

Casting sunlight on Tri-State's Electric Resource Plan



by Joel Dyar
Community
Organizer

Two years ago, Western Colorado Alliance members worked to build bipartisan support for Colorado legislation that opened a window to cheaper, cleaner energy for our communities. This successful legislation brought major electricity supplier Tri-State under the aegis of our state's Public Utilities Commission.

Tri-State is the supplier to most of Colorado's rural electric cooperatives, powering communities like Meeker, Craig, Steamboat, Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride, and Gunnison. Unfortunately, Tri-State's longtime resistance to change has yielded some of the highest electricity costs in Colorado, bleeding tens of millions annually from ratepayers' pocketbooks to subsidize costly old coal facilities and denying co-ops the ability to build substantial local renewables.

Now, thanks to this legislation, Tri-State is completing an Electric Resource Plan with the Public



Utilities Commission, spelling out major portions of its plans for the years ahead in full public view.

Western Colorado Alliance is a formal legal intervener to this Electric Resource Plan process. When Tri-State first filed lackluster modeling of its energy system, costs, and alternatives late last year, we won a requirement

for Tri-State to refile and address unanswered concerns.

When Tri-State submitted torpid assessments of the social cost of carbon of its energy portfolio — the cost of its choices to human health and ecosystems — we won requirements that it re-model these costs more accurately. If Tri-State's management has

repeatedly worked to drag the organization's heels throughout this process, our ability to demand better has helped ensure that the public gets more honest and useful answers about how we can fix Tri-State's problems.

This process has given the public a rare chance to look

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Mountainfilm returns to Grand Junction on Nov. 11!



Western Colorado Alliance is excited to announce Mountainfilm On Tour – Grand Junction returns on November 11! The virtual program will become available starting at 9 am (MST) on Thursday, November 11, until 9 am (MST) on Sunday, November 14. Tickets for Mountainfilm on Tour - Grand Junction

are available for a donation! You can get your tickets and make a donation to our Alliance at westerncoloradoalliance.org.

Mountainfilm On Tour showcases a selection of culturally rich, adventure-packed and incredibly inspiring

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Embracing changes and traditions



by **Andreya Krieves**
Alliance Chair

Change is both inevitable and beautiful. We're reminded of this with each changing season, and especially now as we bear witness to the natural beauty of a Colorado autumn. At Western Colorado Alliance, we are fortunate to be surrounded by a natural environment that inspires our work and sustains our spirits. The changes that abound in our weather and climate, in our communities, and in our political landscape inspire us into action to do what we do best: organizing to create the change we want to see, focused on building communities that are healthy, just, and self-reliant.

Our Alliance is planning and organizing for growth and positive changes across our organization and region as we close out 2021 and look ahead to 2022. Members in attendance at this year's virtual Annual Conference got a sneak peek at some of these changes, and you can review them in the Annual

Conference summary article contained in this issue. Don't miss additional articles about the West Slope Youth Voice (notice the name change?), Tri-State's electric resource plan, the current state of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, and what's happening at the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC). We're also excited to introduce you to new staff members who will help expand the reach of our Alliance and multiply our collective impact in building grassroots power across Western Colorado.

We are ready to grow and face the changes happening around us, but we also embrace tradition and value the legacy of the people and ideas that brought us here. One of our favorite traditions around this time each year is hosting MountainFilm On Tour - Grand Junction.

For years, our Alliance has invited our members and the broader community to come together to enjoy, to learn, and



Western Colorado Alliance
Chair Andreya Krieves

to be inspired by a curated list of documentary short films in the annual MountainFilm On Tour screening. It's something fun that we look forward to every year — and this year is no different! At the end of the year, we'll also be inviting our members

and supporters to ensure that we can continue our work organizing for healthy, just, and self-reliant communities by supporting us in our End-of-Year Fundraising Campaign. You'll find details of both opportunities right here in the Clarion.

Casting sunlight on Tri-State's Electric Resource Plan

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under the hood at this formerly secretive energy supplier. The current filing envisions Tri-State on-boarding a massive two gigawatts of renewables in coming years.

Several key questions persist. One of Tri-State's burning questions is when to retire its last large Colorado coal-fired asset at the Craig 3 Station.

In its filings, Tri-State plans to continue operating its Craig 3 station until 2029, despite results from

its modelling indicating that 2025-2026 is a more economic retirement date.

Tri-State states its intention to replace Craig 3's sizable generation with a combined cycle gas facility that, while cheaper than coal, would produce continued climate pollution. Tri-State signals no intention of cutting its exposure to its involvement at Arizona's Springerville 3 coal plant, one of its last large coal engagements.

