

Governor's Plan, Sour Deal For Parks

Governor Owens' Secret Deal Threatens Colorado's National Parks and Wildlands: Conservationists Urge Him to Withdraw Proposal

From the Colorado Wilderness Network

A coalition of local, statewide, and national conservation organizations (including the Sierra Club) has called upon Governor Bill Owens to retract a secret proposal to allow the State of Colorado and its counties to turn faded trails in Colorado's National Parks, National Monuments, National Wildlife Refuges, and proposed wilderness lands into paved highways. The proposal from the Owens administration, contained in a May 15th letter to Interior Secretary Gale Norton, would irreparably degrade habitat and water quality, undermine the purpose and essence of these specially designated places, and diminish Colorado's economy and quality of life.

The State seeks the right to build those new roads on America's public lands without environmental review, without restraint on the roads' expansion, and without adherence to even minimal standards for determining their location, their size, or the legitimacy of the claims that they even exist.

The proposal puts at risk such lands as Dinosaur National Monument and Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Colorado, where Moffat County has proposed taking over hundreds of miles of cattle trails, hiking paths, jeep tracks, and nearly invisible routes as "constructed highways," using a 19th century right-of-way law known as Revised Statute (R.S.) 2477. See the map above showing the claimed roads compared to the County's existing road system.

R.S. 2477, a one-line directive included in the Mining Law of 1866, was intended to promote settlement of western territories: "The right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted." Congress repealed R.S. 2477 in 1976, but some routes constructed before that date could still be claimed. Opponents of federal land preservation continue attempts at using that loophole to preclude wilderness designations and to open already protected areas to development.

Colorado Department of Natural Resources Director Greg Walcher sent a letter to

"Colorado seeks the right to build those new roads on America's public lands without environmental review, without restraint on the roads' expansion, and without adherence to even minimal standards for determining their location, their size, or the legitimacy of the claims that they even exist."

the Secretary of the Interior on May 15th asking that Colorado and the Interior Department cut a closed-door deal on routes claimed under the ancient, repealed law. The State's letter suggests that:

- The State intends to press claims to highways through National Parks, National Monuments, National Wildlife Refuges, and Wilderness Study Areas, as well as national forests and Bureau of Land Management lands;
- The State's claims for rights-of-way for highways could include cattle trails, hiking trails, riverbeds, and jeep trails, and the "mere passage of vehicles"-or even no surface treatment whatsoever-could be considered as "construction" of a "highway" (These positions are contrary not only to recent federal court decisions, but to positions taken by the Bush Administration in federal appeals court here in Colorado just five months ago);
- The State should not be subject to federal environmental permitting requirements when routes as vague as indistinct foot trails are "upgraded" into two-lane highways across National Parks, National Monuments, National Wildlife Refuges, and proposed wilderness, through sensitive wildlife habitat, wetlands, or sensitive archeological sites; and
- The State's right-of-way claims should be permitted to expand well beyond areas in which construction has occurred and that the State need not even show exactly where the right-of-way existed.

Federal courts have held that a highway must have been built while the public land was unreserved for some other specific purpose, must have actually been constructed, and must have been a public highway meant to carry goods and people to specific destinations.

One hundred members of Congress recently wrote Secretary Norton criticizing the Utah agreement, and Congressman Mark Udall of Colorado has introduced legislation that would provide a fair and timely approach to resolving outstanding R.S. 2477 claims.

In addition, existing law provides a public process for states and counties to resolve legitimate right-of-way claims across public lands, a procedure that counties such as Moffat have used in the past.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write Governor Owens to protest his proposal to settle RS 2477 claims (c/o Governor's Office, Colorado State Capitol, Denver CO 80203). Ask him to withdraw his proposal in its entirety, and protect Colorado's parks and wilderness.

Wild Places, Open Spaces 4th Annual Auction

by Libby Tart, Rocky Mountain Chapter Coordinator

This year, our Wild Places, Open Spaces Auction is celebrating its 4th anniversary on Friday night, September 12th. Last year's auction was a resounding success-the National Sierra Club Fundraising Committee was in attendance, and more than 200 items were auctioned off to an incredibly generous group of participants whose contributions helped to fund our exciting new energy campaign. We are nevertheless expecting the Auction to be an even greater success this year.

For our members who are unfamiliar with the Wild Places, Open Spaces Auction, here is a brief overview of what you need to know to participate and how the event helps the Rocky Mountain Chapter:

- The event is held at the luxurious Brown

Palace Hotel, located in downtown Denver (321 17th St. at Broadway).

- It includes both live and silent auctions.
- A sample of items auctioned in previous years includes: a Fat Tire Cruiser bike, a trip for two to a Honduras resort, a Mountain Hardware four-season tent, numerous bed & breakfast stays in NM, CO, and WY, meals at many local restaurants along the Front Range, and local fine art and photography pieces. The prices range from \$20-\$2,000, so you're guaranteed there will be available items that fit your budget.
- After the silent auction, stay for a presentation by a special speaker over a gourmet meal. Then the excitement of the live auction occurs!
- The auction is one of the Rocky

Our special guest speaker will be Admiral Richard Truly, director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden. A former astronaut and director of NASA, Truly has brought his leadership to NREL to bring renewable energy and energy efficiency to the marketplace. Admiral Truly is an inspiring speaker and we are very fortunate to have him.

Mountain Chapter's largest fundraisers of the year. The money raised from ticket

and auction item sales goes back to the Rocky Mountain Chapter-your chapter-so we can conduct bigger and better things each year on behalf of the environment.

Does this event sound exciting to you? We would love to have you there! If you wish to participate-either by attending the auction, donating an item, or by volunteering your time-please complete the form below, and send to:

Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter, 1536 Wynkoop Street, 4th Floor, Denver, CO 80202
(deadline for donations is August 11th). Hope to see you on September 12th at the festivities!

Call for At-Large Chapter Executive Committee Nominations

Do you feel you could contribute to the Sierra Club in a leadership role? Do you have a commitment to working on environmental issues that affect Colorado? Do you have managerial, organizational, public relations, or financial management skills? Do you have expertise in regard to a specific natural resource issue?

The Rocky Mountain Chapter's RMC Executive Committee (Ex-Com) is responsible for overseeing the activities of the RMC. Ex-Com approves the Chapter's budget and policy decisions, and sets the Chapter's agenda. Each local Group sends a delegate to the Ex-Com, and additional seven members are elected at-large by Sierra Club members throughout the state. We are currently seeking nominations for four (4) at-large positions. Ex-Com meetings take place quarterly on Saturday (and sometimes Sunday) at locations around the state. The Chapter reimburses transportation expenses to the meetings, and local groups provide free or inexpensive lodging. Members serve a two-year term. If this sounds like a volunteer opportunity you, or someone you know would be interested in, please send your contact information and a 150-word or less statement describing your relevant experience and environmental goals to:

Nominations Committee, Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter, 1536 Wynkoop Street, 4th Floor, Denver, CO 80202. The deadline for nominations is August 10.

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

for July/August/September 2003 issue

Friday, **August 25, 2003**

E-mail submissions as attachments to editor@rmc.sierraclub.org using the following criteria:

articles & letters:
Text Only (.txt) or Rich Text (.rtf)

photos:
.TIF or .JPG (150-200 DPI)
graphs & graphics:
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or send to chapter office.

Articles:
500 words or LESS

Letters to the Editor:
200 words or LESS

Peak & Prairie

April/May/June 2003 issue
Volume 36 - Number 7
Printed by Barnum Printing
on recycled paper.

Published quarterly by the
**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
OF THE SIERRA CLUB**
1536 Wynkoop Street,
Denver, CO 80202
303-825-1554
303-825-1733 (FAX)

www.rmc.sierraclub.org
libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
2260 Baseline Rd., Suite 105
Boulder, CO 80302
303-449-5595
303-449-6520 (FAX)

To notify us of your
address change,
call the office or e-mail us at
address.changes@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Editorial Staff

Editor
Jason Wells
303-813-0166
jswells70@hotmail.com

Layout Editor
Ryan Stoops
303-333-3987
nigina11@aol.com

**Conservation Editor/
Ex-Com Contact**
Kirk Cunningham
303-939-8519
kirk.cunningham@rmc.sierraclub.org

Photo Editor
Mark Itkonen
720-283-8470
photography-editor@rmc.sierraclub.org

Advertising Manager
Matt Anderson
720-898-1136
advertising-manager@rmc.sierraclub.org



SIERRA CLUB

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Chapter Contacts

Rocky Mountain Chapter Officers & Ex-Com Members

Greg Casini* - Chair	303-861-2844
John Zwierzycki - Vice Chair	970-375-9584
Mark Collier - Treasurer	303-443-5482
Roger Wendell - Secretary	206-202-2212
Kirk Cunningham - Conservation Chair	303-939-8519
Ramon Ajero*	970-226-4126
Anne Cain*	719-489-2056
Todd Chamberlin*	720-406-0155
Kathy Glatz*	303-922-3425
Tony Ruckel*	303-796-0654
Larry Skiffington*	719-685-9365

*At-Large Ex-Com Members

Group Delegate Ex-Com Members

Blue River - Elaine Bennett	970-468-0100
Enos Mills - JoLynn Jarboe	303-753-0470
High Plains - OPEN	
Indian Peaks - Macon Cowles	303-447-3062
Mt Evans - Ed Lambert	303-674-0459
Pikes Peak - Jennie Crystle	719-685-9644
Poudre Canyon - Mark Easter	970-224-9214
Rachel Carson - Roger Wendell	206-202-2212
Sangre de Cristo - Bob Cain	719-489-2056
South Platte - Don TeRonde	303-683-1880

Trappers Lake - Rich Levy	970-871-8799
Uncompahgre - Eric Rechel	970-242-4863
Weminuche - John Zwierzycki	970-375-9584
Chapter Conservation Chair - Kirk Cunningham	303-939-8519

Ecosystems Cluster

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National Forests - Marty Walter	303-447-2059
- Scott Hatfield	303-413-1516
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Water Resources - Steve Glazer	970-349-6646
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- Joan Seeman	303-738-8407
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International / Trade - Robert Cohen	303-443-4884
Lifestyles Education - JoLynn Jarboe	303-753-0470
- Mary Ramano	303-388-0911
Population - Fred Elbel	303-220-7499
Solid Waste - Cherie Trine	970-472-9828
Transportation - OPEN	

Other Committees

Legislative - Kirpal Singh	303-871-6779
Membership - OPEN	
Outings - Patricia Berman	303-691-9255
Political - Peggy Malchow	303-744-1684
Volunteer Development	303-825-1554
Webmaster - Todd Hollar	303-282-8422
	todd.hollar@rmc.sierraclub.org
Listmaster - Mark Collier	303-443-5482
	mark.collier@rmc.sierraclub.org

Let Your Legislators Know What YOU Think!

