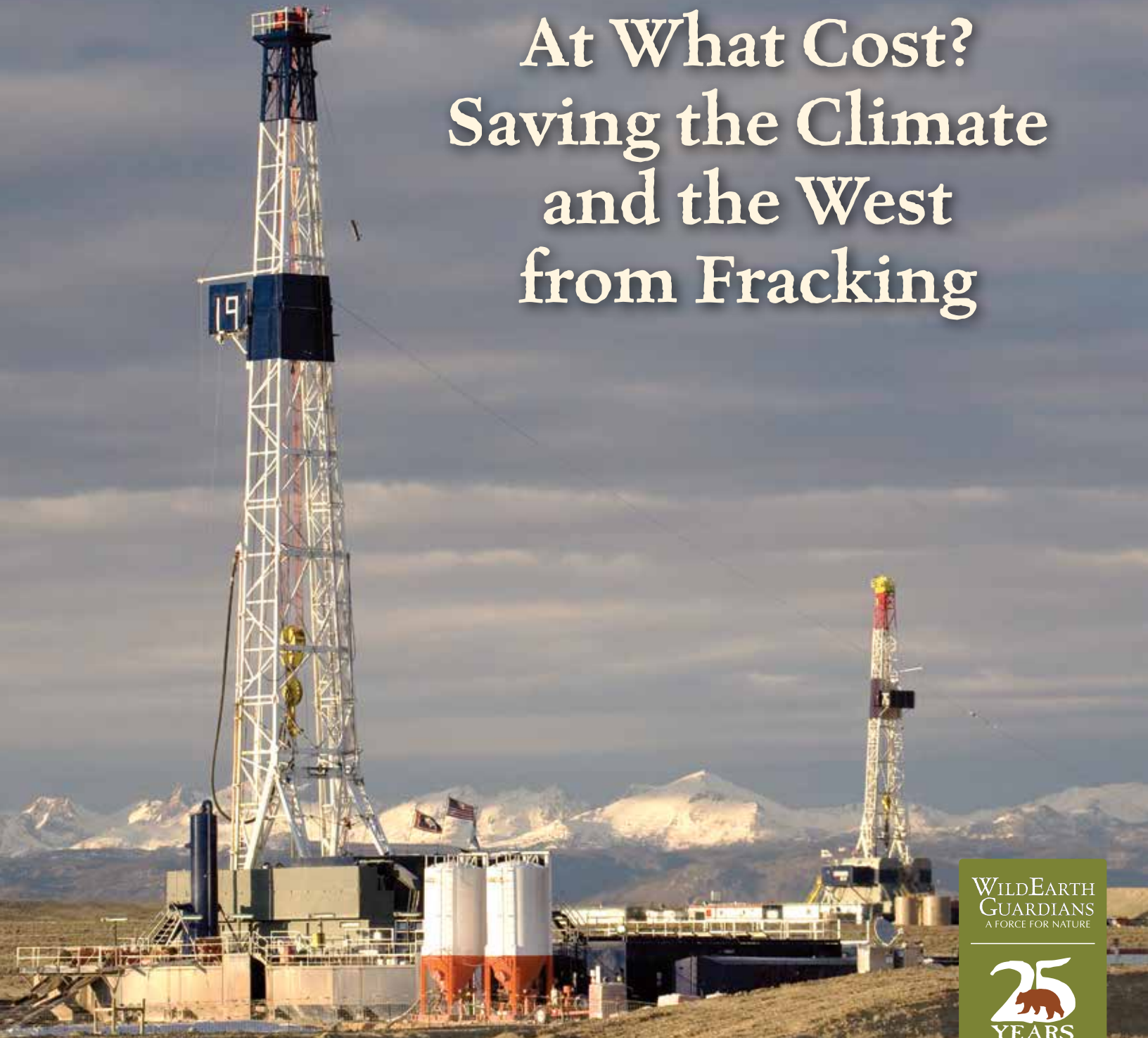


WILD AT HEART

THE WORD FROM WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

No. 19, Summer 2014

At What Cost? Saving the Climate and the West from Fracking



WILDEARTH
GUARDIANS
A FORCE FOR NATURE

25
YEARS



MISSION STATEMENT

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS protects and restores the wildlife, wild places, wild rivers, and health of the American West.