Astonishingly, the filing also deflects the question of demand side reduction entirely,

dismissing energy efficiency opportunities by concluding that member co-ops lack the necessary resources to incentivize consumers to invest in efficiency.

While the filing speaks of Just Transition assistance to offset harm from coal retirements in the Craig community, there is no indication of such plans for the West End Montrose area or Escalante area after coal closures there, to our knowledge.

Because the Colorado Public Utilities Commission is a very busy organization these days, commissioners have now sent

the Electric Resource Plan to an administrative judge, who will make major decisions in the coming weeks.

Now is the time for public comment from Tri-State ratepayers. Our Alliance's Joel Dyar is hitting the road with a series of community meetings to discuss the Electric Resource Plan, the big things happening in the clean energy world, and what's coming up next year. Meetings included showings of the Patagonia film, **We Are the Power**, and, in some locations, a guest appearance from its Telluride filmmaker, David Garrett Byars.



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.

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These young voices get louder



by Jeriel Clark
Organizing
Director

Gen Zs can get a bad rap. From Tik Tok dances to their ever-changing lingo (it's so *swaggy*, if you ask them), it's easy for older generations to dismiss young people as uncaring and uninvolved. But the truth is our youth are a growing population of inventors and creators. Their generation is perhaps the most flexible in keeping up with (and creating) trends and adapting to new technologies and circumstances in a rapidly evolving world. But we've spent so long trying to get them on our bandwagon, we overlooked the fact that they've already built their own.

As a result, I've been asked the big question over and over — How do we engage local youth? The answers are simple to answer, but hard in practice:

- **Don't tell young people what issues are important — Ask them what issues are important to them.**
- **If you ask them for their energy, you better ask them for their ideas too.**
- **Don't just give them seats at the table, implement their ideas as a part of the work.**
- **Always bring food, and stickers! What can I say? Students love stickers (at least for now).**

These are some guiding principles that we've followed as we've continued to support the growth of the West Slope Youth Voice program, and so far, it's worked. By the way, did you catch that? It wasn't a typo, I said West Slope Youth *Voice*. That's right. We've updated the program's name. Because that's what the students asked to do!