COLORADO

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Bill Owens, Governor (R)	303-866-2471
136 State Capitol	
Denver, CO 80203-1792	
governorowens@state.co.us	
www.state.co.us/gov_dir/governor_office.html	
Lt. Governor Norton (R)	303-866-2087
Secretary of State Davidson (R)	303-894-2200
Treasurer Coffman (R)	303-866-2441
Attorney General Salazar (D)	303-866-4500

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Capitol Mailing Address:

Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax, Denver, CO 80203

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE (DOW)

Russell George, Director
6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216
Phone: 303-297-1192 (M-F 8am-5pm MST)
Fax: 303-294-0874
E-mail: russell.george@state.co.us

U.S. SENATE

Sen. A. Wayne Allard (R)
525 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5941, 202-224-6471 (fax)
719-634-6071 (Colorado Springs)
303-220-7414 (Denver)
970-245-9553 (Grand Junction)
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www.senate.gov/~allard/

Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R)
380 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5941, 202-228-4609 (fax)
719-542-6987 (Pueblo)
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U.S. House of Reps

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Rep. Diana DeGette (D)
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Send an e-mail message to listserv@lists.sierraclub.org. In the body of the message, put the command

SUBSCRIBE *lastname yourname*

Example: Subscribe RMC-CONS-COMM Jane Doe

The example above would subscribe Jane Doe to the Rocky Mountain Chapter conservation committee discussion list.

After you send in your subscription request, you'll get a message back asking you to confirm your e-mail subscription message (this is to discourage spammers who subscribe to lists solely to harvest addresses). Merely respond to that message with the word OK, and you're on the list.

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Greg Casini
RMC Chair

Highway Robbery

On June 4, 2003, the Denver Post editorialized: "Gov. Bill Owens' administration wants to let county governments build roads through national parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness areas. If the U.S. Department of the Interior accepts the plan, Colorado will embrace the most radical and environmentally harmful roads policy of any Western state."

The proposal was contained in a May 15 letter to Interior Secretary Gale Norton, asking that Colorado and Interior cut a deal under a loophole in a 19th century law known as Revised Statute (RS) 2477, so that the state can lay claim to thousands of miles of roads throughout our

public lands.

RS 2477 was originally intended to serve the narrow goal of granting the right to construct and use highways across public lands that were not reserved for other public uses, such as to protect water supplies, forests, wildlife, or scenic beauty. The law was repealed in 1976, but previously constructed highways can still be claimed under certain circumstances.

The state is attempting to assert road-building rights-of-way claims for cow paths, horse trails, riverbeds, off-road vehicle routes, and for trails that have not been driven on for decades, if ever. Moreover, the state is seeking the right to build new roads without environmental review, without restraint on the roads' expansion, and without minimal standards for determining their location and size. Not even wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, national parks or monuments would be off-limits to bulldozers.

The Colorado proposal came soon after a closed-door agreement was reached in March between the federal government and the State of Utah regarding RS 2477 right-of-way claims. The true motivation behind these deals is to undermine federally protected areas, thwart wilderness protection (the presence of a road generally disqualifies an area for wilderness designation) and to serve special interests, such as the mining, timber, oil and gas industries, and off-road-vehicle users.

The Colorado proposal would immediately put at risk such lands as Dinosaur National Monument and Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Colorado, where Moffat County has proposed taking over 240 miles of cattle trails, hiking paths, jeep tracks, and nearly invisible routes as "constructed highways".

Please contact Governor Owens at 303-866-2471 and ask him to abandon the proposal outlined in the May 15 letter. It is wrong to use loopholes and secret agreements to control our public lands. Colorado's public lands are a heritage owned by all Americans. They are not the Governor's to give away.

What's Happening at the Chapter Office?



Susan LeFever
Chapter Director

There is a lot of activity this summer at the Chapter Office as we work to increase our capacity in order to do more to help Colorado's environment.

A big part of this is our move to Wynkoop Street. After months of discussions and planning, we will be moving into our new offices next to the Tattered Cover in Lower Downtown Denver (LoDo). We will be sharing our new space with the League of Conservation Voters, Colorado Conservation Voters and Environmental Citizen. We will also be one flight down from Colorado Environmental Coalition. By sharing space with these organizations, we will not only be able to share resources-like copiers, internet systems, and conference rooms-we will be able to find new ways of working together to become more effective as a conservation community.

Furthermore, we will see an increase in our staff capacity, necessary for the addition of a new Transportation Organizer and a new Energy Organizer. The Transportation Organizer will educate people in the Metro Area about the benefits of expanded transit and get buy in for future transit building proposals. Thanks to a grant from the Argosy Foundation, the organizer will be coordinating with similar projects at Colorado Environmental Coalition, Environment Colorado and the Livable Community Support Center.

The Energy Organizer will be working to gain support for updating building codes for energy efficiency. A national Sierra Club Grant funds this position. Since we have a very active Energy Committee, we will be doing a lot of related projects on Energy over the summer, including organizing to help pass the Renewable Portfolio Standards Bill during the next legislative session.

At press time, we are in the process of hiring these staff positions. Thank you all for your support, which has continued to make these and other activities possible. It is especially exciting that with a struggling economy, we have nevertheless been able to find ways to operate more effectively. Without the support of our donors and volunteers, none of this would be possible.

The Completed Life of Arthur Smith

by Alison Shapiro

On May 29, 2003 Art Smith died of an unexpected heart attack. I have known Art and his wife Jean for seven or eight years now and I have grown close to them. His passing came as a shock to me; Art was so full of life I figured he would be around forever.

I met the Smiths at a Sierra Club retreat in the mid-1990s. Jean was organizing a project to map roadless areas in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests. My first impression of Art was as someone always there helping out in his methodical way. He was quick to tell a story about his hunting and fishing experiences. Each fall he would go to the North Woods to hunt with a group of friends. He loved to tell of his experiences that brought him close to nature-hearing wolves howling in the distance; waking up to snow on the ground; having the best shot at a deer of the group, only to have the bullet deflected by some unfortunately situated bushes.

I also got to know Art as treasurer of the Enos Mills Group. He could always get to the bottom line of the group's financial situation. If we were having a discussion (argument) about financial matters he would wait for the discussion to quiet down and then offer an appropriate, practical solution. Raising funds for the EMG during the March appeal was a snap for someone who had sold elephant rides in his younger days. Art also provided invaluable practical support for the field inventories of more than 100 roadless areas in the National Forests west and south of Denver.

Art was born in Mishawauka Indiana on July 12, 1928. His life led him to Japan



Art Smith, Long-time Sierra Club supporter and volunteer.

during a tour in the Army; he attended Purdue University and Kalamazoo College; and his work with the Institute of Cultural Affairs took him to such varied places as Denver, Rochester, NY., Vagar, Manitoba, Chicago, Targwyth in Wales, Majuro in the Marshall Islands, and Nairobi, Kenya. He was active in the Methodist Church and in

the Civil Rights Movement. He married Jean Clapp in 1954, raised four children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Most recently, the Smith family moved to three acres of forested land near Florissant Colorado, where Art alternated between unpacking, organizing his office and workshop, building a dog pen and watching the wild turkeys and deer pass across his land. He combined his lifelong passion for the outdoors and wildlife with his talent for practical action in his own unique way.

If you would like to remember Art in a special way, memorial gifts can be made to:

- Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project, 4990 Pearl East Circle #301, Boulder CO 80301
- The Institute of Cultural Affairs, c/o Shirley Heckman, 3131 East Alameda Ave. #1508, Denver CO 80209
- The Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter or the Enos Mills Group, 1536 Wynkoop Street, #4C, Denver, CO 80202
- Your local church

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2003 Summer Schedule

- Jun 29-Jul 11 Wilderness, Ecology and Spirituality—Belden Lane, St. Louis University**—An exploration of the role nature plays in the spiritual life of the Church, including theological responses to the environmental crisis, the role of animals and trees in the life of prayer and the ethical need for sustainable development.
- July 13-19 A Quaker Path to Simplicity—Catherine Whitmire** Exploring the Quaker path to simplicity through worship sharing, reflection and discernment.
- July 20-26 Islamic & Western Cultures in Conflict—Hope for Reconciliation—Greg Movesian, Canon Steward, St. John's Episcopal Cathedral Denver**—Explore elements of Christian and Muslim faiths that can bring us together and the hostility that divides the Islamic and Western cultures
- Aug 3-15 A Contemporary Vision of Human Transformation—Rod Hunter, Candler School of Theology, Emory University**—Introduction to the understanding of human transformation articulated by biblical scholar Water Wink.
- Aug 17-23 Hymns as Constructive Theology—Tom Troeger, Iliff School of Theology**—Hymns have been written during times of theological and social turmoil. The seminar will trace the history of hymns, looking at what kinds of hymns our age needs. Participants will compose their own hymns.
- Aug 24-Sep 5 Jesus the Peasant and Christ the Lord—Marcus & Marianne Borg**—Conversations about Jesus—about the historical Jesus who is also, for Christians, "Lord," along with explorations of themes and texts from the New Testament.

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Affordable Housing Update

9,725 persons in the metropolitan area were counted as homeless

by Kathy Glatz, Affordable Housing Chair

As a result of the last legislative session, Colorado failed to gain any Affordable Housing (AH) units. To make matters worse, however, the state legislature dismissed the idea of making AH livable in regard to timely repairs, and the impending loss of Medicaid and psychiatric beds will likely result in there being more homeless individuals across the state. Furthermore, HUD has adjusted the applicable regulations so as to be less tenant-friendly.

Because of the overwhelming concern over the strained state budget, AH advocates spent the past legislative session struggling to maintain the Division of Housing's budgetary line item for "donations and gifts." The value in holding the line is that we can return to the legislature on an annual basis in order to seek increased appropriations as state revenues improve. In addition, we have been concentrating our efforts on building a bipartisan Affordable Housing caucus, and have continually emphasized the need for a Housing Trust Fund-not unlike those thirty-four states have already endeavored to create. Encouragingly, we have garnered support among both houses for these initiatives.

While our ongoing efforts have proven successful to some extent, the state has nonetheless witnessed budgetary cuts that will directly impact its need for affordable housing, and the ability of its citizens to obtain it. The denial of Medicaid services to recently-arrived legal immigrants will serve as a veritable death sentence for those who cannot afford needed medication, forcing them to choose between their medication and their shelter. Eliminating psy-

chiatric hospital beds-thereby releasing more patients into communities with no pre-arranged housing and often no medications-will undoubtedly result in increased rates of homelessness in many areas. Finally, the elimination of "required parity" (which ensures that insurance companies cover the mentally ill at the same percentage rate as other subscribers) will also increase the numbers of underserved mentally ill who will have no available options other than living on the streets.

