

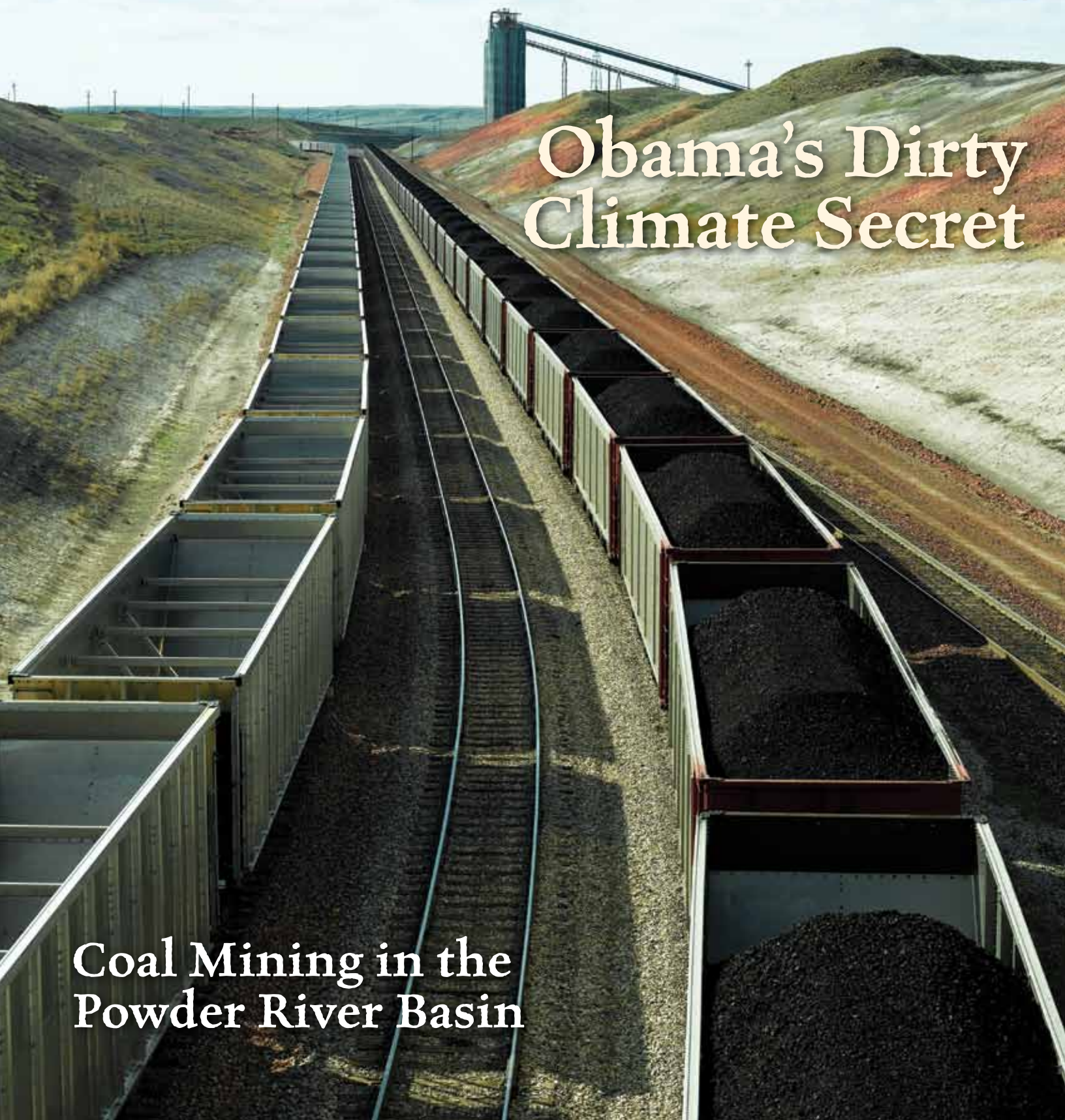
# WILD AT HEART

THE WORD FROM WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

No. 16, Summer 2013

## Obama's Dirty Climate Secret

Coal Mining in the  
Powder River Basin





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**A BOLD VISION**

**Getting to the Root of Real Climate Solutions**

*John Horning*

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



**E**ver heard of the Powder River Basin? Like most Americans, I'm guessing you have not. We aim to change that, and bring an end to one of the planet's worse climate catastrophes.

The catastrophe is the leasing, strip mining, and burning of billions of tons of coal from the grasslands of southeastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming known as the Powder River Basin. More than 40% of our nation's coal is produced here, making it the country's

largest coal producer, and it fuels more than 200 power plants. Coal from the Powder River Basin is responsible for 13% of U.S. carbon emissions, and is one of the single largest contributors to global warming.