When we started this program, we had a fairly singular goal —

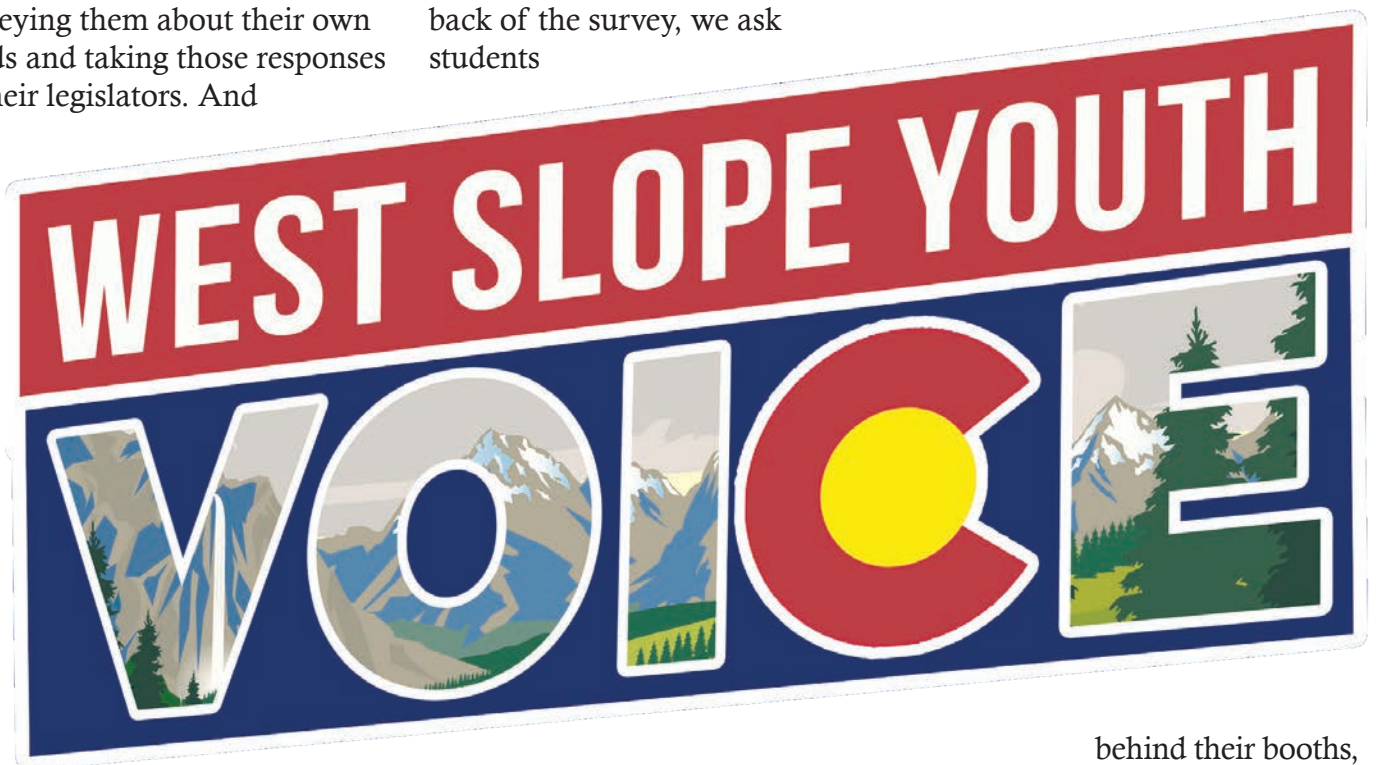


to register students to vote. But year after year, the interns took the reins and expanded on that vision. Almost immediately, it wasn't just voter registration, it was voter activation. Next, it wasn't just talking to students about important issues, it was surveying them about their own needs and taking those responses to their legislators. And this

issues on a scale of 1 to 10 in terms of importance. One of the questions we used to ask was about public lands. "On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is protecting our public lands to you?" It typically scores lower than other issues. And on the back of the survey, we ask students

all the difference. So when our interns told us that even though, for them, voting was the goal, the word "vote" was also a barrier, we listened.

Our interns were going to be standing



year, it wasn't just about supporting legislation that had already been introduced, it was working with local lawmakers to draft a bill on an issue deeply important to local youth, introducing it in session, and getting it passed with bipartisan support. They've been so successful because the students lead the work.

Okay, stick with me here and let's dig just a little deeper. That survey I just mentioned that we created to pass out to students? It's two pages long and, on the front, we ask them to rate specific

open ended questions. One of those questions asks what they value most in living in their community. Overwhelmingly, over 51%, students respond that access to the outdoors is what they love most about where they live. So, we made a simple language change on the front. Instead of asking students about public lands, now we ask them about protecting our wilderness and the outdoors. And guess what? It now sits high on the list in terms of importance to local youth.

For our survey, that small change of language made

behind their booths, registering and surveying their peers, whether the program was named West Slope Youth Vote or West Slope Youth Voice, but they also knew the amount of students standing on the other side might be determined by the language they use.

Voting can be a scary for high school aged students. Until they are 18, a lot of youth view engagement in our government as a "someday" goal, but until then, they're just learning about civics. Most of them haven't been introduced to their state and local lawmakers. So it

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Our Alliance staff grows by leaps and bounds!



by Arn McConnell
Communications
Coordinator

Western Colorado Alliance is going through its biggest growth spurt in years! We are happy to announce four new additions to the Alliance's staff, and believe the diverse life experiences and skills these new folks bring to our organization will contribute much in our efforts to ensure Western Colorado communities are healthy, just, and self-reliant! Joining our team in October are (in alphabetical order): Jen Bailey, María Luiza Pérez Chavéz, Nicole Gans, and Alicia Lucero.



Jen
Bailey

Jen Bailey joins our team as Membership Coordinator. Born and raised on the prairies of north Texas, Jen has been active in conservation and organizing efforts for nearly a decade. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in environmental geography at the University of North Texas, where she initiated the Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie project. She served as an urban forester, environmental consultant, and supported two environmental

start-ups before she moved to Grand Junction in 2018. Since then, she has secured funding for monarch butterfly monitoring as an ecologist with the Department of Energy and connected with students around the world as an online educator. She's excited to combine her love of data, strategy, and people to support the amazing organizers that power the Western Colorado Alliance. She enjoys writing, making music, and running through the bewitching landscapes of the Western Slope.



María Luiza
Pérez
Chavéz

María Luiza Pérez Chavéz (who sometimes goes by Mary) is a new full-time organizer for Western Colorado Alliance. She'll be working closely with the Western Colorado Alliance of Mesa County affiliate group. For two years, María has served her local community through the Clifton Community Leaders project, meeting with residents to learn about the issues they face in their community on a daily basis, and working hard to identify solutions for their problems. María is also fluent in both English and Spanish and sometimes works as a skilled interpreter. But her love

for language goes beyond just English and Spanish; currently, she is also studying French and Japanese! One day, she hopes to attend law school as an avenue to help those in need. Even with her busy schedule, María's priority is her family. As the eldest of seven children, she has always felt the need to support her parents in any way she can. And somehow, she still finds time to read, swim, listen to music, watch movies, draw, play video games, and hang out with friends!