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A BOLD VISION

John Horning

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



While coal is going through the various stages of death and dying, President Obama's *all of the above energy policy* means that we're facing a fracking boom on a scale we've never before experienced in the West.

It might be hard for some to believe, but Obama has the "drill baby drill" page from the energy playbook down better than **W** ever did.

Though I can proudly say—unlike Secretary of Interior, Sally Jewel—that I've never fracked a gas well, I have wandered a few oil fields in New Mexico and in western Colorado to get a feel for what it's like.

It's not a pretty sight. Or smell. Or sound.

Most fields are just this side of an industrial wasteland, with pumpjacks, drill rigs, pipelines, and compressor stations overwhelming the visual and aural experience.

While GUARDIANS has been a foe of fracking for some time in the past, we fought drilling exclusively based on its harm to wildlife, wildlands, clean water, and clean air.

Then I had an epiphany of sorts. The Bureau of Land Management in December 2013 proposed a 5,700 well project in eastern Utah that it admitted would emit enough methane to make it equivalent to one new, large, coal-fired power plant.

That's crazy, I thought. If the government had proposed a new coal-fired power plant, people would be up in arms. But here there was little opposition.

And this project is just the tip of the iceberg. Right now the government is proposing some 60,000 wells across the West.

Which is why we've started a new campaign and hired a new staff member to provide the much-needed leadership to challenge fracking on public lands in the West, and keep all fossil fuels in the grounds.

It's not only critical for wildlife and wildlands—it's also critical for our climate.

For the Wild,

GUARDIAN GIVER

Christine Loizeaux

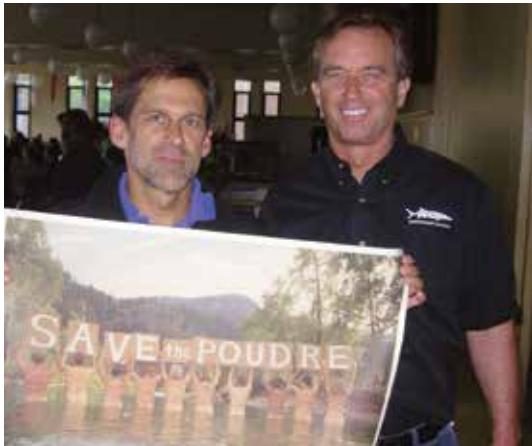
Christine started supporting GUARDIANS when she heard a National Public Radio story about our work to end trapping and poisoning of wildlife on public lands across the West. Since then, Christine became an even more committed member of the GUARDIANS' family when she joined our Diversity of Life Society and included us in her estate plans. She still works at her lifelong careers—printmaking and choreography—and currently shows her prints at Santa Barbara Library's Faulkner West Gallery. She makes original, hand-pulled monotype prints and hand-pulled cards that she sends to a handful of fellow Guardians' members to thank them for their commitment. Christine's passion and willingness to share so much to support Guardians today and in the future is an inspiration. Thank you for your support, Christine. www.cloizeauxart.com



GET ON THE BUS



Jeremy Nichols



Gary with Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Saving the Cache la Poudre River

Gary Wockner is one of Colorado's cornerstone environmental activists.

A long-time GUARDIANS member and resident of the Front Range community of Fort Collins, he's a prolific writer, accomplished academic, skillful organizer, committed advocate, and one of the biggest thorns in the side of Colorado's fracking industry.

It all started with water. Growing up in Illinois, Gary's memories are of long days exploring the banks of the muddy river near his house and, as he puts it, "running wild."

Since coming to Colorado 30 years ago, he's become an ubiquitous force for the environment. In response to a proposed dam on the Cache la Poudre River, which flows from the Rockies through Fort Collins, he helped found *Save the Poudre*. Ten years later, Gary reports, "Not one

drop of cement has been poured!"

His love for rivers has now brought him face to face with a new foe: fracking.

Fracking for oil and gas has increased significantly in Colorado. Areas near Fort Collins have been hard hit.

