

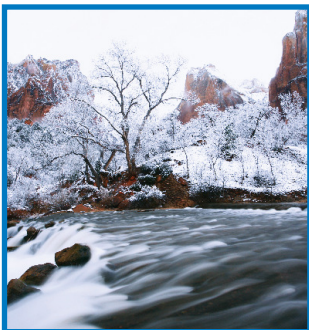


Defending Public Lands & Wildlife

Thanks to the Colorado Habitat Stewardship Act, which was largely drafted by WRA, 355,000 acres of public lands in northwest Colorado will be better protected from the impacts of oil and gas development.

In response to WRA's comments, the Bureau of Land Management will fully analyze the adverse environmental impacts of drilling on Rands Butte in the Wyoming Range, and require a public safety plan to protect the health of local residents.

WRA protected 2,000 acres of the superlative wild country of Western Colorado's Thompson Creek Divide and Reno Mountain from oil and gas development. These areas are home to elk, bear, mountain lion, bighorn sheep, lynx, wild turkey, boreal owl, and cutthroat trout. They also contain one of the largest stands of aspen trees in the world.



Safeguarding the West's Water

The Yampa River, one of the West's last undammed rivers, will continue to flow freely. After WRA advocacy, Shell Corporation dropped its water rights application and decided not to use Yampa water for oil shale development. This is excellent news for the communities, farmers, and ranchers, rafters, fish and wildlife, who all rely on the river.

In Utah, Bear River Bay, one of the Great Salt Lake's most important areas for waterbirds, will be better protected now that WRA has convinced the Division of Water Quality to regulate discharge of 4.5 million tons of mining waste into the bay.

WRA helped secure passage of four Colorado water conservation bills. These bills will improve plumbing codes, give homeowners more choice to install water-efficient fixtures and landscapes in new homes, expand funding for conservation programs, and help utilities track the effectiveness of conservation programs.



Protecting Clean Air & Climate

WRA reached an innovative agreement with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association allowing public input into its resource planning process. Tri-State had planned to build three new coal plants. After five months of public input, Tri-State is instead calling for more renewable energy and energy efficiency to meet power demands.

To clean Colorado's air and protect human health, WRA played a key role in passage of the Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act that will retire several Denver-area coal-fired power plants. We will continue to work for full implementation of the Act.

In Arizona, WRA helped develop and secure approval of an aggressive energy efficiency standard of 22% savings by 2020.

In New Mexico, WRA crafted a precedent-setting plan to reduce the state's contributions to climate change and urged leaders to cap greenhouse gas emissions now, rather than waiting for federal legislation. A decision is expected in December.