Key Findings From the Point in Time Survey, Metro Area, The Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative

Overall Homeless Count

A total of 9,725 persons in the metropolitan area were counted as homeless on January 27, 2003. Of the total homeless persons counted, 3,214 were single individ-

"On January 27, 2003, 6,885 homeless persons surveyed (71% of the total homeless population) had a need for emergency shelter and services."

uals including 401 single youth on their own between the ages of 9 and 21. 3,452 were adult- or youth-headed families, and approximately one-third (3,059) were children in families.

On January 27, 2003, 6,885 homeless persons surveyed (71% of the total homeless population) had a need for emergency shelter and services. These persons lacked a permanent place of their own and were sleep-

ing in emergency shelters, on the streets or in their car, camping out, doubled up with family or friends, staying night-to-night at welfare hotels, coming out of institutions, or staying in other places not fit for human habitation. Persons receiving transitional housing and services are not included in this figure.

A total of 2,803 persons surveyed (29%), are participants in homeless transitional housing programs or treatment programs. A total of 37 persons who completed a survey or .4% of the population surveyed, did not report where they are staying, so no assumptions can be made as to what type of housing they would need.

Point prevalence is important in determining the current need for emergency

shelter beds, food, and clothing. However, an annual prevalence estimate of total homelessness rates over the course of a year is important in determining the on-going supportive housing, job training, educational, and permanent housing needs of homeless persons. Results of this survey suggest that the annual prevalence of homelessness in the Denver metropolitan area is close 31,217 persons each year.

Causes of Homelessness

Unemployment and an inability to pay rent or mortgage and were reported as the two highest causes for homelessness among both individuals and families. Other causes of homelessness as reported by survey respondents varied between individuals and families. Substance abuse and mental illness were cited as causes of homelessness for individuals more often than for families, whereas domestic violence was a larger contributing factor in family homelessness.

All this paints a bleak picture for those who barely have sufficient income to survive. We anticipate more deaths among homeless people.

If you would like to join Sierra Club's Campaign to Fight Sprawl, and the Environmental Justice Community, in their attempts to help find affordable, local workplace or handicapped-accessible low-income housing, thus decreasing long commutes, pollution, and fuel consumption, contact: bill.myers@rmc.sierraclub.org or kathy.glatz@rmc.sierraclub.org. More info is available at www.coloradosierraclub.org; under "issues", hit "Affordable Housing".

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Giving New Meaning to the Three-Rs

by Leslie Martel Baer, MA

Mountain Muse Communications

Many of us know the "Three-Rs" of learning as "reading, writing, and arithmetic." But now, thanks to Tri-R Recycling of Denver, there is a new set of book-related Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Tri-R has become one of the few recyclers in the country to own and operate a book debinder. That means we now have one of the fastest, most cost-effective means of disposing of out-of-date, damaged or otherwise unusable books right here in the Front Range.

By debinding both soft- and hard-cover books, Tri-R can recycle over 80% of each book into valuable fiber. The debinder significantly reduces the labor involved, allowing the company to accept much larger volumes than previously possible.

To support this new branch of Tri-R's business and the concept of book recycling, the Life Styles Education Committee (LSE) is undertaking a book-recycling education campaign, beginning with this article. Next, the Committee will produce bookmarks with Three-R tips and resources.

These bookmarks will appear at Sierra Club and Chapter tables at events around the area over the next year or so. Through this article and the bookmarks, we will not only disseminate information about this recycling opportunity, but also ask for related suggestions. In addition, Committee members will be asking the event organizers at which the bookmarks appear for their input. These conversations may lead to book recycling stations at future events.

In launching this campaign, LSE hoping to change the way we feel about book recycling. Many of us love books, and the idea of recycling them seems akin to blasphemy or treason. However, we believe that under many circumstances, book recycling is appropriate. Some books, such as technical textbooks and software manuals, can become so out of date as to contain incorrect information. Such

books are of little use, even to schools here or overseas.

When an individual or institution becomes overrun with too many copies of low-value books, or even too many different books that are low-value and unpopular, recycling becomes a viable disposal mechanism. Similarly, when a publisher or other entity has books that it cannot legally sell or distribute, recycling makes sense. Nonetheless, we would like to see books have as many lives as possible before recycling. That is why LSE will explore and encourage the "reduce" and "reuse" steps first.

Reducing one's consumption of books might take a number of forms. For example, a person or institution might ask themselves (before buying), "Do I really want that book? Will the enrichment I gain from it be worth the price tag?" Sometimes, the answer will be "no." If the answer is "yes," we can reduce by using existing book resources, such as libraries, friends and neighbors. A business might set up a company library so that employees can share volumes of important reference materials. Also consider setting up book-sharing clubs or libraries for your neighborhood block or apartment building. If you are done with a book and want to take it out of your collection, try giving it to a friend, neighbor or family member as a form of "reuse." No takers? Many institutions, such as public schools and university libraries, will accept books, either for their own collections or for resale at a library benefit.



Another approach to reuse is donation to a charity-run or for-profit thrift store. Savers, Goodwill and ARC all accept some books, although some do not accept certain types, like textbooks. Ask before you haul them in. Plenty of book resellers in the area will take your book discards and may even pay you a little for them.

A more brutal form of reuse, especially good for picture books, is to cut them up to make cards, wrapping paper or other craft projects. Some books, for example, would make great table trivets and conversation pieces if properly treated and framed. You may find that some schools or senior residences can generate creative craft uses for your books.

Still can't find anyone to take your books? Don't be offended! If you have tried all of the approaches under "reduce" and "reuse" it is probably time to recycle. At this point, most of the value in the book, if even you don't want it, lies in its paper. So, take it in to Tri-R for recycling! Perhaps others on your block would like to clean out a little; carpool to make the trip more worthwhile.

In the meantime, start practicing your new Three-Rs and send your suggestions for books to recycle@mountain-muse.com.

Four-Star Ratings for the Sierra Club and Sierra Club Foundation:

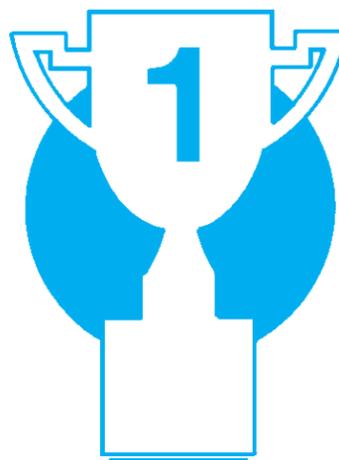
Watchdog Group Ranks Charities on Financial Efficiency

by Jim Bradbury, Sierra Club Website Producer

Out of 213 environmental organizations ranked by Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org), a non-profit watchdog that ranks charities based on their IRS filings, the Sierra Club Foundation was ranked second-highest overall and highest of all national organizations. The Sierra Club Foundation's mission is to provide financial support to the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations for tax deductible work. Charity Navigator awarded the Foundation a four-star rating for organizational efficiency and capacity, which was also the rating the Sierra Club received itself.

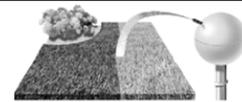
To evaluate a charity's overall financial health, the Charity Navigator rating system uses publicly available tax returns (Forms 990) filed with the Internal Revenue Service. Specifically, Charity Navigator looks at an organization's fundraising efficiency, fundraising expenses, program expenses and administration expenses to show users how efficiently the charity operates on a day-to-day basis. To assess the charity's capacity to sustain its programs over time, Charity Navigator looks at both the average annual growth of the charity's operating revenue, and the average annual growth of programs and services and working capital ratio.

Charity Navigator released its revised ratings on 2,133 non-profits in April 2003.



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RTD Gets Sierra Award

by Bert Melcher, Transportation Chair

Sierra Club's National "CHALLENGE TO SPRAWL CAMPAIGN" honored the Regional Transportation District and its partnering Agencies for the Denver Union Station Project as one of the Nation's twenty best plans for tackling transportation choices, alleviating traffic congestion and combating air pollution. The Sierra Club Report, "Smart Choices, Less Traffic," shows creative, effective ways to reduce traffic, pollution and sprawl.

Government and citizen groups are



On June 17, Bert Melcher and Susan LeFever of the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter presented Denver's Regional transportation District with an award from the national Sierra Club organization. The award commemorates the Union Station Project to facilitate the RTD expansion. Union Station was a finalist on the national club's list of 20 nationally outstanding transportation projects for 2002. From left to right: Bert Melcher, Carl Erickson, Jim Zavist (in back), Mary Blue, unnamed woman, Susan LeFever and Carl Marsella.

working together to preserve and redevelop Denver's historic 1881 Union Station and its surrounding area as a Transit-Oriented Development with retail opportunities, offices and possibly affordable housing. The station is the hub of our Metro multimodal transportation; when voters approve RTD's "FasTracks" transit project, it will serve over 100 miles of rapid transit. RTD's Partner Agencies are CDOT, DRCOG and City and County of Denver. Our Chapter presented an award to RTD at the June 17 RTD Board Meeting.

First Lynx Kittens Born in Colorado

by Mike Smith, Wildlife Chair, Rocky Mountain Chapter

Colorado's lynx reintroduction effort got a much-needed biological (and psychological) boost in May with the discovery of three separate litters of kittens in southwest Colorado—the first confirmed reproduction since lynx releases began in 1999. The first two litters each contained two kittens, and a third litter contained four kittens. The eight kittens discovered thus far all appeared to be in good condition when biologists examined them.

The three successful lynx mothers were all released in southwest Colorado in 2000.

To date, the Division of Wildlife has released 129 lynx in Colorado; 41 in 1999, 55 in 2000, and 33 in 2003. Successful reproduction is

To date, the Division of Wildlife has released 129 lynx in Colorado; 41 in 1999, 55 in 2000, and 33 in 2003.

considered a milestone for the program, and because tracking data indicate that perhaps nine pairs of lynx were together during the mating season earlier this year, DOW biologists hope to discover more lynx kittens this summer and fall. Biologists hope to release another 50 lynx in 2004 and 50 more in 2005.

Fifteen lynx will then be released in both 2006 and 2007.

Although the DOW's lynx reintroduction program has been popular with the general public and supported by environmental groups (including the Sierra Club), it has also been controversial.

Early criticism of the reintroductions came from animal rights and property rights groups. Hunters and Wildlife Commissioners have long complained that the program might lessen the money available for hunting programs. The conservative Mountain States Legal Foundation tried unsuccessfully to obtain an injunction to prevent further lynx releases. In a surprise move following the discovery of lynx kittens, the Owens administration, which had unsuccessfully lobbied the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to declare Colorado's reintroduced lynx population as "experimental/non-essential," seems now to support the program, with both Bill Owens and DNR Executive Director Greg Walcher claiming credit in press release quotes for their efforts on behalf of Colorado's wildlife.

