens Alliance, a small organization headquartered in Crested Butte with an issue focus on the Gunnison River watershed, and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club, an organization of 16,000 members active throughout Colorado, have combined forces on the issues of water quality and water resources.

The High Country Citizens Alliance (HCCA) has been struggling for years to keep inappropriate development out of the Gunnison River watershed. First, they managed to defeat a proposal by Climax Molybdenum Inc. to create a gigantic, landscape-altering moly mine in their backyard. More recently, the organization

has been fighting attempts (so far with success) by Arapahoe County to divert water from the Gunnison basin to fuel sprawl development on the Front Range. They have ongoing concerns about in-stream gravel mining on the North Fork of the Gunnison River and the Uncompahgre River. HCCA is also active on public lands issues in the watershed.

Though HCCA's membership is small, it is intensely loyal and generous, and the organization has also been successful in getting grants to support some of its advocacy work. However, money and loyalty do not make up for the lack of sheer number of members outside of their geographic area that could influence policies affecting HCCA interests. This is where a large, general-purpose environmental organization like the Club comes in. HCCA has for several years been able to get a grant to support the work of part-time staff person, Steve Glazer, who is a layman by formal education on water issues but has become a self-taught, and

respected, expert on these issues. The Sierra Club has never had a volunteer leader on water resources, but it has members in every major river basin, and has nation-wide activists and contacts on issues involving both clean water and the Colorado River system.

For these reasons, the Chapter asked Steve to be its Water Resources Chair several years ago, and he consented. Since then, he has played a key role in the Club's campaigns against Arapahoe County's Gunnison Basin water diversion project, against the Animas La Plata Project (near Durango), and for the national Club's controversial proposal to drain Lake Powell and generally reform the management of the Colorado River.

As Conservation Chair on the Chapter's behalf, I would like to thank the High Country Citizens Alliance for sharing their staff time with the Sierra Club. It has been a very fruitful collaboration for both of us!

RMC Drops Amazon Bookstore

by **Charlie Oriez**
Chapter Webmaster

Those of you browsing our Rocky Mountain Chapter website in recent days may have noticed that we are no longer selling environmental books through amazon.com. At the end of August, Amazon changed its privacy policy, and announced their intention to sell or trade information about their customers to third parties. This was contrary to the privacy policy in place at the time we signed the association agreement with Amazon, and not in the interest of Sierra Club members. Therefore, we chose to cancel the agreement and remove our Amazon bookstore from our web page.

Colorado Parks at Risk from Sprawl

by **Charlie Oriez**
RMC Wire Editor

Though visitors to state parks equal that of national parks, the well-being and very existence of state parks across the country is in jeopardy, according to *Legacy: The Crisis in Our Parks*, a report by the National Park Trust released on the anniversary of the National Park System. The report identified the most threatened state parks in the U.S. and ranked the top ten states with the most severely threatened parks.

Georgia topped the list, with several parks including the Etowah Indian Mounds. It is followed by North Carolina, Minnesota, Nevada, West Virginia, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Montana. Colorado parks listed as threatened in the report were Roxborough, Barr Lake, Chatfield, and Cherry Creek. A complete copy of the report can be found at <http://www.parktrust.org/>.

Barr Lake State Park, near Brighton, is known as an exceptional wildlife habitat, with over 300 species of birds at the park. It is home to the Colorado Bird Observatory. Chatfield and Cherry Creek parks, south of Denver, surround lakes created by Corps of Engineers flood control dams, and are heavily used for recreation but are also critical wildlife habitat. Roxborough is southwest of Denver. The red-rock formations and the resulting ecosystem make it the only state park designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Natural Landmark, and it is a National Archeological District.

Cherry Creek dodged a bullet last month when DRCOG (Denver Regional Council of Governments) turned back an attempt led by Aurora and Parker to weaken the rules on how much phosphorus pollution could enter the reservoir. Phosphorus, commonly found in fertilizers and other household and commercial products, causes excessive algae growth in the lake, kills fish, makes the water stink and may promote dangerous bacteria. Cherry Creek lake already contains more phosphorus than existing rules allow, and the problem likely will worsen as suburban sprawl consumes more land upstream.

The Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, charged with managing the water quality of the basin, has never been in compliance with the phosphorus standard. Rather than slow down development or take other reasonable steps to reduce the amount of pollution in Cherry Creek, they proposed instead to add alum to the water. Alum, another chemical pollutant, poses a threat to the food supply of some fish in the lake. Wisely, DRCOG soundly defeated the plan, with only 13 of 49 DRCOG representatives supporting it despite the 'best' efforts of Aurora's representative, Edna Mosely, and Parker's representative, Lance Wright.

Is Colorado's Wildlife Once Again the Victim of Politics?

*New State
Wildlife Director
-Friend or Foe?*

by **Mike Smith**
RMC Wildlife Chair

What may well be the latest body blow to Colorado's hard-pressed wildlife came on August 18, when Russell George (R-Rifle), the term-limited Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, was named to be the next Director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW). George, a Harvard-educated lawyer, was the preferred choice of the Owens administration and most Colorado legislators. When he takes over on September 18, he will become the first CDOW Director with no training or professional experience in wildlife management.

Although George gets high marks from legislators on both sides of the aisle for his ability to build consensus on difficult issues, his legislative record and expressed views on wildlife are troubling. While Speaker of the Colorado House, George voted for successful bills to limit endangered species reintroduction to those species pre-approved by the Legislature (HB99-1229), and to require approval of the local county commission before relocating prairie dogs across county lines (SB99-111). He also voted for a successful bill that eliminated one of the three public-at-large seats on the Colorado Wildlife Commission and replaced it with an additional seat for sportsmen. The bill added the Commissioner of Agriculture as a member of the Wildlife Commission and placed it under direct operational control of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Executive Director (and ex-Club20 President) Greg Walcher (HB99-1313).

Probably most troubling in George's legislative record, however, is sponsorship in the House of SB96-167. Written by then-Commissioner of Agriculture Tom Kourlis, that special-interest bill granted "exclusive jurisdiction" of some 14 species (bears, lions, coyotes, all four species of foxes, badgers, beavers, etc.) to the Commissioner of Agriculture. While George recently



acknowledged that that bill was a "political mistake" – it prompted a citizen ballot initiative that eliminated most trapping in Colorado – it is not clear how he feels about the fact that it was also a severe weakening of the wildlife agency that he will now lead.

Nor do George's initial public pronouncements inspire confidence about his knowledge of wildlife or his inclination to learn on the job from the experts in his new agency. For example, concerning Colorado's declining mule deer population, George says, "The old-time ranchers say the problem is predation . . . I have a tendency to listen to these old-timers . . . I've heard the DOW say it's the loss of habitat and the population growth, but that doesn't strike a realistic note with me. Deer don't mind people; they're in virtually everyone's backyard. I know I see them in my backyard. So I'm not necessarily buying that from a layman's point of view."

So much for history. What of the future? Will Russell George re-invent himself to become a strong advocate for wildlife at a time when the critters desperately need all the help they can get? Will he use his considerable political clout to work to restore some autonomy to a dispirited DOW that has been micromanaged by the Legislature, DNR, and a Wildlife Commission grotesquely overloaded with special interests? Or, when push comes to shove, will he simply fall back and listen to his old buddies in Legislature, the special-interest lobbyists, and to his pro-development boss at DNR?

The next few months should give us a good idea.

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– John Muir
In His Own Words

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Colorado Mountain Club Launches New Natural History and Environmental Issues School

The Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) is pleased to announce the creation of its new Natural History and Environmental Issues School. This September, CMC will kick off the new school with three intensive courses focused on public lands, water, biodiversity, growth, and recreation in the Southern Rocky Mountain region. The purpose of the school is to strengthen CMC members and others' understanding of Colorado's natural history, and to prepare participants to work with others to address the critical environmental issues facing our region.

Martha Ketelle, Forest Supervisor of the White River National Forest, and Terry Minger, President of the Center for Resource Management, will open the second course, "Recreation in the Rockies: Enjoying and Protecting the High Country," with an address at the CMC Auditorium on Wednesday, October 18, at 7:00pm. In addition to this keynote address, the course will consist of an intensive weekend field trip to the Vail Valley, October 20-22.

Nature Photographer John Fielder will commence the third course, "Managing Growth and Sprawl in the New West," with his slide show Colorado 1870-2000, W.H. Jackson/John Fielder, at the CMC Auditorium on Thursday, October 26, at 7:00pm. Other classes in this course include: Growth Trends and Impacts (November 2, 6:30 - 8:30pm), Growth in Mountain Communities (November 4, all day fieldtrip), and Strategies for Managing Growth and Sprawl (November 9, 6:30 - 8:30pm).