This threat to our climate is getting worse. As you'll read in this issue of *Wild at Heart*, there's a rush in the Powder River Basin with billions of tons of coal up for grabs. The agency responsible for approving Powder River Basin coal leases, the U.S. Department of the Interior, is allowing this to happen.

Sadly, President Obama's recent call for bold action to combat climate change makes no mention of the government's role in enabling the very coal consumption we're trying to end. In fact, more coal is being leased under the Obama Administration's Interior Department than under any other president in U.S. history.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has been working since 2008 to slow and ultimately stop Interior's leasing rush. We aim to keep the coal in the ground.

If we have any chance of combating climate change, we must rein in Interior and its coal leasing plans. You can count on GUARDIANS to continue to lead the charge, starting with the Powder River Basin.

For the Wild,

**GUARDIAN GIVER**

**Andrew Currie**

**T**hink big. Be bold. Take risks. Don't treat symptoms. Address root causes. That's the giving philosophy of Andrew Currie, who recently became one of the pioneering funders of our Aldo Leopold's Legacy campaign in the Greater Gila bioregion of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. Andrew's conservation ethic is a great fit for our campaign to protect the landscape that inspired Leopold to protect America's first wilderness.

"I want to give to an organization where the amount of money I'm able to give enables

something bold to happen that simply wouldn't happen without my support," Andrew said. "The campaigns in the Gila with wolves, wilderness, and ranchers fit that bill."

Andrew believes in the right of wolves (and all species) to exist, and he wants to see big things happen in the Gila. He also understands how urgent the situation is for Mexican wolves. If you want to support our Greater Gila campaign, call John Horning at 505-988-9126 x1153.



## GET ON THE BUS

### Activist Takes on Big Oil

Lori Colt



Baton Rouge's Exxon refinery is the second-largest oil refinery in the nation, and self-monitors its pollution.

Vera wasn't satisfied, so she bought a digital camera to photograph the refinery's emissions and emailed the photos to the Environmental Protection Agency, asking them to investigate.

"I didn't get a written response from the EPA, but within a week there were specialized airplanes called Blue Sniffers flying over the plants," Vera said. "They took samples of the pollution to measure contaminants."

Not long after, Vera noticed that the emissions received more media attention.

*[Exxon's] emissions are now being monitored, and they have to sound alarms any time there is a problem.*

"[Exxon's] emissions are now being monitored, and they have to sound alarms any time there is a problem, plus they exhibit a visible flare any time they burn off a chemical release and



VERA SMITH

provide a verbal warning via phone to nearby communities," she explained.

According to a recent report by National Public Radio, Exxon has a long history of polluting in Louisiana. Recently, the EPA asked Exxon to participate in a voluntary pollution reduction program, but the company refused.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS appreciates Vera's story, and will continue to advocate for healthy communities and clean air.

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org):  
Take Action / Activist Spotlight



Oil refinery in Baton Rouge

When WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' climate activist Vera Taylor and her family moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2000, they fell in love with the state's flowering trees and plants.

"There are 100-year-old magnolia trees, azaleas, and Japanese plum trees," Vera said. "But just a few miles from our apartment, I noticed pollution coming from a large petrochemical refinery run by Exxon and a chemical manufacturing plant run by Dow. They were both pumping filth into the air, and my family had to breathe that air. I was really upset, so I wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper, and the reply I got was that they had checked with Exxon and were assured that I was just seeing water vapors."



Some of Vera's favorite trees in the gardens at the State Capitol Building



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!**

# PARCHED RIO GRANDE THIRSTY FOR SOLUTIONS

Jen Pelz

## WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



"I am a member of the Wild Bunch because I believe it's the best way to support GUARDIANS and the things I love most about their work: restoring Mexican wolf populations, voluntary grazing allotment buyouts, and designating new wilderness, all issues of importance to me."

— CAROLYN CAMPBELL  
Executive Director,  
Coalition for Sonoran  
Desert Protection,  
Tucson, AZ

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JEN PELZ



*Rio Grande looking north from the Central Bridge in Albuquerque on July 11, 2013.*

The crisis on the Rio Grande this summer is unequivocal. Substantial drying of the river in central New Mexico began mid-June, and additional drying as far north as Albuquerque is expected through October. As of July 1, 32 miles of the river have dried up, more than half of the total drying that occurred last summer.

Besides water from an occasional rainstorm, the only water flowing down the Rio Grande mid-summer is dedicated for use by the pueblos and to sustain isolated pools for the Rio Grande silvery minnow.