In the face of this onslaught, Gary has become one of the most outspoken voices for protecting Colorado, first and foremost its water. As he notes, "Fracking uses a lot of water, and there's an ongoing threat of pollution during fracking and afterwards."

In the fall of 2013, Colorado saw thousands of gallons of oil spilled after floods ripped through fracking sites that were foolishly put near streams. The disaster might have gone unnoticed were it not for Gary. He was instrumental in generating widespread media coverage, including in the *New York Times*, and in spurring uproar.



GARY WOCKNER

Patrolling the Cache la Poudre with Kino

Shortly after, as Director of Clean Water Action, he helped mobilize Coloradans to enact fracking bans in Fort Collins, Broomfield, Lafayette, and Boulder, despite massive industry opposition. "Election night was a turning point for the issue—from that moment on, everyone in Colorado, and especially elected officials, had to pay attention," Gary said.

Gary's success underscores the power of putting passion into action and the ability of individuals to make a difference. His work is an inspiration for GUARDIANS' efforts to confront fracking throughout the American West.

Visit wildearthguardians.org
Take Action / Activist Spotlight



We invite you to join the Wild Bunch, our amazing monthly donors. Whether your contribution is \$5, \$20 or \$250 a month, monthly givers form the backbone of our organization, and provide the sustainability and flexibility that enables us to work on urgent and critical issues. Your pledge deepens our capacity to respond quickly and decisively.

SIGN UP TODAY!

DENVER POST



Aerial photo of oil spills in the aftermath of the 2013 Colorado Floods

GREATER GILA CAMPAIGN ADVANCES

Deep Creek Allotment Retired

Madeleine Carey

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



"I became involved with WILDEARTH GUARDIANS years ago when I was looking for a smaller, more local environmental group in Colorado. Although I contribute to some larger national organizations, I believe in doing as much as possible in my own community since this is where I live and play. I am also passionate about protecting carnivores since they are the most misunderstood and persecuted animals in our country. Giving monthly really helps an organization plan their finances."

— ANDY MANNSFELD,
Denver, CO

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BILLY GAST, CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE, FLICKR.COM



At the end of every summer, ranchers around the West round up their cattle and move them from high summer pastures to winter pastures closer to ranch headquarters. The fall round-up symbolizes the end of a season and a turning point in the year for both rancher and herd. This year the fall round-up on the Deep Creek Allotment in the Gila National Forest will be the last.

Like many public lands ranchers around the West, this permittee is under duress from changing conditions, including the presence of denning wolves. In order to cope with endangered species, economic vagaries and increasingly dry, arid rangeland, ranchers are making tough decisions. To make ends meet, some are looking to get out of the business entirely. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' voluntary

permit retirement program offers ranchers on public lands flexibility and the option for a "buy-out."

On April 21 of 2014, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS orchestrated an historic agreement with the Deep Creek permittee, where he waived his grazing privileges back to the Gila National Forest in exchange for monetary compensation from us. Separately, the Forest Service agreed to vacate the allotment for ten years and will not restock it without full NEPA and ESA compliance. While this grazing retirement in the Mexican wolf recovery area is the first of its kind, it is not permanent. For that, we still need an act of Congress. The voluntary permit retirement program is practical in this landmark conservation landscape and we will continue to work with ranchers who choose this option.

The Gila is one of those rare places where you can grasp the drama of wildness in a single glance, and the Deep Creek Allotment is no different. Home to denning Mexican wolves, numerous other federally protected plants and wildlife, and still wild and unprotected roadless lands, much of this allotment could easily be added to the Gila Wilderness Area. We look forward to helping other ranchers find the means to protect their land and ensure the Gila remains wild forever.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Top Priorities / Public Lands / Restoration & Grazing Permit Retirement

ADRIEL HEISEY



Kevin Gaither-Banchoff

Greater Gila Adventure with Wolf-Loving Members

By Friday morning I was antsy to get on the road knowing I would be spending the next three days in what could be my favorite place in the world: the Greater Gila. While driving, I was reminded of how perfect the bioregion could be for wolves. I bee-lined it to Ted Turner's ranch on the east side of the Greater Gila. I was met by a very happy crowd of Gila-philes getting to know one another on the porch.