"We are thrilled to be offering the Natural History and Environmental Issues School to Colorado citizens who want to know more about their natural environment and how their voice can make a difference" states Vera Smith, CMC's Conservation Director. "CMC is committed to insuring that Colorado's natural legacy is conserved, a proud tradition within the Club." Mike Foster, founder of CMC's Natural History Program adds, "The alpine environment, so precious to all Coloradans, is increasingly being impacted by growth in the region. This series of courses is the first that we're aware of that will inform and empower citizens of the state to learn more about Colorado's natural history and environmental issues and work together to make a positive impact."

All keynote addresses and courses will be held at the Colorado Mountain Club offices in the American Mountaineering Center at 710 10th Street in Golden. The Colorado Mountain Club invites, welcomes, and encourages the general public to attend the course keynote addresses made by Ed Marston, Martha Ketelle and Terry Minger, and John Fielder. To register or for more information on the speakers highlighted, call the Colorado Mountain Club at 303-279-3080. To receive more information about the courses, please contact Kirstin Pack or Sean Pack via e-mail at seanmpack@yahoo.com, or at 303-279-3080 ext. 6. Enrollment is limited. Some partial scholarships are available.

Water, Wildlife & Wilderness Classes

Ed Marston, Publisher of High Country News, will launch the first course, "Water, Wildlife and Wilderness in the Southern Rockies," at the CMC Auditorium on Tuesday, September 19, at 7:00pm. Other classes in this course will include: Wildlife and Mountain Ecosystems (September 26, 6:30 - 8:30pm), Water in the Southern Rockies (September 30, all day fieldtrip), and Public Lands Issues and Management (October 3, 6:30 - 8:30pm).

For over 90 years, the Colorado Mountain Club has worked steadily to help preserve and make accessible the alpine attractions of the region. The Natural History and Environmental Issues School represents a new facet of this commitment. Courses presented by the school will offer participants unique access to experts in the fields of natural history and environmental issues. Furthermore, the courses will illustrate the many ways that Coloradans can become involved in helping to protect our region's landscapes and resources.

Sierra Club Supports Responsible Government Contracting in Denver and DC

by **Ross Vincent**
Environmental Quality
Strategy Team Chair

Along with a diverse coalition of labor, environmental and religious groups, the Sierra Club has insisted that government agencies check out the compliance and performance records of potential government contractors before awarding taxpayer-funded contracts.

Responsible contracting has emerged as a major issue in recent months, as the federal General Services Administration considers beefing up federal "responsible contractor" requirements, and as unions and public interest groups turn up the heat on Pueblo's Rocky Mountain Steel Mills because of the company's history of violations of environmental and labor laws at its Pueblo facility.

The Sierra Club and others, including the AFL-CIO, which is providing much of the national leadership on these issues, have filed formal comments supporting stronger oversight of federal contractors. At the same time, the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) are raising responsible contractor issues in a half dozen or so places around the country, driven by a 3-year lockout of union workers at Rocky Mountain Steel Mills in Pueblo.

In Pueblo, the Sierra Club's Sangre de Cristo Group is supporting the Steelworkers' efforts to pressure the company to improve its environmental performance, both in the community and in the workplace. The company has a record of numerous violations in both areas. On April 27th of this year, the union sued Oregon Steel Mills and CF&I, the corporate owners of Rocky Mountain Steel, alleging multiple violations of federal and state air pollution laws at the Pueblo steel mill.

Embarrassed by the union's notice of intent to sue, the State of Colorado filed a narrow enforcement action against CF&I, and later amended its complaint alleging additional violations, after the union filed its much more comprehensive lawsuit in an attempt to preempt the union's initiative.

The Steelworkers are now organizing in communities around the country, based on responsible contracting concerns, encouraging local transit districts to refuse to buy rail from Rocky Mountain Steel because of the company's history of disregard for environmental and worker health and safety laws. The Sierra Club strongly supports the union's initiatives.

On Tuesday, August 15th, Susan LeFever, Rocky Mountain Chapter Director, and Ross Vincent, Chair of the Club's national Environmental Quality Strategy Team and Pollution Prevention Chair of the Sangre de Cristo Group, spoke before the Board of the Denver area Regional Transportation District (RTD) along with a number of labor, religious and environmental leaders. They spoke in support of a resolution submitted by three of the fifteen RTD Board members. If approved, the resolution would result in a formal hearing on the qualifications of all companies that want the contract to provide steel rail for an expanded Denver-area light rail system. After taking public comment, the Board postponed action on the resolution.