All of the limited supply of water used for the minnow is leased by the federal government and piped into the basin from the San Juan River in Colorado. This so-called "non-native" water has served to bail out water managers for the past decade. However, as demand for this water increases, little remains for the river itself.

The conditions this summer demonstrate that maintaining the status quo will result in the continued slow death of the Rio Grande. In order to avert recurring crises, we believe a bold plan must be implemented.

One of our solutions, the storage of water for environmental purposes, was put in motion as a result of GUARDIANS' litigation on the Rio Grande in the late '90s. That solution became a reality this month as we executed an agreement with the Albuquerque-Bernalillo Water Utility Authority for a permanent environmental pool in Abiquiu Reservoir.

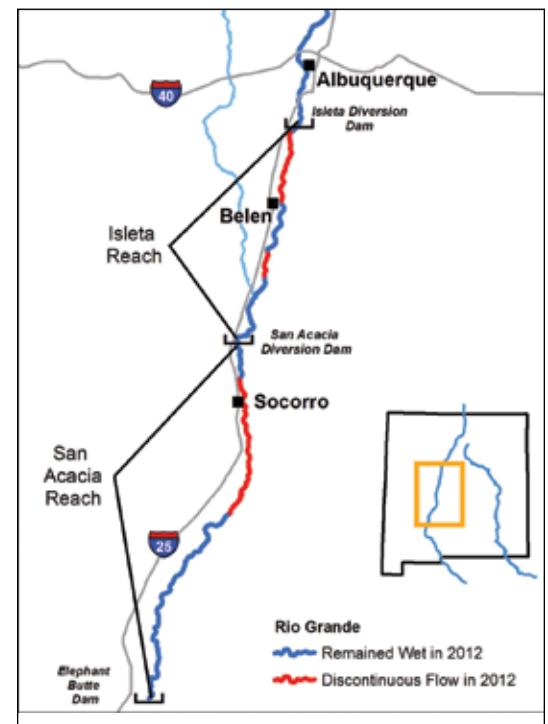
This storage space is the first of its kind to be dedicated solely for the benefit of the Rio Grande, the Bosque, and endangered species. Once the pool is filled, we envision the water enhancing peak flows and providing a safety net

for species during extreme droughts.

Another solution to the crisis is the acquisition of water from farmers. In July, Senator Udall offered an amendment to a federal funding bill calling for the establishment of a water acquisition program for the Rio Grande in central New Mexico. This bill directs the Bureau of Reclamation to establish a program wherein water would be acquired from farmers for the benefit of the river.

Although our goal of providing the Rio Grande a right to its own water has not yet been realized, momentum is building. GUARDIANS will continue to push back against those who seek to tap the river dry and will continue to re-imagine how to protect and restore the Rio Grande for the future.

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org):  
Top Priorities / Free Flowing Rio Grande



*Reaches of the Middle Rio Grande from Albuquerque to Elephant Butte Reservoir in New Mexico. Red areas indicate dry river.*

Jen Pelz

## Fostering Protection Through Experience

In early June, I joined over a dozen GUARDIANS members in a float down the Rio Grande just north of Albuquerque. From my kayak, I looked out onto the seemingly infinite floodplain, appreciating the historic scale of the river and contemplating the challenges we face in trying to restore it. I imagined what it was like to experience the magical Rio Grande flowing free.



Along with the inspiration I felt floating in the shadow of the cottonwood bosque, I experienced a corresponding weight: the responsibility of instilling an environmental ethic in my young daughters, one of whom joyfully joined us on her maiden Rio Grande voyage, and the burden of trying to reform century-old policies that caused the diminishment of this once-great river.

Some of the fondest memories I have from my childhood revolve around a river. It is experiences like the float down the Rio that inspire and guide my activism. I hope that GUARDIANS float trips will be duplicated throughout the West, becoming a call to action on behalf of endangered rivers that long to flow wild again.



Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org): Top Priorities / Free Flowing Rio Grande.

## WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



“When I advocate and send monthly donations, even small ones, I know they add up. That is part of my Native American culture – working together to help others. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS seems to be able to band together and make small miracles happen!”

— LINDA SAPP-COX  
Owner & principle instructor, Non Profit Business Development Training Center Las Vegas, NV

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## IN THE HALLS OF JUSTICE



Ashley Wilmes, Wendy Keefover, Jeremy Nichols

### WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



"I thought I would be a wildlife veterinarian as an idealistic, young veterinary student. That didn't work out, so in lieu of being on the front lines, taking care of and fighting for our wildlife, it gives me great joy to do my small part by being a monthly contributor to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS. They do the work that I don't have the time to do. And I trust deeply that they are using their resources wisely."

