

ON PAGE 3

CAUCUS DAY: Know the issues!

Clip out and bring along to your local caucus.

APRIL 13th IS CAUCUS DAY

Your chance to introduce 'GREEN' resolutions



By Charlie Oriez
South Platte Group Political Chair

On Caucus Day, all the good Democrats and all the good Republicans convene in neighbors' homes or school buildings to elect delegates to county party conventions, support their choices for president, and pass resolutions on issues that may end up in county platforms.

This year, the Sierra Club is recommending platform planks related to air, transportation, electronic waste (computers) and energy, as well as a number of planks on water issues. On page 3 is a column with language we urge members to introduce on these topics come April 13th. We suggest that you clip the column and take it with you to your caucus and ask your neighbors to pass resolutions supporting our positions on these environmental issues.

Use the power of your vote to implement environment-friendly and responsible legislation.

Frequently, as many as half the resolutions passed in caucuses concerned environmental matters. And elected officials pay attention to these platforms. Long-time environmental lobbyist Jo Evans, who has represented Trout Unlimited, Audubon, and others in the legislature, remembered the year she used planks to demonstrate to legislators that their party, and their voters, supported our position in local land use issues.

So by all means, debate the merits of the presidential candidates and others, on down to candidates for state legislature and county commissioner. Elect your delegates to the county convention. Elect your neighbor to be the local precinct committee person. But spend a few minutes at the end of the meeting to express your concerns on these important issues. Demonstrate to your county platform committee that you expect them to include strong environmental protection provisions in your platform.

For more information on the location and time of your local caucus, contact your county political party headquarters.

Are WOLVES coming to Colorado?



...and if they return, will they be protected?

By Tina Arapkiles

Southwest Representative, Sierra Club; Co-Director, Southern Rockies Wolf Restoration Project

Wildlife administrators at the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) are beginning to take notice of the fact that wolves may be migrating southward to Colorado. In the meantime, conservationists are wondering if and how these wolves will be protected when they arrive.

Another question that remains is whether the State of Colorado will actively reintroduce wolves to help balance our woefully out-of-balance ecosystem.

It appears that wolves are at our doorstep here in Colorado. They have been migrating from the northern Rockies into Utah, and may well be moving into Colorado from our westerly neighbor. In addition, after hearing from tens of thousands of citizens around the country, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has expanded its boundaries for wolf restoration to include the southern 2/3 of Colorado and Utah. DOW has already begun to devise a management plan for wolves that migrate into the state.

Colorado residents recently had an opportunity to voice their opinions on these new developments at state-hosted public meetings. In March, public meetings were held in Craig, Grand Junction and Durango on the Western Slope, and Pueblo, Denver and Ft. Collins on the Front Range. Nevertheless, state planning is still in its

nascency and more meetings will be held in the fall. We urge Sierra Club members to show strong support for both the protection and reintroduction of wolves at these upcoming meetings.

We are at a crossroads of sorts. There are several simultaneous events that will determine the direction of wolf management and restoration in our region. The process for determining where and how reintroduction will occur is ongoing through two USFWS-established recovery teams. Colorado lags slightly behind in the planning process in that Utah is well into devising a wolf management plan. Nevertheless, mobilization has already occurred on some levels in our state. Rocky Mountain National Park officials are reevaluating vegetative and elk management approaches. They have identified wolf reintroduction as a means to address the burgeoning elk population through an initial Environmental Impact Statement process.

At long last, there is movement at the federal and state levels regarding the fate of wolves in our region. Let's be sure conservationists' voices are heard loud and clear: we want wolves fully protected and actively returned to Colorado.

For more information on upcoming meetings and wolf repopulation in general, contact Tina Arapkiles at 303-449-5595 extension 102, or tina.arapkiles@sierraclub.org.

Peak & Prairie

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for
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Email submissions as
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or send to chapter office.

ARTICLES:

500 words or LESS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

200 words or LESS



**SIERRA
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From the editor

Dear Peak & Prairie subscribers,
In an effort to publish a clearer,
more reader-friendly newsletter,
Peak & Prairie has undergone a
renovation of sorts. You have
undoubtedly noticed some of
these changes immediately—a new
banner, a revamped calendar
section, and a revised general
layout scheme.

Substantively, things have not
changed; we will continue to
provide our readership with items
of national, regional, local and
organizational import. The new
format merely reflects our desire
to present the issues in a manner
more pleasing to you, the readers.
Of course, we welcome your
comments, suggestions and if
necessary, (tempered) scorn.

Jason S. Wells
Editor, Peak & Prairie
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ELECTRONIC Peak & Prairie

SAVE TREES AND MONEY!

How do YOU want to receive Peak & Prairie?

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

Costs versus benefits

Many people don't realize it costs
the Sierra Club over \$30,000 per
year to send Peak & Prairie to the
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money (and trees!) and put that
money to work in other ways to help
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Join over 400 RMC members
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If you choose to receive Peak &
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Mountain Chapter's web site, which
you will be able to view with Adobe
Acrobat Reader (a free program
available at www.adobe.com).
Please visit <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp/deliveryoptions.shtml>
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ery options today.

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LISTSERVERS

How do I join a list?

The Rocky Mountain Chapter maintains a number of listservers which allow for the mass distribution of information on a variety of interests. By subscribing to listservers, you can receive or distribute information relevant to your local group or particular interest, find out about upcoming outings, and get connected to events and interests in a myriad of other ways. For more information on RMC listservers and for a complete list of the ones maintained, visit <http://rmc.sierraclub.org/listserv.shtml>.

Once you have found the listserver that piques your interest, send an email message to listserv@lists.sierraclub.org. In the body of the mes-

sage, put the command:

SUBSCRIBE *listname yourname*

Example: *Subscribe RMC-ALERTS Jane Doe*

The example above would subscribe Jane Doe to the Rocky Mountain Chapter RMC alerts discussion list.

After you send in your subscription request, you'll get a message back asking you to confirm your email subscription message. Merely respond to that message with the word OK, and you're on the list.

APRIL 13th is CAUCUS DAY

■ **Speak up for Sierra Club and the environment—support these initiatives at your local caucus:**

FasTracks (RTD counties only): We support passage of the FasTracks transit improvements initiative on the 2004 general election ballot.

Energy: We support an initiative whereby at least 20% of Colorado's electricity be derived from non-hydro renewable energy sources by 2020, and whereby Colorado becomes 20% more energy-efficient by 2020.

Sustainable solutions for Colorado's water future (from Colorado Water Caucus): Solutions which will allow Colorado to meet future water needs, in large part, must come from local municipalities and water providers. However, the state legislature can and should assist, by removing statutory obstacles, providing direction, and making available technical and financial assistance.

Air: We support a mandate requiring all large electrical power plants to install best available control technology (BACT) for air pollutant emissions. Compliance should occur by January 1, 2014, or within 40 years of the plant's initial operation date, whichever is later.

Electronic waste recycling: We support laws calling for full manufacturer responsibility in the development and management of responsible systems to handle end-of-life reuse, recycling, and diversion of all electronic wastes, including those of their own manufacture as well as legacy waste. To protect public health and the environment, we also support laws restricting the use of hazardous

substances in the manufacturing of electronic and electrical equipment.

Water: In furtherance of the protection, restoration and preservation of Colorado's scarce water resources, we support the following:

1. Improvement to Colorado's water use efficiency; to enable more efficient use of existing water supplies, the legislature should adopt measures to:

- Create rebate programs for drought-tolerant re-landscaping projects and water efficient appliances, through the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) construction fund.
- Help providers fix water system leaks with financial and technical assistance from the CWCB.
- Provide technical and financial assistance to providers to complete and update their 1991 water conservation plans with goals for reduction. Water providers should issue a progress report within 8 years.
- Prevent wasteful water use by requiring all water providers to implement tiered rate structures.

2. Protection for basins of origin; limitations on transbasin diversions

- The Legislature should protect water export areas. Approval for transbasin diversions should require:
- Full application and preservation of counties' existing 1041 powers.
 - Full use of native water and implementation of all reasonable efficiency measures



by the receiving entity prior to diverting new or additional water from the basin of origin.

- A decision-making process open to participation by the public and all affected parties.
- Mitigation of both economic and ecological impacts.
- Enforcement of all the above elements.

3. Recognition and remediation of water supply challenges in the South Metro area

- To address the south metro area's water supply challenges, we support legislation to establish a water authority provided that:
- The area's surface water supply comes first from native water, aggressive conservation and full reuse.
 - The authority integrate surface and ground water management.
 - If the first two conditions are met yet Blue River water is still needed, there be appropriate mitigation for all impacts to its water supply, economy and environment. Also, a majority of the new authority's members must be publicly accountable, and the authority must operate in an open, transparent manner.

4. Protection for clean water

The Legislature should protect the quality of existing water supplies by enacting a bill directing the water courts to ensure quality for existing water users when approving a change in use.

5. Consumer protection through better water planning

The Legislature should initiate better planning mechanisms to meet future water needs and protect homeowners from unanticipated water supply shortages. New legislation should require:

- Sellers to disclose, to potential homebuyers, the status of a property's water supply and its reliability.
- The State Engineer to certify the availability of a secure, 100-year water supply for new housing developments before they receive local government approval, imposing a fee for this service.

6. The safeguarding of Colorado's rivers and streams

We should ensure that there are adequate water flows in our streams and rivers to provide for healthy fisheries, recreation, tourism-based economies, and the preservation of Colorado's natural heritage. The legislature can help achieve this goal by removing the current restriction that limits the use of emergency in-stream flows to times of governor-declared emergencies.

7. Flexibility for cooperative water sharing

We should further enable cooperative water sharing arrangements that allow farmers and other water rights holders to temporarily lease their water to cities and others during dry years. To accomplish this, the legislature should remove the current restriction that limits the use of these interruptible supply agreements to times of governor-declared emergencies.

8. Reparation of existing dams

The Legislature should encourage the rehabilitation of existing dams and reservoirs so that they can hold more water, through increased financial assistance from the CWCB construction fund.



Clip and bring along to your local caucus!



To the Editor

Dear Editor,

In its generic, uncritical support for FasTracks (p. 1, Jan-Mar 2004 Peak & Prairie) the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club is unwittingly promoting the destruction of an aesthetically pleasing residential neighborhood along the proposed West Corridor rail line through Lakewood. This is an enormous disservice to the residents of this neighborhood and to the original values of the Sierra Club. The proposed West Corridor runs alongside and through a very attractive single-family residential area having mature trees, ditch water, well-tended gardens, and an abundance of suburban wild life. The enormously inflated projected light-rail ridership and extraordinarily close spacing of stations along the proposed rail line accords with the collaborative effort by RTD and the development-oriented City of Lakewood to convert this desirable neighborhood into high-density multi-family housing and commercial use — a real estate promoter's dream. It is ironic that on p. 9 of the same issue of Peak & Prairie the routing of I-70 through communities in northeast Denver is cited as a bad example of a pre-NEPA transportation project that was done "with no meaningful regard to the lives, property, or neighborhood integrity of the area." The same can be said of the light-rail scheme in Lakewood.

—N.J. SILBERLING, Lakewood, CO

Editorial response

Dear Mr. Silberling,

Let me address some factual errors in your letter. First, RTD held scores of meetings, citizen working sessions, and hearings in conducting the West Line EIS, with excellent advance notice of these input sessions. In response, hundreds of citizens participated in the process and expressed their concerns, forced changes, worked on station and Park-n-Ride decisions, and met with elected officials. I attended many such events, wrote a 7-page response to the DEIS and can testify to RTD's excellent public and local government participation. RTD consulted wildlife ecologists and other specialized experts whose opinions had profound effects on final decisions. In short, in no way did RTD shirk its responsibility to give "meaningful

regard to the lives, property, and neighborhood integrity of the area."

Second, RTD's ridership projections, developed with a federally-prescribed model, have been quite conservative, routinely underestimating ridership estimates rather than inflating them. Citizens scrutinized the West Line models and projections. Historically, people have chosen RTD transit services over auto travel to a much higher degree than estimated or anticipated. This is true for transit estimates nationwide.

Third, the claim that the stations are spaced in "extraordinarily close" proximity to one another is fallacious. The distances between stations are common for light rail. Locations were chosen, and some were moved, based on residents' requests. Parking restrictions and provisions and bike and pedestrian paths were similarly determined. Local governments worked with citizens and RTD to ensure, for the foreseeable future, that the stations would not trigger unwanted development.

Finally, during the EIS process, Lakewood obviously was far more concerned with protecting neighborhood quality and stability than in seeking wholesale change and revision, except, naturally, where the community would be enhanced by such change. For new development to occur, local governments will control rezoning and land use. Area residents, in an earlier transportation study, expressed a general

preference for the low-impact light rail system rather than massive additions of lanes and traffic to 6th Avenue, Colfax and other roads.

To affect decisions, one can and should become involved early in the EIS public participation process. This was the essence of my message in the NEPA centerfold. Pre-NEPA projects such as the elevated I-70 in northeast Denver were totally lacking in public participation and concern for the environment. The 1960s I-70 project was our poster child for citizen action, forcing a total revision of the transportation planning process and the establishment of RTD (I was around in this ancient history). Now, because of NEPA and transportation planners' bona fide concern for community integrity and quality, the Sierra Club is an active participant in analyzing alternatives. We can be — and are — critical of those who contradict our concerns and values. We consistently advocate better transportation, more choice of modes, safety, health, energy conservation and sustainable communities. We urge Sierra Club members to join in EIS processes. Accordingly, I feel that we are wittingly promoting the preservation of our Sierra Club values and policies on the West Line and all other EIS's.