These GUARDIANS' supporters from all over the West had flown and driven to the ranch to learn more about our campaign to make the Greater Gila one of the best protected areas in the American West.

Saturday and Sunday were action-packed with meetings with ranchers, some crazy dirt roads, and a stop at the Deep

Creek public lands grazing allotment, whose retirement GUARDIANS recently secured by compensating the rancher. As a result of this "buy out," wolves now have an additional 50 square miles to roam free from cow conflict. Thank you to everyone who joined us and also to everyone who has supported our Greater Gila Bioregion campaign; some of you for over 10 years!



WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



"In spite of having spent the majority of my life in urban settings, my sensibility is rooted in that which is not of humankind. The enduring wild lands, along with all the unique creatures within, speak to my mind, heart, and soul, as they do to those who work at WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, laboring on its behalf. Feeling a strong affinity for nature early on, the seminal moment was my unforgettable visit to Kenya where I was mesmerized by the land and the animals. It is organizations like WILDEARTH GUARDIANS that give me hope that others will be as fortunate as I to have witnessed such indelible spectacles."

— RON LANDSKRONER, Oakland, CA

Interested in becoming a GUARDIANS Monthly Donor? Visit our website for more details: wildearthguardians.org: Support Us / Monthly Giving.

Visit wildearthguardians.org/ Top Priorities/ Greater Gila: America's First Wilderness Campaign

SAVING THE CLIMATE, FIGHTING FRACKING

Jeremy Nichols

The West is pockmarked with oil and gas wells that have already been drilled and fracked. More are on the horizon.

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a plan to curtail carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants, a powerful step forward in combating climate change. Yet while efforts to confront coal are making progress, an insidious climate threat is mounting in the form of oil and gas fracking.

Worse, it's taking shape in our most iconic and majestic landscapes here in the western United States and being facilitated by our own federal government.

For more than a decade, the American West has been ground zero in struggles to safeguard public health and the environment from oil and gas. Booms in the 1980s and early 2000s galvanized diverse movements to protect drinking water, iconic landscapes, clean air, and wildlife.

GUARDIANS has been a part of this movement for many years. In 2008, we successfully prevented the oil and gas industry from destroying key wildlife habitat in New Mexico. In 2012, we spurred the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt the first-ever clean air rules for oil and gas drilling nationwide. And earlier this year, we secured an agreement to protect Utah's Fishlake National Forest from fracking.

Now, however, we face an unprecedented challenge.

With the advent of modern fracking technology, past definitions of success are no longer relevant. No area is off limits as industry

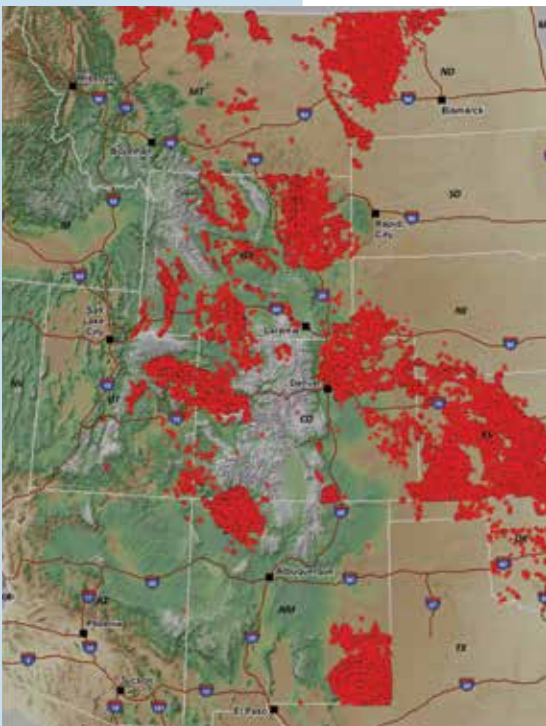


seeks to tap every last viable source of oil and gas through increasingly complex and dangerous fracking techniques, including horizontal drilling. As more information comes to light exposing the true life-cycle greenhouse gas impacts of oil and gas development, it's clear that the climate impacts are enormous.