Coincidentally, on August 23rd, Colorado news media reported on federal inspections of the Rocky Mountain Steel facility that found more than 1000 violations of occupational health and safety laws. The inspections resulted in citations for only 107 of those violations and proposed fines of \$487,000. If his-

tory is any indication, those proposed fines will probably be negotiated down.

"This growing cooperation among diverse groups with a common interest in protecting human health and the environment is really exciting," said Jim Trujillo, Chair of the Sangre de Cristo Group. "These alliances have real possibilities for making our communities and our workplaces better, safer places in the future."

Copies of relevant documents are available on the Sierra Club's web site.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Sierra Club letter to Congress:
<http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/sdcg/Files/RespContr0007CP.pdf>

Sierra Club comments to GSA:
<http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/sdcg/Files/RespContrComments.pdf>

Sierra Club comments to RTD:
Susan LeFever <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/sdcg/Files/RTD000815SL.PDF>
Ross Vincent <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/sdcg/Files/RTD000815RV.PDF>

USWA Report: "Who's Blowing Smoke - What You Should Know About Rocky Mountain Steel Mills' Environmental Record"
<http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/sdcg/Files/USWASmoke.pdf>

Proposed Federal Rule:
http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000_register&docid=f:30jnp2.pdf

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David Mastronarde* - Secretary	303-440-0253
Bill Myers* - Council Delegate	303-935-6810
Steve Glazer*	970-349-6646
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Ramon Ajero*	970-226-4126

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Weminuche - Jan Holt	970-382-8840

Chapter Conservation Chair-

Kirk Cunningham 303-939-8519

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Campaign to Ban Cyanide Gold Mining stalls

by Rob Corkran
Chapter Mining Issues Chair

Unfortunately, the Alliance for Responsible Mining, a grassroots organization based in the San Luis Valley, was unsuccessful at building an effective enough organization to get the proposed ban on cyanide gold mining in Colorado on the November ballot. Expect a stronger signatures campaign effort in 2002. And by the time you read this column, there will have been a meeting sponsored by a national mining issues organization to discuss how to better organize the next try.

Internationally, interest in banning cyanide gold mining continues to grow since the Summitville-like disaster at the Aurul gold mine in Romania in late January. Three and a half million cubic feet of mine waste contaminated with cyanide and toxic heavy metals was released into the Tisza and Danube rivers. The spill killed an estimated 1,240 tons of fish and all aquatic life over a 250 mile stretch of the Danube watershed. In response, the Czech senate appears on its way to banning cyanide gold mining there. Cyanide gold mining was also banned in the Pergamon region of Turkey to stop a proposed mine.

Here in the US, five Wisconsin groups are organizing a campaign to support legislation banning cyanide gold mining - the second state to attempt a ban - following Montana, which did so through an initiative in 1998. As a political scientist, I have researched how new policies diffuse among the states. Although what happens in other states does not assure an outcome in another, it does increase the political pressure on laggard states as more states adopt the new policy.

Meanwhile in Colorado, our state's one operating cyanide gold mine, the Cresson mine at Cripple Creek continues to raise concern about what leaks from the site into Fourmile and Cripple Creeks. The Club is considering a Clean Water Act lawsuit against this facility.

More news on all of the above in future columns. Interested in helping with mining issues or need more information? Contact me at 303-628-5589 (days), or at anytime.

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202.224.6471 (fax)
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380 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
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United States House of Representatives

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Rep. Diana DeGette (D)
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Washington, DC 20515
202.225.4431
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enthusiastic joy that
sometimes transfigures a
noble human face.*

— John Muir
In His Own Words



MOVING?

Attach current mailing label here and write in new address below.
(Please allow 4-6 weeks processing time.)

Mail to:

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, Colorado
80322-2968

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____

CALENDAR

If you would like to list your outings, meetings, or events in this calendar please send them to calendar@rmc.sierraclub.org or fax to the Chapter office at 303-861-2436. The deadline for the next issue is August 30. Late submissions may be included in the online edition. Please follow the format below and send information as an attached document, rather than including it in the body of an email.

