

Peak & Prairie

☆☆☆☆ Special 2008 Election Edition ☆☆☆☆

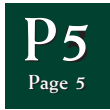
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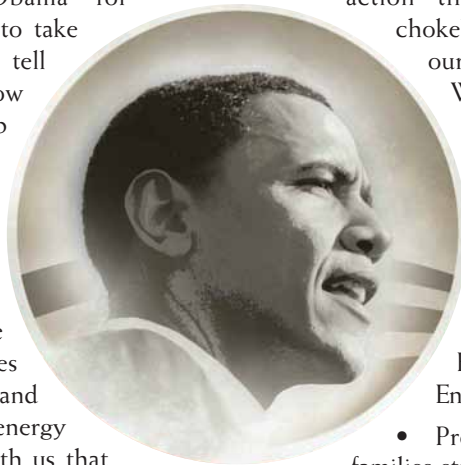
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Obama Is Our Candidate For President

The Sierra Club has officially endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President. We want to take this opportunity to tell you why -- and how you, as a Sierra Club Member, can help Senator Obama and other endorsed candidates get elected this fall.

Simply put, we believe Obama shares our concerns, values and vision for a clean energy future. He agrees with us that it's not time for half steps; that what



America needs is bold, transformational action that will break the chokehold Big Oil has on our economy and Washington politics, and provide short-term relief for American families and long-term solutions for our energy and economic problems.

Highlights of Obama's Energy strategy include:

- Providing relief for families struggling to pay their energy bills: His plan is to provide

continued on page 3

Election 2008

The Sierra Club is proud to endorse the following candidates and ballot issues. Please join us in voting for the environment.

Federal:

Barack Obama, US President
Mark Udall, US Senate
Diana DeGette, Congressional District 1
Jared Polis, CD 2
Betsy Markey, CD 4
Ed Perlmutter, CD 7

State of Colorado:

State Senators:
Bob Bacon, Senate District 14
Dan Gibbs, SD 16
Brandon Shaffer, SD 17
Rollie Heath, SD 18
Suzanne Williams, SD 28
Jennifer Viega, SD 31
Joyce Foster, SD 35

State Representatives:

Jean Labuda, House District 1
Anne McGihon, HD 3
Jerry Frangas, HD 4
Joel Judd, HD 5
Beth McCann, HD 8
Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, HD 10
Jack Pommer, HD 11
Paul Weissman, HD 12
Claire Levy, HD 13
Mike Merrifield, HD 18
Sara Gagliardi, HD 27
Judy Solano, HD 31
Dianne Primavera, HD 33
Liane "Buffie" McFadyen, HD 47
James Ross, HD 49
Jim Riesberg, HD 50
John Kefalas, HD 52
Randy Fischer, HD 53

Initiatives:

YES ON A Smarter Colorado initiative (Amendment 58; stops subsidies to oil and gas industry; Web site: www.asmartercolorado.org)
YES ON 1A, Boulder County (affordable clean energy loans; Web site: www.yes1a.org)

County Commissioners:

Boulder County: Cindy Domenico, Ben Pearlman, Will Toor
Larimer County: Randy Eubanks, Roger Hoffman
Garfield County: Stephen Bershenyi



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Udall for Colorado and for America

By: Rebecca Dickson, RMC Political Chair



The Sierra Club has endorsed Mark Udall for the U.S. Senate. We ask our members to join us in voting for Udall, a long-time supporter of our environment.



Mark Udall has considerable experience in Washington D.C.: he has served Colorado in the U.S. House of Representatives for ten years, ably representing Congressional District 2. Representative Udall's energy plan is an impressive and workable one. He understands the peril of depending on the unstable Middle East for 25 percent of our oil. Better than most politicians, he also understands the dangers of global warming. He knows that when people are displaced because of rising temperatures—because of rising ocean levels or because of crop-destroying droughts—the world community becomes unstable. As a U.S. senator, Udall will work to halt global warming and help America move from a fossil fuel-based economy to a clean energy economy.

In Washington, Mark Udall has worked to expand the National Renewable Energy Lab's budget and has put forward bills to improve national energy efficiency. He sees the dangers of global warming and the dwindling supplies of oil as good reason for a new American "Manhattan Project"—but in this project

we would work urgently toward a new energy economy; he has worked nationally to get this project up and running. Here in Colorado, Udall has fought to prevent irresponsible drilling on the Roan Plateau, especially in untouched areas, and he canvassed the state to help pass Amendment 37, which requires that ten percent of Colorado's energy come from clean, renewable sources.

As a Westerner, Udall understands the importance of water, thus he has been active in addressing Colorado's water quality and protecting Colorado's water rights. Nationally, he introduced legislation to encourage the clean up of waterways affected by hard rock mining and here in Colorado he helped defeat Referendum A, which would have allowed developers to take water from the Western Slope for their housing projects on the Front Range.

Udall has long been devoted to protecting public lands. One of his bills made James Peak Wilderness possible. He has been working on designating much of Rocky Mountain National Park as wilderness, and he also was instrumental in enlarging the Great Sand Dunes into a national park and in establishing the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. He has worked to garner more funding for our national parks and national forests, and he supports the Roadless Rule, which would prevent new roads being made on America's national forest lands.

As America moves forward to transform our energy sources and overall economy, we will need leaders of Mark Udall's knowledge and ability in the U.S. Senate. He understands the complexity of energy issues and knows what needs to be done to protect our world from the devastation of higher temperatures.

With such vision and goals, it's clear that Mark Udall gets it. Let's send him to Washington as a U.S. senator.

Obama continued from page 11

families with a \$1,000 tax credit and stimulus checks paid for by taxing the oil companies' record profits.

- Investing \$150 billion over the next 10 years in alternative sources of energy: wind and solar power, and advanced bio-fuels, in the commercialization of plug-in hybrid cars, and development of a new digital electricity grid. This investment will create up to 5,000,000 good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced and will create the billions in new economic activity that will get America back on the path to prosperity.
- Requiring 25 percent of U.S. electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025 and increasing energy efficiency in the U.S. 50 percent by 2030
- Attacking global warming: Obama has presented a bold and comprehensive plan for addressing global warming which includes a "cap and auction" system that would cut our carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.
- Rejecting drilling as the answer to our energy woes: Obama knows that drilling off of our beaches and destroying our last special places like the Arctic National

Wildlife Refuge in order to pad Big Oil's bottom line won't do anything to lower gas prices today, tomorrow, or even a decade from now.