Sincerely,

—BERT MELCHER

RMC Transportation Chair
a.melcher@comcast.net

Ponnequin Wind Farm Tour

Saturday, April 17th
8:30 a.m. to
12:30 p.m.

RSVP required!

Check out the latest wind turbine designs on a free tour of Xcel's 44 wind turbine farm near the Wyoming border. Learn about these 250-foot high wind turbines that even Don Quixote would love. Experts will answer questions about wind turbine designs, wind power costs and their effect on the environment.

Buses will leave from the Alameda Station Park & Ride

To sign up and or get further information contact John Rosapepe at (303) 861-8819, john.rosapepe@sierraclub.org, www.rmc.sierraclub.org

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Be a part of our Chapter's Success.

We need volunteers to help make a difference for the environment in Colorado. You can help by joining one of these committees:

- Transportation Committee
- Auction Planning Committee
- Staff Management Committee
- Outings Committee
- Energy Committee
- Legislative Volunteers
- New Member Committee

For information, contact Dan Disner at 303-861-8819 or email dan.disner@rmc.sierraclub.org

View from the CHAIR



GREG CASINI, RMC CHAIR

■ Chapter develops 2004 strategic plan

In January, two dozen leaders gathered in Littleton for a day-long strategic planning retreat, identifying priorities for the coming year and drafting work plans and goals.

Using this process, the Chapter has developed a strategic plan focusing on organizational priorities. Our conservation priorities, first identified in 2002, continue into 2004: generating 20% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2020, using electricity 20% more efficiently by 2020, and electing pro-environmental candidates to public office. Another issue has evolved into a conservation priority over the past two years — support of public transportation.

At the planning retreat, participants agreed upon goals in three categories: goals for working together effectively, goals for developing relationships with our members and involving them in our work, and goals for connecting with our communities. We have chosen two priorities within each category.

I. Goals for working together**Priority 1: Leader communication**

To allow for more effective communication between group and chapter leaders, we will develop the Chapter Web site as a central source of leader information, develop better teleconferencing and instant messaging procedures for long-distance communications and provide Chapter support for group Web sites.

Priority 2: Training and mentoring

We will focus on training and mentoring in order to provide leaders and potential leaders with the skills and information they need to be effective and to encourage volun-

teers to become leaders.

II. Goals for developing relationships & involving people**Priority 3: Group membership development**

To develop new leaders and expand membership participation, we will improve Internet resources for volunteer leaders, review group boundaries to maximize member service and participation, develop a Leader Tool Kit, and hold a Chapter retreat that will target new and potential activists and leaders and provide them with the skills and information they need to be effective.

Priority 4: Youth outreach

To engage more young people in our activities and increase their interest in the environment, we will establish a youth outreach committee, encourage the formation of new Sierra Student Coalitions in Colorado and recruit a youth outreach intern to organize youth activities and include youth outreach into our plans (see pg. 6 for more info).

III. Goals for connecting with our communities**Priority 5: Visibility**

To increase visibility on our issues, we will establish a Chapter Marketing Committee to provide our activists with materials and training to assist them with everything from writing letters to the editor, to developing messages, writing press releases and organizing media events.

Priority 6: Outreach

To expand our outreach to potential allies, we will assist our groups and committees in fostering coalitions by providing resources on how to create, build and nurture coalitions.

The leadership of the Rocky Mountain Chapter is actively planning for the Chapter's future. We hope that you will play an active role in our future, and make a difference for Colorado in 2004.

SAVE THE DATE!

WILD PLACES



OPEN SPACES

The Sierra Club's ANNUAL AUCTION

will be held at the Brown Palace Hotel on Saturday, October 9, 2004

The Sierra Club's gala auction has been scheduled for Saturday, October 9 at Denver's Brown Palace Hotel. You can help!

We need many donations for the live and silent auctions.

Do you have a vacation home? You can donate a weekend or week-long stay for a lucky bidder. Do you own a business? If so, donate a service or product to the auction, help the Sierra Club, and get some great publicity. Frequent flyer member? Your extra miles can be donated, and would make a terrific auction item alone or as a package.

We also need volunteers to help plan and carry out this big event.

To find out how you can help, call Dan Disner at the Chapter Office at 303-861-8819

What's happening at the CHAPTER OFFICE?



SUSAN LEFEVER, CHAPTER DIRECTOR

From January to May, my job changes significantly. This is when the Colorado legislature meets, and I am the Chapter's lobbyist. As I write this column in February, I am working with other volunteers and environmental lobbyists on several important bills: Renewable Energy, Clean Air, Growth, and even voting rights. You never know what they will be up to.

During this time, I also try to meet with local groups to talk about how the legislative process works and how important it is to participate. People are pretty surprised to learn that their representatives are interested in what they think, or that four or five letters on an issue can move a legislator to change his or her mind. It's true!

As I talk to people around the state, I hear a lot of folks who feel hopeless about our current political climate — people who feel like they don't make a difference, can't make a difference. And my job is to try to convince them that they can — by telling stories.

Last fall, it was ordinary people that defeated Referendum A, the \$2 billion dam initiative. Big money and powerful politicians supported the measure, but we stopped it by

talking to our friends and neighbors about the foolishness of giving developers a blank check. The proposal was voted down 70% to 30%.

Throughout the Sierra Club, it is ordinary folks who take kids on hikes, start community recycling programs, stop people from building roads through parks, and make local wind power programs successful. I tell them my own stories of wild and scenic rivers and redwood forests. I remind them of the successes they have had in their own communities, and what a difference we can make when we work together.

We have a lot of challenges ahead this year in our communities, our state and our nation. It's time to let go of hopelessness and helplessness. It's time to share our stories of success and learn about others' stories as well. To do what needs to be done this year we need all of us — and our friends, families, co-workers, and neighbors — to believe that what we do can make a powerful difference in the world.

Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Working together, we are those citizens.

Boulder Community Foothills Hospital Receives 'Green' Certification

On December 16, 2003, the \$53 million Boulder Community Foothills Hospital became the first facility of its kind to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, a nonprofit alliance of 3,000 businesses and nonprofits that promotes and monitors green building. Only about 70 other buildings in the U.S. have received the prestigious LEED certification.

Designed by OZ Architecture and Boulder Associates, with environmental consulting by Boulder-based Architectural Energy Corporation

(AEC), the 200,000 square foot, 60-bed facility features many environmental innovations, including a super-efficient power plant, roofing material that reflects solar heat gain to reduce air conditioning costs, high-performance windows, and even waterless urinals.

The hospital was carefully placed in the landscape to conserve a wildlife corridor near Boulder Creek. The central Boulder location is convenient to bus lines and bike paths that provide alternatives to auto congestion. Extensively landscaped grounds use low-water plantings that create wildlife habitat.

National Club election coming this spring

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. If you have not received it already, you will soon receive your national Sierra Club ballot in the mail. This will include information on the candidates for the Board of Directors.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels that requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the staff to run the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club

should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election Web site at <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2004election> — which this year will include candidate responses to questions posted by various Club leaders.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate, make your choices, and then cast your votes. You will find our ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. You can even cast your vote electronically!

DENVER TOUR d'POLLUTION



What can be done about Denver's "brown cloud" & ozone problems?

Saturday, April 24th • 9 A.M. – NOON

Join Dr. Mike Mueller, a former member of Colorado's Air Quality Control Commission on a free bus tour by Arapahoe and Cherokee coal-powered plants. Dr. Mueller will discuss our region's air quality & pollution, touching on the causes, problems and solutions. Learn how Denver's power plant and car emissions mix overnight with ammonia from cows in the north Platte River Valley to help form Denver's infamous brown cloud.

Buses will leave from the Alameda Station Park & Ride. For more information and to sign up, contact John Rosapepe, 303.861.8819, email john.rosapepe@sierraclub.org, or visit www.rmc.sierraclub.org. RSVP REQUIRED!



Charlie's listserver profile du jour: RMC-ALERTS

Beginning in this issue, Charlie Oriez — RMC Information Technology Committee chair — will offer a description of a particular RMC discussion list.

Did you know that Arctic drilling was back in the Bush budget? You would have, had you been subscribed to the RMC-ALERTS email list. This list is used to alert our members in Colorado when something important is hap-

pening and letters or phone calls to your senators, congressmen and congresswomen, or any agency or other elected official, are needed to uphold environmental values. Any Sierra Club member with an email address can volunteer to receive alerts and act on these alerts by email.

To join our alerts network, visit our web page at <http://rmc.sierraclub.org>. Click on

"get alerts" in the left column, enter your email address when prompted, respond to the confirmation message, and voilà, you're connected to the general alerts network.

We also offer issue-specific alert and discussion lists available for issue areas of personal interest to you. Visit <http://rmc.sierraclub.org/listserv.shtml> to see what's available.

LINKING COLORADO LANDSCAPES

By Julia Kintsch

Program Director, Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project

In a unique pairing, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has joined with the Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project (SREP) to identify and prioritize critical wildlife linkages across the state of Colorado. This partnership marks a new commitment by state transportation authorities to consider wildlife needs in their transportation planning. The Colorado Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Colorado State University are also assuming instrumental roles, lending additional collaborative power to the project.

Both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and CDOT have begun promoting wildlife crossings in their transportation plans and construction projects. While much of the work to date is preliminary, CDOT recently completed an analysis of the Interstate 70 (I-70) transportation corridor that identified 13 key wildlife-crossing areas. Agency support for wildlife connectivity is critical to the survival of wildlife populations at both a local and a regional scale. Under this new partnership, SREP will be expanding upon CDOT's work to analyze connectivity needs for wildlife across the entire state.

Disconnected wildlife populations

More than 85,000 miles of roads crisscross the state of Colorado. Designed to facilitate the movement of humans, this paved network not only destroys habitat, but also alters and obstructs wildlife movement. Habitat and wildlife resources have diminished to such an extent that the survival of many species — both endangered and common — is dependent upon the restoration of landscape connectivity. Leading conservation biologist E.O. Wilson notes that, "without connectivity, landscapes may be reduced to pathetic remnants that sustain few species and provide little ecological value."

Interstate 70, as it cuts across the heart of the Southern Rockies and Eastern Plains, is the most conspicuous barrier to wildlife movement, but by no means the only one. Other roads similarly deter wildlife movement or increase the risk of mortality for those that attempt passage. Urban and suburban development — particularly along the Front Range and in mountain valleys — effectively blocks traditional movement corridors between low and high elevation

habitats. These are just a few of the obstacles that Colorado's wildlife faces in pursuit of a livelihood.

Assessing potential linkages

To date, no comprehensive studies have looked at key wildlife linkages in Colorado with the goal of preserving, and where necessary, restoring, multi-species linkages. By means of this collaboration we are now stepping up to fill this need, providing transportation planners and conservationists with a statewide vision for reconnecting landscapes.



Photos by Rich Reading, Denver Zoo.

Landscape connections are crucial to healthy wildlife populations, and human connections are critical to realizing these goals.

To achieve this goal, SREP is instituting a two-track approach integrating local and regional expertise, as well as computer modeling. The first track — or "expert track" — involves a series of workshops that will be held across the state to bring together experts from various agencies, local communities and universities to identify wildlife corridors vital to maintaining healthy populations of native species.

The second track — or "computer modeling track" — will consider the same questions within the framework of a geographic information system (GIS).

Colorado State University research scientist Dave Theobald will lead this effort. Theobald will combine layers of spatial data about the physical characteristics (e.g., topography, rivers and streams) with information about wildlife habitat preferences and movement patterns to model areas of the landscape that are key to wildlife movement.

Ultimately, the two tracks will be combined for a cross-comparison of the highest priority linkages identified by each. The results of these analyses will be displayed in a map and presented at a linkages conference hosted by SREP in fall of 2004.

Making connections

The linkages map will serve as a guide for CDOT's mitigation efforts and assist planners in the development of more wildlife-friendly transportation networks. SREP will continue working with CDOT in 2005 to implement on-the-ground mitigation measures in order to facilitate wildlife movement in each critical linkage. Local engagement will become a large focus of SREP's activities at this stage, and could include working with local non-profit organizations to purchase development rights on key pri-

vate properties, or assisting communities in making informed decisions to avoid conflicts in important wildlife corridors.

Restoring wildlife connections is no simple task. Retrofitting — or in some cases removing — roads is an expensive and complex proposition, and requires an ongoing commitment from both state and federal transportation agencies. Support and involvement by local communities and

public land managers is key to ensuring that once having successfully traversed a road obstacle, an animal has continued safe passage across the landscape. Landscape connections are crucial to healthy wildlife populations, and human connections are critical to realizing these goals.

For more information on SREP's linkages work, please contact Julia at 720-946-9653 or Julia@RestoreTheRockies.org

Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter Internship Descriptions, January 2004

The Sierra Club is seeking mature college students or adults with free time who can take on specific conservation-related projects for school credit or just life experience. We need interns who can help us with projects related to transportation, energy, fundraising. Must be self-motivated. Note: None of these internships are paid positions. Flexible hours, can work from home or in the office. To apply, send a cover letter indicating your interests and the times you will be available. Also include a resumé.

FasTracks Transit Campaign intern

Project: Be a key part of shaping Metro Denver's growth by supporting the second-largest public transit build-out in U.S. history. Help set up educational presentations, work with the media, coordinate volunteers, and organize special events. Timeframe: ongoing (minimum 3-month commitment).

Election Action intern

Project: Help to organize volunteers to be active in Colorado elections. Projects include voter registration, candidate endorsement, and work on campaigns. Timeframe: through November 2004 (minimum 3-month commitment).

Political Fundraising Intern

Project: Help to plan and imple-

ment small events to raise money for our Political Action Committee. Timeframe: through November 2004 (minimum 3-month commitment).