All Club members and interested non-members are welcome to sign up for any outings, anywhere in the state. There is no cost, unless indicated, except for sharing gas expenses with a driver. Call the outings leader for car-pool and meeting information. In some cases, participants must have appropriate equipment or experience. To post outings information in the online edition, email to wendell@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Outings

Sunday, September 24, 2:00am
Indian Peaks Group. **Difficult hike** to Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park. Our best known 14'er requires peak performance but is worth the effort. 16 miles RT, 5,000' gain. 2:00am start, Boulder. Jennifer Petrick, 303-258-0133.

Sunday, October 8
Indian Peaks Group. **Parents and babies hike** on White Ranch Open Space near Golden. 2.3-mile Rawhide/Wrangler loop trail, 300' gain. Susan Jones, 303-444-6821.

Wednesday, October 18, 6:00pm
High Plains Group
EZ Wednesday Walks resume.
Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29.
Meet at Peoria & Parker Rd. Park & Ride. Group drives to the High Line Canal - approx. 10 minutes. By November 1st, after Daylight Time ends, this will become an evening walk. Call Dennis Cochran for more information, 720-870-0465.

Friday-Sunday, October 20 - 22:
Commanche National Grasslands
Car Camping. Spend a weekend exploring Southeast Colorado. We will hike to a dinosaur tracksite which extends a 1/4 mile and contains over 1300 visible tracks. Sunday we will explore the remnants of an ancient people who left ruins and petroglyphs on the canyon walls. We may be joined by the Archeologist for Commanche National Grasslands on Sunday to give us an overview of the rock art. Saturday we will hike 10.6 miles round trip with a 500 foot elevation gain that is at the end of the day. Must be a strong hiker in good condition. Contact Patricia Berman, 303-691-9255 or pberman@usa.net. No sign-ups after Tues., October 17.

Sunday, October 22
Indian Peaks Group. **Moderate but long day hike** to Thunder Lake in Wild Basin, Rocky Mtn. National Park, 14 miles RT, 2,500' gain. Kirk Cunningham, 303-939-8519.

Sunday, October 29
Indian Peaks Group. **Easy day hike** to Mills Lake in Rocky Mtn. Nat. Park. 6 miles RT, 1,500' gain. Possible continuation to Black Lake. Help leader celebrate 41st birthday! Steve Bortz, 303-440-5459.

Saturday, November 11
Indian Peaks Group. **Moderate hike** to several historic sites in Homestead Meadows. 10 miles RT, 1,500' gain. Shorter hike in case of inclement weather. Bev Baker, 303-447-8390 (call before 8:00pm!).

Sunday, November 12
Indian Peaks Group. Assuming Indian Summer conditions, a **moderate day hike** to Forest Lakes and others, in the James Peak Roadless Area, another wilderness candidate. May involve some off-trail hiking. 12 miles RT, 2,500' gain. Kirk Cunningham, 303-939-8519.

Saturday, November 18, 9:30am
High Plains Group **EZ day hike**. Meet at Peoria & Parker Rd. Park & Ride. Location to be chosen by participants when we meet. Not too long, not too hard, as is our philosophy. Call Dennis Cochran for more info, 720-870-0465.

Indian Peaks Group
If you want to lead an outing or would like more information, contact Susan Jones, IPG outings coordinator, 303-444-6821.



Service Projects

Saturday, Nov. 18, 8:00 - 11:00am
Henzell Park Cleanup
The park is near Yale and Havana in Denver. Call Angela, 303-433-2608.

Tuesday, November 21
P&P mailing party. Please call Angela to volunteer, and for time and location, 303-433-2608.

Saturday, Dec. 16, 8:00 - 11:00am
Henzell Park Cleanup
The park is near Yale and Havana in Denver. Call Angela, 303-433-2608.

Events

Wed., Oct. 18, 6:45 - 9:30pm
Sponsored by The Outreach Roundtable
Join Rabbi Zalman and Dr. Robert Rabinowitz of CLAL for a Sukkot event held at The Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center. The evening will focus on the ethical and spiritual aspects of the many practical environmental challenges we face today. Local environmental, spiritual and community leaders will facilitate participatory workshops. Enjoy Klezmer music and refreshments. The event is free. For more information, call The Outreach Roundtable, 303-321-3399.

Sunday, October 22, 6:00pm
New Volunteer Orientation.
Healthy Habits restaurant on Colorado Blvd., Denver, at Ohio (next to King Soopers) Come to this orientation for food, fun, and up-to-the minute volunteer information. Please RSVP to the Chapter office, 303-861-8819 or scrmc@rmi.net.