This fall, The Sierra Club hopes to engage as many members in candidate campaign activities as possible. "The Obama campaign is putting together the largest and most sophisticated field operation in presidential history, and there will be meaningful ways for Sierra Club volunteers to engage," said Bob Bingaman, the National Field Director for the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club will be working to recruit team leaders and volunteers for the Obama campaign and for a number of pro-environmental races in seven target states - Colorado, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania. Members from other states will also be encouraged to get involved by traveling to our target states to volunteer.

In Colorado, Sierra Club leaders and staff are reaching out to members and finding strong support for getting involved in these campaigns for Barack Obama, Mark Udall, Betsy Markey and other endorsed candidates. "I am seeing the same level of

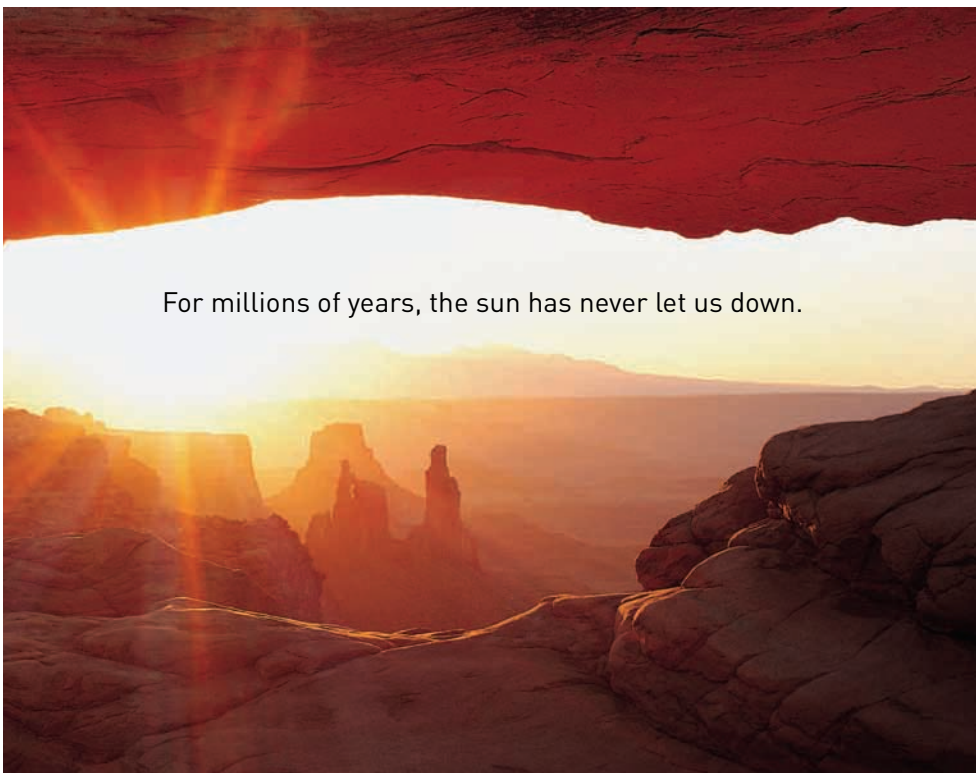
Club member activism we put into renewable energy and conservation issues now translate into electoral work," said Roger Singer, Sierra Club regional representative in Colorado. "They recognize that elections matter and our future leaders will determine the future of our new energy economy."

Ken Brame, a member of Sierra Club's Political Committee, adds, "I hope Club members will do as much as they can for the Obama campaign and the Sierra Club endorsed Congressional and state legislative candidates. Whether you can contribute a whole month or just an hour a week, volunteer help will make a big difference."

For those Club members who are able to travel to other locations to help with efforts on the ground, or for members in target states who are able to help by housing out-of-town volunteers, please visit:

<http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/Obama2008>

To get involved directly in these political campaigns in Colorado, please contact Roger Singer at 303.449.5595 x103 or roger.singer@sierraclub.org.



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2008 RMC Executive Committee At-Large Candidates

Rebecca Dickson

Becky English

Dave Gardner

Jenny Kedward

Bill Myers

Randy Will

Candidate Statements

Rebecca Dickson

I have been on the Rocky Mountain Chapter's Executive Committee for the last four years and have been active with the Sierra Club since 2001. Along with my work on the RMC Executive Committee, I am the Political Chair for the Chapter and serve on the Executive Committee of the Indian Peaks Group. I have also helped the Chapter with editing and writing work (I edited the IPC's newsletter for three years). I also lead local and national outings when I can. I've helped with various fundraising activities and attended national trainings with the Club in Colorado, Nebraska, Washington D.C., and San Francisco. I am committed to helping the Sierra Club work here in Colorado because of my concerns about climate change and general environmental degradation. By day I teach writing and literature at CU-Boulder. I am also an avid hiker, biker, knitter, and organic gardener.

Becky English

It has been my privilege to serve on RMC's Executive Committee (at-large) since January, and I'd very much like to continue in the role.

In combination with my chairing of RMC's Energy Committee and my business & volunteer efforts in the community, my serving on ExComm has allowed enhanced access to policymakers, academicians, and businesspeople who are looking to shift the paradigm from the wasteful and harmful greenhouse-gas producing methods of the past to sustainable methods for the future. This access is beginning to bear fruit. For example, I've been invited to the table to provide input on priorities for Colorado's 2009 leg-

islative session. I'm also working to dovetail our Cool Cities campaign work with existing efforts in Denver and other cities in Colorado, to create synergistic partnerships. And I'm proposing a Sister Cities initiative to go international with these partnerships, as climate change is a challenge that's global in scope, but can be addressed effectively at smaller, local, manageable levels.

I hope Club members will support my work by voting for my continued service on the chapter's Executive Committee.

Dave Gardner

My first term on the executive committee was a training period; I'm ready to be even more effective in a second term. I currently serve as the chapter's delegate to the Council of Club Leaders. If re-elected I hope to continue in that role, again because I now am familiar with the process and prepared to better represent our chapter.