Energy intern

Project: Organize volunteers for public outreach events and educational campaigns. Timeframe: through November 2004 (minimum 3-month commitment).

Conservation Outings intern

Project: Organize a series of conservation outings for the Sierra Club. A conservation outing combines an educational and a recreational event, so that people learn about an issue while having fun. Examples might include a tour of a wind power facility, a hike in a forest threatened with oil drilling, a trip to a wilderness being considered for protection.

Timeframe: anytime, with a minimum 3-month commitment.

Outings intern

Project: Assist Outings chair with recruitment of new outings leaders, maintain outings information on the Web site (simple computer skills required), and assist with planning, recruiting, and registration for spring training event. Timeframe: anytime, 3-month commitment.

Susan LeFever, Director
Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter
Susan.lefever@rmc.sierraclub.org
Fax: 303-861-2436

ROX VS. SOX

SEE PAGE 15 FOR MORE INFO

Looking for elbow room in the city? Are you an urban pioneer? I'm recruiting for like-minded neighbors who appreciate nature and having room to breathe. My neighborhood of Denver has relatively low-cost homes on large lots. This ad is prompted by quality of life issues, not monetary return. I am a Sierra Club member & am not a realtor and will not profit from this ad in any material sense. Call Maris at 303-789-1087.

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What's the Scoop on POOP?

Boulder's open space and mountain parks host thirty tons of dog waste every year—the equivalent of fifteen Ford Explorers



**By Chloe Forsman,
Community Adventure
Program student at New
Vista High School, Boulder.
Research compiled by
CAP students.**

You are walking along your favorite open space trail, the sky is clear and you are distracted by a great view of the Flatirons. You step over a rock and SQUISH—right into a fresh pile of dog poop.

It is estimated that Boulder's open space and mountain parks host thirty tons of dog

waste every year—the equivalent of fifteen Ford Explorers. Not only has this become a problem in Boulder, it has become an issue that needs to be addressed nationally. In fact, one Boulder resident was so passionate about the issue that he used his GPS unit to plot the coordinates of 1,492 piles of dog feces along one of his favorite hiking trails—yikes!

Dog excrement has severe environmental and aesthetic effects on an ecosystem. Studies in Boulder County have revealed that the presence of dog waste has chemically imbalanced the ecosystem by

depositing high levels of nitrogen, making it difficult for native plants to grow, while causing some “weeds” to flourish. Dog waste also releases harmful compounds into creeks and ponds. It upsets algae growth and may harm fish and other animals dependent on that water source. A single gram of dog waste contains up to twenty-three million infective bacteria, including E. Coli.

Contaminated water can also pose a threat to humans because when the water is used for recreation, infections and gastro illness become more

probable.

Ben Lawhon, Education Manager of the Boulder-based organization Leave No Trace (LNT), recognizes dog waste as a significant problem on public lands. While LNT does not currently have any programs in place to address this specific problem, they are making plans to address the issue nationally in the near future.

So what's the solution? The Community Adventure program at New Vista High School in Boulder, Colorado, proposes that land managers encourage people to compost their pet waste instead of

Websites to Learn the Scoop on Poop

To learn about dog feces:

www.yuckos.com/water.html and
www.myxyz.org/phmurphy

To purchase pet composting products:

www.petstreetmall.com/merchant/canine/doggiedooley.asp

To learn more about New Vista High School and the Community Adventure Program:

www.bvsd.k12.co.us/schools/nvhs and www.communityadventure.com

throwing it in the trash. Composting is a more sustainable solution because throwing away pet waste will still allow harmful bacteria to enter our watershed. There are several composting products on the market including the Doggie Dooley, available through petstreetmall.com.

So pet owners, please pick up your pets' waste and dispose of it properly. Other hikers will appreciate it, our watershed will appreciate it, and so will our environment!

Activist Don Ellis writes in a letter of support for a recent, successful initiative to extend an open space tax in Colorado Springs that the 'Boiling Fountain,' which gave Fountain Creek its name, 'now flows in the derelict and condemned Manitou Spa building where no business venture has ever succeeded. Barely a mile from the 'Boiling Fountain,' we had 'a miniature Niagara,' the largest falls in Colorado, with many rainbows.' Most of that water now flows in faucets, instead. 'A highway bridge shades the falls. There are few rainbows.'

The Losses We Forgave — and Soon Forgot

by Ruth Obee

For years the people came here from afar
To view this celebrated mineral spring —
The Fountain's bubbling flow reduced to ruined spa —
As when the Bachman's warbler ceased to sing.

We had our snow-fed, small Niagara Falls,
The largest in this shining mountain state.
Its faded arches even now are called
'The Rainbow Falls,' which highway bridge well shades.

We cannot recover vanished treasures —
And poorer will we be for every loss.
Unless we gauge success by other measures,
Safeguard our legacy; reject the hype and gloss,

Except in dreams — the rainbows will be few,
Where homeless sleep beneath the stars and dew.

Youth leaders sought for Outreach program

In prioritizing ways to build the Sierra Club in Colorado, the RMC Executive Committee has declared YOUTH OUTREACH a priority. We hope to enlist high school and college students to form Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) groups to participate in Sierra Club's mission to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. Our goal is to have 10 – 12 budding SSCs started in Colorado by

next year, with annual statewide campouts.

We need your help. Do you know a high school teacher, college professor, or agency or church youth leader who might enjoy serving as an advisor to an SSC? Please invite that person to contact Todd Chamberlain at todd.chamberlain@rmc.sierraclub.org, even if that person is not an SC member.

ICO Training Report

Inner City Outings annual training was held February 7 at Watershed School in Boulder. We had 22 adults (many new to ICO) plus 3 teens interested in being or assisting ICO Leaders on trips. ICO, you will recall, is the group of Sierra Club volunteers that takes kids outdoors, using grant monies and tax-deductible donations paid to the Sierra Foundation. Last year, we led over 60 trips.

This year's training was facilitated by Sierra Club national trainer, J. Carter. We discussed how to plan and carry out safe, fun, and educational trips. We discussed insurance forms, waivers, van rentals, equipment use, and answered questions related to program outings.

Newcomers contemplated ideas on how to assist and improve the program.

We want to thank Watershed School for donating the facility, Carter for facilitating the sessions, and Whole Foods and Moe's Bagels for donating great food. Thanks also to volunteers Kurt, Ford, Erik, Jennifer, Larry, and Rundell for their countless hours spent preparing for this event and to others I've forgotten.

Potential ICO volunteers who couldn't make this meeting can contact me by email regarding other training classes available. See you on the trails!

*Kathy Glatz, Inner City Outings Chair
kathy.glatz@rmc.sierraclub.org*



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The Healer

By Lynn Fogarty

I hear your snake rattle, shaken for me
Your deep brown eyes, what do they see
From the other world

I inhale the sweet healing smoke
Can you fix all that is broke
Inside of me

Beads of sweat from every pore
Wasted emotions nevermore
I am born again

Teach me great Healer, that I can mend
To each living thing your powers send
A message of life everlasting

FasTracks spurs 'Creative Class,' benefits Metro area

By Adriana Raudzens
RMC Staff

Can 137 miles of new rapid transit actually shape a "creative class" in the metro area? If I had any doubts, they were quickly dispelled following the Enos Mills Group's (EMG) recent FasTracks Transit presentation.

The February 3rd roundtable was the first in a series hosted by Colorado's local Sierra Groups. Subsequent meetings also took place in Lakewood and Englewood. These evenings served both as opportunities to educate Sierra Club members about RTD's FasTracks Transit expansion plan and as forums to exchange ideas on how the plan will impact the Denver area.

What are transit advocates talking about when they refer to a "creative class"? They typically mean a collective of citizens, businesses and other organizations that use the flexibility of a transit-oriented, local urban environment to develop new enterprises and practices. Nevertheless, considering the creativity and wealth of ideas expressed at the EMG brainstorming session, the group of attendees may just as easily have qualified for such a title. Here are several points the EMG advanced in sup-



FasTracks presenters Julie Connor and Adriana Raudzens chat with Enos Mills members Derek Officer and Ed Guhman after the February 3rd workshop. Photo by Wende Reoch.

port of the FasTracks plan:

First off, FasTracks would save metro area residents money in travel expenses. Moreover, the plan calls for efficient land use, greater travel convenience and transportation alternatives and better access to urban areas for cultural and entertainment purposes. It would also increase a sense of community character and pride while decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels. Finally, expanded public transit promotes better individual health as a result of less stress, cleaner air, and more opportunities to walk and bike to our destinations.

Some skeptics have facetiously suggested the \$4.7 billion earmarked for FasTracks would be better spent by purchasing every metro resident his or her own car. EMG members countered by pointing out that more cars would only intensify fiscal demands, increasing the need for new and widened roadways and worsening congestion. Such projects would in turn have ill social impacts on affected neighborhoods and the environment. When junked, cars fill up landfill space, and automobiles contribute substantially to air and noise pollution relative to mass transit options.

Not content to rely on speculation, EMG members offered plenty of examples of how public transit

More than 35,000 ride the existing 16 miles of light rail daily, which is 37% over initial ridership projections.



already benefits the public good. RTD's transit system currently saves metro area residents \$220 million annually. More than 35,000 people ride the existing 16 miles of light rail daily, 37% more than initially projected. Park-n-Ride lots are full night and day. According to RTD's models, more than 20% of the metro Denver population is expected to utilize FasTracks rail and bus rapid transit during peak hours once the system is completed in 2016. Those that don't will still benefit substantially from reduced congestion and an overall healthier environment.

For more information on FasTracks, or to get involved with the Sierra Club's Transit Campaign, please call Adriana at 303-861-8819 or email Adriana.Raudzens@rmc.sierraclub.org.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNER



The RMC photo contest winner for this issue is Anne Morgan of Idaho Springs whose dog sniffed out this newly born fawn. Anne grabbed this candid shot with her Pentax 200 mm Instamatic. "Nothing fancy" she says, and no formal posing was required.

Have you achieved your 15 minutes of fame yet? Here is your chance

Send your best nature photos to:
Photo Contest
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 4C
Denver, CO 80202
Each issue of the Peak & Prairie will feature the best photo submission.

Entry rules: You may send up to 5 of your best original shots at a time. You may enter as often as you like. Submissions should be prints no larger than 8 x 10 inches. Include a description of the photo with your name, address, and phone number. Include any pertinent technical information such as shutter

speed aperture, filters, etc. Submission grants SC-RMC the right to publish selected photos in print, electronic or other media including promotional or advertising use. By submitting photos you attest that the photos do not violate the rights of any third party and that you have any required permissions and releases. Photos will be returned only if you provide a self-addressed stamped envelope. SC-RMC assumes no responsibility for the return or safety of the photos. Winning photos will be selected by the editorial committee of the SC-RMC or a delegated representative.

Teacher Enhancement classes from Colorado Trail Foundation

■ One-week outdoor series to be held in the San Juans southwest of Lake City during the summer of 2004

The Colorado Trail Foundation is now offering classes for two credit hours in Wildflowers, Photography, Geology, and Storytelling. In its 14th year at the CTF's educational facility off the scenic Alpine By-way and surrounded by public lands, classes are held outdoors in high alpine meadows and pristine valleys, with participants bringing their own tent or reserving a bed in the tent dormitories. The facility consists of a chalet-type log building with solar lights and propane refrigerator and stove in the kitchen. Shower stalls are provided to accommodate sun show-

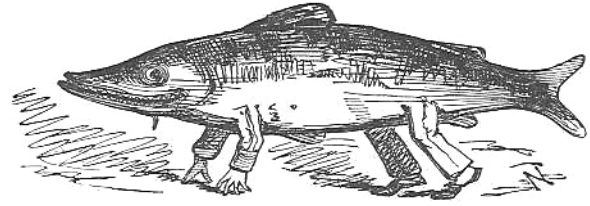


er bags and a vaulted toilet is near the outdoor deck and patio area. Surrounded by three 14,000-foot peaks, the facility is located at 10,800 feet. Cost is \$310 plus \$40 for BLM use permit. All meals and excellent instructors provided.

Contact: Charlotte Briber, the Colorado Trail Foundation at 303-526-0809, or Gudy Gaskill at guduct@ecentral.com.

Visit <http://www.coloradotrail.org> for more information.

The Precautionary Principle



The following is part of a leaked memo from the American Chemistry Council.

For full text go to www.ewg.org

Nichols – Dezenhall Precautionary Principle Campaign Proposal

THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE (PP)

The American Chemistry Council believes that the Precautionary Principle is a top priority and an emerging issue in California for two main reasons: it has affected and is negatively affecting a cross section of California industry in a variety of ways; and California's political climate makes the state more susceptible to policy and thinking inspired by the PP than other geographic regions.

California's business community has done little to date to counter the PP, largely allowing PP proponents to control the debate and spread their messages unfettered. Should this trend continue, industry runs the risk of allowing the PP to gain additional momentum, with potentially much broader and more severe implications. Moreover, California is a bellwether state, and any success enjoyed here could readily spill over to other parts of the country.

Q. Why do we need the precautionary principle now?

A. The effects of careless and harmful activities have accumulated over the years. Humans and the rest of the natural world have a limited capacity to absorb and overcome this harm. There are plenty of warning signs:

- Chronic diseases and conditions affect more than 100 million men, women and children in the United States — more than a third of the population. Cancer, asthma, Alzheimer's disease, autism, birth defects, developmental disabilities, diabetes, endometriosis, infertility, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson's disease are becoming increasingly common.

- In laboratory animals, wildlife, and humans, considerable evidence documents a link between levels of environmental contamination and malignancies, birth defects, reproductive problems, impaired behavior, and impaired immune system function. Scientists' growing understanding of how biological systems develop

and function leads to similar conclusions.