Wed., Oct. 25, 7:00 - 8:00pm
Who Me Guilty? A hilarious look at Jewish guilt performed by Elly Szapiro at the Boulder JCC. Come laugh your guilt away from 7:00 - 8:00pm during the comedy routine featuring your Jewish mother and the Jewish Guilt-O-Meter. This event is free and is sponsored by Young Jews in Boulder, an Outreach Roundtable Group. For more information call Amy at 303-321-3399.

Saturday, Nov. 11, 1:00 - 5:00pm
Alternatives to Buying: Gift Making Demonstrations. First Unitarian Church, 1400 Lafayette, Denver. Presented by the Lifestyles Education Committee. Give a gift made with love this holiday season. Come participate in workshops demonstrating hand made gifts for your loved ones. See announcement on Lifestyles page.

Sunday, November 12, 6:00pm
New Volunteer Orientation.
Healthy Habits restaurant on Colorado Blvd., Denver, at Ohio (next to King Soopers) Come to this orientation for food, fun, and up-to-the minute volunteer information. Please RSVP to the Chapter office, 303-861-8819 or scrmc@rmi.net.

Chapter Meetings

All Sierra Club Meetings are open to the public. New and old members who would like to become more active are urged to attend. It's a good way to meet people and share concerns about local environmental issues.

Gay and Lesbian Sierrans
Tuesday, October 24, 7:00pm
Potluck supper - bring a favorite dish & help plan the Fall Calendar. The GLS Committee is a great way to join in our concern for our natural environment. We balance our members' environmental, social, and political objectives. For more information and location, call Trude French at 303-455-5916.

Inner City Outings
ICO's outreach program introduces disadvantaged urban young people to wilderness and outdoor activities. Meeting dates and times vary - Suite 205B, 1410 Grant St., Denver. Call ICO hotline for info and to learn more, 303-512-8331.

Lifestyles Education Committee
Monday Oct. 16 & Nov. 20, 6:00pm potluck/social time. Please bring dish to share and own service. Meeting 6:30 to 8:00. Centro Bienestar, 623 Fox St. This committee seeks to inform our community about living an eco friendly lifestyle. For further information call Mary Romano 303-388-0911, mor1@concentric.net or JoLynn Jarboe 303-753-0470, jolynn11@juno.com.

Pesticides Committee meetings
Friday, October 13, 6:00pm and Friday, November 10, 6:00pm
For more information call Angela Medbery at 303-433-2608.

Political Committee
Meets about once or twice a month until the election. Contact Chair, Barry Satlow, 303-442-1006 (h), 303-442-3535(w), bsat@bsuites.com.

Population Committee
Wednesday, Oct 18, 7:00-9:00pm
Sierra Club Office 1410 Grant St. Join us for a discussion of how rapid population growth contributes to urban sprawl, U.S. population doubling, and world-wide resource depletion. For more information contact Fred Elbel, 303-220-7499 or fred.elbel@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal meetings
Monday, October 2, 7:00pm
2205 Meade St., Denver.

Monday, November 6, 7:00pm
1410 Grant St, B205 Denver.
Call Sandy Horrocks for more information, 303-470-1352.

Monday, December 4, 7:00pm
Highlands Ranch area. Call Sandy Horrocks for location and information, 303-470-1352.

Transportation Committee

First Tuesdays of each month in conjunction with Sustainable Transportation Committee. CoPIRG office, 1520 Blake (above Las Delicias, across 16th St. from RTD Market St. station) Don Thompson, 303-320-4895.

Urban Land Use Committee

(ULUC) Third Mondays; Oct. 16, Nov. 20, 7:00pm Location TBA. The ULUC covers issues in the incorporated areas of Boulder County. Contact Chair Matt Appelbaum for agenda items and meeting location, 303-499-5139, matta@aspectdv.com.

Water Quality Committee

Second Wednesdays of each month. October 11, November 8. Contact Chair, Kirk Cunningham for details and agenda items, 303-939-8519, kmcunnin@juno.com.

Group Meetings

Blue River Group

(Summit, Grand, & Eagle Counties) Kevin Knappmiller for more info about meetings, 970-668-8972 or kevink@kevttec.com.

Enos Mills Group

(Denver)
– Ex-comm meetings
Tues., October 10 & November 14
Second Tuesdays of each month.
6:00pm potluck, 6:30pm meeting.
1410 Grant St., 3rd floor conf. room.
Join us in planning upcoming activities and determining official group policy. Contact Don Thompson 303-320-4895 or JoLynn Jarboe 303-753-0470.