As a filmmaker I'm producing a documentary about growth, which addresses overpopulation, over consumption and society's obsession with economic growth. I've formed strong opinions about the sustainability of the current system, and hope I might, over time, gently move the club in the direction of taking even stronger stands on these critical issues of our time. However, as an elected leader my primary mission is not to advance my own agenda, but to represent this chapter and support an organization that this state and nation so desperately need.

Jenny Kedward

I recently graduated from CSU-Pueblo with a Biology degree and an emphasis in Environmental Health. I've spent the past six years advocating recycling, as well as supporting environmental leadership in Pueblo, and currently work as an Environmental Coordinator for the Pueblo Health Department. I've been an active Sierra Club member for four years and currently serve as the Chair of the Sangre de Cristo Group. I have been the SdCG's delegate to the Chapter Executive Committee for three years, serving as Chapter Secretary for the past two. I have also participated as a member of the Xcel Energy

Settlement Agreement Committee and serve as Coordinator of the Club's Fountain Creek Water Sentinels. I hope to engage more residents of Pueblo and around the state to take a more active role in protecting Colorado's environment.

Bill Myers

I represent citizens and environmental groups on sprawl/election issues, and have a Masters of Nonprofit Management degree. In 1996 as the former Chapter Air Quality Chair, I was the first conservationist to successfully call for cleanup and conversion of metro area power plants to natural gas (widely ridiculed at the time), but accomplished in Arapahoe this fall.

Serving as an At Large Delegate, I believe that it is critical to increase the connections between the outdoors (clean air/water, nice neighborhoods, less sprawl), our members and outings programs. Currently, as Chair of RMC's Inner City Outings' program, and with other leaders, we lead ICOers on water pollution sampling, skiing, hiking, camping, fishing, and rafting trips.

Additionally, I serve as the Affordable Housing/Sprawl Chairs for the Chapter, having lobbied on growth management and housing bills for the past several years. My conservation and outings background would help the Chapter on energy and other campaigns.

Randy Will

Hello, my name is Randy Will. I'm running for delegate at-large for the Rocky Mountain Chapter. I've been a member since 1990 and started out being active back when we had to hand label and sort all the Peak and Prairies and haul them to the post office by the old airport. As of late, I'm on the Executive Committee of the Enos Mills Group and I have served as Outings Chair for the group, as well as helped with the Legislative workshops co-hosted by the Sierra Club and Audubon Society each year. I have also filled in as a Chapter Delegate on a few occasions for EMG. I'm looking forward to serving and putting in my two cents to help make the Chapter stronger, more viable, and visible. Thanks, Randy.

Chapter ExCom to Vote on Dissolution of Weminuche Group

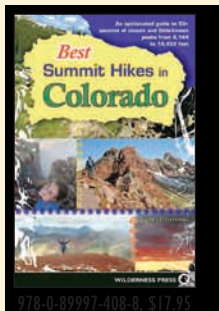
The Executive Committee of the Rocky Mountain Chapter will vote on whether to dissolve the Weminuche Group (WG) at its October 11 meeting in Summit County. WG has been inactive for a number of years despite the efforts of Chapter staff and local volunteers to revitalize it. Currently there are no elected WG officers and no scheduled meetings for WG. The Weminuche Group area includes Durango, Pagosa Springs, Cortez and Silverton. Zip codes of the affected areas are provided below. The

Sierra Club's Bylaws give Chapters the authority to dissolve groups if, in the judgment of the ExCom, such action is in the best interest of the Sierra Club. Dissolution of the group requires a majority vote of the Chapter's Executive Committee. Any chapter member wishing to comment on the proposed action may do so at the meeting at which the vote takes place. Dissolution of the group does not affect the standing of the individual members as members of the Sierra Club or Rocky Mountain Chapter. Once a

group is dissolved, any members within the affected area may still take on leadership positions within the Chapter.

Please contact the Chapter office at 303-861-8819 if you live in one of the following zip codes and wish to learn more about the Weminuche Group dissolution process: 81121, 81122, 81127, 81128, 81137, 81147, 81157, 81301-81307, 81320-81335, 81433.

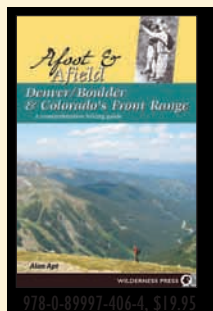
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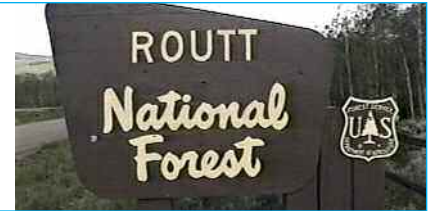
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Trappers Lake Group Works in the Routt National Forest

By: Rich Levy, TLG Chair



The Trappers Lake Group (Northwest Colorado) held its first service outing on Aug 16th. The calendar said this was still summer, but the forecasters were calling for cool temperatures and snow at the higher elevations. The morning started with a taste of fall: overcast with the temperature at 42 degrees and new snow visible along the Continental Divide.

Sierra Club volunteers Jay and Elaine Kopf, Neil Ganz, Jen Stoddard and Rich Levy met Recreation Officer, Kent Foster, in Steamboat Springs to do some work in the Routt National Forest. The plan was to do some maintenance at a few trailheads that enter the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. We visited four trailheads where we painted signboards, repaired and repainted registra-

tion boxes, picked up garbage and did some minor trail repair. The time together also gave the Sierra Club volunteers a chance to talk directly with a Forest Service official about their concerns regarding the Continental Divide Trail, Recreation Fee Demonstration program, trail usage and the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

The Forest Service is experiencing dwindling budgets and a backlog of needed servicing. Foster, who was grateful for our efforts, noted that if enough groups help get a little work done, together we can improve the backcountry experience and safety of all visitors.

The Trappers Lake Group looks forward to more outings (whether large or small) to improve our public lands.

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Changes In the Works For the Chapter Conservation Committee

By: Kirk Cunningham, RMC Conservation Chair

The Colorado Sierra Club Conservation Committee is an umbrella committee for all the specific issue committees and Group Conservation Chairs in the Chapter. As Chair, one of my duties is to try to keep everyone connected so that we make the most efficient use of our always limited volunteer resources. This is not an easy job in an organization that covers a very wide range of issues from affordable housing, through urban transportation, to wilderness protection. The coordination function has not kept pace with the times and changes are necessary.

