

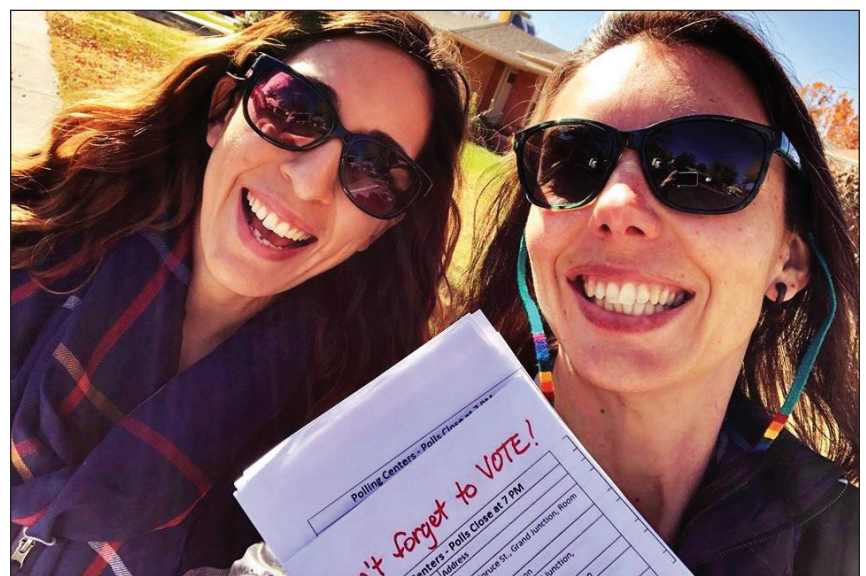


### It's all about exercising your right to vote!

(clockwise from top left) Interns with our Youth Voter Initiative at Olathe High School - Cinthia, Soledad, Leif and Jesus - registered every eligible senior student who wasn't already registered to vote. The Colorado Secretary of State recognized their achievement with the Eliza Pickrell Routt Award.

Harold the pumpkin played a central role in voter registration videos created by the student interns in the Youth Voter Initiative.

Alliance organizers Jeriel Clark and Leah López joined the throngs of volunteers who worked to 'get out the vote' on election day.



## Youth Voter interns boost registration



by Jeriel Clark,  
Community Organizer

Starting with 15 interns this summer, our Western Slope Youth Voter Initiative has since doubled in size to more than 30 high school students, active in three counties – Garfield, Mesa and Montrose. These students registered hundreds of young voters during the first two months of the 2018/19 school year - in classrooms, at lunch tables, and even in dinosaur suits!

In Colorado, any high school that registers 85% or more of its senior class to vote becomes eligible to receive the Eliza

Pickrell Routt Award from the Secretary of State. While all of our schools are working hard to receive the award, our team at Olathe High – Soledad, Cinthia, Jesus and Leif - have already met this goal!

In a week-long push coordinated with their teachers, they registered every eligible senior student who wasn't already registered to vote. It's a phenomenal achievement, making Olathe High only the second school on the Western Slope to receive the award since the program began, and the first in Western Colorado this year.

See Youth Voter Initiative on pg 4

## Oil & gas activists hopeful despite ballot defeat



by Emily Hornback,  
Staff Director

Proposition 112, an initiative to move new oil and gas facilities 2,500 feet away from homes, schools, streams and other sensitive areas, failed in November's statewide ballot box by 55% to 45%.

Although disappointing, we aren't going to let this defeat slow us down in our work to protect landowner rights, air and water quality, and public health from the impacts of oil and gas development. **We see a hard-**

**won opportunity to achieve big reforms** on oil and gas as soon as the 2019 legislative session.

### Why are we so optimistic?

Despite the defeat of Proposition 112, we celebrated the election of a pro-conservation majority to the state legislature, to the governor's office and in other key positions across the state. (See related article on p 4.) As the new leadership is sworn-in in

See O&G activists on page 4

## Inside

Delay expected in GMUG Forest Planning.....	2	"Know your farmer, know your food" not just a slogan.....	5
San Juan Wilderness: A very good bill becoming perfect...	3	WORC groups take Trump to court over methane rule.....	6
Kelso Mesa up on roadless chopping block.....	3	North Fork gas leasing temporarily shelved.....	6
Colorado's 'blue wave' misses Western Slope.....	4	Community center team preps for April ballot.....	7
'Access' top issue in local foods world.....	5	<b>Help us turn \$30k into \$60k by Dec. 31.....</b>	<b>8</b>



## Creating solutions through a sense of belonging



by Steve Allerton,  
Alliance President

I may be flirting with understatement, but it's been quite a year! It's been a year of transition founded upon a framework created over 30 years ago. Combined with a renewed vision, that framework will underlie the work of grassroots organizing and leadership development well into the future.