– General meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 7:00-9:00pm
REI Flagship, 1460 Platte St
All welcome to discuss and ask questions about Amendment 24 and the Denver De-Taboring Amendment as it relates to affordable housing and transportation. Contact Don Thompson 303-320-4895 or JoLynn Jarboe 303-753-0470.

– Pre-Election Kick-off and Holiday Party

Sunday, October 29, 4:30-8:00pm
First Universalist Church,
4101 E Hampden Ave., Denver
As a thank you for your efforts in walking, phoning, mailing for our endorsed candidates and initiatives, come join us to celebrate the upcoming election victories. Also celebrate the upcoming Holiday Season with light refreshments and take advantage of the opportunity to purchase your Sierra Club calendars and Holiday Cards. Contact Don Thompson 303-320-4895 or JoLynn Jarboe 303-753-0470.

High Plains Group

(Eastern Denver Suburbs)
– Ex-comm meetings
Thurs., October 12 & November 9
Second Thursdays of the month.
All are welcome to attend. An excellent way to hear about environmental issues affecting the eastern plains and to meet fellow activists. Dianna VanderDoes info on time and place, 303-699-2036.

– General meeting
Thursday, October 19, 7:00pm
Reclaim Democracy will be speaking. Reclaim Democracy teaches individuals and groups about how the WTO and corporate power affects environmental issues. 7:00pm, Aurora Central Public Library. Call Dianna VanderDoes for more info, 303-699-2036.

Indian Peaks Group

(Boulder County)
– Conservation Committee
First Wednesdays;
Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 4, 7:00pm
LAW Fund office,
2260 Baseline Rd., Boulder.
The Conservation Committee discusses issues facing the Group in the rural areas of Boulder County and tries to respond to them. Contact Chair, Kirk Cunningham for details and agenda items, 303-939-8519, kmcunnin@juno.com.

– Ex-comm meetings
Fourth Wednesdays, 7:00pm
October 25: 2300 Iris Ave., 303-440-3827
November 22: The Atrium, Iris Ave. & 30th St.
The administrative work of the local Sierra Club. Call Perry Rosensweig for details & agenda items, 303-554-8122, prosensweig@yahoo.com.

– Fundraising Committee
Meets irregularly to raise money for conservation activities. Contact Chair Barry Satlow, 303-442-1006(h), 303-442-3535(w), bsat@bsuites.com.

– Bugle Editorial Staff
Meets quarterly before Bugle deadline. Contact Interim Editor Barry Satlow, 303-442-1006 (h), 303-442-3535(w), bsat@bsuites.com.

Mt. Evans Group

(SW Jefferson, Northern Park, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties)
Second Thursdays of the month, Evergreen Recreation Center.
We are continuing to promote our alternative to the proposed paving of Guanella Pass Road and are watching for the SDEIS due out in October. We are also helping to put together the Pike/ San Isabel National Forest Citizens' Management Alternative, and keeping an eye on the YMCA property in Conifer for possible addition to Open Space. We are looking for individuals who are ready to actively make a difference on our planet. For more info, please call Betsy or Greg, 303-674-7236 or Lynn, 303-838-8117.

SAVE THE DATE - NEW DATE

Sunday, December 3, 2000

Chapter's 35th Anniversary / Holiday Party

2 – 6pm

First Unitarian Church

1400 Lafayette Street, Denver, CO 80210

Pikes Peak Group

(El Paso & Teller Counties)
For information contact Judy Bolin at 303-592-0963

Poudre Canyon Group

(Larimer & Weld Counties)
– Ex-comm meetings
Second Mondays, 6:30pm,
Poudre Fire Authority Conference Room, 102 Remington Street, Fort Collins. Janna Six for more info 970-493-5034.

– Conservation Committee meetings

Fourth Mondays, 6:30pm.
Mark Easter for location and info, 970-224-9214.

– Singles meetings

Third Thursdays, 5:30pm,
County Cork Pub,
313 W. Drake, Fort Collins.
Mr. Fred for info, 970-223-4926.