Fortunately, in the last couple of months, one of the Chapter's most extraordinary volunteers, Kirby Hughes from the Pikes Peak

Group, has volunteered to be a conservation vice chair and he has some ambitious ideas about improving our conservation program. He would like us to have more, and better-used, listserves, more volunteers for issue committees on both the Chapter and Group level, and more coordinating meetings (more on-phone than in-person).

Those reading this who are existing issue chairs or Group conservation chairs should expect some communication from both him and me in the next month. Those who would like to be more active on issues should contact either him or me directly (see below). And to those reading this who may not belong to an active Group but still have a

burning desire to participate, we may have some ideas for facilitating that interest.

Desperate times (i.e. OUR times) make us think how we can work more effectively. Thanks to Kirby for stepping forward and thanks to any who might want to volunteer and/or suggest improvements.

Kirk Cunningham,
RMC Conservation Chair
303-939-8519 / kmcunnin@juno.com
Kirby Hughes,
RMC Vice Conservation Chair
719-685-3019
kirbyhughes@mesanetworks.net

YOUR VOTE COUNTS



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. **Thank you.**



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Colorado Roadless Areas Threatened!!

Proposed Rule Would Eliminate Roadless Area Protections



Your Letters Needed By October 23, 2008!

The U. S. Forest Service has recently issued a draft rule that claims to “protect” Colorado’s national forest roadless areas but, rather than protect these areas, it would instead remove or weaken existing protections. We must respond in massive numbers to ensure that this rule never becomes final.

Background

In early 2001, the Forest Service issued the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, under which logging and road construction were prohibited in national forest roadless areas nationwide, with a few balanced exceptions for public health and safety and for valid existing rights. This rule had, and still has, very strong support nationwide, but the Bush Administration attempted to block the rule’s implementation and replace it with a proposal under which each state governor could ask the Forest Service to manage that state’s roadless areas in the manner that particular governor desired. In 2006, a federal judge found the Bush Administration’s actions illegal and reinstated the 2001 rule. Most states decided to rely on the protection provided by the 2001 rule, but Colorado and Idaho decided to move ahead and petition the Forest Service for state-specific roadless area management under another law.

The Importance of Roadless Areas

Roadless areas are locations with few or no roads open to motor vehicle use. Often, they are remote areas with rugged terrain that provide the highest quality habitat for wildlife species such as lynx, wolverine, bear and goshawk. Roadless areas also protect sources of much of Colorado’s clean drinking water, provide excellent areas for scientific research and education on natural ecosystems, and offer numerous opportunities for low-impact recreation.

The Draft Colorado Rule

The draft Colorado rule would replace the 2001 Roadless Rule’s

narrowly-tailored exceptions with very broad authorizations for road construction and logging in roadless areas. The Roadless Rule, currently in effect, already allows timber cutting and road building when needed to reduce wildfire risk, protect endangered species habitat, or for pre-existing rights such as oil and gas leases.

The draft rule, however, takes these legitimate exceptions and rewrites them to allow many more destructive activities, such as logging in wild areas far removed from homes and other structures, logging in areas that are already high quality wildlife habitat because they are largely free of intensive human presence and habitat degradation, the development of even more oil and gas leases in roadless areas that were issued since the 2001 Rule became effective, and construction of permanent roads for new power lines and water conveyances (pipes, ditches, canals, tunnels, etc.) in roadless areas. The draft rule would also completely remove over 200,000 acres from the roadless inventory, including lands wanted for ski areas.

A strong showing of support for protecting Colorado’s national forest roadless areas is crucial to stop the draft rule from be-coming final.

What You Can Do

Write a letter, strongly supporting continued full protection for all of Colorado’s national forest roadless areas under the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Describe your use of national forest roadless areas in Colorado, including any specific roadless areas you visit, and the importance they have for you. State that under the proposed rule, Colorado’s roadless areas would have much less protection than they currently have, but they deserve full protection. You can also attend one of the state-wide informational public meetings hosted by the Forest Service. For more info on Colorado’s roadless areas go to www.roadless.net.

Insist On the Following Changes To the Draft Rule

- Road construction and logging for fuel reduction must be limited to areas immediately adjacent to homes, where such efforts would be the most effective.
- Logging for wildlife must be limited to areas where maintenance of habitat for threatened or endangered species is needed, as it is under the 2001 Rule.
- Any Colorado Rule must prevent surface disturbance from oil and gas leases issued in roadless areas after the 2001 Rule became effective.
- No construction of new power lines and water conveyances in roadless areas.
- Potential ski areas expansions in roadless areas must remain in the roadless inventory.

Send your comments no later than October 23rd to:

Mail Roadless Area Conservation—
Colorado, P.O. Box 162909, Sacramento, CA 95816–2909
E-mail: COcomments@fsroadless.org Fax: 916–456–6724





C A L E N D A R

Please submit calendar items to the editor no later than November 1st for the 2008 Winter issue (Jan/Feb/March) of *Peak & Prairie*. All outing announcements must be submitted to the chapter outings chair as well. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for carpooling, ride sharing or any similar private arrangement among the participants in Sierra Club activities. Meetings and events are open to members and the public. They are a good way to meet activists and discuss club issues. Due to limited space, we are unable to provide details of all activities. Please contact the person listed in the posting for details. Visit rnc.sierraclub.org, and click the calendar item in the left-hand menu on our home page for details and up-to-date listings.

Outings and Events

The "10 Essentials" - The Sierra Club recommends carrying the following: a map, compass, waterproof matches, flashlight, extra food and water, extra clothes (no cotton), first aid supplies, pocket knife, rain pants and jacket, sunglasses, UV protection and whistle. That's actually a total of 11 items. Also consider taking insect repellent, a space blanket for emergencies and a camera.

Inner City Outings, Rocky Mountain Chapter - Seeks interested, active adults to assist with leading trips for underserved youth and other communities. In addition, we are interested in volunteers who can help with publicity, web design and implementation, property management, fundraising. Visit our website at www.rnc.sierraclub.org/ico for further information, or if you want to talk with a real person, contact Chair, Bill Myers, billmyers.pc@earthlink.net, 303-935-6810 for further information.