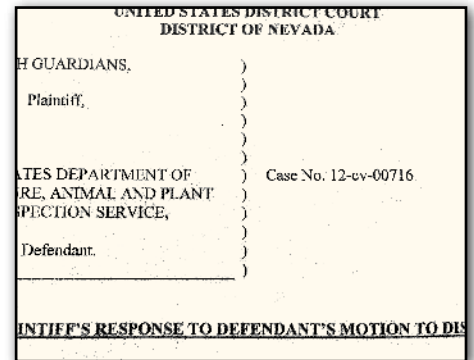
— SUE MCKELVEY, DVM  
Owner, Bounce Back Integrative Veterinary Rehabilitation LLC  
Santa Fe, NM

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### GUARDIANS TAKES WILDLIFE SERVICES TO COURT

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS brought several National Environmental Policy Act claims against Wildlife Services over the agency's deficient environmental analysis for its programs in Nevada and nationwide. After Wildlife Services moved to dismiss our case, the district judge ruled that GUARDIANS does not have standing (the legal right) to bring the lawsuit, and concluded that she could not grant effective relief because Nevada's Department of Wildlife says that it will take over the agency's wildlife killing activities in Nevada if the federal program ceases. GUARDIANS refuses to let this alarming ruling stand. We've appealed this decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and will brief the appeal this fall.

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org): Top Priorities / Ending the War on Wildlife



RAY RAFFITI



### U.S. FAILS TO PROSECUTE UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) has failed to prosecute dozens of individuals who killed endangered animals protected by the Endangered Species Act. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance sued the DOJ for its non-enforcement policy last June. We asked the federal court to invalidate the McKittrick Policy, the DOJ's wrongful position that it will only prosecute cases where it can prove that the individual intended to kill an endangered species. Because of the McKittrick

Policy, the DOJ abdicated its duties to protect our greatest national treasures: Mexican wolves, grizzly bears, and California condors. The policy means that people can kill America's most endangered animals and get away with it. See our story in *The Los Angeles Times*.

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org): Top Priorities / Wolves in the American West

### GUARDIANS CONFRONTS UTAH'S OUT OF CONTROL AIR POLLUTION

Despite skyrocketing particulate levels, the state of Utah refuses to clear the skies in Salt Lake City and beyond. In May, GUARDIANS filed suit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to put an end to this dangerous problem. Under the Clean Air Act, when a state fails to protect people from air pollution, the EPA is obligated to step in. In June of 2011, Utah was required to submit a plan to clean up the region's air, but it hasn't happened. Unfortunately, the EPA has done nothing. We hope to end this foot-dragging and curb pollution from the region's refineries and coal-fired power plants. We want to ensure that public health is put ahead of polluters.



TIM BROWN, INFINTHEWORLD

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org): Top Priorities / Wild Skies of the West

## CAMPAIGN UPDATES



Wendy Keefover, Samantha Ruscavage-Barz, Bethany Cotton

### ANTI-TRAPPING & POISONING BILL REBUFFED BY NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

JESS ALFORD

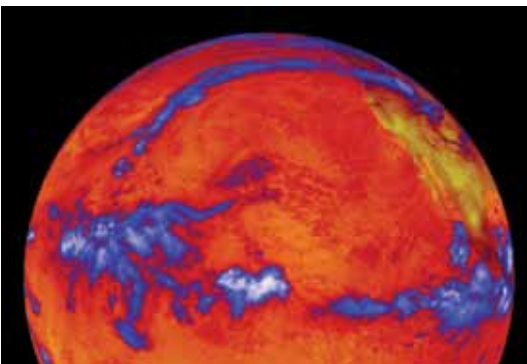


After three days of spirited hearings in March, a committee failed to pass a bill to restrict poisons and traps on New Mexico's public lands by just one vote. Introduced by Representative Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales (D-Taos), the New Mexico Wildlife Protection & Public Safety Act would have curbed the cull of New Mexico's native wildlife; prevented the unintentional killing of lobos, lynx, and river otters; ended suffering caused by dangerous traps and poisons; and increased safety for outdoor recreationists and their companion animals. GUARDIANS and the TrapFree New Mexico Coalition are organizing to bring a new bill in 2015, our next opportunity to do so. To help gather signatures, contact [wendy@wildearthguardians.org](mailto:wendy@wildearthguardians.org)

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org): *Top Priorities / Ending Public Lands Trapping in New Mexico*