Nicole
Gans

Nicole Gans joins the Alliance as a full-time organizer working closely with communities in Montrose and Ouray Counties. Nicole's background includes more than a decade of work for government agencies and nonprofits dedicated to health and wellness in rural communities. She graduated from Humboldt State University in far northern California with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies. She has worked on community projects focused on diverse issues such as domestic violence prevention, sexual health education, health equity and suicide prevention. Some of her favorite projects

utilized art as a tool for navigating difficult conversations. These projects centered on the power of creative expression of personal stories, such as digital shorts, community quilts, and theatrical performances. She has called Ouray home for the past eight years. In her free time, Nicole loves her hobbies: cooking, reading, knitting, cuddling her dogs, and watching zombie movies.



Alicia
Lucero

And Alicia Lucero becomes our Alliance's new Office Administrator and Bookkeeper. Alicia was born in Colorado and has lived most of her life on the Western Slope. She received a bachelor's degree in biology from Mesa State College and a master's degree in botany from Colorado State University. She comes to Western Colorado Alliance with many years of professional experience in business administration, and a deep desire to use her skill set to help her community. She enjoys gardening and hanging out with her doggo.

We are thrilled to have these new colleagues and hope you will join us in welcoming them as they come on-board!

20 years of GMUG work coming to a boil



by Nick Allan
Community
Organizer

20 years. Long enough to witness two generations of cicadas. Long enough for a child to be born, grow up, and become a parent.

And 20 years is how long Western Colorado Alliance has worked to implement a successful Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) Forest Plan for our local forests. This work has

faced delays and avoidance tactics throughout that time.

Finally, this past August, the Forest Service released its official GMUG Forest Plan draft. The draft includes four different alternatives. Alternatives A, B, C, and D. Officially, there are no preferred alternatives, however, alternative B, the staff proposal, starts with the most weight.

Alternatives include:

Alternative A is the no-action

alternative, which reflects the 1983 forest plan, as amended to date, and accounts for current laws, regulations, and terms and conditions from biological opinions.

Alternative B, described as the "blended" alternative, was released for public feedback as the working draft revised forest plan, and it was subsequently updated in response to public feedback and internal Forest Service review. It proposes a modest amount of additional wilderness, an active vegetation management program, and a balanced approach to competing uses and values on the national forests.

Alternative C, described as the "active management emphasis" alternative, with

fewer special area allocations, more active vegetation and fuels management, less restrictive recreation use management, more motorized settings, and more areas allocated as suitable for timber production.

Alternative D, described as the "special area emphasis" alternative, with more special area allocations, a smaller vegetation and fuels management program, more active and restrictive recreation use management, more non-motorized settings, and more areas conserved as undisturbed forest.

Throughout October, Western Colorado Alliance members have visited three areas, either within or overlooking the

Please make a comment at:
<https://gmugrevision.com/>

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The state of Western Colorado re-districting



by Joel Dyar
Political
Director

With every once-a-decade census, states redraw their congressional and state legislative districts to adjust for population changes. It won't surprise our readers that, for most of American history, politicians and political parties have misused and abused these critical moments to draw districts favorable to them.

In 2017, Colorado voters sought to prevent such partisan gerrymandering by passing two amendments to the state constitution - Amendments Y and Z. These amendments created two amateur civilian commissions to draw future federal and state districts and equipped them with nonpartisan, technical support staff and a few guardrail rules to do the job.

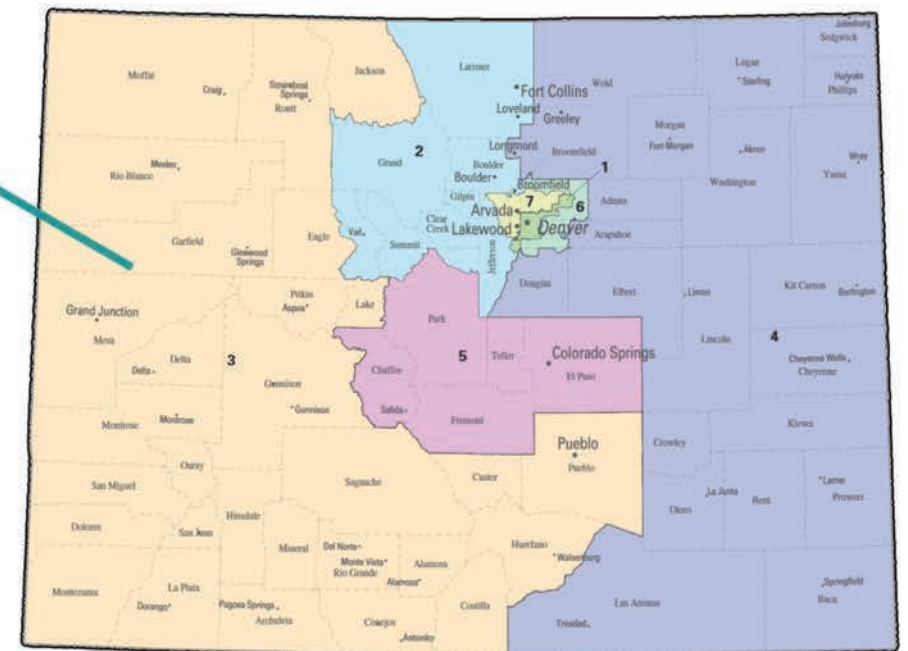
If the promise of Amendments Y and Z was that regular Janes and Joes would author the state's political destiny, these amendments certainly delivered. Over the past several months, Colorado residents have been able to tune into these often chaotic, informal, and sometimes highly personal meetings as commissioners duked out contending maps and priorities. Both commissions were tasked with securing eight of twelve votes for a compromise map and viewers were treated to regular fireworks along the way.