October 8 – Poudre Canyon Group Political Rally – Don't miss this opportunity to come meet and hear from all of our endorsed political candidates in Northern Colorado. This rally is being held at 520 North Sherwood in Fort Collins at 6:30pm to 9pm. Contact Ward Luthi at 498-0500.

Notice of Annual Executive Committee (ExCom) Election: The process for the Poudre Canyon Group's Annual Election of ExCom members is under way. A Nominating Committee (NomCom) has been appointed. Receipt of names for consideration by the NomCom must occur by October 13 and can be done by contacting any NomCom member. To be considered you must be a PCCG member. Meetings are once a month. The NomCom members and phone numbers are Gina Janett (493-4677), John Gascoyne (221-4316), Karen Stockley (532-7031), and Mark Easter (224-9214). NomCom will report the names of nominees to the ExCom on October 20. Candidates can also petition on the ballot with the signature of 15 group members. Petitions must be received by the ExCom by November 3. Contact the NomCom for more information. The ExCom will appoint an Election Committee on October 20. Voter lists will be produced on or about November 24, ballots will be printed on or about November 26 and mailed on or about December 1.

Chapter Meetings

Chapter Conservation Committee
Kirk Cunningham at 303-939-8519 or kirk.cunningham@rnc.sierraclub.org

Energy Committee – Becky English at beckyrep@aol.com

Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS)
Tom Arrison at 303-832-3430 or www.rnc.sierraclub.org/gls/act/html

Genetic Engineering Committee
Suzanne Wuerthele at 303-333-2519 or wuerthel@ecentral.com

Inner City Outings - Steering Committee Meeting
Steering Committee Meetings are at 1040 Delaware St. (SE corner of W. 11th Ave. & Delaware, near Speer Blvd.) Denver, CO. Light refreshments will be provided - for meeting dates call Bill Meyers at billmyers.pc@earthlink.net or 303-935-6810

Environmental Health
Joan Seeman at 303-738-8407 or joan.seeman@rnc.sierraclub.org

Lifestyles Education Committee
for information on how lifestyle choices affect the planet. Denver area co-chair: JoLynn Jarboe - 303 753 0470, jolynn@earthlink.net. Durango area co-chair: Mary Ocken - 970 259 5906

Outings Committee – Jacob Morgan at jacob.morgan@rnc.sierraclub.org or visit www.rnc.sierraclub.org

Pesticides Committee
Angela Medbery at 303-433-2608

Rocky Mountain Arsenal
Sandy Horrocks at 303-470-1352

Toxics Committee - Joan Seeman at 303-738-8407 or joanseem@msn.com

Group Activity Contacts

Blue River (Summit, Grand, and Eagle counties)
Every 4th Monday at the Frisco Rec Center.
Contact Karn Stiegelmeier at 970-468-9013 or BlueRiverGroup@comcast.net

RMC Energy Committee Energizes

By: Becky English, RMC Energy Chair

The Colorado Sierra Club's Energy Committee has grown considerably. We have two focuses: education and activism. In August, Michele Weingarden from Greenprint Denver educated our committee about Denver's various programs of energy efficiency, renewable energy, carbon uptake, and recycling in its normal operations, as well as efforts to make the Democratic National Convention the greenest convention ever. Energy activist Nancy LaPlaca spoke at the September meeting on Colorado's energy resource profile and

"clean coal." In October, Susan Innis from the Governor's Energy Office will speak about Renewable Energy Credits. Ron Binz of the P.U.C. will speak in November.

Our recent activism involves volunteering at the DNC and Green Frontier Fest (thanks Nancy Black and Jody Hendrix!), and writing letters to Senator Salazar, Black Hills Energy, Montrose County Commissioners, and Governor Ritter. We've endorsed the proposed ballot measure 'A Smarter Colorado.' We're becoming involved in some of the political advocacy around

uranium development, renewable energy requirements, and in the practical implementation of the 'New Energy Economy.' And we're studying the candidates and their energy policies.

Soon chapter members will be able to get meeting notes and Powerpoint PDFs of Energy Committee meetings on the RMC website. Please contact Chair Becky English to suggest meeting topics or education or activism opportunities, or to become a member of the committee. Becky.English@RMC.SierraClub.org.

Corral Bluffs Saved With a Little Help From the Pikes Peak Group



By: Jim Lockhart, Pikes Peak Group

The Colorado Sierra Club's Pikes Peak Group, working in conjunction with open space advocates and local landowners, has helped save a valuable piece of land in El Paso County from development as a motorcycle park. In November 2007, El Paso County Commissioners approved a plan submitted by El Paso County Parks to acquire and develop Corral Bluffs, which is a parcel of land nine miles east of Colorado Springs and had long been identified as potential public open space. In November 2007, El Paso County Commissioners approved a plan submitted by El Paso County Parks to acquire and develop this area as an off-highway vehicle park with approximately 20 miles of motorcycle trails. Although the county had worked for some time with off-road enthusiasts to develop the

proposal and to prepare a petition for state funding under the Colorado State Trails grant program, no prior notice was given to the public at large, or to local landowners.

The Pikes Peak Group joined a coalition of opponents, including the Trails and Open Space Coalition and the Corral Bluffs Alliance, a local group of landowners, in working against the proposal. The coalition requested a more open public process, whereby the public would be given the opportunity to support or oppose the development of an off-road facility on the site, and not merely to help refine the details of a "done deal" type of plan. Pikes Peak Group helped to point out numerous concerns with the proposal, including the high cost of maintaining such a facility and

the unlikelihood that it could be financially self-sustaining. Due to the public outcry and numerous legitimate objections to the suitability of the site, El Paso County Parks conducted an extensive study of the proposal and ultimately concluded that the site was unsuitable because of its steep, erosive terrain, the presence of valuable paleontological resources, the presence of several sensitive species, and the impact which such a facility would have on neighboring landowners. As a result, El Paso County Commissioners voted unanimously on May 1 to drop the proposal and to seek an alternative site for a motorcycle park.

This outcome shows what environmental groups can achieve when working in conjunction with other interest groups and a concerned public.

