



**WESTERN RESOURCE
ADVOCATES**

For Immediate Release
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**Gary Graham Named WRA's New
Transmission Project Director**

BOULDER, CO --Gary Graham has joined Western Resource Advocates as the Director of its Transmission and Renewable Energy project. Gary will lead WRA's activities to encourage proper siting of power lines to avoid important public land areas, such as wildlife habitat and national parks, and to link renewable energy sources to demand centers.

Bringing electricity to customers is a critical component of the region's energy production and consumption picture. Power companies, utilities, and federal agencies are planning to update the western transmission grid system, with a price tag in the billions of dollars. Major transmission expansion proposals include the construction of new transmission lines to connect Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico power supplies to consumers in Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and California.

"WRA has been a leader in recognizing that transmission, if it's done right, is a crucial part of making the renewable energy economy a reality," said Karin P. Sheldon, president of Western Resource Advocates. "Gary has the skills and background to step into this leadership role and work with the environmental community, the private sector, and government to support good transmission planning for the West."

Mr. Graham brings a wealth of natural resources and leadership experience to WRA. He was the Executive Director of Audubon Colorado where he directed policy, conservation, and environmental education initiatives. Previously, he was Director of the Wildlife Division, as well as Chief of the Endangered Resources Branch, at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Mr. Graham was a project manager of the Texas Watchable Wildlife Project for Defenders of Wildlife and an associate science director at Bat Conservation International. He is author of the Golden Guide Bats of the World. Mr. Graham has a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico and a M.S. and B.S. from Louisiana State University.

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Western Resource Advocates is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the West's land, air and water. In 2009, WRA is celebrating its 20th year of conservation successes. Visit us online at www.westernresourceadvocates.org.