Safeguarding the West’s Water

- WRA, in partnership with the State of Colorado, protected flows in southwestern Colorado’s San Miguel River to benefit anglers, white-water boaters, fish, the environment, and the local economy.

- WRA educated water utilities, land use planners, and elected officials on ways to ensure that new residential and commercial development has a smaller water footprint.

- Our Local Rivers Alternative lays out a conservation solution to the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline—a project that would run 134 miles from Lake Powell to southwestern Utah and extract 24 billion gallons of water from an already declining reserve.

- In Colorado, WRA demonstrated how water and energy utilities can cooperate on efficiency programs—such as joint rebates on washing machines or water and energy audits—to reduce pollution and water use.

- WRA steered a mining expansion proposed for Utah’s Great Salt Lake away from Bear River and Ogden bays, where millions of migratory birds rest, feed, and breed. We also secured additional protections for Gunnison Island, a vitally important home for the American White Pelican. We reduced the planned expansion by more than 30,000 acres and preserved 115 billion gallons of the lake’s water.

Protecting Clean Air & Climate

- WRA’s advocacy will reduce pollution from Arizona’s Navajo Generating Station, one of the West’s largest coal plants. An agreement that WRA played a critical role in negotiating creates a pathway for a portion of the plant to be retired before 2020 and includes commitments from the United States Department of Interior (one of the plant’s owners) to foster clean energy projects and reduce CO2 emissions.
Protecting Clean Air & Climate continued...

- WRA helped secure **450 MW of new wind power** to be provided by Xcel Energy, enough to provide clean power to **180,000 homes**.

- WRA developed and helped pass legislation **increasing Colorado’s Renewable Energy Standard** from 10% to 20% for rural electric cooperatives. This will spur **400 MW of additional renewable energy development by 2020**—enough for **160,000 homes**.

Defending Public Lands & Wildlife

- As new renewable energy projects and power lines are planned and sited, environmental recommendations that WRA helped develop will **minimize the impacts of moving renewable energy across the West**. We are advocating a clean energy future while ensuring that wildlife, lands, and sacred and cultural sites are protected.

- As WRA defends Utah from the impacts of proposed oil shale development, we are pleased to report that not one shovel of dirt has yet been moved for projects that would damage lands, harm wildlife, and contribute to the climate crisis.

- As a result of our advocacy, the Bureau of Land Management has improved its management of core sage-grouse habitat in Wyoming. The BLM is offered for energy development rather than waiting proactively removing crucial habitat from areas to defer leasing following our legal challenges. **Such BLM decisions protected 90% of Wyoming’s core area sage-grouse habitat within proposed leases during the previous four months of 2013 and will likely protect another 71,000 additional acres in 2014.**