CALENDAR

Enos Mills (Denver) - www.rmc.sierraclub.org/emg/
Indian Peaks (Boulder County)

Deirdre Butler at 303-823-8649 or deirdre.butler@rmc.sierraclub.org

Mount Evans (Evergreen, Conifer) Betsy Kelson at betsy.kelson@rmc.sierraclub.org

Pikes Peak (El Paso and Teller counties)

Kirby Hughes at 719-685-3019

Poudre Canyon (Larimer and Weld counties) Will Walters at 970-493-5409

or will@walters-consulting.com

Monthly Leadership/Executive Committee

Meetings are held the second Tuesdays at Will Walters' house, 1701 Tanglewood Drive in Fort

Collins. October 14, November 11 and December 9. Contact Will at 690-3543 or will.walters@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Fall Quarterly Outings Meeting. Join us for our quarterly meeting to discuss upcoming PCG outings. Everyone is welcome to bring ideas! Meet at Coopersmith's Pub side. Contact Ted Manahan 206-1068 or ted.manahan.rmc.sierraclub.org.

Rachel Carson (east Jefferson County)

Judy Johnson at 303-969-2109 or judy.johnson@rmc.sierraclub.org or visit www.rmc.sierraclub.org/rcg

Roaring Fork (Pitkin & Garfield Co)

Mark Stevens at 970-384-0095 or mark@designprojectinc.com

Sangre de Cristo (Arkansas River and San Luis Valley)

sdcg-chair@rmc.sierraclub.org or visit <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/sdcg/>

South Platte (Littleton, Englewood, and south metro area) - Gloria Shone at 303.798.9331
Trappers Lake (Rio Blanco, Jackson, Routt, and Moffat counties)

Rich Levy at rich.levy@rmc.sierraclub.org

Uncompaghre (Mesa, Delta, and Gunnison counties)

NJ Fulmer at 970-241-8036

Weminuche Group (Durango and surrounding areas)

Jim Sumrall at 970-375-9632 or jim.sumrall@rmc.sierraclub.org



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Lightbulbs to Leadership House Parties



What if you were to throw a house party for friends and family, then find out it was just one of 286 parties with over 1,200 people nationwide? That happened on July 17 as Sierra Club's coordinated renewable energy education event, entitled Lightbulbs to Leadership, proved to be a big success across Colorado and nationwide. The parties raised awareness, fostered discussion and motivated volunteers into action – and they were a lot of fun for some summer time socializing!

The largest house party event held with the Rocky Mountain Chapter in Colorado, possibly the largest nationally, was in Denver. With the help of several local Enos Mills Group (Denver area group) volunteers, we were able to elevate Julia Levine's gathering into a popular summer outdoor block party where we closed down the street, literally, for a raucous event that over 100 people joined. The gathering lasted late into the evening, with live acoustic music by Rob Drakin playing guitar on the street level stage while we served up burgers, hot dogs and watermelon with tasty potluck side dishes brought by attendees for some fun extended social networking time.

Once everyone was fed, we brought up local speakers to the stage to talk about our Cool Cities / Cool Colorado program and advocating for good paying green jobs in the renewable sector.

Speakers included Denver City's Greenprint representative Denise Stepto to talk about how we can help implement their municipal level Climate Action Plan. We heard from Denver City Councilman Chris Nevitt, who inspired the crowd and

drove home the local green jobs message, after having also recently joined us as a speaker for the Green Jobs Summit, which Sierra Club put on in April with labor community organizations. Councilman Nevitt's presentation in part pointed out the particular accomplishments of Sierra Club in the Apollo Alliance's green jobs campaign.

We then connected a phone to a loud speaker for everyone to hear from Sierra Club's executive director Carl Pope and Washington Governor Christine Gregoire on the green jobs subject, which spurred even more late night discussion in the warm summer outdoors setting.

Many attendees also signed the Sierra Club petition to protest the Bush administration and Bureau of Land Management's plan for extensive gas drilling wells into the wild and scenic Roan Plateau on Colorado's western slope.

The Enos Mills Group expects a large surge in group volunteerism and leadership following this successful gathering. But the fun was not limited to just Denver. Of the 10 house parties held across the state, other reports include:

In Pueblo, Jenny Kedward and the Sangre de Cristo Group hosted eleven people from Sierra Club, Water Sentinels and the local neighborhood. Jenny, in her usual friendly and persuadable style, got letters sent to Governor Ritter about creating green jobs from all eleven guests. Way to go Jenny!

In Broomfield, Mayor Patrick Quinn joined host Robin Hoek and her 10 invited friends to talk about reducing global warming at the municipal level in Broomfield and the pros and cons of Cap

and Auction systems for stemming global warming nationally.

In Boulder, CU student Joseph Williams hosted a party that had his college age friends sitting down together with the "older generation" attendees over beers for well over an hour after the phone call. They talked about what needs to be done locally about renewable energy and how it effects both of their generations, young and old.

In Arvada, host Thomas Acampora of the Rachel Carson Group was able to show 16 people first hand some of his personal energy costs savings from his home's solar PV installation and resulting net metering pay back. After the call, he also got people to write, or pledge to write, letters to Governor Ritter supporting green jobs.

For more information about these and other house parties, visit this Sierra Club page: <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/scrapbook> You'll see some good pictures from the Denver flagship party.

Thanks to all of our hosts and rock star volunteers like Julia Levine, Becky English, Chad Young, Steve Thilker, Jolynn Jarboe and Nancy Black, who made so many moving pieces come together and flow smoothly throughout the evening in Denver.

The Lightbulbs to Leadership house parties proved to be a big success for furthering our local community organizing efforts with the Rocky Mt. Chapter in relation to Cool Cities / Cool Colorado, creating green jobs and promoting renewable energy. Onward!

Roger Singer is Sierra Club's regional representative in Colorado.

Save This Date!

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Who Says Ordinary Citizens Can't Make a Difference?

Certainly Not the Members Of the Colorado Sierra Club's Sangre de Cristo Group.

Jenny Kedward, SdCG Chair

Pueblo's school kids will breathe easier from now on because nearly all of the area's school and municipal buses will be running cleaner and more efficiently. And the Sierra Club helped to make that happen!

In December 2004, after several months of negotiation, the Club and a number of other citizens' groups signed a groundbreaking agreement with Xcel Energy. By not opposing the new coal-fired power plant to be built at the Comanche station outside of Pueblo, Xcel agreed to major pollution reduction, energy efficiency, and renewable energy commitments from the company.