- Other warning signs are the dying off of plant and animal species, the destruction of ecosystems, the depletion of stratospheric ozone, and the likelihood of global warming.

Serious, evident effects such as endocrine disruption, climate change, cancer, and the disappearance of species can seldom be linked decisively to a single cause. Scientific standards of certainty may be impossible to attain when causes and outcomes are multiple; latent periods are long; timing of exposure is crucial; unexposed, "control" populations do not exist; or confounding factors are unidentified.



Q. Where is the precautionary principle applied?

- It is now embedded in numerous international treaties and conventions:

- Rio Declaration from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
- The Second North Sea Declaration
- The Bergen Declaration on Sustainable Development
- The Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference
- The Maastricht Treaty on the European Union;
- The Helsinki Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

- The Stockholm Treaty on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

The Rio Declaration says, "In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States [meaning nations] according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

Ratified by 50 countries now, this will go into effect in May of 2004.

Therefore, it is not a matter of WHETHER

“When an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.

“In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof. The process of applying the precautionary principle must be open, informed and democratic and must include potentially affected parties. It must also involve an examination of the full range of alternatives, including no action.”

the U.S. will abide by the precautionary principle, but HOW.

■ Some federal laws embody the principle of precaution.

- As a precautionary measure, the Food and Drug Administration requires all new drugs to be tested before they are put on the market.
- The Food Quality and Protection Act of 1996 requires pesticides to be proven safe for children or removed. Several are being phased out.
- The National Environmental Policy Act is precautionary in two ways: 1) It emphasizes foresight and attention to consequences by requiring an environmental impact assessment for any federally funded project, and 2) it mandates consideration of alternative plans. NEPA is one of the best national examples of precautionary action.
- The Wilderness Act sets aside certain areas as non-violable.
- The Occupational Safety and Health Act imposes a general duty on employers to provide safe working conditions and workplaces.
- The Endangered Species Act sets the goal of protecting biodiversity.
- The Clean Water Act establishes strict goals to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.”

Unfortunately, precautionary action has been the exception rather than the rule in U.S. environmental policy. Instead, even laws with precautionary intent and substance have been undermined, over-ridden, and poorly enforced.

■ The Precautionary Principle is being considered for U.S. local policies:

- San Francisco — in 2003, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco became the first government body in the U.S. to make the precautionary principle the basis for all its environmental policy. They adopted an environment code with the Precautionary Principle as article one. For a start, the city is applying the principle to its purchasing decisions.
- The Los Angeles Unified School District adopted the Precautionary Principle to limit pesticide use in schools. A number of North American cities have similar ordinances.
- Legislation has been presented in New York State applying the principle to state-funded new technologies.
- Massachusetts is considering Precautionary Principle legislation governing the phase-out of certain chemicals.
- Verizon Wireless sent a brochure in July 2002 to its U.S. cell phone customers describing the potential harm to children from radio frequencies emitted by cell phones. Verizon suggested that parents adopt the precautionary principle and limit children’s use of cell phones.

■ Individual European countries take the lead on PP applications:

- The European Union is forming a comprehensive policy, based on the Precautionary Principle, which would require all chemicals to be tested for their effects on health and the environment. It would put the burden on chemical manufacturers to demonstrate their products are safe, and it would give government immediate authority to regulate substances that show problems.

RESOURCES

WEBSITE RESOURCES

- Carolyn Raffensperger manages the Science and Environmental Health Network at www.sehn.org. She was in Boulder at a March 10 conference.

- The Environmental Working Group at www.ewg.org also does a lot of work relating to chemical pollutants.

- Rachel’s Environment & Health News at www.rachel.org is another excellent resource on toxics issues and on the Precautionary Principle, specifically numbers 539, 540, 586, 653, 657, 726, 756, and 765.

- National Public Health Week is April 5-11, 2004.

www.apha.org/nphw will focus on disparities.

- Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment focus is on obesity.

- Rocky Mountain Chapter Sierra Club listservers that work on precautionary principle issues are:

—genetic engineering:
RMC-genetic-engineering-comm@lists.sierraclub.org

—lifestyles:
RMC-cons-lifestyles@lists.sierraclub.org

—pesticides:
RMC-cons-pest@lists.sierraclub.org

Many of our local environmental committees operate based on the Precautionary Principle approach. Please feel free to contact us.

HARD COPY RESOURCES

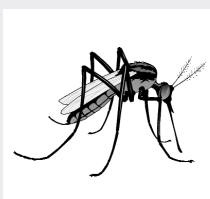
- *Protecting Public Health & The Environment: Implementing the Precautionary Principle* — published by Island Press, 2003

- *The Precautionary Principle Puts Values First*, Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society, Vol. 22, No. 3, June 2002, pages 210–219

- *The Precautionary Principle: Late Lessons from Early Warnings* by P. Herremoes et al, published by Earthscan, 2003

An example of the Precautionary Principle in action:

RMC resolution on pesticide application for mosquitos carrying the West Nile virus



WHEREAS, mosquito adulticides have not been adequately tested for their potential to cause cancer, birth defects, genetic mutation, nervous system damage, damage to reproductive organs and behavioral changes in non-target species, including humans, and;
WHEREAS, national Sierra Club pesticides policy states, in part, “There should be no public exposure through use of pesticides, pesticide residues, or byproducts of pesticides that cause cancer, birth defects, mutations, reproductive effects, or alter immune system or behavior of non-target organisms.”
WHEREAS, the West Nile virus’ growing

impact on birds, horses and human health is making mosquito control a more visible and contentious issue throughout Colorado, and;
WHEREAS, pyrethroid and organophosphate pesticide formulations, such as those used typically to kill adult mosquitoes, also have a dose-dependent impact on wildlife, humans, adult mosquito predators and flying pollinators (e.g. bees and moths), and;
WHEREAS, wetlands and wet areas serve as breeding areas for mosquitoes as well as a host of other organisms, and;
WHEREAS, adult mosquitoes do not heed geographic boundaries and cross from wetland breeding areas into populated communities, creating an excuse for broadcast spraying of adulticides;
THEREFORE, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club urges government

entities undertaking Integrated Pest Management (IPM) mosquito control programs to:

- eliminate the broadcast spraying of adulticides, and;
- otherwise avoid the use of adulticides as much as possible, and;
- establish monitoring programs for adult mosquito carriers of West Nile virus so that, if adulticide spraying is deemed necessary, it can be limited to areas where the carriers are present, and;
- consider using a variety of existing IPM tools other than adulticides, for example 1) native minnow fish and juvenile forms of game fish, 2) bat houses, 3) b.t.i. (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), 4) *Bacillus sphaericus*, and 5) devices that mechanically kill or harm mosquito larvae, that are effective in reducing

mosquitoes in their larval and/or adult stages.
PROS

- Consistent with 1984 city of Westminster activity on mosquito control, 1985 city of Loveland activity on mosquito control, and 2003 City of Boulder activity on mosquito control.
- An integrated mosquito management program employing monitoring of pest levels and the appropriate use of the least toxic agents creates fewer short-term and long-term health effects than extensive use of adulticides.
- B.t.i. and other bacterial agents especially are easily applied and have minimal impacts on non-target aquatic species and non-aquatic species.

CONS

- B.t.i. can harm black fly larva and midges and may cause deformities in tadpoles.

2003 Chapter Awards winners



Janna Six, Awards Committee chair, and Steve Welter, RMC Award recipient, at the annual Awards banquet.

By Janna Six RMC Awards Chair

Each year, the Rocky Mountain Chapter issues awards honoring outstanding environmental achievements by local and statewide volunteers, professionals and community members. The 2003 Awards Banquet was held as part of the Chapter's annual holiday party on December 6 at the Unitarian Church of Denver. Some background on this year's recipients:

Ed and Betsy Marston of Paonia received the **John Wade Award**. This highest tribute is bestowed in special instances for long-time leadership and achievement in Colorado's environmental arena. Ed and Betsy served, respectively, as publisher and editor of *High Country News* from 1983–2002. In so doing, they informed 23,000 subscribers throughout the West on important environmental issues. They continue to be active closer to home. Betsy is vice president of the Delta County School Board. Ed served for 13 years

on the board of the local rural electric co-op. He's now deeply involved in the redevelopment of downtown Paonia, noting that "America will live or die according to the health of its communities and not according to what happens in Washington, DC."

Two awards for Freshman Legislator of the Year were given. Representative **Jack Pommer** of Boulder and Representative **Michael Merrifield** of Manitou were honored for their commitment to environmental protection and for their leadership in the state legislature.

The **Community Service Award** was presented to **Colorado Citizens Against Toxic Waste**. **Sharyn Cunningham** and **Jeri Fry**, co-chairs, and **Sara Kitchen**, CCAT spokesperson, are leading an effort to stop the import of radioactive waste to the Cotter Uranium Mill in Canon City (one of the most toxic Superfund sites in the country). The mill has a liquid radioactive waste

site, which has contaminated the groundwater in the community. In 1999, the mill devised a plan to turn the facility's tailing ponds into a radioactive mixed-waste depository, slated to receive thousands of tons of waste from around the world.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is gradually changing the classification of some waste so it can be more easily disposed. So far, CCAT has stopped a shipment from Maywood, New Jersey and passed two State House bills better regulating imported waste and requiring socio-economic studies on the impact of radioactive waste disposal. CCAT is now urging the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment to deny Cotter's license renewal.

Two **Grassroots Leaders** were recognized for their extraordinary work at the local group level. **NJ Fulmer** has been active in Mesa County since 1988. In 2003, NJ ensured Sierra Club representation in work sessions

for the North Fruita Desert Management Plan, standing up to off-road vehicle and other environmentally adverse interests. Her work resulted in significant protection for wildlife in the North Fruita Desert. She also organizes desert clean-up events every few months.

Dan Ridgeway has been an Inner City Outings certified leader and volunteer for 3 years, working with students at College View Elementary in Denver. He leads outings at least 3 weekends a month, taking children cross country skiing, rafting, hut-tripping, and swimming. Dan has also undertaken leadership roles by coordinating the use of rental vans and locating and repairing a storehouse for ICO equipment.

Carrie Doyle was chosen as the **Professional Conservationist of the Year**. In 2003, Carrie worked for the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund while filling a niche as a full-time lobbyist for the environmental community. Her efforts at the capitol helped to gain the ear of many legislators in regard to environmental issues their constituents care about. She continues to work in preparation for the 2004 session.

The **Volunteer Conservationist of the Year** award goes to outstanding individuals who have made positive strides on a project or issue at the statewide or regional level. **Bert Melcher**, chair of the Transportation Committee, has thorough knowledge of the issues and has established ambitious but feasible goals. Bert's familiarity with the people and institutions vital to Colorado's transportation policy, and his enthusiastic approach to citizen involvement are duly recognized with this award. Bert joined and reinvigorated the committee in a campaign to influence transportation studies so as to fully explore sustainable transportation options.

Joan Seeman was also presented with the honor. Joan's activism began when she successfully stopped the spraying of 2-4-D and malathion in her neighborhood. Then she took on Rocky Flats. Most recently, Joan has made a habit of standing up to government and corporate officials when things are amiss at Superfund sites. She helped Canon City citizens in fighting the disposal of radioactive waste at Cotter Mill. In the past two years, Joan has served on the restoration advisory board at Lowry Air Force Base, investigated leaching of rocket fuels downstream from Lockheed Martin in Littleton, opposed plans to apply Class B sludge to farmland in Weld County, and fought against the continued use of hydrofluosilic acid (waste from a fertilizer company) to fluoridize Fort Collins' drinking water.

Summit County's **Blue River Group** received an award for **Special Achievement** for its fire mitigation project — a successful model project supported by the National Sierra Club — demonstrating appropriate forest thinning in proximity to development. This project, public forums in 2003 on forests, and the use of magnesium chloride have elevated awareness of the issues and Sierra Club's presence in the high country.

Members of the **Indian Peaks Group** also received **Special Achievement** recognition for their important contributions in the election of State Representative Pommer and sweeping city council election results. The members also played a vital role in the October 2003 Overland fire (Jamestown, CO), providing breakfast and lunch for 200

firefighters and 80 evacuees.

The **Chapter Leader of the Year** award went to **Gary Matthews**. Gary has been the RMC Finance Committee chair for the past three years, the Nominations Committee chair for the past two years, and in 2003, took the initiative to recruit a new Outings Committee and Outings Committee chair. Gary has improved the operations of the Chapter to make it more effective and efficient.

The **Outstanding Chapter Committee Award** was presented to **Charlie Oriez**, chair of the Information Technology Committee, for his initiation of an innovative recycling project. Working with the Polis Foundation, Charlie and the committee developed a program to reuse computer equipment. Companies upgrading their systems donate old computers to "Recycle IT" rather than send them to landfills. The program then works with high school students to reformat the computers which are ultimately donated to area schools.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to:

Linda Pohle — Energy Information Subcommittee chair and author of numerous newsletter articles.

Steve Welter — Devoted Indian Peaks Group chair, Rocky Mountain representative for national group survey, IPG Outings chair and associate editor, *The Bugle*.

Judy Johnson — New and extremely active volunteer with the Rachael Carson Group in NW Denver; member RCG Executive Committee.

Hugo Anderson — Hugo has donated time and his own art work to the Chapter's annual auction over the last three years. Hugo has encouraged other artists to provide donations as well.

Shelly Weiss — A member of the Uncompaghe Group in Mesa County (Western Slope), she has been a strong contributing member of the group's executive committee and driving force for the group's vital outings program.

Charlie Stevens — Dedicated Energy Committee volunteer and willing volunteer on other Chapter activities.