The Congressional Redistricting Commission had to juggle several competing challenges in drawing a district for our Western Slope. Colorado population distributions largely require a Western Slope district to have two major population centers. In past districts, these have been Fort Collins and Grand Junction and then Pueblo and Grand Junction. Their connection has determined much of the marginal contours of our district.

The other defining features of a Western Slope and Southern Colorado 3rd Congressional include the Colorado River, which begins at a headwaters in Grand County and flows west through Grand Junction on its way to Mexico, and the Arkansas River, beginning at a headwaters in Lake County and heading down through the Pueblo area on its way to the Mississippi. Both rivers are foundational to local economies, agriculture, and

recreation. Shared communities of interest across the district include smaller regions like Northwest Colorado, the Roaring Fork Valley, the I-70 corridor, the North Fork of the Gunnison, the gaspatch counties of Mesa and Garfield, the San Juan Mountains, the San Luis Valley, and the Pueblo area.

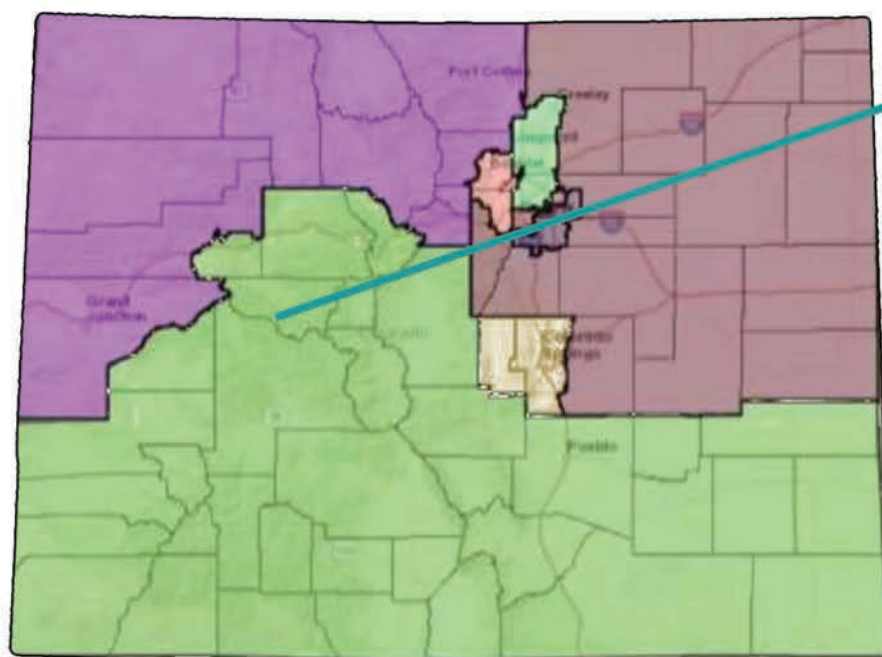
Split across these regions are a diversity of low population agricultural areas, winter recreation towns, and bedroom communities. Sizable Latino populations concentrate in places like the Roaring Fork Valley, pockets of Mesa and