Among those commitments was a contribution of \$250,000 to retrofit school buses operated by Pueblo County's two school districts. The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) chipped in another \$200,000 in air pollution penalty money to make it possible to clean up all of the eligible public school buses for both districts and all of Pueblo's municipal bus fleet as well.

"We believe that this is the first time that any community's entire fleet of public buses has been retrofitted to reduce diesel pollution both inside and outside of the buses," commented Ross Vincent, Vice-Chair of the Sangre de Cristo Group.

School children and transit riders will have cleaner air to breathe when they jump aboard these newly altered buses this fall.

Diesel engines produce a lot of especially nasty pollutants. Diesel exhaust emissions can cause or aggravate respiratory disease, such as asthma, and they can increase the long-term risk of cancer. In children, ages 10 to 18, exposure to motor vehicle pollution is associated with permanent reduction in lung function.

Nearly 9,000 Pueblo students ride school buses on a normal weekday. Each child may spend up to 270 hours on a school bus within the nine months of a typical school year. Students riding on buses are not breathing the freshest of air. In the space surrounding eager children float nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons from diesel exhaust.

The goal of the Settlement Agreement with Xcel Energy was to mitigate some of the increased particulate emissions from the Comanche complex by reducing exposure for particularly vulnerable people, particularly kids, to toxic exhaust and crankcase emissions, and to save energy and money in the process by reducing unnecessary idling of bus engines.

Fumes from a running diesel engine seep into the bus cabin through cracks, windows and doors, which creates a high level of air pollutants inside the bus. The buses have been transformed by installing crankcase filtration (CCF) systems to reduce in-cabin emissions and diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) units to reduce tailpipe emissions. Engine pre-heaters were also installed to decrease the time the engine must idle to warm-up.

University of Colorado at Boulder studied the effects of bus retrofitting before full-scale installation occurred. "Before and after" tests were performed on three buses, which drove selected regular bus routes. The results confirmed that harmful engine fumes reduced in-cabin particulate concentrations by more than 50% as a result of

CCF and DOC installations. Additionally, tailpipe emissions are reduced as follows: 30% particulate matter (PM), 35% carbon monoxide (CO) and 40% hydrocarbons (HC) reductions while the bus is in operation according to the CU researchers.

No tax-payers' funds were needed to complete the project, and the school districts and city of Pueblo will also be saving money as a result. Retrofitted buses will save roughly a gallon of diesel fuel per bus per day by reducing idling time. The combined savings in fuel costs for the two school districts should be at least \$140,000 per year.

In addition to the Sierra Club, Xcel Energy and CDPHE, other groups involved in this progressive retrofitting included the Denver Regional Air Quality Council, which oversaw the installation of the equipment, Better Pueblo, the Diocese of Pueblo, Smart Growth Advocates, Environment Colorado, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Colorado Renewable Energy Society, Environmental Defense Fund, and Western Resource Advocates.

Although kids might be nervous going back to school, at least they will be breathing easier when they do.



Betsy Markey Makes Historic Run In 4th Congressional District

By: Will Walters, PCG Chair

Year after year, voters in Colorado's 4th Congressional District have had to endure dismal environmental representation in Washington. Incumbent Marilyn Musgrave has a paltry career environmental record of 14 percent in her last 12 years as an elected official, and only 4



percent since being elected to the US House or Representatives six years ago. Her predecessor, Bob Schaffer, had the same miserable 4 percent record during his six years in the same congressional seat. And his predecessor, retiring US Senator Wayne Allard, had a record of 9 percent during his 6 years in the seat. (His 17 year average drops to 7 percent when you add in his last 11 years in the US Senate.)

But pro-environment voters in northern Colorado think this might be their year to see a change. According to a poll released August 26th, Musgrave is trailing challenger Betsy Markey by an unprecedented 50 to 43 percent in a race rated as a "tossup" for months by many political prognosticators. Markey has a strong environmental platform and has been endorsed by the Sierra Club.

Markey, who says she intends to make her congressional office carbon neutral if elected, has made energy a key issue in her campaign. During an interview with Club

activists in Fort Collins, she said she wants to be a leader in Congress on renewable energy and climate change. She opposes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Markey, a successful businesswoman in the high tech sector, has a can-do attitude. "Solving environmental problems like global warming often seem insurmountable, but the key is to start somewhere." In addition to her work in the private sector, Markey spent years working for the U.S. State Department overseeing their department of computer security.

Most recently, as U.S. Senator Ken Salazar's Regional Director for the North Central and Eastern Plains region of Colorado, Betsy worked to expand alternative energy solutions and clean air and water provisions; she also advocated for incentives for sustainable agricultural practices.

Markey also practices sustainability at home with her family of five: "I believe in leading by example. I drive a Prius, I have put in insulating curtains, low-flow shower heads, and energy efficient light bulbs, and I look for ways to reduce consumer waste in my household. I believe each one of us can make a huge impact on our environment by being informed consumers and changing our own consumption habits."

While Musgrave still has more financial support than Markey, the gap is closer than in previous elections, with Markey shattering all previous fundraising records of challengers in the district.

With a little luck, a lot of grassroots support, and a no-nonsense candidate, Colorado's 4th Congressional District might just kick its own bad habit this November.

Sierra Club Endorsements for the Poudre Canyon Group

The Sierra Club has endorsed Randy Eubanks for Larimer County Commissioner District 2. Eubanks is an advocate of sustainability and sound environmental policies for Larimer County. He has been a vocal opponent of the Northern Irrigated Supply Project and Glade Reservoir due to the impacts it would have on the Poudre River in Fort Collins. He has also been a vocal opponent of uranium mining proposals in Larimer County. Eubanks is the incumbent in the District 2 seat, having been appointed mid-term to replace Karen Wagner. Wagner resigned about halfway through her term after being elected in 2004 following a Sierra Club endorsement. Eubanks' opponent is term-limited District 15 State Senator Steve Johnson, who has spent the last 12 years in the Colorado legislature where he compiled an average Colorado Conservation Voters score of just 45%. Please consider contributing time or money to Randy's campaign!

Eubanks joins the following candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club in the Poudre Canyon Group area:

Roger Hoffmann, Larimer County Commissioner - District 3

John Kefalas, State House - District 52

Randy Fischer, State House - District 53

Jim Riesberg, State House - District 50

Bob Bacon, State Senate - District 14

Betsy Markey, US Congress - Colorado District 4

Mark Udall, US Senate - Colorado

Barack Obama, US President

Please support these candidates and don't forget to register to vote by October 4.