Julie Connor — Knowledge of the workings of the City of Denver and unflagging energy and expertise as the "Powerpoint Queen" have made her invaluable to the Enos Mills Group, the Chapter Energy Campaign, and in other roles.

Cindy Nevison — Sprawl and Transportation Committee member who persisted in publishing the Indian Peak Group's position supporting FasTracks (RTD's vision for expanded rail and bus service in the Metro Denver area).

The **Sink or Swim Award** went to two individuals who took on tasks that might have been over his/her heads, were thankless, or went awry, yet were pulled out to a successful conclusion. **David Mastronarde** picked up Chapter treasurer's responsibilities when Mark Collier was called to work in the Far East. **Jane Ard-Smith** volunteered to take over organizing of the Pikes Peak Group's 2003 Telluride Mountain Film Festival showing when the existing chair unexpectedly quit. She devoted many hours to this project over and above the time she spent as Pikes Peak Group treasurer.

Congratulations to all of our 2003 award recipients!

Moffat County Sierrans weigh in on public lands collaboration

Col·lab'·o·ra'tion: n. to work jointly with others

By Richard Levy AND Jennifer Seidenberg

Trapper's Lake Group

The notion of collaboration has received considerable attention of late in the public land management field. The Department of the Interior (DOI) has outwardly promoted the "4 Cs," Secretary Gale Norton's professed philosophy of "consultation, cooperation and communication all in the service of conservation." Active collaboration demands that all interested parties come together to find common ground while receiving increased input from the citizenry. In principle, this is a noble concept. In practice, the DOI may have ulterior motives in promoting citizen-based collaboration. The appearance of diversity may serve to legitimize agency decisions. Meanwhile, locals are expected to focus on economic benefit or detriment when considering public land uses. That bias may be just what the current administration is seeking to exploit.

To protect against government perversion of the public collaboration process, the Sierra Club has initiated guidelines for its own participation.

The question of participation is of no small importance. The Sierra Club must consider the legitimacy our organization lends to a collaborative process, assuring there are in fact conservation goals that may be achieved through collaboration, rather than the Club merely serving as the token environmentalist voice.

With such concerns in mind, members of the Trapper's Lake Group (TLG) are currently participating in the Northwest Colorado Stewardship in the unlikely locale of Moffat County. The partnership dates back to Moffat County's 2001 proposal for a "Landscape Trust," which sought to have county appointees take the place of federal land managers in the administration of the county's 3 million acres of public land. Thankfully, through the hard work of local volunteers, the Trust has morphed into a productive process, bringing divergent interests together.

Over sixty participants from various backgrounds including the mining industry, ranchers, local businesses and conservationists attended a marathon three-day training session in Craig sponsored by the Bureau of Land

Management's "Partnership Series." Facilitators emphasized the interaction between environmental, social and economic realms in rural communities like Moffat County. TLG representatives, members of the Colorado Mountain Club and the Colorado Wilderness Network and other local environmentalists have dedicated significant time to the collaboration process. Thus far, the partnership has succeeded in helping build trust between two traditionally opposed camps.

Outside the collaborative process, the Sierra Club is often perceived as a litigant, not a participant. This is reason alone to join the collaborative effort whenever possible. Participants have the ability to see each other as legitimate stakeholders, not as "east coast" or "big city elitists." Participating at the outset allows environmentalists to ensure their voices will be heard. If a participant decides the process is skewed, leaving the table has more legitimacy than calling foul from the sidelines. While the current administration may just be paying lip service to the notion of constructive collaboration, in Moffat County, the concept is working.

Federal transportation legislation an environmental disaster

By Bert Melcher, RMC Transportation Chair

Federal legislation currently under consideration in Washington contains a major attack on our long-standing "Environmental Bill of Rights," the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Pending presidential and congressional bills re-authorize the "Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century" (TEA_21) for six years. The Senate already passed its bill on February 12, "SAFETEA," and the House will take action in June.

SAFETEA is a disaster in several respects. The most dangerous component of the legislation is newly-added Section 326. Section 326 establishes state transportation departments (DOTs) as "lead agencies" for ALL transportation decisions where federal funds are involved. "Transportation" includes transit and rail. The lead agency has sole power to define the

"purpose and need" of any project and the alternatives that may be considered. This statutory language would have disastrous effects (just read this slowly aloud):

"The lead agency *may* (emphasis added) determine that any of the following factors and documents are appropriate for consideration in determining the alternatives for a project:

(A) The overall size and complexity of the proposed action.

(B) The sensitivity of the potentially affected resources.

(C) The overall schedule and cost of the project.

(D) Transportation plans and related planning documents developed through the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning process under sections 134 and 135 of title 23 of the United States Code.

(E) Land use plans adopted by units of State, local, or tribal gov-

ernment (or, in the case of Federal land, by the applicable Federal land management agencies).

(F) Economic development plans adopted by (i) units of State, local, or tribal government; or (ii) established economic development planning organizations or authorities.

(G) Environmental protection plans, including plans for the protection or treatment of (i) air quality; (ii) water quality and runoff; (iii) habitat needs of plants and animals; (iv) threatened and endangered species; (v) invasive species; (vi) historic properties; and (vii) other environmental resources.

(H) Any publicly available plans or policies relating to the national defense, national security, or foreign policy of the United States."

In other words, under the proposed legislation, state DOTs could permissibly ignore all of the factors

identified above. The word "may" regarding DOT duties — i.e., the option to ignore what it wants to ignore — occurs elsewhere in the legislation as well, weakening NEPA's mandates, which call for a full analysis of alternatives for all federally funded projects. In order to comply with our stated national environmental policy, "may" should be changed to "shall" throughout the law. Absent this change, local and regional governmental units, local influence and involvement, as well as traditional systems of checks and balances are all jeopardized.

The legislation also shortens time frames for agency and public reviews and comments to 30 days. This is a travesty and designed solely to circumvent NEPA and due process requirements. This bill would give state DOTs authority over transit and commuter rail such as BART in San Francisco, MARTA in Atlanta,

RTD in Denver, etc. This is not tolerable. Transit agencies were established by state laws, voted on by voters, are recipients of federal funding, conforming to federal laws (FTA, Civil Rights and NEPA especially), funded primarily with local taxes, have locally elected or appointed boards, and have duties and responsibilities that should not be usurped by a DOT.

There are some good provisions, especially in proposed Senate funding to increase transit funds. However, President Bush has threatened a line item veto on these measures. As such, Sierra Club members should use every avenue to protest these attacks on NEPA, health, good government, multimodal transportation and citizens' rights. This bill was written by and for the paving industry: ask your U.S. senators and congressmen to delete Section 326 of SAFETEA.

GREENING ELECTRONICS:

By Ann Peters

Recycling your computer is the right thing to do environmentally and practically. Computers contain hazardous materials that can be harmful to the environment if not properly managed.

So, what's wrong with this picture?

These computer monitors were dumped on Federal land in Western Colorado in 2001, used for target practice, and abandoned. While we've all wanted to do that to our computers out of sheer frustration, this represents an environmental nightmare.

These monitors first belonged to a Federal agency in Grand Junction. When they were done with them, they were donated to a school district in the Delta-Montrose area. The school district tossed them in a dumpster when done. A teacher from the school apparently took them to remote Bureau of Land Management land, and opened fire. Because cathode ray tubes (CRTs) in computer monitors contain lead, this released lead into the soil, air, and probably groundwater. Under CERCLA (the Superfund law),

the original owner is still responsible for downstream disposal of a hazardous material — so the Federal agency could have been charged.

Under RCRA, it is illegal for institutions to dispose of hazardous materials as waste, so the school district could have held liable. As it happened, the hapless teacher was charged with littering and paid a fine, but the other parties could have been held responsible.

Don't let this happen to your PCs or expose your organization to this risk!

■ Reduce toxics that enter the environment — buy right

First, seek to buy electronic equipment that has reduced its hazardous waste in the first place (see resource list at end of article). Ask the vendor to take back the computers as part of the contract if you're an institution, or find recycling options locally or via a manufacturer's Web site for households.

■ Protect private data

Then, when you're done with the computer, be sure to thoroughly remove all private data before the next step. Federal laws direct organi-

zations to protect financial and health data of customers — this includes data on obsolete computers.

■ Reuse, recycle

If it's still useful and functioning, donate your computer to an organization that will refurbish or reuse it. Remind them to handle it responsibly at end of life. If it's no longer functioning, look for a recycler in your area.

■ The Potential Toxic Burden

Currently, about 2 million computers are used by Colorado's governments, businesses and industries. When these become obsolete, businesses should plan to recycle, donate for reuse, or otherwise ensure they are not put in the trash. If those 2 million computers were landfilled, nearly 7,000 tons of lead could enter our environment. Lead, commonly found in the monitor of a TV or a computer, is one of the most toxic materials to enter the environment. It is a potential legal and public relations liability for a business or institution to put its electronic equipment in the trash.

■ Resources for More Information



These computer monitors were dumped on Federal land in Western Colorado, then used for target practice, releasing lead from cathode ray tubes into the surrounding environment.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has extensive information for businesses and households on reusing and recycling electronics and on how to purchase new "greener" computers. There are lists of questions to ask a recycler, and much more. Visit the Web site at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/electronics/electronics.asp>. Sort for elec-

tronics recyclers in Colorado at www.colorado-recycles.org/main.html.

Anne Peters, Gracestone, Inc., consults in educational, procurement, market development and other electronics recycling issues, as well as other environmental and recycling-specific areas at 303-494-4934, (annep@indra.com)

Energy efficiency and conservation for Colorado —

Reducing energy demand to reduce utility bills and environmental costs

By Leslie Glustrom
Energy Committee Chair,
Indian Peaks Group

Energy efficiency and conservation are typically the quickest, easiest, cheapest ways to reduce energy bills and to reduce the impact on the environment of energy production and use. If we don't use the energy, we don't have to pay for it — and we don't suffer from the environmental consequences of mining, drilling, transporting, burning and cleaning up the air, water and solid wastes that result from the use of energy. These efficiency and conservation programs are often referred to collectively as "demand-side-management" (DSM) programs — because they address the demand for energy rather than the need to generate more energy.

While many of us are working hard this year to enact a Renewable Energy Standard for the state of Colorado, the next step will be to promote energy efficiency (doing the same task with less energy) and energy conservation (avoiding energy consumptive actions) for the state. In Colorado, we are blessed to have one of the world's leading experts on energy efficiency,

If we don't use the energy, we don't have to pay for it — and we don't suffer from the environmental consequences

Howard Geller of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET), working in the state and promoting energy efficiency. Howard and his co-workers, Larry Kinney, Mark Ruzzin and others, are a veritable storehouse of knowledge on energy efficiency and conservation, and they are working tirelessly to promote policies that will increase our efficiency and reduce our consumption of energy.



During this Legislative Session, SWEET helped draft two key bills on energy efficiency.

• **House Bill 1313** directed the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish that the goal of

integrated resource planning (IRP) in Colorado would be to minimize the total energy bills paid by residents and businesses, rather than to minimize the rates charged for units of electricity and natural gas. Such a change would have led to the expansion of utility-sponsored demand-side management energy conservation programs, saving Colorado's consumers hundreds of millions of dollars over the next ten to fifteen years. Power plant emissions would have been reduced and one to three new power plants would have been avoided.

• **HB 1184** would have directed the state's large investor-owned electric utilities to save one-half percent of their annual retail electricity sales each year between 2005 and 2020 through cost-effective energy efficiency programs. SWEET estimates that consumers and businesses in Colorado would have saved over \$1 billion net dur-

ing 2005-2020 — actual electricity bill savings minus the cost of the energy efficiency programs.

Reducing electricity use by 7.5% in 2020 would have eliminated the need for one or more power plants totaling 450 MW in capacity. As electricity generation is a water-intensive process, about 1.3 billion gallons of water per year would have been saved by 2020, and due to the need for less electricity, power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, mercury, and carbon dioxide would also have been reduced.

While both of these measures died in committee this year, these and other measures are likely to be back before the State Legislature in 2005. In the meantime, it is important that Sierra Club members work to help educate their communities on the benefits of energy conservation and efficiency so that we can move ever more quickly towards a cleaner, more sustainable economy for the coming century (see the box on the Energy Efficiency Guide for Colorado businesses).

If you have further questions or

would like to help promote energy efficiency and conservation in Colorado, contact the Rocky Mountain Chapter office by calling 303-861-8819 or emailing susan.lefever@sierraclub.org.

Energy Efficiency Guide for Colorado Businesses available online

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project has put together an excellent and FREE guide entitled "Energy Efficiency Guide for Colorado Businesses" available at www.coloradoefficiencyguide.com.

The guide includes sector-specific analyses of energy usage and what can be done to reduce it, recommendations for getting started, profiles of energy service companies operating in Colorado and case studies of successful energy efficiency programs. Check it out and ask the stores and offices that you frequent to institute an energy efficiency program for their business.

L · I · F · E · S · T · Y · L · E · S

Ask the
RECYCLE LADY

LESLIE MARTEL BAER, MA—Mountain Muse Communications



Recyclers' Corner

From toothbrushes to area action groups, you CAN make a change!

Dear Recycle Lady: With help from neighbors, I have begun a successful little recycling program at my apartment building. Now we would like to expand beyond the basics: plastic, cans, glass and newspaper. Several of us are interested in recycling toothbrushes. Can you help?

—Brushing Off the Nay-Sayers

Dear Brushing: Congratulations! It is especially challenging to address recycling needs in urban multifamily dwellings because of collection and pick-up issues. Therefore, you are addressing an important need.