### Transitions are rarely easy.

I am continually impressed and appreciative of our Alliance's staff. They've worked tirelessly to create a welcoming and efficient office space that supports the work and connects our members. I've watched as they have enthusiastically embraced our new mission and vision, and are committed wholly to the creation of a healthy, just, and self-reliant Western Slope.

If I may steal from a poster hanging in the office: "They work to bring humanity together to create solutions through a sense of belonging, with the notion of common good, and from the ground up."

**Change creates challenges.** As the result of the organizational assessment it became clear that change would dominate the conversation in 2018. Changing our name to Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action was a big deal. Our logo, colorful and welcoming, is indicative of our continued commitment to grassroots organizing.

The Board of Directors took on the challenges and wrangled with a name change, logo, mission and vision statements, strategic plan, creation of a platform, and involved themselves in direct fundraising action.

**Process takes time.** I appreciated being part of community group meetings as we processed these changes and listened to members share both affirmations and concerns. While some of the changes have been settled, we look forward to engaging members in the formation of our Alliance's platform, which will be up for approval during next year's Annual Business Meeting.



Alliance President Steve Allerton welcomed the crowd to Mountainfilm on Tour at the Avalon Theatre in Grand Junction on November 9. An equally successful showing was hosted by the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance, our local affiliate in Montrose, on the following evening.

**Coming together inspires and creates hope.** While reflecting on our recent Mountainfilm showing in Grand Junction, I was humbled by the number of sponsors and donors that helped create another successful community event.

In closing, I'd mention that our year-end fundraising campaign is near at hand. I've

learned that money is the "tool" that gets the work done, and 2019 will provide plenty of opportunity.

So with that, I am greatly appreciative of our staff, board, members, and community who generously share their time and resources to help create a thriving community...from the ground up.

## Delay expected in GMUG Forest plan process



by Leah López,  
Community Organizer

A changing of the guard for the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will cause a delay in its forest plan revision process.

Originally expected this fall, the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) for the Forest Plan will almost certainly be delayed until late spring or early summer of 2019, followed by a 90-day comment period in which the public can respond to the study and make suggestions to the GMUG planning team.

After that input is received, the Forest Service will make its recommendation for the new forest management plan sometime in 2020.

A Forest Management Plan of this scale is unwieldy and often difficult to digest. The GMUG is comprised of three forests covering 3 million acres, and managed by five Ranger Districts over nine counties.

Within the proposal submitted to the Forest Service by the Alliance and its coalition of conservation groups are areas worthy of increased protection

from roads and development, as well as land crucial to community watersheds and wildlife habitat.

**Learn more about our proposal and the areas within the GMUG Forests by visiting [gmugrevision.com](http://gmugrevision.com).**

Those of you with a keen memory may recall that in 2006 the Forest Service put this same planning effort on hold until the Colorado Roadless Areas were

defined and a final planning rule was established for the US Forest Service. The GMUG was finally able to revive the planning process in June 2017.

The current delay is a result of Forest Supervisor Scott Armentrout moving to a position in the Pacific Northwest. Deputy Forest Supervisor Chad Stewart, who joined the GMUG in June, will become the Acting Forest Supervisor.

The GMUG's current 34 year-old plan is increasingly irrelevant and unable to manage the rising demands on its resources.



brings people together to build grassroots power through community organizing and leadership development.

Our Alliance's vision for the future is one where engaged local voices are leading communities across Western Colorado that are healthy, just and self-reliant.

### Our Alliance's Staff

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### Our Alliance's Board of Directors

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Dudley Case, Treasurer, Ridgway  
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#### At-large Directors

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RIDGWAY-OURAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Al Lowande, Ridgway

UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY ALLIANCE  
Kevin Kuns, Montrose

WESTERN COLORADO ALLIANCE IN MESA COUNTY  
Andriya Krievies, Grand Junction

#### Director Emeritus

Peggy Rawlins, Grand Junction



# San Juan Wilderness: “A very good bill... becoming perfect”



by Leah Lopez,  
Community Organizer

The San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act (SJMWA) hit a roadblock this fall after US Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) raised concerns with the bill just days before it headed to the US Senate’s Energy & Natural Resources Committee. Gardner’s 11th-hour block was a surprising turn of events since the SJMWA has been praised as a straight-forward, well-vetted bill with widespread grassroots support.