Good Partners

By: Dan Disner



You've probably seen the advertisements for SolSource in past issues of Peak & Prairie. Maybe you've even attended one of the presentations they've provided for Sierra Club members in Denver and Boulder. We'd like to thank Richard Eidlin for connecting us with SolSource. Richard has made a point of working with and supporting the Rocky Mountain Chapter for many years. When I first came to

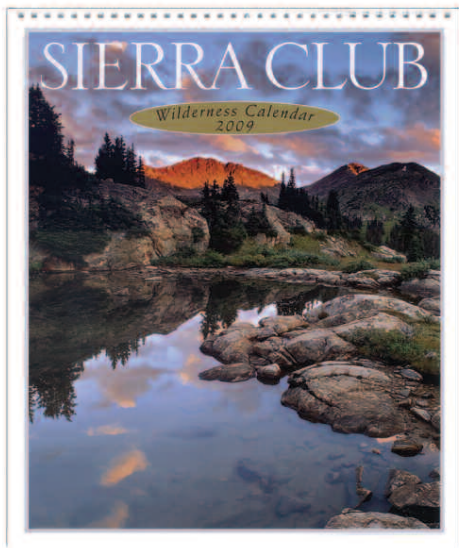
work in the Chapter office in 2001, Richard brought his support in the form of advertising from his employer at that time. He's continued that support even more actively over the past few years. In addition to substantial advertising placements and a generous donation for every system they sell through Peak & Prairie ads, he's hooked us up with Jeff Scott, founder of SolSource. Jeff has been at our dis-

posal to answer questions about solar energy options and to make really great informational presentations. If you're interested in learning more about the renewable energy options available from SolSource, check out their ad in this issue of Peak & Prairie, give them a call, visit their website, or contact the Chapter office to arrange for a SolSource presentation in your community.

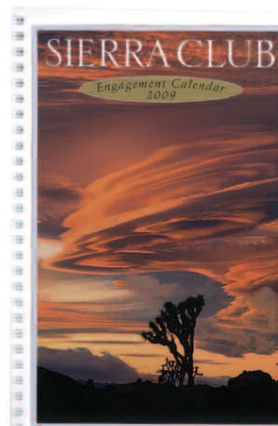


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The Sierra Club Fights to Save the Roan Plateau

By: Bob Millette, Conservation Chair, Roaring Fork Group

On July 30th, public officials, dozens of citizens, and members of the Roaring Fork and Uncompahgre Groups carrying signs such as “No Rigs on the Roan” gathered in front of the BLM offices in Glenwood Springs to protest BLM’s planned leasing of the Roan Plateau. More than 1,600 letters of protest were hand-delivered to the agency, adding to the 17,000 earlier protests, including 2,300 from Sierra Club members. In an area designated by the BLM as “First Amendment Area” (and under the watchful eye of a U.S. Marshall!), several public officials and environmental leaders delivered their written and verbal protests. “For a number of years now, the City of Glenwood Springs has repeatedly requested that the BLM take a slower, more measured and environmentally friendly approach to the Roan,” said Bruce Christensen, Mayor of Glenwood. “We would have liked the federal government to acknowledge the wishes of local communities, but in general we have been ignored, along with the Governor and members of our Congressional delegation.” Citizens protested the leasing because of the permanent impacts of drilling on the area’s important wildlife habitat, watersheds, and the region’s air quality. The need to drill the Roan has been severely questioned since most of the natural gas beneath the Roan can be accessed now from private lands and by directional drilling.

Moreover, 70 percent of public lands already leased for oil and gas production in the state are not producing, and 70 percent of the drilling permits issued in the state are not yet being utilized.

Senator Ken Salazar, Rep. John Salazar and Rep. Mark Udall sent a letter to BLM objecting to the leasing, but BLM stubbornly went ahead with the lease sale. The letter criticized BLM’s plan for drilling in the area, saying it should include phased leasing and have increased environmental pro-

tection; it called on the Dept. of Interior to “work with us to pursue a course of balanced and responsible development.” Unfortunately, legislation to protect the Roan introduced by these three congressional Democrats earlier this year failed, but they hope to renew their fight in the next legislative session.

To underline the protest against drilling on the Roan, the Sierra Club and National Wildlife Foundation published a full-page



ad in local papers in July, urging: “Governor Ritter: Protect Wildlife Corridors, Preserve America’s Wild Legacy—Please help protect the Roan Plateau from the Bureau of Land Management’s destructive drilling lease sale this August, and ensure that our wildlife have freedom to roam”.

In spite of all the protests, on August 14th the BLM put about 54,631 acres of the Roan on the auction block, selling all 31 federal mineral parcels on the Roan Plateau

at once. This lease sale of the Roan is a development that the Sierra Club and many other environmental and sportsmen groups have been battling against for almost seven years. They have sought to protect it because of its huge biological diversity, rare species, important habitat for mule deer and elk, and genetically pure strains of native Colorado River cutthroat trout. “This really represents the crushing thumb of the Bush administration stamping out the voices and concerns of local citizens who have spoken out against development of the Roan Plateau” said Bobby Magill of the Wilderness Society.

But this is not the end of the Roan Plateau story: First, before BLM can go ahead and issue the leases, all the protests must be resolved; this may take a while. Second, on July 12th, the Sierra Club along with nine other environmental groups filed a federal lawsuit, through our lead attorney at Earthjustice, to throw out BLM’s management plan for the Roan and to challenge the lease sale itself. The lawsuit alleges that BLM violated NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) by not considering the long-term environmental impacts of its actions nor considering a reasonable range of alternative approaches for oil and gas development on the Roan. Their environmental impact statement (EIS) ignored economic impacts, and the impacts of gas and oil development on air quality, human health, and wildlife. It violated FLPMA (Federal Land Policy and Management Act) by failing to provide compliance with applicable federal laws, including the Clean Air Act.

So it looks like the future of the Roan Plateau will be tied up for some time while the BLM deals with the citizen’s and legal protests of the lease sale and challenges the litigation in court. Hopefully that will put us into a new administration in Washington that will realize the folly of the “drill now, drill everywhere” policy.



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