Let's start with the end-of-the-line greenhouse gas emissions of oil and gas, otherwise known as "the burning stage." Both oil and natural gas are produced primarily as fuels, whether for vehicles or power plants, or even the hot water heaters in our homes. Combustion creates carbon, and although emissions are lower than coal, the quantity is staggering.

Oil and gas from Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming alone—where already 25% of the nation's oil and 20% of the nation's gas is extracted—produced an estimated 432 million metric tons of carbon in 2013. This equals the amount released by 113 coal-fired power plants.

The real concern, however, is what happens upstream at "the fracking stage." We're finding that methane leaks in the oil and gas fields in the West are producing massive amounts of carbon pollution.



Methane is natural gas, it's the very product that many of us burn in our stoves and hot water heaters at home; it's also a potent greenhouse gas. Latest findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report that methane is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide. In other words, every ton of methane released into the atmosphere equals 86 tons of carbon.

In the oil and gas fields of the West, methane leaks are a fact of life. While studies have generally reported leakage rates around 7.1%, rates as high as 12% have been reported in northeastern Utah's Uinta Basin.

Taking into account the lower rate of 7.1%, which was reported in a recent Stanford study, this puts total methane emissions from fracking in the West at 7.7 million metric tons annually, equaling 662 million metric tons of carbon. That's equal to the annual carbon pollution from 174 coal-fired power plants.

Taken together, downstream combustion and upstream fracking just from oil and gas in the American West produce nearly a billion tons of carbon pollution annually. For context, last year coal-fired power plants nationwide released 1.5 billion tons of carbon.

While it's critical to turn the tide on fracking for the safety of our drinking water, our clean air, our wildlife, and our wild places, it's increasingly clear that we can no longer afford the greenhouse gases associated with oil and gas. With our climate on the brink, every new well, every new barrel of oil or cubic feet of gas, and every new frack job is another step toward the point of no return.

The threat in the American West is, unfortunately, mounting.

Just one fracking project in Utah under serious consideration by the U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management could lead to more than 5,700 new oil and gas wells next to the Uinta Mountains. Estimates indicate the fracking alone will release three million metric tons of carbon, as much as a single coal-fired power plant, largely due to methane leaks.

Currently, there are more than 60,000

IT'S THE METHANE THAT MATTERS

At the smokestack, natural gas releases 50% less carbon pollution than coal.

But just looking at smokestacks ignores the climate impacts of fracking. When we factor in "upstream" impacts, we find carbon pollution from gas rivals coal. The reason? Methane leaks.

Methane is natural gas, and while it's a valuable product, it's hard to contain. From wells to power plants, studies indicate that nationwide 7.1% of all natural gas produced is leaked.

That's where things really get messy, because methane is also a potent greenhouse gas with 86 times the heat-trapping capacity of carbon dioxide.

Along the Front Range of Colorado, studies have found that methane leaks may be responsible for as much carbon pollution as four coal-fired power plants.

Another study reports that even under a 7.1% leakage scenario, any climate benefits from converting coal-fired power plants to natural gas wouldn't be achieved for at least 100 years.

Natural gas may be cleaner than coal at the power plant, but that's an unrealistically narrow measure of its climate impacts. Taking into account everything upstream, it's clear a switch from coal to gas makes little sense.

As Joe Romm, founding editor of the blog Climate Progress put it, "Perhaps it is time to stop squandering tens of billions of dollars—and rendering billions of gallons of water unfit for human consumption—on a fossil fuel source that probably has no meaningful net climate benefit in the real world and may well do considerable harm."

Enough said.



Methane gas flare.

ISTOCK PHOTO

new oil and gas wells under consideration by the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Places like Chaco Canyon, Dinosaur National Monument, Mesa Verde National Park, and the Thunder Basin National Grassland are all at risk.

Despite President Obama's commitment to combating climate change, it appears the Interior Department and the Bureau of Land Management have every intention to undermine our national efforts to tackle carbon pollution.

With this crisis, however, we have an opportunity. The western United States is

Methane from oil and gas drilling and fracking is fueling climate change and pushing air pollution levels to dangerous highs.

PHOTO: NOAA



CLIMATE AND CLEAN AIR INTERTWINED

When oil and gas is sucked from the ground, it doesn't just release methane. A slew of toxic air contaminants also get spewed out, contributing to ground-level ozone, a poisonous gas and the key ingredient of smog.