### COURT GIVES NEW MEXICO A PASS FOR CONTROLLING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

NASA

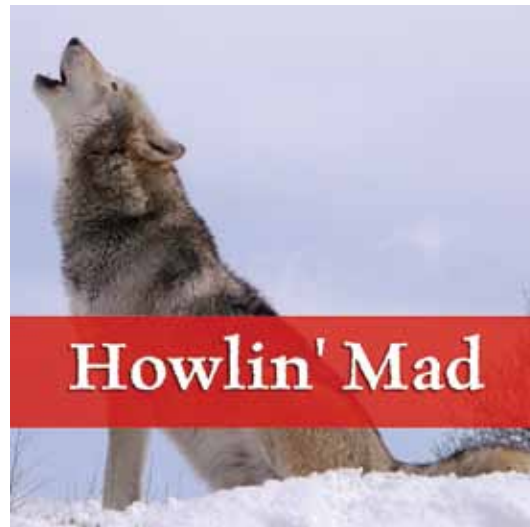


In 2011, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and then-16-year-old Akilah Sanders-Reed filed a lawsuit against Governor Martinez and the State of New Mexico to compel the State to reduce its carbon

dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. The lawsuit is based on the Public Trust Doctrine, which requires the State to manage and protect its natural resources for the common benefit of its citizens. Although the court previously recognized that the Public Trust Doctrine applies in New Mexico and that the atmosphere could be part of the public trust, during a hearing in June, the court determined that the State met its public trust responsibility through a finding by the Environmental Improvement Board that regulation of New Mexico's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would not have any meaningful effect on global climate. GUARDIANS and Akilah plan to appeal the decision to the New Mexico Court of Appeals.

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org):  
*Top Priorities / Power Past Coal*

### HOWLIN' SUMMER CAMPAIGN AIMS TO AID WOLF RECOVERY



In June, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed removing Endangered Species Act protection from all gray wolves. In response, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS launched the Howlin' Summer Campaign: sending action alerts targeting decision makers, gearing up for litigation, and if the Service announces hearings, we'll be there speaking up for wolves in the wild. Wolves are recovered in just 5% of their historic habitat. They remain absent from portions of their range in Colorado, Oregon, and Utah, which renders the landscape less healthy and less wild. Removing protections will put wolves back in the crosshairs and roll back the clock on 35 years of wolf recovery.

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org):  
*Top Priorities / Wolves in the American West*

### WHY ARE YOU A GUARDIANS MONTHLY DONOR?



"I support WILDEARTH GUARDIANS as effective advocates for thriving wolf, whale, and wild animal populations, undomesticated natural habitats, healthy water preservation, and the use and enjoyment of natural resources that balance human demands with a thriving natural world. Our health and wellbeing are deeply and directly tied to the health and wellbeing of nature."

—SUSAN FEATHERS  
Shamanic Healer  
Crestone, CO &  
Marblehead, MA

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# THE POWDER RIVER BASIN

## Getting to the Root of the Problem

Jeremy Nichols



ECOFLIGHT

The Powder River Basin is the largest strip mining region in the country.

On June 25th, President Obama announced ambitious efforts to tackle global warming, committing our federal government to curbing greenhouse gases from coal-fired power plants.

Unfortunately, his Interior Department didn't get the memo. Three weeks later, Interior announced that it intends to sell nearly 150 million tons of coal for strip mining in the Powder River Basin of northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana—enough to fuel 70 power plants for a year and release 275 million tons of carbon dioxide.

Interior intends to sell the coal to Cloud Peak Energy, a major Powder River Basin producer and exporter. The coal sale will sustain our climate pollution and stands to fuel pollution on a global scale.

Even as the president calls for reductions, Interior is enabling the sale of greenhouse gases that fuel global warming, both in the U.S. and overseas. This disconnect is most worrisome in the Powder River Basin, and it underscores why WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' Climate and Energy Program is focused on reining in Interior and keeping coal in the ground.

Spread out over 24,000 square miles of high plains of Wyoming and Montana, the Powder River Basin's lack of recognition is belied by a spectacular landscape. It's home to the Thunder Basin National Grassland, one of the largest expanses of public prairie in the U.S. which supports wildlife like sage grouse

and prairie dogs. It's full of pine-clad cliffs, riparian bottoms fed by springs, and chunks of undisturbed grasslands that qualify for protection under the Wilderness Act.

But if you know the Powder River Basin, it's likely because of coal. The terrain is punctuated by unique "clinker buttes," remnants of prehistoric coal fires, and some of the thickest coal seams in the world.

The region became the largest coal producer in the U.S., drawing the attention of mining giants like Arch Coal, Peabody Energy, and now Cloud Peak. These companies have stripped more coal from the Powder River Basin than from any other part of the country. In 2012, 430 million tons was mined, accounting for 42% of all coal produced in the nation. Two of the region's strip mines (which are also the largest in the world) Arch's Black Thunder Mine and Peabody's North Antelope-Rochelle Mine produced 20% of the nation's coal.