While Gardner’s concerns remain unknown, our Alliance and its coalition of conservation groups will re-double efforts to put pressure on the Senator, emphasizing his responsibility to protect our beloved wild places in a state that highly values its public lands.

The good news is that this wilderness bill has more momentum and community support than ever before. In fact, the *Denver Post* published an

editorial on November 14 urging Gardner to support including the bill in a package of land bills that are likely to be passed before the end of the year.

“We certainly don’t want to make light of [Gardner’s] concerns, but this is a rare opportunity to pass a very good bill, that has made significant strides toward becoming perfect,” the *Post* editorial said.

If Gardner does not reconcile with the SJMWA this year, our coalition will encourage US Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) to reintroduce the bill again early in January.

One of our 2019 goals will be to educate and engage more people beyond the Western Slope in our campaign.

Preserving wilderness and creating special management areas in the San Juan Mountains is vital to the communities that live beneath its iconic peaks and earn their livelihoods from its abundant resources. It’s also important to a state that



**These places are worthy of our protection: the soaring peaks north of Telluride in the Mount Sneffels Wilderness Area; the Sheep Mountain Special Management Area, which is the largest undeveloped roadless area that is not designated wilderness lands; the McKenna Peak Wilderness in Dolores County; and the Naturita Canyon in San Miguel County.**

***Denver Post Editorial*  
November 14, 2018**

prides itself on being a leader in outdoor recreation, and whose residents receive much of the economic and health benefits that come from the enjoyment of our pristine public lands.

Make sure you’re on our contact list to stay up-to-date on

all our events coming in 2019, and join us in getting the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act passed once and for all!

For more information, visit [sanjuanwilderness.org](http://sanjuanwilderness.org), or contact [leah@westerncoloradoalliance.org](mailto:leah@westerncoloradoalliance.org).

## Kelso Mesa up on roadless chopping block



by Jim Riddell, Grand Junction

What comes to mind when you think of Roadless Areas? My first thought is: uninterrupted, undivided, undisturbed. Then my next thought is, I can go wherever

I want! With no roads to tell me where I “should” go, I can just head off in any ol’ direction. I bet the elk and bears and marmots and birds feel the same way, too. Roads divide things.

Around here, our roadless areas usually have cliffs and canyons or jagged mountain spires or thick tangles of brush. They’re the places people couldn’t easily drive to, so they didn’t. They’re rare. And those that haven’t been protected by the US Congress are always at risk.

It doesn’t take long to make a road. It takes a LOOOONG time (and money) to unmake one.

Pretty much right here in our backyard, near the center of the Uncompahgre Plateau, we have a special place—a Roadless Area few know about, which

some of us worry we may be losing. We refer to it as Kelso Mesa, and it’s been managed for decades by the US Forest Service as roadless. It’s at that in-between altitude (roughly 6,700 - 9,000 ft), where very few acres are currently protected from development. This parcel holds approximately 36,000 acres. For now, at least.

Not as dry and sparsely vegetated as the BLM land below it, it begins where the first scattered Ponderosas appear among the piñon-juniper, and rises through Douglas-fir and Gambel oak to aspens, spruce and lush grassy meadows. Below stunning red canyon walls up to 600 feet high, the creek bottoms hold a strain of Colorado Cutthroat Trout genetically pure enough to send fisheries people into ecstasy, where magnificent elk and bear roam, while hawks and ravens circle overhead.

There are almost no trailheads, and the feel of the place is wonderfully simple. Broad, sweeping vistas, intimate canyons, meadows and dense

stands of trees; much of it steep enough to make foot travel difficult if not impossible and even the drive to get to the edge requires a commitment. But it’s worth it. It doesn’t take long to know that you’re not in civilization anymore.

But the Forest Service is recommending a large chunk of it be designated for “Backcountry with Temporary Roads.” Why?

**Let us know you’re interested, and we’ll try to get you in there to see this precious gem, so you can help us protect it. Contact Leah at 970.256.7650.**

They told us it’s because they’ve already used one strip of it for “vegetative treatment” for firebreak and to increase browse for deer and elk, and they want to keep doing it. So it’s not as wild as it was.

I think it would be better if they did that somewhere else. Let’s let Nature do her own thing on this one.



Jim Riddell at Kelso Mesa overlook.



# Colorado's 'blue wave' misses Western Slope



by Jeriel Clark,  
Community Organizer

So, did it turn out anything like you expected? Following the results of the highly anticipated 2018 midterm elections, here at Western Colorado Alliance we're appreciative for the opportunity to pause, reflect and start making plans for the year ahead.