This air pollution is not insignificant. In Colorado, studies have found that oil and gas operations release nearly 50% of all smog-forming compounds, more than any other source of air pollution.

In fact, in the Denver metro area, studies have found that oil and gas development

NOAA



releases more ozone-forming pollution than all the cars and trucks of the region. This prompted the state earlier this year to adopt rigid new rules to limit emissions, including emissions of methane, from oil and gas operations.

This same scenario is playing out in the oil and gas fields throughout the West. In northeastern Utah, for example, where ozone levels have been higher than in Los Angeles and Houston, studies by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that oil and gas operations annually release as much smog-forming pollution as 100 million passenger vehicles.

In fact, in all major oil and gas producing regions of the West, federal limits on ozone pollution have been exceeded or nearly exceeded.

With high ozone comes huge health risks. Ozone is linked to asthma attacks and even premature death. Kids, seniors, and adults active outdoors are the most vulnerable.

The air pollution and climate impacts of oil and gas drilling and fracking are very much intertwined. Keeping oil and gas in the ground protects clean air and the climate.

Put another way, a frack-free future will be an enormous breath of fresh air.



PADDY RYAN / IRANPHOTOGRAPHIC.COM

Fracking operations along the Front Range of Colorado.

America's backyard. Here, the threats posed by fracking can be starkly contrasted with the backdrop of our most inspiring places and our public lands. Put another way, the West is what defines America, and the threat of oil and gas development gives us an opportunity to galvanize the public from coast to coast.

In fact, every American already has a stake in the fight. After all, the vast majority of oil and gas development in the West is occurring on our public lands.

Our efforts start with a vision. Ours is to scale back fracking in the West 30% by 2020 and 100% by 2035.

It's bold, but momentum is building toward success. National attention around the climate impacts of fracking continues to grow and pressure is mounting on the federal government to exercise restraint. And in the West, many communities are succeeding in banning the practice altogether.

America's backyard is at risk from fracking. For our climate, it's time to take a stand.

Visit wildearthguardians.org/ Top Priorities / Wild Skies

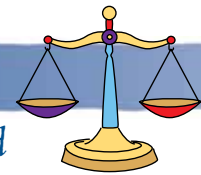


ECOLIGHT/ECOLIGHT.ORG

Iconic public lands, like Colorado's Thompson Divide, are at risk from fracking.

IN THE HALLS OF JUSTICE

Erik Molvar, Bethany Cotton, Bryan Bird



LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN GETS ITS DAY IN COURT



JESS ALFORD

The Endangered Species Act is the last-chance safety net for wildlife on the edge of extinction. Yet despite lesser prairie chicken populations dropping below 18,000 birds—a 50% drop in a single year—federal officials afforded the birds only “threatened” status, made worse by a “special rule” exempting participants in weak state agreements that rely on optional conservation measures rather than the mandatory protections of the ESA. It’s a dangerous precedent. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and our partners filed suit in June to ensure the full protections of “endangered” status for this iconic bird, with no loopholes. Across the Southern Plains, the burbling,

strutting mating dance of the lesser prairie chicken is a rite of spring. Our lawsuit aims to ensure this captivating display of pluck and feathers does not disappear.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Top Priorities / Endangered Species Protection/

GOING TO COURT TO PROTECT LYNX FROM CRUEL TRAPPING IN IDAHO AND MONTANA

The imperiled Canada lynx is protected by the Endangered Species Act, yet western states are failing to ensure these beautiful cats are protected from cruel traps set to capture other native carnivores, including bobcat and wolves. Trapping a lynx is illegal, whether the lynx is the intended target or not, and regardless of whether the lynx is killed or ultimately released. Our lawsuit challenging Montana’s failure to protect lynx from traps was filed in 2013 and is moving through the court system. On June 30th, along with our conservation allies, we also filed suit in Idaho, challenging that state’s failure to adequately regulate trapping to ensure lynx are not caught. Making sure traps are not among the myriad threats to these rare cats will help them survive.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Top Priorities / Endangered Species Protection /