**3rd
Congressional
2011-2021**

**This is the map in
use for the past
decade.**

**PARTISAN LEAN:
7% R**



**The
"Schuster"
Map**

**The "north-south"
map which came
close to being
chosen.**

**NO. CD PARTISAN
LEAN:**

1.5% D

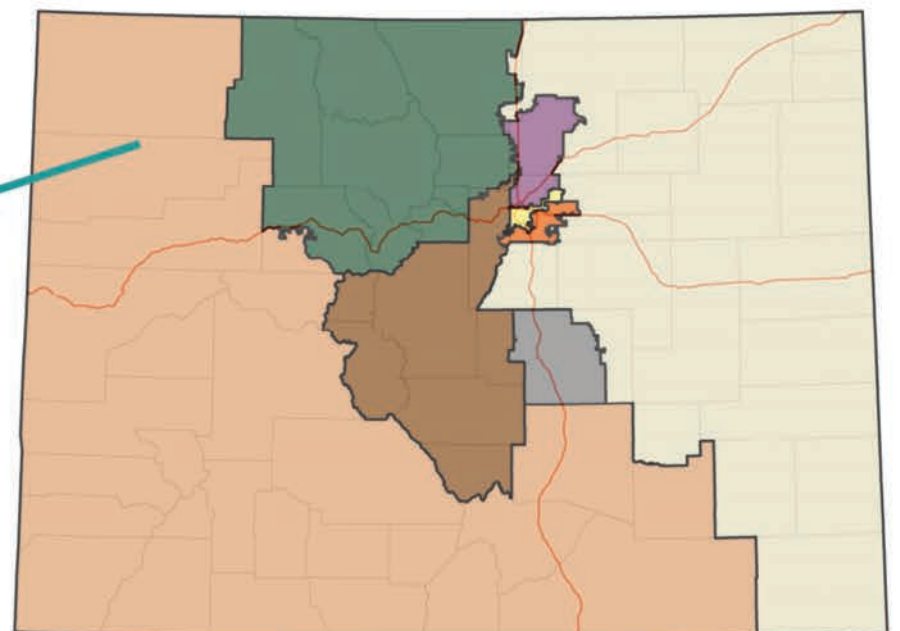
**SO. CD PARTISAN
LEAN:**

1.4% R

**Final
Approved
Plan**

**This is the map that
was chosen and is
advancing.**

**PARTISAN LEAN:
9% R**



Delta counties, and the San Luis Valley and Pueblo. Large public lands span the district.

There are two major possible combinations of all this diversity — a tall vertical orientation with a eastern leg out to Pueblo, creating a geographically vast single district, or a north-south split in the vicinity of the I-70 corridor that creates two districts. Though much conventional thinking, and many conventional voices, supported a tall vertical district, arguments abound that a north-south split is equally or more representative of actual regional communities. A

north-south split also comes out significantly more competitive than a vertical district, allowing for more political accountability. In the final hour of the commission's journey, one such north-south map came very close to approval, securing seven of the eight votes needed to pass. This map, titled the "Schuster map," is above.

At the end of the day, the Commission arrived at a compromise vote on the Final Approved Plan below. This map now heads for the State Supreme Court, where a few legal challenges are likely in the coming months.

Connecting the Dots in our Annual Conference



by **Arn McConnell**
Communications
Coordinator

On August 14, Western Colorado Alliance celebrated its 41st Annual Conference!

Organized around a theme of “Connecting the Dots,” this year’s conference included a series of workshops focusing on story-sharing, understanding power, and the art of deep listening. Our August 14 business meeting concluded with

a keynote address from Steve Deline of the New Conversation Initiative, teaching us about the powerful technique of “deep canvassing.” Our Alliance will be using this technique in our work in 2022, as we reach out to more people across the Western Slope to learn and understand what people’s lived experiences are in this rapidly changing world.

The Annual Conference is when our Alliance elects officers to the Board of Directors. This

year, **Kevin Kuns** of Montrose was elected to serve another term as Vice President. **Brenda Bafus-Williams**, who had been acting as Secretary during the previous year, has stepped down and we continue to look for new candidates for that position.

Western Colorado Alliance’s 2022 Platform was ratified during the business meeting. In 2016, it was resolved that our Alliance would transition from a resolution-based process to a platform-based one. This year’s platform brought some updates on climate change and added a sub-plank clarifying our support for cleaning up “legacy” pollution sources. However, the biggest change to the platform came in the form of a new plank in support of Homegrown Prosperity. (You can read the 2022 platform in its entirety at westerncoloradoalliance.org.)

One annual ceremony during our business meetings each year

is the bestowing of the Worley Award, established in 1999 and given to one or more volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to our Alliance and/or its affiliated community groups. This year, the Worley Award went to **Betsy Leonard** of Garfield County and **Al Lowande** of Ouray, for their years of action for our Alliance.

Also awarded every year is the Rising Star Award, to honor new volunteers who have shown admirable commitment to our Alliance. This year, that award went to both **Erica Kitzman** of Grand Junction, for her inestimable help with our youth group, West Slope Youth Voice, and **Rachael Balerio** of Montrose, who has taken on great responsibilities this past year helping to shepherd Uncompahgre Valley Alliance’s recent childcare needs assessment process. Congratulations to all of our awardees. You are shining examples of our Alliance at its best!