Nationally, Republicans maintained control of the US Senate, even picking up a few seats, but the Democrats regained control of the US House. Maybe what's more noteworthy, however, is the growing diversity of representation in terms of gender, ethnicity, religion, age and professional backgrounds. From Native Americans to Muslims to scientists, the makeup of Congress just got a lot more exciting.

Colorado's elections were far more decisive, electing Democrats across the board and creating a Democratic trifecta with the incoming Governor Jared Polis (D), the incoming

Attorney General Phil Weiser (D), and Democratic majorities both in the House and the Senate.

## Status quo on W Slope

Despite the shift statewide, party affiliation of our Western Slope legislators remained status quo with all incumbent senators – Sen. Don Coram (R), Sen. Kerry Donovan (D), Sen. Bob Rankin (R), and Sen. Ray Scott (R) – holding onto their seats. And though we'll see freshman Western Slope representatives enter the state House this year, none of the seats flipped party affiliation.

Possibly more overwhelming than the candidates were the 13 statewide ballot measures set before voters. Western Colorado Alliance exercised its 501c3 power this year by taking positions on some of these. You can check out our positions at [WesternColoradoAlliance.org](http://WesternColoradoAlliance.org).

While the majority of the measures we supported received voter approval, we were

disheartened to see Colorado reject Proposition 112, which would have increased oil and gas setback requirements from 500 feet to 2,500 feet. (See article on page 1.)

## Smart votes on ballot measures

In good news, Colorado has set the stage nationwide with its new anti-gerrymandering regulations, which set up an independent and bipartisan commission with the job of redistricting both Congressionally and statewide.

We believe Coloradans made other smart choices on the November ballot with:

- the failure of Amendment 74 which would have allowed private property owners to sue local governments when a law or regulation reduces the market value of their property;
- the passage of Proposition 111 which ends predatory payday lending; and

- the passage of Amendment A which prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances.

Our Alliance wasn't able to take positions on all of the 2018 ballot measures since we didn't have existing resolutions from our membership on some of the issues. We're working to remedy this gap with the formation of an organizational platform, which will be presented to our membership at our annual business meeting in 2019.

2019 will also mark our first time as citizen lobbyists at the State Capitol since we changed our name to *Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action*. We're looking forward to continued work on policies for the Western Slope that promote healthy, just and self-reliant communities.

And while we're looking forward to the legislation we'll see pass under the Dome in 2019, we'll keep an attentive eye on 2020.

## Youth Voter Initiative

*Continued from page 1*

Among the students they registered in the classrooms was Eliseo Ruiz. Eliseo exercised his right to vote for the first time on November 6, which also happened to be his 18th birthday! And the Olathe students aren't done yet! Now that the midterm elections are over, they plan to pre-register as many of the juniors as they can to get a jump start on next year.

Because of Colorado's election laws, the students

had to take a break from voter registration activities in the 22 days preceding the election. But this requirement didn't keep them from civic action. Many of our youth helped get out the vote for candidates and issues they felt passionate about.

And maybe you saw one of their awesome videos on social media or in an email? They pulled out all the stops to encourage everyone who was eligible to vote in the midterm election!

Their work is far from done.

The Western Slope Youth Voter Initiative internships follow the school calendar, and our interns will continue registering their peers through the end of the 2018/19 school year. Some are just diving in, with our four newest interns at Roaring Fork High joining us the day after the election.

In addition to registering voters, we're working on ways to make the ballot more accessible and less intimidating to first-time voters, with a reminder that in many communities, elections can

come more than once a year.

Additionally, we're planning to add an extra day to our People's Lobby Trip to the state capitol in early 2019 in order to focus on issues important to our interns.

We couldn't be more proud of these students, and are looking forward to growing the Western Slope Youth Voter Initiative program in the years to come. For more information, email Jeriel Clark at [jeriel@westerncoloradoalliance.org](mailto:jeriel@westerncoloradoalliance.org).

## O&G activists hopeful

*Continued from page 1*

January, we will also have new appointments to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), the Colorado Department of Health, the Air Quality Control Commission and other state agencies tasked with regulating the oil and gas industry.

For years these agencies have been a dead end for impacted residents looking for relief

from industrial oil and gas development. We are confident that in 2019 we will have significantly different agencies to work with.

We are also awaiting the ruling from the Colorado Supreme Court case *Martinez v. COGCC*, which could transform the way the COGCC does business, forcing it to prioritize human health and the environment in permitting decisions.