PHOTOS.COM

LAWSUIT FILED TO PROTECT GRIZZLY BEARS AT U.S. SHEEP EXPERIMENT STATION



SAM PARKS

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS asked a federal court in Montana to stop domestic sheep grazing this summer at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Idaho. The sheep station is a relic of grazing industry political power and federal subsidies, and has resulted in the deaths of grizzly bear and wolves when they come in contact with the sheep. On June 23, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and partners challenged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Biological Opinion, which states that there have been no grizzly bear/human encounters. The Fish and Wildlife Service sent a letter to the Agricultural Research Service in 2010 that encouraged the Sheep Station not to graze in the Centennial Mountains, and in July 2012, the Yellowstone Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Committee sent a letter asking not to graze because of grizzly bear concerns. The station grazes more than 1,000

sheep every year in the Centennial Mountains. Cottonwood Environmental Law Center and Natalie Havlina in Boise, Idaho, are representing the groups.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: Newsroom / Press Releases / Grizzly Bears to Benefit From Closing Costly, Anachronistic Federal Sheep Station in Idaho

WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



“I was fortunate to grow up in the North East countryside amidst an extended family of serious and professional nature lovers who were also conservation activists. This early exposure brought me much pleasure and has provided me with an appreciation for all living things. Importantly, this legacy has been embraced by my children and grandchildren. Current fascinations: spiders and salamanders. Committed monthly support for WILDEARTH GUARDIANS provides planning stability and difficult-to-fund infrastructure support.”

— PETER BENNETT,
Santa Fe, NM

Interested in becoming a GUARDIANS Monthly Donor? Visit our website for more details: wildearthguardians.org: Support Us / Monthly Giving.

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Erik Molvar, Bethany Cotton, Jen Pelz



LEGACY GIVING

For 25 years WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has advocated for wildlife, wild places, and wild rivers.

To ensure we continue for another 25 years, include us in your estate planning.

Make your legacy a force for nature by becoming a member of our Diversity of Life Society.

Contact Kevin Gaither-Banchoff at Kevin@wildearthguardians.org or 520.869.4673 to learn how easy it is to give a legacy gift.

Or visit wildearthguardians.org: Support Us / More Ways to Give.

GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE GAIN PROTECTIONS ON THE GROUND

NOPIADOL PAOTHONG WITH PERMISSION



In June, the Bureau of Land Management published a new policy on Gunnison sage grouse, initiating a rangewide revision of land-use plans to strengthen protections for the imperiled bird. The policy includes a moratorium on new oil and gas drilling and coal mining leases in grouse habitat while the plan amendments are prepared. The Instruction Memorandum was published because of an agreement between WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and federal agencies allowing a court-ordered Endangered Species Act listing deadline for the species to move from May 12 to November 12, 2014 in exchange for increased protective measures for the grouse. GUARDIANS also published a report with Rocky Mountain Wild demonstrating the inadequacy of local regulations to protect the bird and the resulting necessity for Endangered Species Act protections.

Visit www.wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Saving the Sagebrush Sea*

SERVICE DELAYS FINAL DECISION ON DELISTING THE GRAY WOLF

TRIP JENNINGS WITH PERMISSION



Without any formal announcement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delayed its decision on whether to finalize the proposed removal of Endangered Species Act protections from the gray wolf across its range. Despite overwhelming

public outcry, including over 1.5 million public comments opposing the proposal, and in the face of a scathing independent scientific peer review that determined the proposal is not based on the best available science, the Service has not rescinded the proposed rule. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS will continue to advocate for protections for wolves and for the return of wolves to native habitats from which they remain absent, including Colorado and Utah. We continue to call on Interior Secretary Jewell and Service Director Dan Ashe to follow the science and keep wolves protected.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Wolves in the American West*

FIGHTING FOR A LIVING RIO GRANDE

ADRIEL HEISEY



In 1994, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Rio Grande silvery minnow under the Endangered Species Act to ensure the protection of both the species and the river. Despite efforts by GUARDIANS over the past 20 years to uphold this promise, both the river and the minnow stand on the brink. This summer we continued our fight for a living Rio Grande by filing a lawsuit against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that these agencies take the actions necessary to maintain dynamic spring peak flows in the river and protect flows in the summer from agricultural diversions that suck the river dry. We believe now is the time to chart a new course for the once mighty Rio Grande.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Rio Grande: America's Great River*