Expanding your program is also a laudable endeavor. However, toothbrushes are a difficult item with which to begin. The Denver metro area has seen programs specific to toothbrushes; often, these are funded by government grants and their presence waxes and wanes with funding cycles. I do not know of a specific program in place right now. However, you do have several options:

1. Pursue toothbrush recycling. This course involves lots of leg work. Call manufacturers to see if they have mail-in programs. According to Colorado Recycles (303-695-6010; www.colorado-recycles.org), 46 entities in Colorado recycle "various plastics." Check with the ones near you for a recycler who can take toothbrushes. Also, check with companies using plastic waste. Colorado Recycles lists both 3M and Tnex, for example. They might accept mail-in contributions if the item fits their processes.

2. Promote reducing and reusing, as well as recycling. Don't throw your toothbrushes away. No, I'm not suggesting we use our toothbrushes forever! However, many products on the market allow you to replace the head only, reusing the handle indefinitely (which can be cleaned). I use "Fuchs" brand, available at natural food stores, which uses a biodegradable head. Using toothbrushes as an easy illustration, reducing and reusing could be a great starting point to this discussion in your community.

3. Expand your program with other materials. Lots of materials are more readily recycled than toothbrushes yet not commonly included in household programs. Colorado Recycles lists 184 entities accepting cardboard around the state. Likewise, alkaline and rechargeable batteries (sorted separately) can be recycled regionally. You may have to coordinate hauling or mailing, but a little community effort can go a long way to diverting useful commodities from the landfill.

Thank you for your efforts and best of luck with your program!

Dear Recycle Lady: How environmentally friendly/benign are Pergo floors — made from wood chips and glue — in comparison to hardwood?

—Recycling While Remodeling

Dear Remodeling:

Unfortunately, there is no "black and white" answer to your question — or most others about building products. To definitively identify the environmental impact of a building material, one needs to examine key variables over the product lifecycle. These variables include issues such as net material landfilled, net carbon dioxide release and net energy used for a given amount of product (production to demolition). Sustainability of harvesting or collecting methods and recycled content should also be considered.

Information from a Pergo reseller

(<http://www.jamescaine.com/carpet/pergo.shtm>) and Pergo corporate language suggests the manufacturer is interested in reducing its environmental footprint. Not surprisingly, however, the information is difficult to quantify. Next, consider the feel of the product in your home. Will it feel "natural," comfortable and aesthetically satisfying? Will it off-gas? How well — and long — will it function? How will it affect your feng shui?

The Oikos.com web site is a good place to research green building products, as are local companies such as Eco-Products (303-449-1876; www.ecoproducts.com), Planetary Solutions (303-442-6228) and Ecobuild (303-545-6255; www.eco-build.com). They may not have information on the product you are investigating, but they can offer perspective on the large array of environmentally friendly and recycled building products available today. More than ever, investigating these options is an important part of any home improvement project.

Hey, Denverites!

Want to do more for recycling in your neighborhood? Whether your contribution of time or money is large or small, there is a place for you at the Recycling Alliance of Denver (RAD). Check them out at www.recyclingalliance.org or call 720-855-1932.

Mountain Muse Communications provides integrated communications services to socially and environmentally responsible organizations, including waste and environmental impact reduction consulting, presentations and workshops. The information provided is based on what are believed to be reliable sources at the time of writing; no guarantees of accuracy are implied and no endorsement is made of any particular service, business or product. Recyclers and recyclees can send their corrections, suggestions and inquiries to recycle@mountainmuse.com or Ask the Recycle Lady, 1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 4C Denver, CO 80202.

**Denver Recycles Web site
— new and improved**

Denver Recycles/Solid Waste Management, in partnership with Denver's Office of Television and Internet Services, has launched a new and improved web site. The web address is www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles. The site is designed to give Denver residents greater access to Denver Solid Waste Management services and information, during and after regular business hours.

On the new web site you can:

- Sign up for Residential Recycling Service
- Sign up to receive email reminders about your recycling collection day
- Check out service days and set-out information for your trash collection, recycling and large item pickup
- Find a drop-off center for the materials that Denver Recycles does not currently accept in the residential recycling program
- Get lots of great information about waste reduction and recycling.

Recycling Facility Tours

In 2004, Denver Recycles and Waste Management/Recycle America will continue offering tours of the materials recovery facility (MRF — pronounced "murf") where the city delivers the recyclables collected through Denver's residential recycling program and the materials are sorted and prepared for various markets. Visitors will see first-hand how the more than 60 tons of materials collected each day in the Denver program are prepared for recycling.

Tours are scheduled for the second and fourth Thursday of every month and are free to Denver residents by reservation. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Groups of 12 or more are welcome to work with Denver Recycles to schedule private tours. Tours will last approximately 30 minutes to an hour. Residents must provide their own transportation to the facility.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Denver Recycles at 720-865-6810 or visit our web site at www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

Household hazardous waste

It's lurking in cabinets, under sinks, and in basements across Denver. Most people have some type of household hazardous waste in their homes, but few people know what it is and how to dispose of it properly.

Examples of household hazardous waste include common household cleaners, latex and oil-based paints, motor oil, solvents, pesticides, batteries, thermometers and pool chemicals. Even small amounts of these wastes, when disposed of improperly in the regular trash, poured down storm drains or on the lawn, can pollute ground and surface water and harm humans and the environment.

If you have household hazardous waste in your home there is a solution. The City of Denver, through a contract with Curbside, Inc. provides door-to-door collection of household hazardous waste. To participate in the service, residents must be Denver Solid Waste Management customers and reside in single-family homes, townhomes, or apartment buildings of seven units or fewer. Eligible residents simply call the Curbside Inc. toll-free hotline at 800-HHW-PKUP (800-449-7587) to schedule a household hazardous waste pickup from their homes. Residents are permitted one collection per year and must have a minimum of three different materials before calling for a pickup.

The City and County of Denver's household hazardous waste collection program is supported through a cooperative effort between the Wastewater and Solid Waste Management divisions of Denver Public Works.

For more information about household haz-

ardous waste and how to reduce it, residents can contact Denver Recycles at 720-865-6805 or visit our web site at www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

**Learn composting and serve your
community: become a
Denver Master Composter!**

How can you become an expert in composting, meet new people, and participate in interesting events, all while serving your community? By becoming a Denver Master Composter!

Denver Recycles and Denver Urban Gardens are now recruiting people interested in backyard composting for our 2004 Denver Master Composter Training and Outreach program. As a participant in this popular program, you would receive 20 hours of instruction in compost science, bin construction, worm composting, recycling and solid waste management and community outreach. Serious stuff, but we make it fun!

Classes will begin in late March 2004 and run for 6 weeks. Each participant is required to return 20 hours of community service teaching composting to Denver residents. Participants have a year to complete this requirement.

The goal of the program is to make home composting a common practice throughout Denver, and minimize the amount of organic waste, a recyclable resource, that must be collected, hauled and landfilled.

Denver Recycles and Denver Urban Gardens select up to 20 trainees annually for the program. Anyone is welcome to apply and applicants need not be experienced in composting. All applicants will be invited to a short interview.

For more information or to register, please contact Denver Urban Gardens at 303-292-9900.

Recyclers' Corner is a periodic news column sponsored by Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management. It includes updates on seasonal and ongoing activities related to the City and County of Denver's recycling programs.



Book Review

Road Biking Colorado, the Statewide Guide
by Michael Seeberg**Review by Don Thompson**

Sangre de Cristo Group

On cold winter weekends when you can merely think about road biking rather than actually take to the road, this is the book to have next to your easy chair. You will find page after page of rides that you've either done, or rides that you've planned to do. *Road Biking Colorado* details almost 150 different rides to suit any riding ability.

While the snow is falling, relive some of your most enjoyable excursions, or begin to plan trips you have yet to do. Covering the entire state, this book will provide all the information you need, warning you of the difficulty of the ride, and describing the road conditions you can expect to find. The elevation profiles adequately tell you what to expect, but the accompanying narratives round out the details you need to be forewarned. Since the bulk of the book covers the mountain passes of Colorado,

elevation profiles are clearly needed.

A minor complaint might be that not all aspects of a ride are included. The Vail Pass description, for example, covers Copper Mountain to Vail, yet does not make mention of the Vail to Copper Mountain return trip. Luckily, a simple glance at the elevation profile should warn all but the most unobserving that the return trip is far different from the westward trip.

The completeness of the book is revealed in the substantial use of mile markers in the narrative and the inclusion of phone numbers for Chambers of Commerce and county offices, etc., where current information can be obtained.

So pick up a copy and happy planning for warm weather.

Don Thompson is a 35-year member of the Sierra Club, and treasurer of Bicycle Colorado, which receives a portion of sales of Road Biking Colorado from Westcliffe Publishers.

Preserve The Future.

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in you will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

Suzanne Levi
Assistant Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5541 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

NATIONAL AWARD NOMINATIONS:

Do you know a club member who deserves national recognition?

If so, nominating them is easier than ever this year thanks to new web-based nomination forms.

June 1 is the deadline to nominate candidates for the club's 2004 national awards. The online nomination forms may be found on the awards home page at www.sierra-club.org/awards.

The club has 22 national awards:

- **The Ansel Adams Award** honors an individual who has made superlative use of still photography to further a conservation cause.
- **The David Brower Award** recognizes a professional journalist whose work has made a significant difference in the actions of government at the local, state or national level pertaining to the environment.
- **The Denny and Ida Wilcher Award** honors a Sierra Club chapter or group for outstanding work in membership development and/or fundraising, particularly for specific conservation projects. Judging criteria include creativity, originality and ratio of funds raised to expenses.
- **The Distinguished Achievement Award** honors persons in public service for a particular action of singular importance to conservation.
- **The Distinguished Service**

Award honors persons in public service for strong and consistent commitment to conservation over a considerable period of time.

- **The Edgar Wayburn Award** honors outstanding service to the environmental cause by a person in government, either executive or legislative.
- **The Electronic Communication Award** honors the best web page or other use of electronic communications to further the Sierra Club's mission.
- **The Environmental Alliance Award** honors Club members or entities who have helped further environmental goals through collaboration with other, non-Sierra Club constituencies. Includes a \$1,000 award from the Joseph Barbosa Earth Fund to further the work of the recipient(s).
- **The Francis P. Farquhar Mountaineering Award** honors an individual's contribution to mountaineering and enhancement of the Club's prestige in this field. The Mountaineering Committee selects recipients.
- **The John Muir Award** honors a distinguished record of achievement in national or international conservation causes. Recipients receive life membership in the Sierra Club.
- **The Joseph Barbosa Earth Fund**

Award recognizes club members under the age of 30 who have a demonstrated record of service to the environment. Includes a \$1,000 award from the Joseph Barbosa Earth Fund to further the work of the recipient(s).

- **The Chico Mendes Award** recognizes individuals or non-governmental organizations outside the United States who have exhibited extraordinary courage and leadership, at the grassroots level, in the universal struggle to protect the environment. The International Committee selects recipients.
- **The Earthcare Award** honors an individual, organization, or agency distinguished by making a unique contribution to international environmental protection and conservation. The International Committee selects recipients.
- **The Raymond J. Sherwin Award** honors extraordinary volunteer service toward international conservation. The International Committee selects recipients.
- **The Madelyn Pyeatt Award** honors Sierra Club members who have made outstanding contributions through working with youth.
- **The Newsletter Award** recognizes excellence in newsletter publishing

by chapters, groups and other Sierra Club entities. Judging criteria include content, design and cost-efficiency. Because Sierra Club awards recognize volunteer efforts, this award is available only to newspapers produced by volunteer efforts. Separate awards are given for newsletters produced by large and small entities.

- **The Oliver Kehrlein Award** honors service to the Sierra Club Outings Program either at the local or national level over an extended period of time.
- **The One Club Award** honors club members at any level who have used outings as a way to protect or improve public lands, instill an interest in conservation, increase membership in the Sierra Club, or increase awareness of the Sierra Club.
- **The Special Achievement Award** honors an individual Sierra Club member, committee, group or chapter for a single act of particular importance dedicated to conservation or to the Club.
- **The Special Service Award** honors a Sierra Club member, committee or group for strong and consistent commitment to conservation or the Club over an extended period of time.

■ **The Susan E. Miller Award** honors individual Sierra Club members for exceptional contributions to chapters. Up to three Susan E. Miller awards are given annually.

■ **The Walter A. Starr Award** honors the continuing active work and support of the Club by a former director.

■ **The William E. Colby Award** honors an individual for outstanding leadership, dedication and service to the Sierra Club. Acknowledges service within the Sierra Club's organizational structure but may include conservation achievements.

■ **The William O. Douglas Award** recognizes those who have made outstanding use of the legal/judicial process to achieve environmental goals, particularly those with national significance.

This year's awards will be presented at the annual dinner to be held Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Holiday Inn Select on Kearny Street in San Francisco. For ticket information, please contact Gene Coan at the national office (gene.coan@sierra-club.org).

For more information, contact Awards Committee Chair Ellen Davis at mayou@flash.net.

Administration continues attack on public health, environment

Mercury emission reductions from power plants lessened and delayed
By Carl Pope

Sierra Club Executive Director

The Bush administration has once again put the interests of corporate polluters ahead of America's public health.

A rule published in the January 30th Federal Register makes official a proposal announced by the Environmental Protection Agency last December to permit power plants to emit higher levels of toxic mercury for the next decade and beyond (under current rules mercury emissions of 50 tons a year would be reduced to 5 tons a year by 2008, however, the administration would allow up to 15 tons of mercury emissions in 2018, as well as pollution trading).

With mercury pollution affecting


nearly one in twelve American women (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, January 2003), it is astonishing that the Bush administration is proposing weakened air pollution protections.