## Don't get us wrong.

We are under no illusion that new elected officials and appointees will simply rein in the oil and gas industry. The industry wields incredible power in our state and any decision maker is vulnerable to their influence. Change will only happen if we continue to organize for reform and hold our elected officials accountable, regardless of their political party.

One thing the effort around

Proposition 112 did make clear is that millions of people across this state believe in the need to protect public health and safety, despite the misleading campaign ads paid for by industry.

And if impacted residents around the state bring the issue to the ballot again, we will be there ready to knock on doors and make calls. We will keep working on every front to build the healthy, just, and self-reliant Western Colorado we envision.



## ‘Access’ is top issue in local foods world



by Leah López,  
Community Organizer

By the glow of a setting September sun, we ate and drank and laughed and talked food.

Alliance members and invited guests spent two evenings in September listening to stories told by producers, teachers, business owners and engaged community members at food parties in Grand Junction and Paonia.

The goal of these evenings was to learn how the Alliance could best address the food and agriculture needs of the Western Slope by hearing from a variety of people along the chain of production.

The most talked about topic was that of **access** – more specifically, consumers’ **access** to:

- information about locations of and specific offerings of local producers,
- affordable local products,
- transportation and the time required to visit dispersed farms, and

- nutrition education and knowing how to prepare and store fresh food.

Other questions raised included:

- Are regulations that are imposed on small producers creating too big a burden? Are they necessary?
- What does it take to get locally-sourced food into schools, restaurants and hospitals?
- How can we help create a culture of healthy eating in our communities?

Alliance members are excitedly shaping the direction of our food and agriculture work for 2019, and will continue these important conversations.

If you have a passion for food and agriculture and a desire to see the Western Slope be more healthy, just and self-reliant, please join us! Contact Leah to learn more at [leah@westerncoloradoalliance.org](mailto:leah@westerncoloradoalliance.org).



House party draws applause for local foods!

## “Know your farmer, know your food” not just a catchy slogan



by Dawn Trujillo &  
Brian Adams, Green  
Junction Farmstead

The Grand Valley offers an unparalleled backdrop for an ever-growing community of individuals with a budding attentiveness to food quality, production, and safety. It seems only fitting that this area, built on farms, orchards and ranching is a witness to a developing local “good food movement”.

Our small farm, Green Junction Farmstead, is making an impact in the community through food production that steers clear of the modern-day remedy of synthetic inputs and relies rather on nature and natural phenomenon for pest control and fertility. And even more important to us is the progressing “tribe” that is forming around us...through food.

In 2014, with 13 packets of seed and a crazy dream, we began what was initially a 17-member CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) market garden. Our farm is now 68

members strong and includes availability of local raw honey, artisan homemade bread, and grass-fed beef, goat and lamb made available through producing partners in the valley.

“Know your farmer, know your food” is not just a catchy slogan for us. It influences the way we interact with the community through yearly events like the Shin Dig in the spring and our season-culminating Farm-To-Table Dinner. These events are a great time to shake hands and hug necks with growers, producers, culinary masters, and like-minded individuals. Bringing people together is only part of what we strive to accomplish while feeding the community.

It’s been said that food is medicine. We couldn’t agree more. The benefits of eating

unprocessed, natural foods have been well documented. And we recognize the gap left in society when it comes to healthy food options and those less well off.

Helping to bridge that gap, we have become successful in what we call a “no waste” program for the farm. By teaming up with some local non-profits, the weekly produce oversupply is donated and helps to feed up to 400 homeless individuals each week. Every small step taken to strengthen the community is a positive one.

If you would like to learn more about the steps you can take

with us to better our community through food visit [gfarmstead.com](http://gfarmstead.com), or contact Leah López at [leah@WesternColoradoAlliance.org](mailto:leah@WesternColoradoAlliance.org).



Dawn Trujillo and Brian Adams

Members in the  
**SPOTLIGHT**



# WORC groups take the Trump Administration to court over gutting BLM methane rule

from the *Western Organization of Resource Councils*

Last month, WORC groups, along with a coalition of 17 conservation and Native organizations, filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's replacement of the BLM Methane Waste Reduction Rule. The suit states that the new, drastically weaker

rule violates federal policies.

"We are going to court on behalf of American taxpayers, public health, and the planet," said Robin Cooley, an Earth-justice attorney representing tribal and conservation groups.

"The Trump administration is not above the law—Interior Secretary Zinke cannot yank away a common-sense rule that was the product of years of

careful deliberation simply to appease his friends in the oil and gas industry," Cooley added.