Steve Deline’s keynote speech on the power of deep listening and deep canvassing was a special highlight of the conference.

Climate battle over air quality



by **Brian Williams**
Community
Organizer

As a new year approaches, our Alliance’s members have been hard at work trying to limit the impact of drilling in Garfield County, shaping bonding requirements for operators in the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), and advocating for robust federal leasing and financial assurance rules to pass through Congress.

In January of this year, Colorado publicly released its Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap (GHG Roadmap), detailing the steps our state needs to take to reduce its contributions to climate change and hasten the transition to clean sources of energy. Included in this “roadmap” were specific targets that provided the impetus controlling greenhouse gas emissions: a 26% reduction from 2005 levels by 2025, a 50% reduction by 2030, and a 90% reduction in emissions by 2050.

In order to achieve these targets, Colorado must cut 36.4 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2025, another 33.6 million by 2030, and another 56 million tons by 2050. For oil

& gas emissions in particular, the GHG roadmap calls for a 60% reduction in emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels.

The need for meaningful climate policy reform has never been more pronounced.

Despite this urgency, the Polis administration has chosen to advance an “intensity monitoring” approach to regulating oil & gas emissions, which relies on operators to monitor and report their own emissions to the state. Moreover, the intensity rate calls for oil & gas producers to reduce their emissions per barrel of oil equivalent (BoE), which means that operators could actually increase the amount of fossil fuels they produce so long as they maintain the ratios called for under the proposed intensity rule.

In response, conservation, environmental, and community groups throughout Colorado have raised the alarm. They’ve also drawn attention to the fact that this methodology for reducing emissions has no precedent, and that our state can ill afford to waste time on an untested approach should it fail to achieve the reductions necessary to meet its goals.

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) staff insist that the intensity rule will provide the flexibility that operators need to meet their emission reduction obligations while accounting for the individual compositions of equipment and production at their respective sites. The staff notes that Colorado already has a number of regulations that already reduce emissions, and so an intensity approach gives operators the discretion to make adjustments where they make the most sense.

Still, critics of the intensity rule remain unconvinced. In addition to the moral hazard of industry policing itself and the possibility of emissions from fossil fuel use overtaking any gains made in emission reductions from the production process, organizations opposing the intensity rule — including our Alliance — note that the incomplete data from which the intensity targets were derived are not good enough.

In 2019, oil & gas production was thought to have released some 22 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) into the atmosphere — approximately 17% of Colorado’s overall estimated emissions. However, by the APCD’s own admission, the

division is still missing data that it will not have until at least 2023. Incidentally, that is the same year that the first emission reduction plans would be due for oil and gas operators — plans that the AQCC would have no authority to enforce, and for which no penalty could be imposed should operators fail to meet their emissions reduction targets.

For those of us who live on the Western Slope, the reality is that we cannot be satisfied with an unproven regulatory approach to reducing emissions at a time when historic drought is crippling our agricultural sector, and our air quality is earning failing grades from the American Lung Association. Our next opportunity to demand action from the AQCC is on December 14, where they will consider changes to Regulation 7 oil & gas air emissions.

As we head into 2022, our Alliance will continue to fight for robust, protective, transparent, and enforceable rules that will hold operators accountable for the emissions they produce, and help Colorado meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

It’s a New Year’s resolution worth keeping.

These young voices get louder

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would be intimidating to walk up to a booth that focuses on voting and think you don't have the answers.

But their answers are exactly what we're looking for. So even though voter activation is the goal, a change in the name means we're more likely to make it happen.

Our West Slope Youth Voice students have already been hard at work this school year setting up booths and classroom presentations to connect with their peers about the importance of registering to vote and getting involved sooner. And whatever it is – the name change, the stickers, or tasty donuts — it's working and their booths are *bumpin!* (This is where my 12-year-old would call me "cringey" for saying "bumpin.")

Along with the name change, each year the students pick a theme to highlight their work in their annual video and Western Youth Issues Report. In their first edition, the theme was "Add Voting to Your Bucket list" and

last year's theme was "Burning Issues," as we watched fires scorch the West and the pandemic rage through our communities.

This year, the theme seems simple but comes with a big message: "Don't Sit on the Sidelines." Our interns are looking to harness the power of student voices, whether they are old enough to vote or not. Because the moment they graduate, reality for them seems a bit bleak. Since their grandparents graduated, the cost for students to attend college is up almost 300%. And debt after graduation is even higher, at an almost 1,000% increase. With rising costs for goods and



services and a failure to raise the minimum wage, wages are down 20%, yet rent is 50% higher and the cost of health insurance is at an all-time high.