GOOD NEWS FROM THE GUARDIANS

Jim Matison, Bryan Bird, Jeremy Nichols



ONE MILLION TREES AND COUNTING



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' restoration staff planted their one millionth tree this year! Also this year, we restored 30 acres of prairie grasslands, including constructing 50 burrows for relocation of Gunnison's prairie dogs. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' staff and volunteers planted more than 70,000 native riparian species over three miles of streams on the Santa Fe National Forest. In other restoration news, GUARDIANS is partnering with the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps and the Valles Caldera National Preserve to rehabilitate areas impacted by the Thompson Ridge

Fire. We will be planting native trees, controlling erosion, and rebuilding fire-impacted livestock pasture fencing into wildlife-friendly fencing.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Programs / Wild Places / Ecosystem Restoration*

COLORADO SHIELDS PRISTINE FOREST WATERS

A proposal by WILDEARTH GUARDIANS to give the highest protection possible to 200 miles of streams in the White River National Forest in Colorado was approved on June 10. The Water Quality Control Commission approved the higher degree of security for cutthroat trout streams near the towns of Carbondale, Meeker, and Craig. Once designated, the water cannot be polluted. In 2012, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS proposed that the state of Colorado establish an insurance policy for its precious water supply, asking that the state designate some of its highest quality waters with native cutthroat trout as



“Outstanding Waters.” The added protection is necessary because of ongoing activities that impact cutthroat trout habitat as well as increasing pressure from climate change and drought.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Top Priorities / Clean Waters, Wild Forests*

BIG WIN FOR THE CLIMATE!



GUARDIANS scored a major legal victory for the climate in June, overturning Arch Coal's plans to expand its coal mine near the iconic West Elk Mountains of western Colorado. In rejecting Arch's plans, a federal judge in Denver found the costs of carbon pollution were illegally ignored. The judge chided the feds for presuming carbon pollution from methane emissions at the mine and from coal burning would pose no costs. Studies report carbon costs may be as high as \$221 per ton. The ruling spares 1,700 acres of roadless National Forest lands and sets a new critical bar for safeguarding the

climate from fossil fuels. GUARDIANS was represented by Earthjustice in the suit, together with partners High Country Conservation Advocates and the Sierra Club.

Visit wildearthguardians.org: *Priorities / Power Past Coal*



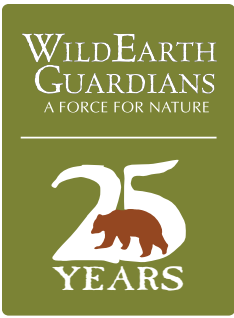
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BOARD MEMBERS NAT AND PETER: TWO FOR THE 25TH



Nat Cobb

This summer, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS board members Nat Cobb and Peter Schoenburg did it like GUARDIANS do. Both exhibited extreme commitment to their favorite campaigns by raising money through extreme physical efforts.

Nat Cobb left Banff, Canada, on June 13 for what he hoped would be a 25-day ride along the Continental Divide to the border of Mexico. He made it! This self-supported race was an amazing adventure that included brutal climbs, strong winds, chilling rain, crazy single track, and a whole lot more. It also included grizzly sightings and unparalleled vistas

of the places we protect and restore along the Spine of the Continent. Nat called his effort the "Ride for Wolves" and mile-by-mile raised over \$25,000 for WILDEARTH



GUARDIANS' Wolves in the American West campaign.

Peter Schoenburg left San Francisco, California, on July 7 in a Race for Clean Energy, sailing across the Pacific to Hawaii as part of the Pacific Cup.

Peter says, "My motivation in the Race for Clean Energy was to support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' work to power past coal and advance a clean energy future." And he worked hard to do it. He and four others raced 14 days on pure wind energy. In the process, Peter raised more than \$5,000

and counting and came in third in his division!

Peter and Nat are just two of our 14 amazing board members. Their passion and commitment go a long way toward sustaining WILDEARTH GUARDIANS.



SUSAN SCHWEBKE



Peter Schoenburg

DEL DUNCAN