The Waste Prevention Rule, adopted in 2016 by the Obama administration, implemented cost-effective measures to reduce wasteful venting, flaring, and leaking of publicly-owned natural gas from federal and tribal lands.

The BLM's own estimates show that between 2009 and 2015 oil and gas companies wasted more than 462 billion cubic feet of natural gas, enough gas to supply over 6.2 million households—or every household in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming—for a year.

Under the new BLM rule, oil and gas companies are allowed to vent, leak, or flare \$824 million-worth of publicly-owned natural gas into the air over the next decade.

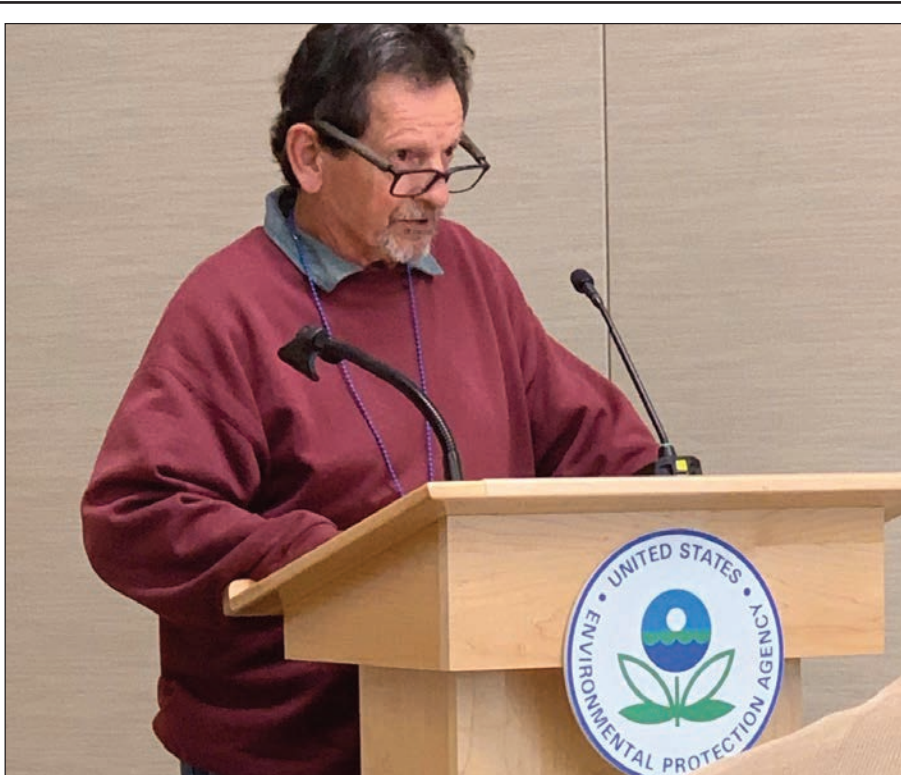
According to BLM's own estimates, rescinding the Waste Prevention Rule will result in the yearly emissions of 180,000 tons of methane—a greenhouse gas 87 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

"Secretary Zinke is rolling back a rule that required greater capture of natural gas and that the industry pay a royalty on gas that is vented to the atmosphere or otherwise wasted," said Alliance member Rodger Steen of Steamboat Springs.

"Requiring royalty payment on wasted gas is one important reason why the 2016 rule is needed," Steen added. "As the increasing scarcity of basic resources like clean water and old forests reminds us, we need to use our finite resources wisely and not waste them."

The coalition of groups filed its lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District California, which has already struck down BLM's two prior attempts to roll back the Waste Prevention Rule.

*Western Organization of Resource Councils is a regional network of grassroots community organizations that include 15,190 members and 39 local chapters. WORC helps its member groups, like Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action, succeed by providing training and coordinating issue work.*



## EPA eyes air quality regs

Western Colorado Alliance leader Ben Tipton from Battlement Mesa spoke to the US Environmental Protection Agency about the need to keep strong air quality protections at a public hearing in Denver on November 14.

Tipton said, "When I worked in waste water treatment, I was responsible for any leaks or mistakes. Why shouldn't the oil and gas industry be held responsible for their leaks next to my home?"

The EPA oversees rules that apply to oil and gas drilling on private and some public land. The Trump Administration is also relaxing a separate set of methane rules imposed by the BLM on drilling on public and tribal lands. (See adjacent article.)



Wasteful flaring of natural gas. Photo courtesy of WORC.