And although the administration is required to solicit public input to make the mercury rule change official, the plan calls for only three public hearings (none in Colorado) and a 60-day public comment period. It's yet another example of the Bush administration elbowing Americans out of important decisions affecting their health.

Strong protections against mercury pollution work. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection found that after dramatically reducing mercury emissions from incinerators in southern Florida, mercury levels in fish decreased to the point where consumption advisories for bass were removed (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2003).

There is a better way. The Bush administration should strongly enforce the laws that we know work to protect our communities from mercury pollution, increase the num-


ber of public hearings about mercury, and extend the public comment period to a full 90 days. This way, more Americans will have the opportunity to register their complaints about this ill-conceived scheme.

Did You Forget? 

We've looked everywhere for your response to our March appeal.


In March we sent out an appeal to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to your Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. Please be as generous as you are able—remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Thank you.

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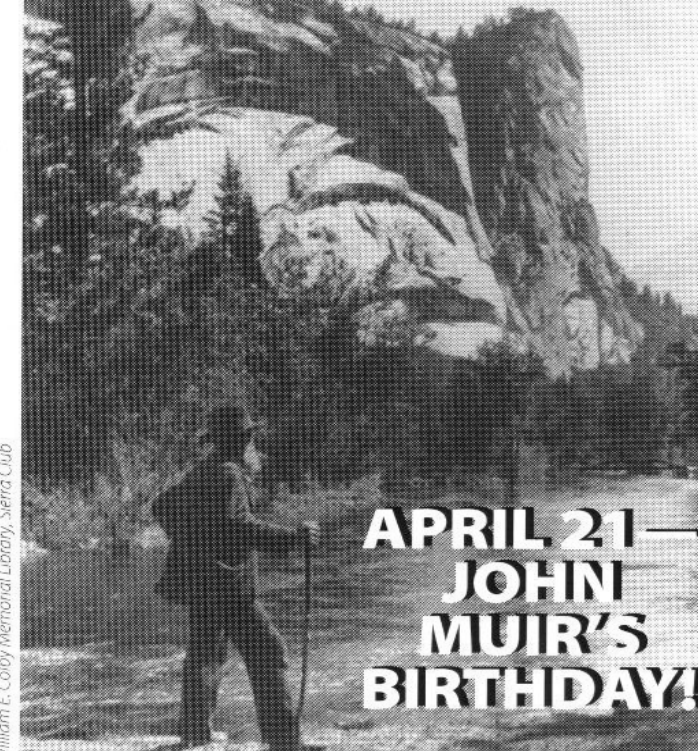
Craig power facility



The power generating facility at Craig is the largest in Colorado. According to Environment Colorado, between 1995 and 2000 the state's power plants increased their emissions of carbon dioxide by over 7 million tons to 41 million tons total. The Craig plant leads the pack with an annual increase of 1.8 million tons of CO₂, strongly implicated in global warming. The plant also has one of the highest increases of nitrogen oxide (which forms ozone smog and can trigger asthma attacks) emissions in the country. Between 1995 and 2000, the state's annual NOx emissions grew by 4,992 tons.

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William E. Colby Memorial Library, Sierra Club

**APRIL 21—
JOHN
MUIR'S
BIRTHDAY!**

**Won't you join the Sierra Club and add your voice
to protect the planet, and John Muir's legacy?**

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CLUB DAY

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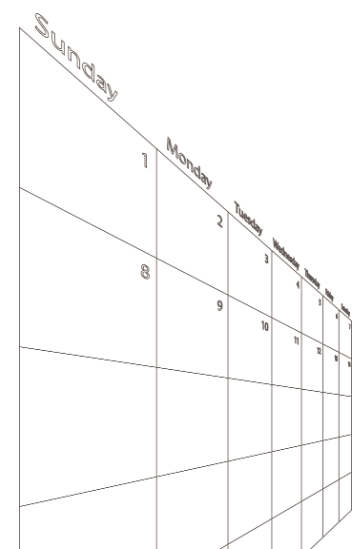
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SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT/LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **Sierra Club,**
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
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C A L E N D A R

Meetings and events are open to members and the public at no cost. These events are a good way to meet activists and discuss Club issues. Hikes begin and end at the trailhead. Call the leader indicated for information, preferably a couple of days in advance. Appropriate experience and equipment required.

Other outings and special events for the chapters and local groups can be found on the RMC Web site at www.rmcsierraclub.org in the calendar toolbar or the outings toolbar. Please check for current listings. Don't have a computer? Do not fear — the office can let you know the latest if you give them a ring at 303-861-8819.

OUTINGS

April 8, Thursday

Beaver Brook Day Hike — WEEKDAY DENVER METRO HIKE SERIES once per month on Tues. or Thurs. All hikers welcome — including non-Sierra Club members or from any Sierra Club Group. The Beaver Brook Hike is a unique hike near the foothills of the Denver Metro area. We will begin at Windy Point on Lookout Mountain and end near the Chief Hosa exit of I-70. Lin will set up a shuttle prior to the hike. This is a very pretty hike with interesting rock formations, boulder fields and scenery. This is an isolated area between I-70 and Hwy 6 (Clear Creek Canyon). We will travel through Denver Mountain Parks and Jeffco Open Space. This hike is rated moderate, with a one-way 8 mile distance and total elevation gain of around 1,500 ft. Contact Lin Hark 303 507-3502

April 10, Saturday

Full-day hike: Beaver Creek Proposed Wilderness spring exploration. On our annual spring trip to the wild south slope of Pikes Peak, we will cover a strenuous 7 miles, some of it off-trail, gaining 1,500 feet in elevation amid granite canyon scenery. Co-sponsored with the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. Well-behaved, leashed dogs allowed. For more information and to register, contact John Stansfield, 303-660-5849 or e-mail jorcstan@bewell-net.com by 6 PM, April 9.

Exciting foray into the canyons of the Black Forest just west of Castle Rock, south of Denver. Arid and beautiful setting of rock formations and dramatic canyon walls. Ruin of the century-old Castlewood Canyon Dam that caused flooding in Denver in the 1930's. This park is a "must see." Full day since park is 1.5 hours away. Extra bonus — learn about sun protection, UV Index, and SPF in preparation for the summer. Sponsored by the Indian Peaks Group. Level: Moderate. Distance (round-trip): 5 miles. Elevation

Gain/Loss: 400 ft. Participant Limit: 12. Duration: 4–8 hours. What to bring: sun/wind/rain protection; layered clothing; sturdy hiking shoes or boots; water; lunch; snacks. For details, contact Dave Hawley at 303-443-2332.

April 17, Saturday

Hike the length of the **Mesa Trail from Chautauqua to Eldorado Springs** and return and help the leader celebrate her birthday! This is a pleasant springtime hike. There is a possibility for a car shuttle for those who don't want to do the round trip. Total distance of this moderate hike is 12 miles with a negligible elevation gain. Sponsored by the Indian Peaks Group. Level: Moderate. Distance (round-trip): 12 miles. Elevation Gain/Loss: negligible. Participant Limit: 12. Duration: 4–8 hours. What to bring: food, water, hiking boots, rain gear. Contact Linda Batlin, 303-494-6407.

April 24, Saturday

7:30 a.m. to evening — **Day Hike to Badger Creek Roadless Area.** This will be an all-day, 6–8 mile day hike, rated moderate with an elev. gain of perhaps 1750 feet, to the Badger Creek roadless area, one of the areas listed in the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition (CCWC) "Wild Ten" wilderness proposal. For more information or to sign up, call Jim Lockhart at 385-0045.

May 11, Tuesday

North Table Mountain Day Hike — WEEKDAY DENVER METRO HIKE SERIES once per month on Tuesday or Thursday. All hikers welcome, including non-Sierra Club members or from any Sierra Club Group. Join Lin Hark for a moderate workout to the top of North Table Mountain near Golden. We will explore the old roads, cliffs, and springs on the top with stops along the way to enjoy the views and the many spring wildflowers. We'll start at the north access off 58th Ave near Hwy 93. Elevation gain: 1,500 feet. Distance (rt): 6–8 miles. Check the weather report prior to the hike and dress accordingly and bring extra layers. Clothing and gear requirements include sturdy boots, daypack with extra layer, water, snacks, and a lunch. Full day hike only. Contact Lin Hark for details: 303-507-3502 Email: linbike@juno.com

May 15, Saturday

Full-day hike: Table Mountain Proposed Wilderness. Table Mountain's meadowed ridge tops rise high above steep-walled canyons, just west of Royal Gorge and north of the Arkansas River. Experience wild solitude on this moderately strenuous, seven-mile hike with 1,500 foot elevation gain. Some participants with 4-wheel drive vehicles needed. Co-sponsored with the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. For more information and to register, contact John Stansfield, 303-

Late submissions may be included in the online Rocky Mountain Chapter Calendar. Send information as an attached document to outings@rmcsierraclub.org.

Please check the web site — www.rmcsierraclub.org — and then click on **Calendar** (left menu bar) — for a complete and up-to-date listing of outings.

In order to participate in one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make

carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

660-5849 or e-mail jorcstan@bewell-net.com by 6 p.m., May 14.

June 10, Thursday

Alderfer/Three Sisters: Evergreen Mountain day hike — WEEKDAY DENVER METRO HIKE SERIES once per month on Tuesday or Thursday. All hikers welcome, including non-Sierra Club members or from any Sierra Club Group. Join Lin Hark for a moderate workout to the top of Evergreen Mountain from the West trailhead in the meadow along Buffalo Park Rd. We will gain around 1,000 feet of elevation over the round trip distance of around 6 miles. There may be plenty of wild flowers in bloom along the way. Be prepared for a spring day. Clothing and gear requirements include sturdy boots, daypack, water, snacks and lunch. Please come if you have the day free and not if you need to leave before completing the entire hike. Contact Lin Hark for start time, meeting location, and other details: 303-507-3502 Email: linbike@juno.com

June 12, Saturday

Join IPG for our **2nd annual Springtime Ouzel Lake hike.** Ouzel Falls should be spectacular as the melting snow fills North St. Vrain Creek and Ouzel Creek in the Wild Basin area of Rocky Mountain National Park. We'll have breathtaking views of Copeland Falls, Calypso Cascades, Ouzel Falls, Mount Meeker and Longs Peak on this moderate-to-strenuous 10-mile roundtrip trek with an elevation gain of 1,510 feet. Sponsored by the Indian Peaks Group. What to bring: sturdy hiking boots, water, lunch/snacks, sunscreen. Contact: Bill Roettker 303-530-3482

Events

April 2–4

Wilderness First Aid training session in the Denver area. Hosted by Sierra Club and provided by Wilderness Medicine Institute (NOLS). This course will prepare outings leaders and other backcountry users to handle medical emergencies and issues that may occur in remote places. It is required for any hike leader who wishes to lead overnight backpacking trips, as prescribed by the new National leader standards. The course is 20 hours in

length, and class times are as follows: Friday 4/2: 6–10pm, RMC Sat–Sun 4/3–4/4: 8–5pm. Please contact Jacob Morgan for more information or to sign up for this course: 970-472-0205.

April 3, Saturday

9 a.m.–12 noon — **Sawhill Ponds Wetlands Restoration,** City of Boulder Open Space. Sawhill Ponds was once a gravel-mining operation and is now a series of ponds important to migratory birds. We will be planting native willow and cottonwood cuttings, and removing invasive weed species. Lunch will be provided. Contact Kirk Cunningham, 303/939-8519.

May 13, Thursday

7–9 p.m. — **Map and Compass Workshop.** Learn to navigate by map and compass. Taught by Ed Crothers of the Colorado Mountain School. Follow-up outdoor field workshop on Saturday May 15. Foothills Nature Center, 4201 North Broadway, Boulder. \$3 donation, 20-person limit. RSVP Dave Hawley, 303-443-2332, dave_hawley@comcast.net.

June 11–12, Friday/Saturday

Enos Mills Group is having a Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1494 S. Eudora Street in Denver. To donate an item contact Randy at randy.will@rmcsierraclub.org 303-753-9007

June 16, Wednesday

7:05 pm. — **Rockies Game with the RMC** at Coors Field. Join Sierra Club FasTracks supporters on the big screen at the ballpark and catch the Rockies playing the Boston Red Sox. All you have to do is buy the ticket and enjoy the game, and you'll be helping us support FasTracks RTD's plan for expanded rail and bus service. Call Adriana for tickets/information at 303-861-8819.

State Chapter Meetings

Auction Committee

General Meetings — Please call the office for dates and times. Help us plan for the 2004 5th Annual Auction at the Brown Palace! Contact Dan Disner at 303-861-8819 or dan.disner@rmcsierraclub.org.

Chapter Conservation Committee

Contact **Kirk Cunningham**, 303-939-8519 or write kirk.cunningham@rmcsierraclub.org for details about the location and time.

Energy Committee

The **first Thursday of each month** at 6:45 p.m. at the Chapter office at 1536 Wynkoop St., suite 4-C. Contact **John Rosapepe** at 303-861-8819 or john.rosapepe@sierraclub.org or **Greg Casini** at greg.casini@sierraclub.org.

Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS)

Contact **Lisa Lewis** at 303-777-3664 for more details about dates and times. Also check out the GLS Web site for more information on hikes, meetings, and other fun events: www.rmcsierraclub.org/gls/act/html.

Genetic Engineering Committee

Last Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. Contact Suzanne Wuerthele for location details, 303-333-2519 or wuerthel@ecentral.com.

Human Rights and the Environment Committee

Third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at 2740 Elizabeth St. in Denver. Come and join in on a new salon-style committee setting. We'll be watching pertinent videos and getting familiar with current issues concerning human rights and the environment. A salon-style discussion will follow after the video with an action piece element. Contact Libby Tart at 303-949-5639 to RSVP. An RSVP is a MUST. All are welcome to participate.