The Sierra Club congratulates the Division of Wildlife's lynx team (and the lynx) on a job well done.

Colorado Higher Ed Gets "A" in Renewable Energy

by Linda Pohle, RMC Energy Committee

The Union of Concerned Scientists recently gave the State of Colorado an "F" on Renewable Energy, but several Colorado institutions of higher learning deserve a solid "A" for their support of clean energy technologies, particularly wind power.

Two of the first Colorado institutions to embrace wind power were Naropa Institute in Boulder and Regis University in Denver. Both purchase power from Xcel Energy's Windsource. In the spring of 2000, students at Colorado's largest university, CU-Boulder, voted overwhelmingly in favor of a referendum, agreeing to pay \$1 per student per semester (approximately \$50,000 annually) for four years to purchase wind power from Windsource. Although student referenda have been used to gain support for other environmental measures on campus related to recycling and transportation, this was one of the first, if not the first, referendum in the nation to solicit student support specifically for renewable energy. No previous CU-Boulder student referendum passed by such a wide margin—approximately 5 to 1.

Ghita Carroll, program coordinator for the CU Environmental Center, which is primarily funded by student government, notes that, "Thanks to this referendum, CU-Boulder is buying enough wind—about 2 million kilowatt hours per year—to meet 30 percent of the energy needs of student-funded buildings on campus. And we have become a role model for schools across the nation. Colleges and universities in Connecticut, Kansas, Texas, and Utah, among others, have contacted us about the referendum process."

Other schools in Colorado are also following the CU-Boulder model. Students at Mesa State College in Grand Junction approved a similar referendum this spring. Students at CU Denver, Metro State, and Community College of Denver will vote this fall on the



Auraria Clean Energy Initiative. For a \$2 increase in annual student fees—less than the cost of a hamburger—students can add clean energy to the power mix on the Auraria campus. The bulk of the new fees will go toward the purchase of wind energy for the Tivoli student union facility, and will convert roughly 22 percent of that building's annual energy budget to clean power. The remainder will be used to implement a small solar demonstration project at the student union.

The University of Denver College of Law is taking a different, and highly ambitious path in the construction of its new building on the University Park campus, attempting to become the first "certified green" law school in the nation by marrying technology with sound ecological choices during and after its construction. One of those choices is buying 1.86 million kilowatt hours of wind power from Renewable Choice Energy, which will supply an estimated 50 percent of the building's total energy needs for the

contract term of two years. Renewable Choice Energy is not a utility that generates wind power; it sells Green-e certified renewable energy certificates from American Wind.

"The DU College of Law wind purchase will avoid the emission of more than three million pounds of carbon dioxide a year," says Kris Lotlikar, vice president, Renewable Choice Energy. "That's the equivalent of keeping 301 cars off the road."

Colorado college and university students could teach a thing or two to the folks in Colorado's statehouse about embracing the benefits of renewable energy now for a cleaner energy future. Perhaps this is because it is primarily their future that's at stake.

ELECTRONIC PEAK & PRAIRIE

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

MONETARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS VERSUS BENEFITS

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

REQUESTING ELECTRONIC PEAK & PRAIRIE

If you choose to receive Peak & Prairie in electronic form, we will notify you via electronic mail each time a new issue of Peak & Prairie is available on the Rocky Mountain Chapter's web site – usually several days before the printed version is mailed. The notification will include a link for your browser which will take you directly to the new issue of Peak & Prairie on the Rocky Mountain Chapter's web site, which you will be able to view with Adobe Acrobat Reader (a free program available at www.adobe.com).

Please visit <http://www.rmcsierraclub.org/pandp/deliveryoptions.shtml> to select your Peak & Prairie delivery options today.

Join the 404+ RMC members (approx. 2%) who have chosen to receive the electronic version of Peak & Prairie instead of the printed version!

BE A PART OF OUR CHAPTER'S SUCCESS

VOLUNTEER FAIR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Help to develop a new event in the late summer to let volunteers know about all our activities and how they can get involved. The committee will design, produce, and promote the event to new and experienced activists. Contact Greg Casini at 303-315-3309 or greg.casini@rmcsierraclub.org.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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 susan.lefever@sierraclub.org.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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 membership. Contact Susan LeFever at 303-825-1554 or susan.lefever@sierraclub.org.

JOIN THE OUTINGS COMMITTEE

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

Rocky Mountain Chapter Sierra Club Photo Contest

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

Send your best nature photos to:

Photo Contest
1410 Grant Street, B303
Denver, CO 80203

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. 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 photos. Winning photos will be selected by the editorial committee of the SC-RMC or a delegated representative.



The Rocky Mountain Chapter photo contest winner for this issue was John Loren who submitted this photo of a great blue heron spotted at Barbour Ponds in Longmont. John used a Canon Elan 7 camera with a 200mm lens for this shot. Send us your best nature photo and your work might appear in the next Peak 'N Prairie.

A Full Nest



Photo by Mark Ikonen. This Blue Heron was sighted in the Yampa Valley, south of Steamboat Springs in late June. The adult bird is flying off to catch more food for the four young birds of which two are visible in the nest. The photographer observed the adult bird making six round trips to the nest in about 15 minutes, each time regurgitating a new load of food to the very demanding fledglings. Nikon F100 with a 1,000 mm lens.

The Inner City Outings New "Clubhouse"

by Zach Lane, apprentice carpenter, Local Union 1068

Within the last year, Inner City Outings (ICO) has secured a storage unit for our equipment on the State of Colorado's campus at Camp George West, Golden. This space has allowed ICO to put a roof over our growing array of winter equipment, which includes backcountry skis, boots, poles, snowshoes, warm clothes, etc.

State Representatives Fran Coleman and Ann Ragsdale were instrumental in guiding the process, and the project would not have been possible without the help of Bill Lechuga and Ron Leyba, both with the Colorado Department of Corrections. The ongoing cooperation of Physical Plant Manager Phil DeFelice has makes this site, located at the entrance to the mountains, truly a dream come true.

Formerly a fueling station, the building (called "The Clubhouse") needed some work; the roof was leaking, which would not allow the equipment to dry after use. Not only was the roof in need of repair, but due to Sierra Club's sensitivity to the fact that this is a historical building, skilled labor was sought to complete the work.

Fortunately, members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters offered their services. Led by ICO leader/union carpenter Dan Ridgeway, volunteers from L.U. 244 and L.U. 1068 donated their time and expertise to ensure the job was done right. Not only did they get the job done, the union men reached out and involved local children in the process, teaching them some of the basics of carpentry while restoring the roof to historical accuracy.

Much was made of "Teamsters and Turtles" during the protests in Seattle, but the fact remains that meaningful alliances that benefit the community and environment must be done on a grass roots level, employing inter-interest cooperation. The case at Camp George West, while small, can be viewed as a prime example of what can be accomplished when labor and environmentalists come together for the benefit of all.

Many thanks to all who helped on the Clubhouse repair, and a special appreciation to Vince Hobson of Custom Tile Roofing who donated the antique roof shingles needed to maintain the historical character of the structure.

Wild Forever Foundation

— Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation

Created in 1996, Wild Forever Foundation (WFF) is the only full service wildlife rehabilitation organization in the Pikes Peak Region. Our mission is to rescue, heal, and release wildlife in distress, educate the public, and promote the humane treatment of wild animals.

Trained in the proper and safest techniques to rescue animals in need, our volunteers care for hundreds of mammals, birds, and reptiles each year. In 2002 alone, we cared for over 700 animals, and since we started in 1996, we have cared for over 4000 animals. We ensure these animals retain their wild character, and the majority of them are successfully released back into the wild.

We work closely with both the Humane Society and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, which rely on us as the sole organization with the ability to rescue wild animals in our coverage area. Deer hit by cars, foxes caught in steel leg-hold traps, baby cottontails attacked by dogs, and orphaned baby animals are just a few of the scenarios we see.

The Foundation also provides valuable services to the community through public education. WFF volunteers visit classrooms, community clubs, and public events informing the public about wildlife

issues. We write articles for local newspapers, and have a video presentation and brochure for general public outreach.

Our primary goal for 2003/2004 is to establish an intake facility for birds and small mammals. This would allow us to care for many more animals and provide more opportunities for volunteer involvement. We require additional funding for materials, supplies, and operating expenses to establish and maintain this facility.

The Foundation's long-term goal is to build a central wildlife rehabilitation and education center. This center would help relieve the need for individual volunteers to care for animals in their homes. It would also allow us to care more efficiently for the animals requiring our assistance. Finally, the center would serve as a forum for public education programs.

With these goals in mind, we are in need of donations of services, money, and supplies and would greatly appreciate help in any of these areas. Though licensed through state and federal agencies, we receive no government funding. Our entire budget depends on grants and donations. If you would like to become a member, provide a donation, or find out more about WFF, please see the information below.

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HUMAN RIGHTS &

Human Rights Perspective

International right to know

The primary campaign concerning human rights the Sierra Club is presently working on involves the public education of elected officials and the general public about the need for international right-to-know laws. Quite a few international hazardous waste disasters, such as Bhopal, could have been prevented had these laws been available.

So just why are we educating the public about international right to know laws? In 1986, Congress decided to pass the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), in response to public concern over better domestic standards on chemicals. This law requires companies to disclose information about the chemicals they use, store, and release from their facilities. This information is released through a publicly accessible database, the Toxic Release Inventory. With these tools, the federal government gives communities the knowledge to better monitor companies in their area. If this information is not up to snuff, the communities can take action to protect themselves and the offending company's employees.

The unfortunate reality is that these laws do not exist in the international community. Disasters like Bhopal still occur in many areas where U.S. companies are building facilities to host their international operations. Without critical information about the businesses in their community, citizens are kept in the dark; they do not know if the company is a good, reputable business, or if it is lax on its health and hazardous waste standards.

Companies such as Newmont in Denver, Colorado, Doe Run in Missouri, Unocal in California, Nike in Oregon, McDonald's in Illinois, Freeport McMoran in Louisiana, and Exxonmobil in Texas have not reported on many of the working conditions or chemicals being spilled in the course of their international operations. Without public knowledge that these companies committed crimes internationally, the citizens of these nations are left to pick up the pieces of environmental injustice. And we in the United States have no information about the atrocities committed by these companies whose products we continue to buy.

The establishment of International Right to Know laws (IRTK) would close the loophole that currently enables companies operating internationally to avoid scrutiny. Companies based in the U.S. or traded on the U.S. stock exchanges and their foreign subsidiaries should be required to disclose information based on our domestic disclosure standards. IRTK laws must also adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, labor standards embodied in the International Labor Organization, and the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.

So What Can You Do?