This coal fuels more than 200 power plants from coast to coast, producing more than 780 million tons of carbon dioxide. This accounts for a whopping 13% of all U.S. greenhouse gases, making the Powder River Basin a root contributor to global warming.

Worse still, the coal from the region is increasingly exported. In 2012, a record 126 million tons of U.S.-mined coal were exported to Asia, Europe, and other destinations, about 17 million tons of which came from the Basin. Arch, Peabody, and Cloud Peak have signaled they intend to increase that amount to more than 150 million tons annually.

Interior is enabling this climate disaster. The vast majority of coal mined and sold from the Powder River Basin is federally owned, putting it under the purview of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Lately, BLM has sold federally owned coal at a frenzied rate.

Since Obama took office, BLM has leased or approved to lease more than 3.3 billion tons of coal in the Powder River Basin. The latest 150 million ton coal lease, called Maysdorf II North, would expand Cloud Peak's Cordero Rojo mine in Wyoming, the third largest in the nation. Interior is moving to lease an additional 3.6 billion tons of new coal.

This amount is staggering. The amount of coal leased or approved for leasing exceeds the amount leased under George W. Bush,



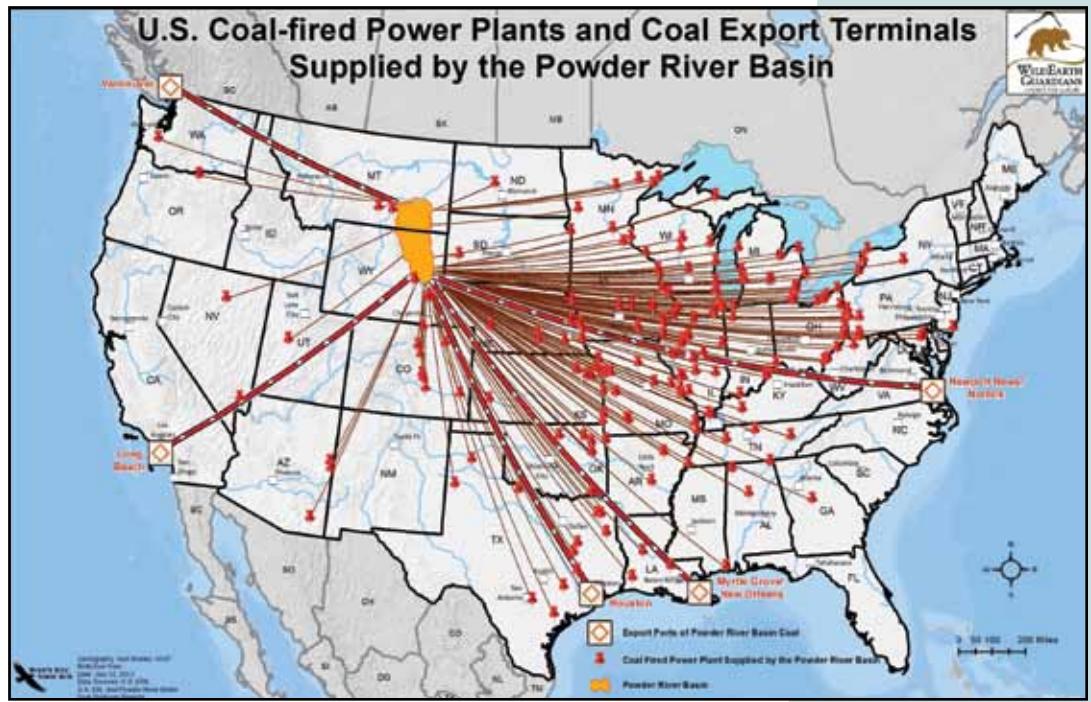
who oversaw the most coal leasing of any U.S. President. Bush oversaw the leasing of 3.1 billion tons during his eight years in office; to date, Obama has overseen the leasing of 3.3 billion tons.

More than 11 billion tons of carbon dioxide stand to be unleashed because of Powder River Basin coal sales, almost twice the amount of greenhouse gases released in the entire U.S. in 2011.

Economists say BLM should be selling coal for more than \$2 per ton. Instead, it's sold for just over \$1. The \$1 discrepancy seems small, but when companies buy millions of tons of coal leases, the subsidy is enormous.

A 2012 report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis found that since 1990, nearly \$30 billion has been lost because of coal undervaluation in the Powder River Basin--money that otherwise would have gone back to the American public.