## North Fork gas leasing temporarily shelved



by *Emily Hornback*,  
Staff Director

In early November, the residents of the North Fork Valley celebrated their most recent victory in an ongoing effort to protect the area from expanded oil and gas development. The Bureau of Land Management announced it will defer 58 parcels of public land in both Delta and Mesa Counties that were to be leased in the agency's December auction.

"Citizens of the North Fork Valley yet again have shown their strong commitment to keeping

oil and gas drilling out of the watersheds critical to the valley's environmental and economic well-being," said Western Colorado Alliance leader Gretchen Nicholoff.

"Working together, along with the support of US Senator Michael Bennet and Governor Hickenlooper, we have told the BLM that there is no way we will let our public lands be turned into a 'gas patch', Nicholoff said. "Multiple groups ranging from agricultural growers to irrigation companies to a town government banded together to protest the

proposed lease sale. This IS what democracy looks like."

Senator Bennet, Governor Hickenlooper, the Town of Paonia and hundreds of individuals submitted comments to the BLM, asking for the agency to defer the leases based on big game habitat concerns and the fact that the BLM's Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan (RMP) is still incomplete.

For years, Western Colorado Alliance and allies have worked for the inclusion of the North Fork Alternative Plan, a

conservation-based management proposal created by residents, in the larger scale RMP which will govern future oil and gas development in the area.

We cannot rest on our laurels, however, as the BLM stated in its news release that the deferment was a temporary measure. The parcels will likely be back up for auction once the RMP is completed.

Stay tuned for developments as we continue to work with allies to ensure balanced and responsible resource management in the North Fork Valley.





The Grand Junction Community Center Campaign hosted a 5K Fun Run in September to raise money and awareness of their proposal being placed on the April 2019 city ballot! Photo courtesy of Andreyra Krieves

## Community center team preps for April ballot



by Andreyra Krieves,  
Grand Junction

The team that has worked for three years towards its vision for a Grand Junction Community Center has much to celebrate this holiday season -- the opportunity for residents of the city to vote on the proposal on the April 2019 ballot!

Once our team received the city council's approval in September to place the measure on the ballot, we needed to transition into an official political action committee. We'd like to introduce you to GJCCC – the Grand Junction Community

Center Campaign!

We are the same grassroots, bipartisan volunteers you have come to know and trust to advocate for our community as PLACE (People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment). Now as GJCCC, we are poised to finally make a Community Center in Grand Junction a reality!

As we close out 2018, GJCCC will be working hard to collaborate with city leaders to confirm financial estimates for our proposed Community Center, which includes:

- a primary facility at Matchett Park,

- partial development of Matchett Park to support outdoor activities and court spaces, and
- a renovation of the pool building on Orchard Mesa to expand community amenities near the Riverfront/Eagle Rim Park and downtown areas.

We expect to have finalized ballot wording that will include exact costs, amenities and tax implications by the end of January 2019.

Your positivity and interest in helping to connect our community and make Grand Junction an even better place is

invaluable! Together we will build a place truly special for everyone!

If you have any questions, or are interested in getting involved, send us an email at [info@gjcommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@gjcommunitycenter.org). Also, be sure to bookmark the new GJCCC web site at [GJCommunityCenter.org](http://GJCommunityCenter.org) and connect with us socially on Facebook or Instagram!



## Outreach in Montrose to culminate in assembly

by Kevin Williams, Western Organization of Resource Councils

Imagine if you were part of a group of 100 people – diverse in terms of age, race, gender, income levels, etc. – who were organized enough to persuade your city council to make the right decision on an issue that will make your community a better place to live and work for everyone.

This vision underpins a recent decision by the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance (our local affiliate in Montrose) to undertake a year-long effort to revitalize the group and build a bigger base of people who have the power to make positive change.

So far a five-person team has conducted about twenty five one-on-one meetings with a broad

range of people in Montrose, including current members and those with no previous knowledge of or involvement in UVA. Western Colorado Alliance organizer Leah López is working closely with the team and conducting one-on-one meetings as well.

The purpose of these one-on-one relational meetings is to get to know people's stories and build relationships of trust and respect before any attempt is made to identify issues for the group to work on.

Many of these conversations have been rich and rewarding, and at least twelve new people have been identified who are willing to make the vision of a powerful and more diverse UVA a reality.

The next step in the process is to continue conducting one-on-one meetings and recruit up to 30 people who can agree to attend a day-long community organizing training on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019.

After the training, the plan is to conduct additional outreach in the community with the goal of identifying at least 100 people to attend a People's Assembly. Those in attendance at the Assembly will discuss issues, narrowing the list to two or three to research further.