- Go to www.irkt.org for more information, to take action, and to sign up for IRTK Action's E-list.
- Contact President George W. Bush and tell him American companies operating overseas should foster good will - not ill will around the world.
- Contact your public officials in Colorado. Urge them to empower communities around the world with corporate disclosure and transparency.
- Join the Sierra Club's Human Rights and the Environment Alert Network. Contact linda.rabben@sierraclub.org.
- Call or email the RMC Chapter Office if you are interested in receiving a copy of the International Right to Know or if you are interested in attending meetings concerning human rights and the environment. 303-825-1554 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org

International Trade

When I first got involved with the National Sierra Club's International Trade and Human Rights Committee, I was a bit overwhelmed with the International Trade terminology. What does FTAA mean or even spell out? What is NAFTA? I was informed enough, but I definitely did not know all of the nuisances of the terms, what they stood for, etc. Watching a few Bill Moyer's specials is not enough! Arrgh!

So I'm going to spell it out for you. If this seems a bit too simplistic for you, just skip over the Trade section and refer to the Human Rights section for some enlightenment.

Breaking it Down: Why the Sierra Club Cares

Trade agreements, while they open up some incredible international opportunities for business commerce, can do major damage where the public interest is concerned. Many countries, for instance, do not adhere to the same environmental stan-

Overview:

Why does the Sierra Club concern itself with human rights campaigns? The Sierra Club believes that no country can feign environmental awareness while its citizens are forbidden to assemble or speak freely, or when they are persecuted for protecting the environment. Thus, the Sierra Club's strategy is to focus on nations where human rights abuses are being committed against environmental activists and to inform the public about these abuses in order to expose the guilty parties. Under the watchful eye of international scrutiny, these cases are less likely to occur.



dards as the United States. Pollution laws are a wonderful example of how certain international business standards are out of sync with U.S. environmental standards. Sierra Club's campaign on international trade is geared to ensure that trade is clean, green, and fair.

The Terminology NAFTA

NAFTA stands for the North American Free Trade Agreement. Adopted in 1994, this is an international commercial agreement between the nations of Mexico, the United States, and Canada. NAFTA's basic framework grants corporations special protections from one NAFTA country investing in another NAFTA country (www.citizen.org).

The NAFTA principle which most adversely affects the environmental community, and environmental protections as a whole, is that laid out in Chapter 11. Chapter 11 is NAFTA's investment chapter, and provides for the private enforcement of the rights and privileges of created under NAFTA. Disputes arising under NAFTA are settled by a special tribunal rather than by a nation's domestic court system. If the disputing corporation wins a case against a nation found in violation of NAFTA, the country's taxpayers must dole out compensation to the complainant corporation. The compensation in many of the cases can greatly harm the country, both financially and socially, and reward the corporation greatly.

Cases brought under NAFTA which have held environmental interests in the balance include the Methanax dispute

THE ENVIRONMENT

No Globalization without Representation!



Make Trade Safe, Clean, and Fair

between the Canadian corporation and the state of California over MTBE additives, the Metalclad conflict between a U.S. firm and Mexico over a toxic waste zone in Mexico, and the Ethyl dispute which concerned the removal of MMT from Canadian imports by a U.S. firm. In all of these cases, the corporation has challenged national environmental protection laws.

GATT

GATT stands for the General Agreement

on Tariffs and Trade. GATT was originally drawn up by 23 countries in 1948; it now has 128 member countries. GATT is an agreement that provides an international forum to encourage free trade between member countries by regulating tariffs on traded goods. GATT also provides a dispute mechanism to settle trade disputes.

WTO

WTO, perhaps the most recognizable of these acronyms, stands for the World Trade

Organization. The World Trade Organization was established in 1995 in response to GATT's international adoption; WTO is thus charged with overseeing GATT as an enforceable commerce code. WTO is now one of the most powerful global commerce agencies, conducting ministerial meetings on a yearly basis. Within the WTO, decisions affecting the economy are confined to the private sector, while decisions affecting social and environmental costs are brought to the public sector.

At the 3rd Ministerial Meeting in Seattle, WA, people from around the world came out in protest of the meetings on the basis that the WTO was undemocratic, failed to disclose vital information to the public, and was not accountable to people in other nations.

The next WTO meeting will be held in Cancun, Mexico, from September 10-14th, 2003.

FTAA

The FTAA is the Free Trade Area of the Americas. FTAA is an extension of NAFTA, which would enable the expansion of NAFTA, GATT and the WTO to include countries in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Negotiations began in 1994 for FTAA implementation, and are to be completed by 2005.

The FTAA has been negotiated behind closed doors without any public input. Many social and environmental groups are quite wary of this agreement and are gearing up for the latest FTAA ministerial meeting in Miami from November 17th-21st, 2003. The Sierra Club and many other groups will be organizing teach-ins, reality tours, concerts and other gatherings to take place over these five days.

How YOU Can Get Involved

There are many ways you can get

involved with the Sierra Club's Trade Campaign.

- Contact Dan Seligman at the National Sierra Club's office and get on the International Trade List Serves:
The Sierra Club
408 C Street N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
dan.seligman@sierraclub.org
Tel. 202-675-2387
- Want to know more locally about these policies? Contact our Trade Committee Chair, Robert Cohen with your questions: r.cohen@ieec.org.
- Write letters to your local officials, letters to the editor, and enlighten your friends about opposing the FTAA conference in Miami. Knowledge is power!
- Join the Sierra Club and other organizations in traveling down to Miami to demonstrate to the FTAA-Miami Ministerial meeting participants that we do not support their policy. Interested? Please contact Libby Tart at the Chapter office for more details as they arise: 303-825-1554 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.
- Are you a high school or college student? Please see the article written by Rachel Ackoff listed below for more information about how to get involved with the Sierra Club Student Coalition's Fair Trade Campaign.

A Message to Students

By Rachel Ackoff
Calling all student activists!

Around the world, "free trade" agreements, like NAFTA and the World Trade Organization, are threatening the environment, human rights, and democracy, all in the name of increased opportunities for multinational corporations. The Sierra Student Coalition's (SSC) Fair Trade Campaign connects student activists to organize, agitate, and act for trade that is clean, green, and fair. As trade bureaucrats from across the Western Hemisphere gather for a major FTAA ministerial meeting this November in Miami, SSC fair trade activists will participate in events across the country and take the fight back to campuses and communities and to the doorsteps of power.

To get involved as a student with the Fair Trade Campaign and throw a wrench in Bush's free trade plans, please contact the SSC's Fair Trade Campaign Coordinator, Rachel Ackoff at 909-625-4337 or rachel.ackoff@ssc.org.



Recycling roundup

Electronic Recycling

Dell and City of Denver Set Record by Collecting More Than 200 Tons of Computers in One Day for Donation and Recycling; Record Collection Event Applauded By National Recycling Coalition

The record for a one-day computer recycling event was set in Denver on Saturday, May 24th as more than 2,000 Denver-area residents dropped off more than 200 tons of unwanted computer technology for donation or recycling.

"Based on what we know from our members across the country, Dell's computer recycling collection in Denver shattered any existing national record for tonnage collected at a one-day event," said Kate Krebs, executive director of the National Recycling Coalition. "The National Recycling Coalition applauds Dell, the City of Denver and everyone who dropped off their old equipment, for preventing more than 200 tons of computers from ending up in Denver landfills."

"I applaud the efforts Dell, Denver Recycles, National Cristina Foundation and other local partners made to raise awareness of technology recycling. Their efforts help us keep used computers out of landfills and in the hands of local nonprofit organizations who can benefit from the technology," said Mayor Wellington Webb, City and County of Denver. "The people of Denver have again shown their commitment to the environment and our local communities."

City of Denver Councilwoman Kathleen MacKenzie showed support for technology recycling by volunteering her own time to help unload computer equipment from residents' cars at Saturday's event. "Within our city government alone, computers and other electronic devices are estimated to contain around 10 tons of lead and more than a gram of mercury. Electronic waste already constitutes from 2 to 5 percent of the municipal solid waste stream in this country. Toxic substances can leach into our soil and groundwater from normal landfill operation," lamented MacKenzie. "I commend Dell for its leadership in recycling these devices and getting refurbished computers in the hands of those not otherwise able to afford them."

Non-profit and community partners for Saturday's recycling event included the City of Denver, Denver Recycles, Denver Department of Environmental Health, INVESCO Field, University of Denver, Colorado Association for Recycling, Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation, the Recycling Alliance of Denver and Horace Mann Middle School. More than 40 community volunteers worked all day and into the night collecting technology equipment ranging from desktops and monitors to printers.

For consumers unable to take advantage of the recycling event on Saturday, May 24th, Dell offers the ability to register online for convenient and affordable home pick-up of unwanted notebooks, desktops, monitors and select peripherals for only \$15 per unit. Denver Recycles also maintains a list of local computer recyclers. For a copy call Denver Recycles at 720-865-6805 and ask for a Recycling Directory.

Moving?

Take Care to Properly Manage Your Household Chemicals

If you're one of approximately 18,000 Denver residents relocating into or out of the City this year, there's something you need to know about household hazardous chemicals—don't move them and don't leave them behind!

Residents planning a move need to be aware that common household items such as oil-based and latex paints, yard and garden chemicals, solvents, adhesives, batteries and cleaning products pose a risk to humans, animals and the environment if thrown in the trash, dumped on the ground, poured down the storm drain or transported in a moving van.

Life is not
measured by
the number of
breaths that we
take, but by the
moments that
take our
breath away.

— Anonymous

The Great Beast

*Photo by Mark Ikonen.
This Bull moose was spotted southwest of Kremmling in late June. He was traveling with a female moose who disappeared before she could be photographed.*



***Editor's Note: 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. Editors are invited to publish all or part of the column, however, we request that you run major edits by our staff to ensure accuracy of the information. Questions may be directed to Charlotte Pitt, Denver Recycles, 720-865-6805**

Properly disposing of these items—rather than leaving them for the new homeowner or tenant to deal with—is a responsible final step in home ownership.

To assist residents in disposing of household chemicals, the City offers a door-to-door collection program. To participate in the program, residents must be Denver Solid Waste Management customers, residing in a single-family home, town home or apartment building of seven units or fewer. Eligible residents may simply call the City's contractor, Curbside Inc., toll-free 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.

Ditch The Bag...

GrassCycling is the Natural Way to a Beautiful Lawn

Cut it, leave it, watch it thrive. The secret to a beautiful lawn is out of the bag...GrassCycling! GrassCycling is easy to do, you just cut your grass and leave it and it improves the quality of your lawn by keeping nutrients and moisture where they are needed...on the lawn.