The undervaluation of coal is tied to BLM's failure to account for coal exports, which fetch premium prices on the open market. In a June report, Interior's Inspector General found that the BLM is failing to consider the value of coal exports, even though they are "expected to increase substantially in the coming years." The Inspector General's findings were preceded by concern from



Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), who sounded the alarm that increased exports allow companies to reap profits while shortchanging the American people.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has made the Powder River Basin a key focus. Since 2008, we've worked to end Interior's leasing rush, leading legal challenges to overturn recent federal coal leasing and mining decisions, and working with diverse allies to pressure Congress and Interior to impose a coal leasing moratorium in the region.

We aim to expose the true cost of Powder River Basin coal. As Obama stated in June, the cost of global warming "can be measured in

The Powder River Basin fuels more than 200 power plants in the U.S. and is increasingly shipped overseas.



Colorado's West Elk Wilderness is threatened by coal mining.

## THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S ON A COAL FRENZY THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAN WEST

The American West produces more than 50% of the nation's coal, and is the source of more than half of our nation's coal-fired power plant carbon dioxide emissions. Virtually all of this coal is owned and managed by the Interior Department.

While the vast majority of western coal is mined in the Powder River Basin, Interior is fast approving plans to expand mines throughout the West. Since President Obama took office, Interior has approved or proposed to approve 220 million tons of new coal leasing in Colorado, 11 million tons in New Mexico, 133 million tons in Utah, and 9 million tons in Wyoming outside of the Powder River Basin. This coal rush portends disaster for the climate, as well as spectacular landscapes.

Interior's practice of selling cheap coal throughout the American West serves only to line the pockets of the coal industry, fleece the American public, and derail efforts to safeguard our climate.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is confronting the Interior Department throughout the West and is the only organization actively challenging Interior's coal decisions on a broad scale.



## PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CLIMATE SPEECH AND WHAT IT MEANS

On June 25, President Obama gave a speech reaffirming his commitment to combat climate change. While certainly a positive step forward, the speech largely echoed previous commitments made by the President and comes at a time when more drastic measures are needed to curb greenhouse gases. Still, we're greatly encouraged that the President supports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to curtail carbon pollution from power plants. We don't view his speech as a panacea, but rather a foundation which we as advocates and citizens will quickly build upon. Other highlights and lowlights:

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Supports reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants "for the sake of our children, and the health and safety of all Americans."
- Pledges to deny the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline if it is proven that its operation would significantly worsen climate change.
- Encourages the Interior Department to develop solar and wind with the goal of powering six million homes by 2020.
- Plans to set a goal of reducing carbon dioxide by three billion tons by 2030 through efficiency standards for appliances and federal buildings.

### LOWLIGHTS

- Indicates the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline will likely be approved as the Department of State has bizarrely asserted that the pipeline will not lead to a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Promotes oil and gas drilling and fracking as "clean energy" solutions, when in fact these fossil fuel energy sources are poisoning our air and water, and lead to huge methane emissions.
- Fails to establish a national renewable energy standard.
- Continues to espouse "clean coal" rhetoric. There is no such thing as clean coal.

lost lives and lost livelihoods, lost homes, lost businesses, hundreds of billions of dollars in emergency services and disaster relief." Right now, these costs are borne by the American public and global citizens everywhere, not by the coal industry.

Still, the Powder River Basin presents tremendous opportunity. If we succeed in stopping the region's flow of coal, we can spur greenhouse gas reductions on a gigantic scale.

We're hopeful. In the past year, we joined dozens of other organizations and helped rally more than 100,000 people in calling on Sally Jewell, the new Secretary of Interior, to institute a moratorium on new coal leasing. We filed suit in federal court against every coal lease approved by BLM, a critical effort to hold the line on Interior's push for new coal. And we've exposed the climate impacts of Interior's coal leasing.

In the past year, the pace of coal leasing has slowed considerably, the price paid for Powder River Basin coal by mining companies is finally on the rise, and nationally, public awareness and concern has increased substantially, setting the stage for accountability.

Obama's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases will not succeed so long as Interior enables massive coal development in the Powder River Basin. GUARDIANS intends to ensure that Interior gets in line with Obama to help us truly power past coal.

*Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org): Top Priorities / Power Past Coal*

## SALLY JEWELL: WILL THE NEW LEADER FOR THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BRING A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON COAL?



In May of 2013, Sally Jewell was sworn in as the newest Secretary of the Department of Interior. The

former CEO of the outdoor retailer REI, Jewell brings a background in recreation and business to the position. But what's her take on coal?