Once the top issues have been analyzed and evaluated, the plan is to pick one issue to focus on and organize a public action on that issue that involves at least 100 people.



Fred Ross, Sr., one of the most influential community organizers of the 20th century, was fond of saying that “short-cuts usually end in detours which lead to dead ends.”

UVA hopes that its ambitious plan to revitalize the organization will overcome a natural tendency to take too many short-cuts.



# Help us turn \$30k into \$60k



by Steve Allerton,  
Alliance President

2018 has been a whirlwind year for the country, for Western Colorado, and for our Alliance.

As the dust settles on another election cycle, in Colorado we have a hard-won opportunity to make progress on critical issues facing our communities – and Western Colorado Alliance is ready to take action.

As a strategically-savvy, member-led organization, we create tangible change that can be seen every day in our Western Slope communities. Through every action we take, we boldly proclaim a vision for a brighter future for our region.

**Right now, you can help us turn this vision into reality by doubling your impact with an end of year gift.** To help us finish the year strong, generous supporters have agreed to match donations dollar for dollar up to \$30,000 as part of our “30 for 60 Campaign.”

## This year, we have accomplished a great deal!

### Together we have:

- **Launched the Western Slope Youth Voter Initiative** through which students have registered hundreds of their peers to vote in their first election.
- **Protected the drinking water**

for 5,000 residents of Garfield County.

- **Expanded renewable energy programs** across Western Colorado.
- **Successfully appealed the BLM’s resource management plan for the Colorado River Valley** based on its failure to adequately analyze the climate impacts of its drastic expansion of oil and gas drilling.
- **Updated our organization’s name, mission and vision,** setting the stage for a more inclusive and focused future.

All of these actions and accomplishments are fueled by members like you working together through grassroots, community organizing.

Together, we will continue our work knowing that right now, today, we can build a future where engaged local voices are leading communities across Western Colorado that are healthy, just and self-reliant.

## In 2019 we are ready to:

- **Ensure all Coloradans can breathe clean air** by fighting to apply new oil and gas air quality rules statewide.
- **Expand access to local food** across Western Colorado’s communities and institutions.
- **Lead the Colorado effort to**

Double Your Impact.

Double Our Power.



**Together We Can Do It!**

speed the reclamation of coal mines in Western Colorado- healing the land and keeping workers on the job in communities hard hit by declining coal markets.

- **Protect the last remaining roadless areas and wildlands** in our Western Slope national forests.
- **Host community conversations about our rural economies** and build a grassroots blueprint for diverse and resilient local economies that work for us all.

**Make a donation before Dec. 31 and it will double!**

Several generous supporters will match your gifts, dollar for dollar, up to \$30,000!

**Your \$100 becomes \$200!**

**That \$30,000 becomes \$60,000!**

**Give now by:**

- **Using the form below**
- **Calling our Grand Junction office at 970.256.7650**
- **Giving online at [WesternColoradoAlliance.org](http://WesternColoradoAlliance.org)**

**These are ambitious goals, but we know we can do it with your help. With you and our member-led movement across Western Colorado, we can seize this political moment and deliver real change for our communities.**

**Thank you!**

## Yes, I want to join or renew my membership in Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action!

- \$10 Student  
 \$35 Individual member /  \$25 limited income  
 \$55 Family member /  \$35 limited income  
 \$100 Business or organization



## Here’s even more to help turn \$30k into \$60k! (See article above.)

- \$100  \$200  \$500  \$1,000  \$5,000  \$\_\_\_\_\_
- I want to be a sustaining member – bill my credit card \$\_\_\_\_\_/month.
- I’d like to learn about including our Alliance in my will or other giving options.
- I’d like to remain anonymous.

If you live in a county with a local affiliate, or check one of the boxes below, you will become a member of that group as well. (optional)

- Grand Valley Citizens Alliance (Garfield County)  
 Ridgway-Ouray Community Council (Ouray County)  
 Uncompahgre Valley Alliance (Montrose County)  
 Western Colorado Alliance in Mesa County

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

My check (or first installment) is enclosed.

Please bill my  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express.

Cardholder’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

**Western Colorado Alliance**

P.O. Box 1931, Grand Junction, CO 81502

Save a stamp – make your secure donation at [WesternColoradoAlliance.org](http://WesternColoradoAlliance.org)!

## Tell us about your interests:

- Clean energy  Grassroots democracy  Public lands & wilderness
- Oil & gas drilling  Affordable housing  Health care
- Coal transition  Local foods & ag  Other social justice
- Air quality  Leadership training  Other \_\_\_\_\_