Why GrassCycle

- Enrich the soil. /*Short clippings decay rapidly, yet slowly release valuable nutrients to the soil.
- Save time. /*Say goodbye to raking and bagging and spend an estimated 38% less time on lawn care.
- Save money./* Less money is spent on water and fertilizer, as grass is 75% water and is high in Nitrogen and other valuable nutrients found in fertilizers.
- Save landfill space./* Grass clippings and other yard waste make up 20 to 50% of household waste from March through September. And yard waste is 100% recyclable by GrassCycling, composting or mulching.
- GrassCycling does not cause thatch. /* Thatch is a brown, spongy material consisting of dead grass stems and roots, and is not caused by leaving grass clippings on the lawn.

How to GrassCycle

- All mowers can GrassCycle. /*You don't need a mulching mower to GrassCycle. Mulching blades that chop grass into smaller pieces are available for your gas or electric mower at local hardware stores for about \$20.
- Mow frequently. Lawns are healthiest when mowed to a 2 1/2 to 3 inch length. To benefit most from GrassCycling, mow often enough that no more than one-third of the grass blade is removed.
- Ask your lawn service. If you use a landscaping service, ask them to GrassCycle and leave the clippings on your lawn.

For more information on GrassCycling, composting, or mulching grass and other yard waste, Denver residents can call Denver Recycles at 720-865-6805 or visit www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

styles

Recyclers' Corner

Articles sponsored by Denver Recycles

Ask the Recycle Lady: Supporting Municipal Recycling

by Leslie Martel Baer, MA

Mountain Muse Communications

Dear Recycle Lady: Can I recycle old photographs? Do they contain dangerous chemicals that could be released if I burn? I would rather not landfill them, but I need to get rid of them.

— Positive/Negative Thinking

Dear Positive: Because of the chemicals impregnated into photos, neither recycling with regular paper stock nor burning are recommended. If one or two should slip into your recycle bin or fireplace, it would not be serious. However, larger quantities of photographs should be handled more seriously.

Safety-Kleen in Englewood (303-761-8614; 2801 S. Tejon) accepts small quantities of photos (or any photographic paper) and film at their offices. Cleaned out your whole house and discovered a dumpster full of photos? Safety-Kleen will come to you for a pick-up. Regardless of your delivery method-drop-off or pick-up-call first to make arrangements.

Safety-Kleen also provides collection services to businesses with photo waste, including on-site containers and regular pick-ups. For some materials, Safety-Kleen pays the customer a few cents per pound, while other materials incur a few cents charge.

One reason for recycling photo waste is the silver it contains. Bound in the photo waste, this precious metal is considered hazardous waste; captured through recycling, it becomes a valuable commodity. Businesses and photography enthusiasts can have their liquid photo chemicals recycled, particularly the fixer; developer and stop chemicals are generally not considered hazardous in small quantities and are essentially biodegradable. Again, the silver contained in the fixer makes it the most hazardous and the most valuable.

Safety-Kleen prefers to pick up photo liquids for safety reasons. If you can safely transport your photo chemicals and have only quantities-particularly black and white fixer-you can drop them at Reed Photo (303-573-8084; 888 Federal Boulevard in Denver) for silver reclamation. In other areas of the state, check with high-end photo shops or solid waste departments for recycling locations of all photo materials. You also can call Safety-Kleen's Denver location to see if they have a facility near you.

Dear Recycle Lady: We have a small real estate management company and would like to be much better about recycling paper, etc. I would love to be completely paperless but we are not there yet, not even close. Do you have a resource guide and suggestions?

—Paper Pushing

Dear Paper: Many of us are buried in paper these days, at work and at home. While there is no "holy grail" of paper recycling information, there are several steps and resources you can use to get started. Just remember to follow the Three-Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Reduce is the first step and often most inexpensive. For your home and business,

contact the Direct Marketing Association (212-768-7277) for their "no mail" list. While not fool-proof, I have found the list effective at reducing unwanted mail. Their "no call" list is quite effective, too! Using the credit bureau's "no mail" list also works well; contact Experian at 800-228-4571.

Next, look at your in-house processes to reduce. Do you, or can you print documents two-sided? Do you over-order printed inventory, throwing much of it away later? Can you operate more "on-demand" with your printed materials? Can you print less and work more electronically? Addressing these questions can save resources and money.

Next: reuse. Use the back side of bad copies or out-of-date documents. Your printer, copier or fax may even accept these sheets for draft prints. Otherwise, these pages can be used for notepaper. Also, reuse items like envelopes by affixing mailing labels over the original address. This is usually more cost effective than using a new envelope!

Finally, recycle. Tri-R Recycling (303-399-6351; www.trir.com) partners with Albertsons and the Shriners to provide hundreds of bins around Denver (for recycling locations in other areas, check out www.colorado-recycles.org). Combine office paper, junk mail, magazines and newspaper together for these bins. Simply call Tri-R with your zip code to get the location nearest you.

Small companies can set up office bins and have employees take turns dropping the paper at your nearest Tri-R bin. If you have large quantities of paper or sensitive information that should be destroyed, call Tri-R or another data destruction service to set up an account.

Recycling also means buying recycled. Locally, Xpedx Paper Stores, Office Depot and Office Max carry a few items. While they do not have stores in Denver, Staples (800-3STAPLE; www.staples.com) offers an excellent range of recycled products and fast delivery. They make it very easy to find recycled content products on their web site. Other suppliers of recycled office papers include The Real Earth (800-987-3326; www.treeco.com) and Pedro's Planet (800-853-9218; www.pedrosplanet.com).

To go further, reduce, reuse and recycle other types of materials used in your office. To make these practices a core part of your company's mission, image and practices, consider using a consultant like my company or m+co (720-932-1580; www.mandco.net). Find companies providing these and other "green" business-to-business services through P3 Colorado (303-430-5887; www.p3colorado.org) and the National Green Pages (800-58-GREEN; www.greenpages.org).

Mountain Muse Communications provides complete print and electronic communications services to socially and environmentally responsible organizations,

While there is no "holy grail" of paper recycling information, there are several steps and resources you can use to get started. Just remember to follow the Three-Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle.

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 write:

Ask the Recycle Lady
Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter
1536 Wynkoop Street, 4th Floor
Denver, CO 80202



Join us at the Wild Places, Open Spaces Auction on September 12 at the Brown Palace in Denver. For information, call Libby at 303-825-1554



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Volunteers gather in Silverthorne on June 7 to spread the word about fire mitigation.

Southwest Corner

– Is Reconciliation Possible?

By Deb Robison,
Associate Regional Representative

Congratulations to the Blue River Group on a successful event! You may recall in a previous column, I pitched our June 7 Summit County Fire Mitigation Project? as an opportunity for club members to contribute to the community and get the word out about the best methods for protecting homes, lives & communities from forest fires.

On Saturday, June 7, 57 folks showed up to help the Ptarmigan neighborhood in Silverthorne to clear brush, remove dead trees, move wood and other flammable items from around homes and generally demonstrate to the larger community - 200 homes in all, what measures individual homeowners can take to best protect from forest fires.

Our group of volunteers met at the Lake Dillon Fire Station in Silverthorne at 8:30 a.m. After receiving t-shirts and breakfast, they got a safety briefing from Summit County Fire Mitigation Officer, Patti Maguire. Volunteers were assigned to crews and then loaded up in vans to head up to the neighborhood. In approximately 4 hours, the crews cleared 4 home sites. Many local tree services also volunteered and a backpack manufacturer, Kelty, donated 4 hydration packs for us to give away as door prizes- a huge thank you to them for such a generous contribution.

All the cleared brush & slash was either chipped or put into dumpsters- we filled at least 4 dumpsters, and will



Volunteers clean up flammable debris from around homes in the Silverthorne area.

be shipped to Climax mine to be used in a re-vegetation project.

Congratulations and thanks go to Patti Maguire and to the Blue River Group leadership who worked hard to turn out so many volunteers: Karn Stiegelmeier, Group Chair, Gary Lindstrom, Conservation Chair, and Sandy Briggs, Political Chair.

For more information about how you can make your home fire safe call Deb Robison at 303.449.5595, ext. 107 or check out the Firewise website: www.firewise.org <<http://www.firewise.org/>>.

Wild Geraniums

Harbingers of fall,
bleeding vermilion five-lobed leaves, flowers
of delicate pink and purple,
amid the copper-and-moss-green granite rocks -
patina of verdigris -
the bear-sgraffitoed trees,
hawks at the apex, shooting down
shims of pale blue, late afternoon light. Placer-
rich sun -
immutable ore, shining above.
For color and design, movement, and dance,
the chakras of purest, wheeling energy,
look to nature's timeless, established art -
the wave and the wind.
The more you look, the more you see
the unity of things - without and within.

Diversity

If in this passing moment of our time,
the world were filled with nothing but the rose,
how common it would seem, no more sublime,
no longer rare among the blooms that grow.
Each clan and culture holds its own beliefs,
its patterns, needs, and sole ethnicity.
The hummer's parched without the penstemon.
Without the armored rhino, poor we'd be,
our speech less rich without the Khoisan's
tongue.

All species, cultures, languages to know
enlarges each like moon the shining sun.
If earth still speaks its dreams to human mode,
can time still heal and leveled earth recover,
with each one free to find the self in other?

Broadmoor Geese

An ancient Chinese scroll sign-posting the sky
with elegant calligraphy. Each figure depend-
ing on the others brush strokes for additional
lift, the better to fly. Several letters joining
together to form an ideograph. Art and com-
munity coming together to configure and shape,
like fishermen on the shores of Galilee casting
their net, then forming an arrow.

From author Ruth Obee's newest book, A Sense of Place (2002, Blue River Publishing, \$12.95), available at The Chinook Bookshop, 210 N. Tejon Street, Colorado Springs or by order at (1-800-999-1195) or E-mail: chinook@chinookbook.com (www.chinookbook.com).

Outdoor Leader Training a Success!

By Deb Robison,
Associate Regional Representative

30 Sierra Club members gathered in Breckenridge & Keystone May 2- 4 to learn the basics of leading trips for the Club and to build a foundation for the Chapter's Outings Program. Outgoing

Outings Chair, Pat Berman put together 3 days of lectures, activities and hands-on training opportunities for members who came from around the state and from as far away as Nebraska.

Deb Robison, Associate Regional Representative, spoke on the topic of combining conservation issues and outings.

Also, group members took the opportunity to discuss regional issues and how they can use them to generate interest in outings.

The final day of the training included hands on scenarios where leaders had to deal with problems? incurred by outings members. Challenges included: the ?whin-

er?, a sprained ankle, weather and group dynamics. All members had a great time and gave Pat a standing ovation for her hard work. There is even talk of a reunion? this summer. Stay tuned for details!

Aids Walk Participants Needed for Sierra Club Team!

This year we are gearing up for a wonderful turnout at the Colorado AIDS Walk. Conducted by Colorado AIDS Project, the 10K event begins in Cheesman Park on the morning of August 24th. The minimum suggested donation to join Sierra Club's Rocky Mountain Chapter Team is \$25.