Rachel Carson Group

(Eastern Jefferson County)
Third Wednesday of each month.
Business meetings usually held in odd-numbered months, and all members are welcome.
Program or Conservation Issue meetings are usually held in even-numbered months. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m., go as late as 8:30 p.m. and are held at one of three locations: Standley Lake Library, Lakewood Public Library, or So. Lakewood Elementary School.
Bill Kossack

Sangre de Cristo Group

(Arkansas River & San Louis Valley)
– Ex-comm meetings
First Thursdays, 6:30pm,
Meeting Room at McClelland Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., Pueblo. Confirmation and details, Jim Trujillo, 719-948-4129.

South Platte Group

(Parts of Arapahoe, Douglas & Jefferson Counties)
Fourth Wednesdays of the month. 7:00pm. For meeting location, Trish O'Neill 303-797-3025.

Uncompahgre Group

(Mesa, Delta & Gunnison Counties)
Our general meeting is a potluck dinner meeting at 2215 Driftwood Lane. Come join us to discuss Sierra Club issues, concerns, upcoming meetings, and events. Contact Shelly, 970-243-5239.

Weminuche Group

(Durango area)
First and third Wednesdays, informal meetings at Carver's Restaurant, 1022 Main Ave., Durango. For details, Jim Decker, 970-259-7658.

Sierra Club**Launches Sprawl Radio Campaign**

by Susan LeFever
RMC Director

Sierra Club launched the radio ad campaign over Labor Day to highlight the threat to Colorado's parks and open space. The ads call on the Governor to support Urban Growth Boundaries to keep the development near existing cities and communities rather than near parks and critical habitat. They highlight that Colorado's parks are too important to pave for development. The Denver Post said our "Parks are under siege" from irresponsible development.

For more info,
www.rmc-sierraclub.org.

"CO Parks"

Sierra Club
60 second radio ad

Chirping birds.

Female: Time to get up kids, let's go for a picnic in the state park today.

Construction sounds.

Kids: Mom, what is all that building next to the park? It wasn't here last year.

Mom: I don't know but there are houses all around the park.

Announcer: Our Colorado parks are under attack from out of control, irresponsible development, according to a recent National Park Trust report. "The Colorado State Park system is under siege," according to the Denver Post.

Out-of-state developers are destroying 130,000 acres of our open space and potential parkland each year. That is like losing Rocky Mountain National Parks every 2 years.

But there is hope. Call Governor Owens and ask him to keep his promise to protect our parks and open space.

Call Governor Owens today at 303-866-2471. Tell him to support growth boundaries to protect parks and open space from out of control development.

This message paid for by the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club.



**Rocky Mountain Chapter
Member Interest Survey**

Please clip out this form and mail it to:
Volunteer Development Committee, Sierra
Club, 1410 Grant Street, Suite B- 205,
Denver, CO 80203

Name _____

Phone (daytime) _____

Address _____

Phone (evening) _____

City _____

ZIP(+ four) _____

E-mail _____

Occupation/ Educational background _____

Yes, I'd like to participate in the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club! In order for us to best utilize your time and talents, please **check your top four priorities only.**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/Bookkeeping – Budget/Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Outings/Outdoor Service Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Program Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter/Group Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Banking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Population |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising/Grant Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling/Simplicity/Sustainability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay and Lesbian Sierrans – a social/outings group | <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Bureau/Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General office work, data entry, mailing parties | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Land Use/Sprawl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials/Toxics | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology – Computers/Web | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inner City Outings | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources– professionals & experts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative – Contacting legislators/hearings/review | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness/Forests/BLM/Public Lands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Relations/Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Endangered Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merchandise Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing letters to legislators/newspapers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Volunteer Welcome Wagon | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mining | |

Inactive – These Issues/Committees are currently inactive due to either a lack of a facilitator or activity within the committee. Your indication of interest in them will be maintained on our database for future reference.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facilities Monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice |

If you are a college/graduate student that has any interest in Sierra Club Student Coalition activities or involvement, please state the name of your college/university below:

I have special skills, knowledge or experience I am able to contribute as a Sierra Club volunteer:

If you wish to receive email alerts and announcements (the easiest way to get involved!), please log onto our website to register for them. The address is: www.rmcsierraclub.org/listserv.html

Fold this form with the pre-printed return address of the Volunteer Development Committee on the outside (your address label on the inside), staple or tape closed, and mail with a first class stamp.

Thanks so much for participating!

October/November '2000

to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth,

to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources;

to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment;

and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.



Sierra Club
Rocky Mountain Chapter
1410 Grant Street, Suite B205
Denver, CO 80203

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