High school students are graduating into an unequal economy and aren't hopeful that older generations will save the day. So this year's focus — "Don't Sit on the Sidelines!" — encourages students to stand up, raise their voices, and take

action now. Millennials and Gen Z will be the largest voting block within the decade, and our elected leaders should be listening now. So whether it's as simple as a name change, or as big as passing legislation at the Capitol, our interns are ready to take on the challenge.

For more information about West Slope Youth Voice, please contact me at jeriel@westerncoloradoalliance.org.

20 years of GMUG work coming to a boil

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GMUG. From each location, we were able to view scenic and vital public lands for protection within the GMUG.

We understand the balance that needs to take place between industry and conservation. We are concerned that most alternatives favor extraction over protection. That is why we support alternative D.

For reference, the Forest Service's proposed 2007 GMUG

Forest Plan recommended approximately 125,000 acres in 19 areas for the additional wilderness. Today's draft plan, released under the Biden administration, recommends 34,000 acres in the preferred, or "blended" alternative.

Every one of us can make a difference. We have until November 12 to make public comments. We will be hosting our final writing workshop in the last week of November, so make sure to stay tuned to your email for updates.

The Forest Service wants to hear from you about the areas that you feel need to be protected. You can learn more about the plans here:

<https://gmugrevision.com/>

And please submit a comment about the importance you place on protecting the outdoors by using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/comment-gmug>

Mountainfilm returns to Grand Junction on Nov. 11!

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documentary films curated from the annual Mountainfilm festival held in Telluride, Colorado.

Tickets are free with a minimum suggested donation of \$15.00 to Western Colorado Alliance. Take this opportunity to enjoy some amazing films and support grassroots organizing

in Western Colorado!

Western Colorado Alliance has been hosting Mountainfilm on Tour for several years, both as a live event and a virtual one. Our Alliance works to create engaged communities that are healthy, just and self-reliant by organizing people, developing leaders, and building power.

While hosting an inspiring collection of films, the show is also a great opportunity to support an amazing non-profit organization that works hard to ensure that western Colorado is a great place to call home.

As a member-led, grassroots organization, when you donate to our Alliance, you

grow our financial independence and keep our work grounded in Western Colorado communities and priorities.

For more details about this year's presentation of Mountainfilm On Tour - Grand Junction beginning November 11, please visit our website. And reserve your tickets today for this exciting event!

Building PEOPLE POWER in Western Colorado

2021 has been a whirlwind year, for the country, for Western Colorado, and for our Alliance. The challenges we face have been great, and they continue. Right now, even tomorrow can feel uncertain, but as the past 18 months have shown us, people will overcome these challenges, continue to come together and build a brighter future. We know the antidote to feeling powerless is organizing with people and taking action, like Western Colorado Alliance members do everyday.

Western Colorado Alliance is a local, strategic, savvy, and member-led organization that creates tangible change that can be seen in our Western Slope communities everyday. **In 2021, together, we:**

- **Increased transparency** and put in place basic democratic checks and balances on electrical companies to ensure fair pricing and local control for rural electric cooperatives.
- **Expanded access** to local markets for ranchers, allowing them to sell portions of their livestock directly to consumers.
- **Organized students** across the Western Slope to pass a historic "Postvention" mental health bill to enhance care and resources for those affected by suicide.
- **Won local funding for and organized 700 responses** from local residents to complete a Childcare Needs Assessment for Montrose County.
- **Brought West Slope voices to Washington DC**, lobbying for specific provisions in the Infrastructure and Build Back Better legislation to benefit Western Colorado's landscapes and people.

....and more! All of these actions and accomplishments were driven by members like you, overcoming the odds and working together to build grassroots power and effect decisions that affect our lives. Through every action we take, we boldly proclaim our vision for healthy, just and self-reliant communities across Western Colorado, now and into the future.



GIVE
WHERE YOU
LIVE

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION
COLORADO
GIVES DAY
ColoradoGivesDay.org Dec. 7

Thank you for making our Alliance what it is today. Help keep us strong, financially independent, and ready to face whatever challenges lie ahead. Please consider a donation to our end-of-year fundraising drive so we can hit the ground running in 2022!

Make your donation at
westerncoloradoalliance.org
or mail it to
P.O. Box 1931
Grand Junction, CO 81502

2020 Western Colorado Alliance Financial Report

2020 Statement of Financial Position

Total Assets	\$824,342
Total Liabilities	\$40,518
Total Net Assets	\$783,824
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$824,342

2020 Statement of Activities

Total Revenue	\$942,868
Total Expenses	\$623,588
Total Change in Net Assets	\$319,280
Total Net Assets, End of Year	\$783,824