If you are interested in joining, you can sign up online at: <https://www.kintera.org/faf/teams/registerTeam.asp?ievent=23334&lis=1> or call our office at 303-825-1554 and ask for Libby Tart for more information.

Bush Administration Action's Attack our Natural Heritage

Over the past months, the Bush Administration has issued a series of policy changes and settlement agreements that fundamentally undermine protection of millions of acres of BLM lands across 11 western states. Recent announcements regarding the inventory and interim protection of wilderness quality lands and the resuscitation of an obscure frontier-era statute called RS2477 mean that vast swaths of the American west are now vulnerable to roadbuilding and ORV abuse, oil and gas development, and destructive mining operations. To counter these brazen attacks, the Sierra Club is working on the national level with a number of coalitions to expose the magnitude of the threats and hold the Bush administration accountable for aggressively seeking to undermine protections for the public lands that American's cherish.

At the local level, it will be important to support defensive efforts as these policies play out around the country, mobilizing public lands activists and building broad public support for protecting these important pieces of our natural heritage.

Bush Administration says "No More Wilderness"?

Late in the evening on Friday, April 11, the Department of Interior entered into a settlement agreement with the State of Utah in which Secretary Norton 1) Revoked existing protections for wilderness-quality BLM lands called Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), renounced its obligations to conduct new inventories and wilderness reviews of BLM lands, and rescinded the BLM Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures Handbook — which outlines criteria for considering wilderness on a level playing field with other uses for public lands. This settlement, strips away special protections for millions of acres of pristine land not just in Utah but across the west. Moreover, it threatens citizen-proposed wilderness initiatives such as those in majestic canyons of Arizona and red rock country of Utah.

The Interior Department oversees 250 million acres of federal lands administered by the BLM in 11 Western states as well as Alaska. This is amazingly beautiful and ecologically diverse land — deserts, mountains, forests, redrock canyon country, sweeping grasslands, icy peaks and tundra. Of this BLM land, only about 6.5 million acres have been designated as wilderness by

Congress. Another 15 million acres have been formally inventoried a designated as Wilderness Study Areas before the 1991 deadline. With the Department of the Interior's new policy, the rest of the BLM lands will not be studied for its wilderness qualities and not then recommended to Congress for protection. The bottom line: wilderness values that may exist on as many as 220 million acres of BLM lands (much of which has obvious and spectacular wilderness qualities) can no longer even be studied or recommended to Congress for it to designate additional wilderness areas.

Outdated Statute Allows Roads to Ruin Across our Public Lands

A new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regulation could lead to the giveaway of precious lands within our National Parks and Monuments, National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, and protected Wilderness Areas. The final rule on "Conveyances, Disclaimers and Corrections Documents," issued on January 6, resurrects the 137 year-old Revised Statute 2477 (RS 2477), which allows individuals and local governments to lay claim to abandoned trails, cow paths, and even river beds on publicly owned lands, and convert them into damaging highways across our treasured National Parks, Refuges, and Wilderness areas. The rule was originally promulgated to facilitate settlement across the west.

Although RS 2477 was repealed in 1976 and replaced with an updated process for addressing legitimate rights-of-ways across public lands, the new rule opens the door for states, counties, and special interests to file thousands of unsubstantiated rights-of-way claims.

Uniting Against a Common Foe

The scope and breadth of the Bush administration's attack on our public lands may yield one positive, unintended consequence within the Sierra Club grassroots network. These threats provide a common ground for many different grassroots constituencies that work on a wide variety of issues affecting public lands—such as grazing, ORV abuse, national monuments, and wilderness—and unite us against a common foe. To fight these attacks, diverse grassroots activists will need to educate, train, and mobilize this grassroots army to defend our public lands.

Newly Formed Outings Committee Meeting on Tuesday, August 19th

When: Tuesday, August 19th, 7 p.m.
Where: 2740 Elizabeth Street, Denver (North City Park)
Food and Drink will be provided but an RSVP is necessary!

The Outings Committee is re-establishing itself with this kick-off meeting! The Committee makes decisions about the protocol for outings, organizes outdoor leader training workshops, and conducts many other essential services for outings leaders in the RMC Sierra Club. If you would like to contribute or be part of the outings committee, please call or email the Chapter Office with an RSVP to this event - 303-825-1554 or libby.tart@rmcsierraclub.org.

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS BLACK.



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

Oh, say can you see...?

For the past five years, the Endangered Species Act, and the many species it seeks to protect, has been under attack by politicians backed by a powerful coalition of timber, grazing and mining interests as well as real estate developers. The Bald Eagle is a success story — won't you join the Sierra Club, and add your voice to the many thousands who want to ensure that our nation's unique natural heritage is protected?

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INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
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.



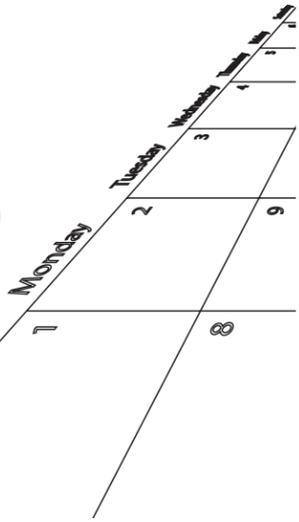
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Enclose check and mail to:
Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 52968
 Boulder, CO 80322-2968



C A L E N D A R



SUBMISSION DEADLINE

for
July/August/September 2003 issue
Monday, **August 26, 2003**

To list your event, email
**editor@
rnc.sierraclub.org**
for submission guidelines.

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

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

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

In the interests 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.

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



OUTINGS

• Please RSVP ALL Outings •

Friday, July 4th Weekend. Backpack Grizzly Gulch with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Sierrans. More details? Contact Jaime at 303-884-0808.

Friday, July 4th. Indian Peaks Group Hike. Celebrate Independence Day with a hike up the 4th of July Valley to Arapahoe Pass and Dorothy Lake. 6.6 miles round trip. 1,800 elevation gain. Contact Rebecca Dickson at 303-499-7261.

Friday-Sunday, July 11th-13th. Poudre Canyon Group Hike to Finch Lake. A moderate 4.5 mile one-way hike into the campsite at Finch Lake. The hike involves a 1,400 ft. elevation gain. For more details, contact Neal Marsh at 970-225-1861 or nandv@aol.com.

Saturday, July 12th. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Sierrans Potluck. An adventure for all! White Ranch Park in Golden. Afternoon potluck with other GLBT outdoor groups. Mountain biking and a full moon hike. Details? Contact Lin at 303-507-3502.

Friday, July 18th-Sunday July 20th, Fri. evening - Sunday p.m. Wilderness Field Inventory Trip at Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area. Help map a potential wilderness area in conjunction with the Wild Connections wilderness survey project. A \$10 fee will cover the cost of maps and other expenses. No prior mapping experience is required. For more information or to get a registration form, please contact Jean Smith at jeansmith@earthlink.net or 303-388-3378. We must receive your registration form no later than July 12th.

Saturday-Sunday, July 19th-20th. Car Camping and River Rafting with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Sierrans. Arkansas River Half Day in Brown's Canyon. Departs from Buena Vista, Secondary departure times will be scheduled as needed. Departure times: 9:00 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. All trips meet 30 minutes prior to departure. Adults: \$38.00, Children: \$33.00. Contact Lisa if you are interested in going! 303-777-3664.

Saturday, July 19th, 5:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Pike's Peak Single's Group Outing - Pike's Peak from the Craggs Campground. 12 miles, 4,100' vertical feet of climbing. Contact Jim McCreary, Sierra Singles, at 719-264-8486 or via email at MacJim@worldnet.att.net.

Saturday, July 19th, 8:00 a.m. - late day. Pikes Peak Single's Group Outing - 13,000 Ft. Mountain Climb. We plan to climb a 13,000 ft. peak not to distant from Colorado Springs. We'll carpool to the base of that mountain (to be announced). Elevation gain will be perhaps 4000-5000 ft., in a round trip of 12 miles, so come prepared for a workout! Contact Christie Lee, Sierra Singles, for more info. at 719-635-2336.

Sunday, July 20th. Indian Peaks Group Hike. Hike to Chasm Lake, 8.4 miles round trip, 2,360 elevation gain. Contact Maggie Glover at 720-258-1897 to RSVP.

Thursday, July 24th, 7:00 p.m. Dinner at Tommy's Thai in Denver with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender

Sierrans. RSVP if you are interested so they know how many people to expect. Please call David at 303-403-4298 by July 22nd.

Friday, July 25th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pikes Peak Single's Happy Hour at Old Chicago's on N. Academy. For information, contact Dave Harmer, Sierra Single's, 719-597-3996.

Friday - Monday, July 25th-29th. South San Juan Wilderness Backpack. This will be a very strenuous backpack in the South San Juan Mountains to emphasize catch and release fly fishing for wild trout on high alpine lakes. En route we will climb 13,172' Conejos Peak. Elevation gain 5,000 feet over 10 miles. Cost is approximately \$50/each for food and gas. Limit 5, mandatory pre-trip meeting. Contact Brian Judd at 719-598-8285.

Friday-Sunday, July 25th-27th. Poudre Canyon Group Hike to Lawn Lake. A moderate 6.2 mile one-way hike into the campsite at Lawn Lake with 2,400 ft. elevation gain. For more details, contact Neal Marsh at 970-225-1861 or nandv@aol.com.

Saturday-Sunday, July 26th-27th. Bag Two Fourteeners, Grays and Torys, with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Sierrans. More details? Call David at 303-403-4298.

Saturday, July 26th. Indian Peaks Group Hike. Hike to Arapahoe Glacier Overlook via Arapahoe Pass Trail, 8 miles round trip, 2,200 ft. elevation gain. Contact Eliza Rayner at 303-447-8133 to RSVP.

Sunday, July 27th. Indian Peaks Group Hike. Moderate hike to the summit of Bear Peak via Bear Canyon and West Ridge Trail. Return via Fern Canyon. 7 miles round trip, 2,500 ft. elevation gain. Contact Richard Blackmore at 303-666-6010 to RSVP.

Wednesday-Sunday, July 30th-August 2nd. Capitol Peak Project with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Sierrans. Backpack into the Maroon Bells Wilderness and join us on Capitol Peak, a 14,130 peak. This is the GLBT adopted peak. We will be doing trail maintenance. Join our work crew! No experience needed. RSVP to Lisa at 303-777-3664 or Jacob at 970-420-0090.

Friday, August 8th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pikes Peak Single's Happy Hour at the Sunbird, 230 Point of Pines Dr. Meet at the lounge or on the patio if weather permits. No RSVP required. For more information, contact Dave Harmer, Sierra Single's, 719-597-3996.