Inner City Outings

Wednesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. at EMS, 870 S. Colorado Blvd., Glendale, CO 80246. Check RMC's Web site calendar for updates. Please contact Kathy Glatz at kathy.glatz@rmcsierraclub.org for information.

Volunteer opportunity

ICO is seeking someone to certify ICO Leaders. This volunteer would spend several hours each month mailing application packets to folks who request them, chatting with them re screening requirements and answering questions about the paperwork, then checking all materials volunteers return for completeness. This is an excellent opportunity for a "retired" former ICO leader or volunteer, but other folks are welcome to apply. Contact kathy.glatz@rmcsierraclub.org for more information.

Lifestyles Education Committee

Monday, April 19, Monday, May 17, & Monday, June 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Discover how personal choices affect the health of the planet. Contact JoLynn Jarboe at 303-753-0470 for location information.

Outings Committee

Interested in planning outings for your group or for the chapter? Please contact **Jacob Morgan** at jacob.morgan@rmcsierraclub.org or check out the outings Web site for more meeting details at www.rmcsierraclub.org.

Pesticides Committee

Contact **Angela Medbery** for meeting dates and times at 303-433-2608. She'd love to have you there!

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

for
July/August/September
2004 Issue
**Friday,
May 28, 2004**

To list your event, email
calendar-editor@rmcsierraclub.org

Photo Interest Group

Join the new RMC Photo Interest Group. Meetings are taking place at the **Uptown Gallery and Studio** at 3519 Brighton Blvd. in Denver. View nature slide shows! Go on interesting hikes! Fun without limit! Please give Mark Itkonen at 303-296-9300 for more information about dates and times.

Transportation Meeting

First Monday of every month from 6-7:30 p.m. at the RMC Sierra Club Office, at 1536 Wyknoop St. 4-C, in downtown Denver. Contact Bert Melcher if you have any questions, a.melcher@comcast.net or call the Chapter Office at 303-861-8819.

Local Group Meetings

Blue River Group

(Summit, Grand & Eagle Counties)

Meets the first Monday of the month, in the Mt. Royal Room, County Commons, Frisco @ 6:30 p.m. Call Karn Stiegelmeier at 970-468-9013 or write frankarn@colorado.net for location details.

Enos Mills Group

(Denver County)

Please contact Diane Uren at 303-504-9657 for more information on EMG Meetings.

High Plains Group

(Aurora, Brighton, Parker, and other Eastern Plains areas)

This group is in reorganization, but please call up the Chapter Office to find out more details, 303-861-8819 or dan.disner@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Indian Peaks Group

(Boulder County)

General Meeting Monday April 26 and June 28, 7 p.m. Meadows Library, 4800 Baseline, Boulder. Contact Steve Welter for details, steve.welter@rmc.sierraclub.org, 303-499-7261.

Bugle Newsletter staff meeting: Interested in contributing to the next issue of The Bugle? Contact Rebecca Dickson for details regarding our next staff meeting, 303/499-7261, rebecca.dickson@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Conservation Committee: First Wednesday each month, 7 p.m. Environmental Center of the Rockies, 2260 Baseline Rd., Boulder. Contact Kirk Cunningham for agenda, kmcunnin@juno.com or 303-939-8519.

Energy Committee: Third Monday each month, 7 p.m. George Reynolds Library, 3595 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder. Contact Leslie Glustrom for agenda, 303/245-8637, lglustrom@qwest.net (email preferred).

Executive Committee: Monday, May 24, 7 p.m. Contact Steve Welter for location and meeting agenda, steve.welter@rmc.sierraclub.org, 303-499-7261.

Outings Committee: Want to help lead or organize outings? Join the outings committee. Contact Dave Hawley to volunteer or for meeting details, 303-443-2332, dave_hawley@comcast.net.

Political Committee: If not now, when? Contact KC Becker for information, 720-406-8659, kdotcdot@yahoo.com.

Sprawl & Transportation Committee: Meets second Thursday of each month. Contact Julie Caron for location, time, and agenda, 303-499-5082, julie.caron@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Mount Evans Group

(Evergreen, Conifer Area)

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the **2nd Thursday of every month** at the Evergreen Rec. Center. Email Betsy Kelson for more information at betsy.kelson@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Pikes Peak Group

(El Paso and Teller Counties)

Book Club and Discussion Group, 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Poor Richard's Restaurant, 324 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs. Contact Dave Bryan for more details at 719-559-2790 or dlbsierra@sunwest.net.

General Meetings: 2nd Tuesday Evening at the Beidleman Environmental Center. For more information on location and time, please contact Kirby Hughes at 719-685-3019.

Executive Committee Meetings: third Thursdays at the Beidleman Environmental Center. For more information on location and time, please contact Kirby Hughes at 719-685-3019.

Poudre Canyon Group

(Larimer and Weld Counties)

General Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at Home State Bank, 303 E. Mountain Ave. in Ft. Collins. For more information, contact Neal Marsh at 970-225-1861 or nandv@aol.com.

Rachel Carson Group

(Eastern Jefferson County)

General Meetings on Tuesdays, May 4th, June 1st at 7:00 p.m. NO APRIL GENERAL MTG. City of Arvada Admin. Bldg., 8101 W. Ralston Rd. (8 blocks west of Wadsworth). Enter through doors marked POLICE and take immediate left across from reception desk. For more information please contact Judy Johnson at (303) 969-2109 or judithjohnson@netze-ro.net. You will find the latest news, information and plans for future events at our website, <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/rcg/index.shtml>

Sangre de Cristo Group

(Arkansas River and San Luis Valley)

General Meetings: third Thursdays of the month. Please contact Ross Vincent for more details about location and times, ross.vincent@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Executive Committee Meetings: third Thursday of each month at Main Library/Thurston Leadership Room, 100 E. Abriendo Avenue, Pueblo. For more details about SdCG activities, please check the Group web page at <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/sdgc/> or contact the Group Chair at sdcg-chair@rmc.sierraclub.org

South Platte Group

ExCom meetings: March 10, April 14, and May 12 at 7:00 p.m. Consult SPG Web page for locations.

Trappers Lake Group

(Routt, Moffat, Jackson, Rio Blanco)

General meeting: The third Tuesday of each month, at noon, at Centennial Hall. Contact Rich Levy at rich.levy@rmc.sierraclub.org for more information.

Uncompaghre Group

(Mesa, Delta, and Gunnison Counties)

For **general meeting** information, contact Shelly at 970-243-5138.

Weminuche Group

(Durango and Surrounding Areas)

3rd Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. at Storyville in Durango. Questions? Contact John Z. at zwierzycki@frontier.net or 970-375-9584.

Outside Functions

March 27, 2004

Hiking Tour of Spruce Mountain Open Space, South Douglas County near Larkspur, Saturday. This is a new DougCo Open Space not yet open to the public. Tour conducted by DougCo Open Space Department. Consult SPG Web page for details.

MT. EVANS GROUP WEEKDAY FRONT RANGE HIKE SERIES

Lin Hark has been enjoying forming a group of weekday hikers in the Denver Metro area and is trying to attract hikers from all metro area Sierra Club Groups as well as non-Sierra Club members. Lin believes the Outings Program is an important part of attracting supporters of conserving our beautiful state. There will be a weekday hike once per month until December of this year when Lin will assess the future of this weekday hiking series and possibly expand it to twice monthly or weekly. Lin shares the position of MEG Outings Chair with Julika Bond since Nina Parker resigned. Upcoming hikes include: April 8th, Beaver Brook day hike; May 11th, North Table Mountain day hike; June 10th, Alderfer/Three Sisters - Evergreen Mountain day hike; July 13th, Bergan Peak day hike; August 12th, Centennial Cone day hike; September 14th, Kenosha Pass/Colorado Trail day hike, October 14th Lair o' the Bear day hike; November 9th, White Ranch day hike; December 9th, Apex day hike.

Inner City Outings volunteers needed



Group on InterRegional Outing enters "Land of Enchantment," June, 2003. Photo by Yonus Sium.

Would you be interested in volunteering for Inner City Outings, Sierra Club's outreach to youth program? There are many ways to get involved, depending on how much time you have and what your interests are.

You can volunteer to accompany certified leaders on trips, or assist with equipment and gear storage; we could also use first aid trainers and water-safety instructors to teach our kids to swim. In addition, we are looking for folks to help our grant writer Larry and especially need people to help coordinate volunteers at this time. If none of these particular needs fit your interests, you may have other ideas related to your expertise...

We always "owe" volunteering time at Community Shares, one of our Denver-based funding sources. Feel free to call them in the name of Rocky Mountain Chapter ICO to see how you can help out and when: 303-861-7507 - 1420 Ogden St. Other branches are located in Colorado Springs and Boulder. Please notify diane_deschane@dpsk12.org when you volunteer hours there.

Here's yet another way to help our kids: If your workplace has some sort of "giving" campaign via payroll deductions, you can select Partnership for Colorado-Community Shares, Inner City Outings, Rocky Mountain Chapter of Sierra Club, #5079. Lots of names, but the key here is that we're a member of Community Shares and the #5079, NOT Mile High United Way. Tax deductible

donations can also be given to the Sierra Club Foundation. Note "RMC ICO" in memo and mail to our RMC office: Sierra Club, 1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 4C, Denver, CO 80202.

If you are interested in becoming a certified leader, then let me know your mailing address, and I'll forward you to Melody, our leader qualifier, who will send you the application envelope.

Meanwhile, here's how to subscribe to our email list to find out what's happening: go to listserv@lists.sierraclub.org; choose: "RMC-ICO-Announce" in the body of the message, put the command "SUBSCRIBE RMC-ICO-Announce yourname"; then you'll get a message back asking you confirm (to discourage spamming); respond to that message with "ok."

If this is confusing, check page 2 for more directions. Leaders often post their trips and volunteer opportunities on the listserv. Also, our latest ICO newsletter is posted at: www.rmc.sierraclub.org/outings/ico/index.shtml; check there for leader contacts in various locations across the state, if you're interested in assisting with trips.

The next general ICO meeting is Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30. Contact me for location.

I hope to hear from you soon and that you will choose to help maintain ICO's success.

Kathy Glatz, RMC ICO Chair, kathy.glatz@rmc.sierraclub.org

Join us for Rockies vs. Red Sox

Wednesday, June 16th at Coors Field

- 25 Sierra Club members
- 4 FasTracks
- + 1 large screen
- = 1 intense ball game

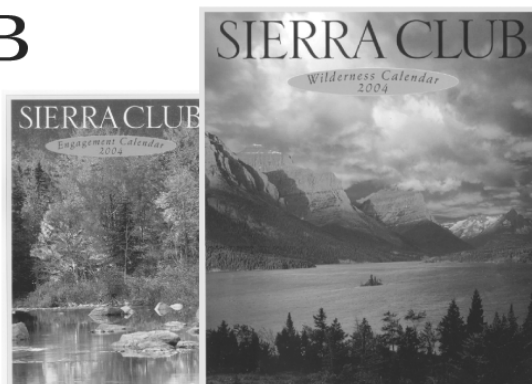
You'll be helping us support FasTracks—RTD's plan for expanded rail and bus service—just by being there!



Game starts at 7:05 p.m. Call Adriana at 303-861-8819 for tickets/information.

SIERRA CLUB 2004 CALENDARS

Sierra Club Engagement Calendar - Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding



Sierra Club 2004 Wilderness Wall Calendar - Spiral bound month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.

ORDER FORM

Item	Price (non-member/member)	Quantity	Cost	Ship To:
Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$11.95/\$10.15	_____	_____	Name: _____
Engagement Calendar	\$12.95/\$11.00	_____	_____	Address: _____
Subtotal				City: _____
Sales Tax 7.2% (multiply Subtotal by .072)				State: _____ Zip: _____
Shipping (1st calendar - \$2, additional calendars - \$1 each)				Member# _____
Grand Total				(required to qualify for member price)

Make checks payable to Sierra Club and mail to the return address shown on your newsletter

Be a part
of our chapter's
success!

Become a Fundraising
Committee member

Help to increase our
resources by cultivating
and educating major
donors and by writing grant
proposals. Build on your
experience, or learn new skills
while helping the Sierra Club.
Contact Susan LeFever at
303-825-1554 or e-mail
susan.lefever@sierraclub.org.

Become a Transportation
Committee member

Improvements to Highway 36?
Upgrades to Union Station?
Allowing RTD to ask voters for
money for transit improvements?
A number of transportation issues
are on the horizon for Colorado,
and you can help the Sierra Club
respond and activate our mem-
bership. Contact Bert Melcher,
Chair, 303-770-3683, or e-mail
a.melcher@comcast.net.

Join the Outings
Committee

Be a part of the growing RMC
Outings Program. We need
help expanding the program
in the state and putting together
outings that focus on specific
conservation issues. Contact
Gary Matthews at 303-449-8182
or e-mail outings@rmc.sierra-club.org.

Peak & Prairie

Volume XXXVIII Number 2 • April, May, June 2004

Inside this issue:

1 Are wolves coming to Colorado?

Conservationists wonder if and how wolves migrating southward will be protected when they reach Colorado.



3 April 13 is Caucus Day!

Use this handy clip-out guide to the initiatives that will be on the table.



5 Linking Colorado Landscapes

Landscape connections are crucial to healthy wildlife populations, and work is underway to restore this connectivity.



6 The Scoop on Poop

New Vista High School Community Adventure Program students present some startling statistics that argue for responsible scooping!



8 The Precautionary Principle

When an activity threatens harm to the environment, precautions should be taken even when cause and effect has not yet been scientifically established.

Peak & Prairie

SIERRA CLUB STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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.



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

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