So far, Jewell's responses aren't encouraging. In testimony to the U.S. Senate on June 13, she proudly remarked that Interior is "making more coal available" and touted that the amount of coal leased in 2012 was the highest since 2003.

Her words are supported by her actions, or more precisely, her lack thereof. Despite calls for a coal leasing moratorium from more than 135,000 Americans and 21 leading environmental organizations, including WILDEARTH GUARDIANS, Jewell has yet to acknowledge the request.

Sadly, it seems that we can expect more business as usual on the coal front.

## GOOD NEWS FROM THE GUARDIANS

Taylor Jones, Bryan Bird, Carol Norton



### JUMPING FOR JOY

JN STEWART



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' settlement agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) continues to advance protections for imperiled species. The New Mexico meadow jumping mouse, which is rapidly losing its streamside habitat to over-grazing and other threats, was recently proposed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. GUARDIANS submitted a scientific petition to protect the mouse in 2008. FWS has now proposed to list the species as "endangered" and to protect 14,560 acres of critical habitat in New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona. These protections are critical for jumping mice to survive and thrive-- these tiny rodents depend on rich streamside habitat to build up reserves for an eight-to-nine-month hibernation, one of the longest hibernations in the animal kingdom.

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org): *Top Priorities / Endangered Species Protection*

### LEOPOLD'S LEGACY

The Greater Gila bioregion, the birthplace of Aldo Leopold's wilderness ideal and home to 2.2 million acres of potential wilderness additions, is one of the most important conservation landscapes in North America. Often called the Yellowstone of the southwest, it deserves the same protections given Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier, and the Grand Tetons. It also deserves a healthy and robust population of Mexican wolves. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS has been working intensively in the Greater Gila for nearly two decades, and our Mexican wolf and landscape conservation work has reached significant new milestones. GUARDIANS is celebrating major advances in our market-based approach to retire high conflict cattle grazing allotments and lead to new wilderness designations. We expect these developments will help us to create room for wolves in the Gila.

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org): *Top Priorities / The Greater Gila: America's First Wilderness*



ADRIEL HEISEY

### GROWING OUR PACK!

RAY LABBLE



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS is getting things done, and our members form our foundation: we couldn't do it without you. In recent months, 47,000 of you joined us on Causes, 9,000 on Facebook, and 1,154 on Twitter. Two hundred of you became monthly donors. Increased membership and participation translates into being able to get the attention of people like Tom Vilsack, head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, whom we asked to investigate his employee's horrible acts against coyotes and other animals. With your consistent support, you make a commitment to campaigns for the long haul. You make us effective, and we are so glad you are a GUARDIAN!

Visit [wildearthguardians.org](http://wildearthguardians.org): *About Us*



### DONATE WITH CONFIDENCE!

Good news is made possible by your generous donations. As evidenced by our consistent 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS gets the job done with your dollars. Help keep the good news flowing by making a gift to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS today.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

### Jen Pelz



Jen Pelz joined WILDEARTH GUARDIANS in March as the Wild Rivers Program Director. She strives to breathe new life into the endangered rivers of the West.

Jen grew up in New Mexico exploring the mesas of Albuquerque, fishing and camping along the Pecos

River, and wearing her father's waders to fish the Conejos River near Platoro every summer. She received her B.A. in field biology from the University of Northern Colorado in 1998 and her J.D. and Certificate of Environmental and Natural Resource Law from the University of Oregon School of Law in 2002.

Jen was a co-director for the 2001 Public Interest Environmental Law Conference and was a clinic student for the Western Environmental Law Center. Jen practiced law for seven years at a small private firm in Denver, litigating land use, public lands, and water law cases. She loves spending time with her husband and two little girls, tending her organic garden, and (slowly) remodeling her 1964 ranch home in Colorado.

### Bethany Cotton



Bethany Cotton's environmental stomping grounds: the mountains outside of Ashland, Oregon. She holds a J.D. and Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resource Law with an emphasis in animal law from Lewis & Clark Law School, and a B.A. in environmental studies,

political science, and Latin American studies from Lewis & Clark College. She joined WILDEARTH GUARDIANS as Wildlife Program Director in the spring of 2013.

Bethany's advocacy background includes working for Greenpeace fighting coal export proposals in the western U.S., as a staff attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity, and as a litigation fellow at the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center (now EarthRise Law Center).

Her community involvement and pro bono work includes sitting on the boards of Friends of Living Oregon Waters, where she focuses on fighting liquefied natural gas export proposals, and EarthTeach Forest Park. In her spare time, Bethany loves to bike, look for rare critters and plants, grow things, practice yoga, hike, swim, and experiment in her vegan kitchen.