Saturday-Sunday, August 16th-17th. Wilderness Field Inventory Backpack to Table Mountain Roadless Area. Help map a potential wilderness area in conjunction with the Wild Connections wilderness survey project. This is an overnight backpack, with participants responsible for their own meals and personal gear. There is a \$10 fee to help cover the cost of maps and other expenses. No prior mapping experience required. For more information or to register, contact Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045. Please register by August 9th.

Sunday, August 17th, 8:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Sierra Single's Catamount Trail Hike. A moderate to difficult hike, 3.6 miles RT with a 2,000 ft. elevation gain. We may stop for lunch afterwards. RSVP to Dave Harmer, Sierra Single's, at 719-

597-3996 by Sat. evening. Carpooling can be arranged.

Friday, September 5th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pikes Peak Group Sierra Single's Happy Hour at the Sunbird, 230 Point of Pines Dr. Meet at the lounge or on the patio if weather permits. No RSVP required. More info? Contact Dave Harmer, Sierra Single's, 719-597-3996.

Sunday, September 14th, Pikes Peak Group Single Sierrans Emerald Valley Hike. An easy hike, 5.7 miles round trip with a 970 foot elevation gain. Pack a lunch and drink for the trail. RSVP to Dave Harmer, Sierra Single's, 719-597-3996, by Sat. evening for info. and carpooling details.

Sunday, September 14th, Rachel Carson Group Outing to Mt. Morrison in Morrison, CO. Easy/Moderate Hike up to the top of Mt. Morrison and back. Call the office at 303-825-1554 or check the RCG's website for details about signing up - [Hyttp://www.rnc.sierraclub.org/rcg/](http://www.rnc.sierraclub.org/rcg/).

Saturday, October 11th, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Rachel Carson Group Outdoor Service Project, Centennial Cone Park Trail Work (near Golden Gate Canyon Rd.), in association with Jefferson County Open Space Department. RSVPs are necessary for this project! Please contact Libby at the office for more details on the project. RSVP by Friday, October 3rd if you are interested in attending, 303-825-1554 or libby.tart@rnc.sierraclub.org.

EVENTS

Saturday, July 19th, 9:00 a.m. - early afternoon. High Plains Group Event - Ride the Light Rail to Downtown Denver. Find out what's happening in the way of Union Station plans from an expert and join the group as we dine at Old Chicago's. Contact Libby Tart if you are interested in going, 303-825-1554 or libby.tart@rnc.sierraclub.org.

Saturday, July 19th, 5-9 p.m. Mid-Summer Indian Peaks Group Picnic. Bring your family, friends, food and drink for a fun-filled mid-summer evening in the park. Live music, volleyball. For more information, contact Kay Bingham at 720-564-9525 or kaybingham@msn.com.

Saturday, August 16th, Hike and Potluck Picnic, Enos Mills Group. Welcoming new members, prospective members and members who enjoy hiking and eating, and their children and leashed dogs. We will carpool to Guanella Pass, divide into groups by preference of an easy or moderate hike, then re-group for a picnic lunch at a nearby picnic ground. We will provide lemonade and trip leaders. Call Diane at 303-504-9657 for details and carpool locations.

Saturday-Sunday, August 16th-17th. Lyons Bluegrass Festival Volunteers Needed. Please contact Libby Tart if you are interested in helping out with the Sierra Club booth at this festival for 1/2 day-full day. Space is limited! 303-825-1554 or libby.tart@rnc.sierraclub.org.

Friday, September 12th, 6:00 p.m.-?. Sierra Club's 4th Annual, Wild Places, Open Spaces Auction. Please see information about this year's auction on the cover page of this quarter's Peak and Prairie. Need more information? Contact Libby

Tart at 303-825-1554 or
libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Chapter Meetings

Auction

General Meetings - Please call the office for dates and times. Help us plan and execute this year's Sept. 12th Auction with pizzazz! Contact Libby Tart for more details: 303-825-1554 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Chapter Conservation Committee

Contact Kirk Cunningham, 303-939-8519 or write kirk.cunningham@rmc.sierraclub.org for details about location and times.

Energy Committee

Second Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Support the Chapter's renewable energy campaign! Contact Greg Casini at greg.casini@sierraclub.org for location details.

Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS)

Contact Lisa Lewis at 303-777-3664 and check out their website for more info. on hikes, meetings, and other fun events: www.rmc.sierraclub.org/gls/act/html.

Genetic Engineering Committee

Last Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. Contact Suzanne Wuerthele for location details, 303-333-2519 or wuerthel@ecentral.com.

Inner City Outings

Help young people learn about wilderness. Call ICO hotline at 720-299-9967 or write to Dan Ridgeway at djridgew@ouray.cudenver.edu.

Lifestyles Education Committee

Meets the Third Monday of the month July 21st, August 18th, and September 15th at 6:30 p.m. We meet about projects, tips, and discussions to help you live lighter on the earth. Please contact JoLynn Jarboe for meeting location information - 303-753-0470 or jolynn11@juno.com.

Pesticides Committee

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

Transportation Meeting

Call the Chapter Office and speak with Susan LeFever about meeting dates and times, 303-825-1554 or susan.lefever@rmc.sierraclub.org.

GROUP MEETINGS

Blue River Group

(Summit, Grand & Eagle Counties) Meets the first Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m. Call Karn Stiegelmeier at 970-468-9013 or write frankarn@colorado.net for location details.

Enos Mills Group

(Denver County) Tuesday, July 1st, 6:00 p.m. Potluck and Regular Meeting. We will be discussing ways to retain and even improve Denver's recycling program. Hosted by Wendy Reoch, call 303-331-1120 for directions.

Tuesday, August 5th, 6:00 p.m. Potluck and Regular Meeting.

We will be discussing the new Denver City Council, 1-70 Double Decking Proposal, and more. Hosted by Randy Will, call 303-753-9007 for directions.

Tuesday, September 2nd, 6:00 p.m. Potluck and Regular Meeting.

We will be discussing the Pike-San Isabel Mapping Project and other items. Hosted by JoLynn Jarboe, call 303-753-0470 for directions.

High Plains Group

(Aurora, Brighton, Parker, and other Eastern Plains area) This group is in reorganization, but they do have some interesting events planned this summer! Please call up the Chapter office to find out more details, 303-825-1554 or write libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Indian Peaks Group

(Boulder County) Conservation Committee First Wednesday of the month Environmental Center of the Rockies, 2260 Baseline Rd., Boulder. Contact Kirk Cunningham for time and agenda info., kmcunnin@juno.com or 303-939-8519.

General Meeting

Fourth Monday of the month

Contact Steve Welter for location, time, and meeting agenda - welter.steve@attbi.com or 303-499-7261.

Political Committee

It's not too early to start thinking about November! Contact Regina Wheeler for information, 303-381-5334 or regina.wheeler@rmc.sierraclub.org

Program Committee

Help plan our next program. Contact Kay Bingham for location, time, and agenda for next meeting at 720-564-9525 or kay-bingham@msn.com.

Sprawl & Transportation Committee

Second Tuesday of the month Contact Sonya Guram for location, time, and agenda for the next meeting. 303-245-9115 or Sonya.guram@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Mount Evans Group

(SW Jefferson Co., North Park, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties) Second Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Evergreen Rec. Center. Call Betsy if you have any questions, 303-674-7236.

Pikes Peak Group

(El Paso and Teller Counties) Book Club and Discussion Group First Tuesday of the month. Poor Richard's Restaurant, 324 1/2 N. Tejon St. at 6:00 p.m., Colorado Springs. Join our newly formed "Sierra Club Book Group" and explore, discuss, and enjoy the best in "environmental literature". For more information and to be included in the Book Club Email list, send an email to dlbsierra@sunwest.net or call 719-559-2790 and leave a message for Dave Bryan.

General Meetings

Second Tuesday Evening. Executive Committee Meetings Third Thursdays at the Beidleman Environmental Center. For more information, contact Kirby Hughes at 719-685-3019.

Poudre Canyon Group

(Larimer and Weld Counties) Conservation Committee and Ex-Com Meetings Second Mondays, 6:00 p.m. - Conservation, 7:30 p.m. Ex-Com. Rotating location schedule. For

Conservation Committee info., call Roger Hoffman at 970-667-8545. For Ex-Com. info., contact Neal Marsh, 970-225-1861.

Rachel Carson Group

(Eastern Jefferson County) Organizational/General Meeting Wednesday, July 16th, 7:00 p.m. Meet at the Belmar Library, 555 S. Allison Pkwy., Lakewood. Contact Libby Tart at 303-825-1554 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org if you can attend.

Sangre de Cristo Group

(Arkansas River and San Luis Valley) General Meetings Third Thursday of the month 6:30 p.m. at the Ivy Restaurant, 2149 Jerry Murphy Rd. in Pueblo

South Platte Group

(Arapahoe, Douglas and S. Jefferson County) Executive Committee Meetings Second Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Wild Ginger Restaurant in Littleton. For more details, contact Judy Gee at 720-273-6107.

Trappers Lake Group

(Routt, Moffat, Jackson, Rio Blanco) General Meeting Second Mondays at noon, Centennial Hall at 10th and Lincoln in Steamboat Springs. Contact Rich Levy for more information, massageranger@hotmail.com.

Uncompaghe Group

(Mesa, Delta, and Gunnison Counties) For general meeting information, contact Shelly at 970-243-5138. Weminuche Group (Durango and Surrounding Area) Third Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. at Storyville in Durango. Questions? Contact John Z. at zwiarzycki@frontier.net or 970-375-9584.

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

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

Please clip, mail or fax (303-861-2436) this form to:
(or fill this out online at: www.rmc.sierraclub.org/volunteer.html)

Volunteer Development Committee, Sierra Club
1410 Grant Street, Suite B303
Denver, CO 80203

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (day & evening) _____

E-MAIL _____

Occupation/Educational Background _____

YES! I'd like to participate in the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club! So we can best utilize your time & talents, **check your top 4 priorities only.**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/Bookkeeping—Budget/Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchandise Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters—Chapter/Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Outings/Outdoor Service Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Program Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Banking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facilities Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Population |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising/Grant Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling/Simplicity/Sustainability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay & Lesbian Sierrans—a social/outings group | <input type="checkbox"/> Singles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General office work, data entry, mailing parties | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste—burning haz. wastes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genetic Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Bureau/Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials/Toxics | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology—Computers/Web | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Land Use/Sprawl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inner City Outings | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International & Trade Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources—prof. & experts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative—Contact legislators/hearings/review | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness/Forests/BLM/Public Lands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Relations/Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Endangered Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Volunteer Welcome Wagon | <input type="checkbox"/> Write letters to legislators/newspapers |

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

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

Thanks so much for participating!

April/May/June 2003

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.



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club
Rocky Mountain Chapter
1536 Wynkoop Street,
Denver, CO 80202

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VOLUNTEER, REMEMBERED



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