



Protecting wild places and wildlife,  
for their sake – and ours.

May 2021

# Wild Works

Jon Mullen Photography

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## New Administration Brings New Opportunities

In the Winter 2020 issue of *Wild Works*, our “Election Update” article outlined some of the changes we expected based on the 2020 elections. We’re happy to report that our initial predictions regarding the end of the “energy dominance” agenda, support for the 30x30 initiative (conserving 30% of our nation’s lands and waters by 2030), and a new era at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) were correct! As we pass President Biden’s 100th day in office, our excitement continues to grow about the opportunities we see with the new administration and Congress.

**In his inaugural address, President Biden said, “The cry for help is coming from the planet itself.”**

This sobering assessment led him to quickly issue an “Executive Order (EO) on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.” In addition to policies that call on nearly every agency and department of the federal government to put the climate crisis at the center of their work, the EO calls for the end of fossil fuel subsidies, the creation of a Civilian Climate Corps, and pledges support for the 30x30 initiative.

Critically important for our work here at Wilderness Workshop, the EO directed the Interior Department to pause all new oil and gas leasing on public lands while the Department conducts a comprehensive review and reconsideration of the federal oil and gas program. Through this review, the Interior Department will consider the impacts of oil and gas leasing and development on our climate and other public lands resources and values.

We’ve been urging the federal government to modernize its oil and gas program for years, and we sprang into action right away to provide formal recommendations to the Interior Department for ensuring the review includes a comprehensive assessment of problems we’ve seen first hand and that have plagued the federal oil and gas program for decades. Key elements of our

*Continued on next page*



“Introducing the Colorado Wildlands Project”  
on page 4. Top: “Wildflowers in the Thompson  
Divide landscape” by Jon Mullen.



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*Wilderness Workshop's mission is to protect and conserve the wilderness and natural landscapes of the Roaring Fork Watershed, the White River National Forest, and adjacent public lands.*

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## New Administration *from previous page*

recommendations for oil and gas reform include:

- Protect wildlands, wildlife habitat, backcountry recreation and other important public lands values from oil and gas development by closing those areas to leasing.
- Align oil and gas leasing and permitting decisions with national and global climate targets, and assess the cumulative impacts of the federal oil and gas program on climate change.
- Manage a rapid decline of fossil fuel production on public lands that is equitable and sustains and revitalizes rural economies.
- Close loopholes that enable the oil and gas industry to speculate on our public lands and hold leases indefinitely with no public oversight.
- Ensure public participation opportunities in all decisions affecting oil and gas management on our public lands.

In another key provision, the EO makes clear that environmental justice is a major priority, committing the Biden-Harris administration to “secure environmental justice and spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment.” To achieve this the EO establishes two White House Environmental Justice Councils and directs all federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their mission.

We have much work ahead and we’ll need to hold the Biden-Harris administration accountable to the inspiring vision set forth in the EO. Yet we have early reasons to be optimistic – in April, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland issued a Secretarial Order implementing portions of the EO at the Interior Department. The Secretarial Order established a Departmental Climate Task Force to implement the review and reconsideration of the federal oil and gas program, identify strategies to reduce climate pollution and foster economic revitalization of energy communities. The Secretarial Order also directs agencies to restore integrity to the NEPA process in three important ways: analyzing climate change; engaging environmental justice and Indigenous communities; and no longer applying the Trump administration’s watered-down NEPA rule.

## Early Excitement for Public Lands



**CORE Act:** In late February 2021, the CORE (Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy) Act - which would protect the Thompson and Continental Divides and is championed by Rep. Joe Neguse - passed the House of Representatives for a third time! It’s now in the Senate, where pro-conservation Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper are working to move it forward. The Senate isn’t known for expediency, but we’re optimistic about the Bill’s chances in the 117th Congress.



**BLM’s Deb Haaland:** President Biden’s appointment of Deb Haaland of New Mexico as the first Native American to serve as Secretary of the Interior is as historic as it is exciting. She was a strong public lands ally as a member of the House Natural Resources Committee, supporting 30x30, equity within climate and conservation policies, and decisive action on climate. We look forward to working with Secretary Haaland and Interior agencies on efforts to restore public process and engagement while protecting public lands for all Americans.



# No New Dams in the Homestake Valley!

Late March brought disappointing news when the White River National Forest approved drilling test wells in the Homestake Valley – the first step towards constructing a new dam and reservoir that could inundate portions of the Holy Cross Wilderness. Worse yet, the Forest Service approved this exploratory drilling without comprehensive environmental review and public input, excluding the project from analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Our statement following this decision made our stance crystal clear: Wilderness Workshop is opposed to both the test drilling allowed by this special use permit, as well as the potential Whitney Reservoir, and will oppose this project every step of the way.

In the summer of 2020, 775 letters were submitted to the Forest Service, overwhelmingly in opposition - a testament to our dedicated and passionate supporters and the deep community opposition to the project. Our team also submitted detailed technical comments that requested a

comprehensive environmental review under NEPA, noting that drilling test wells will have significant impacts on wetlands, wilderness, wildlife, recreation, and roadless forests.

The same day the Forest Service announced their decision, we launched a “No New Dams in the Homestake Valley!” petition; as of late April, the petition already has 800 signatures! Our team is gearing up to fight this project and are working with a wide range of partners to ensure the Forest Service fully considers the damage that’ll be done by this whole dam proposal. Soon, we’ll share more about how individuals can help us stop this misguided proposal. As a first step in this long fight, we encourage you to add your name to our petition!

## Sign the petition

“No New Dams in the Homestake Valley!”  
[wildernessworkshop.org/HomestakeValley](http://wildernessworkshop.org/HomestakeValley)



*The Homestake Valley's riparian and wetland communities—which sustain a high diversity of plant and wildlife species and are the most ecologically productive landscapes in the Colorado high country—would be destroyed by the proposed dam, which would send Western Slope water across the Continental Divide.*

## New Faces at Wilderness Workshop



A warm welcome to **Beverly Paterra**, our new Operations Manager! Beverly brings with her a strong background in finance and systems management, as well as an innate appreciation for the outdoors. With a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Marketing from Valdosta State University, Beverly devoted an extra focus on small business operations and has applied those principles throughout her career managing restaurants, family businesses, and nonprofits. Born and raised in South Lake Tahoe and a resident of Carbondale since 2013, Beverly enjoys immersing herself in the beautiful surrounding landscapes, whether that be via hiking, skiing, biking or rafting with her husband and young daughter.



And welcome to our newest Board Member, **Elizabeth Velasco**! Born in Mexico, she has lived in Colorado for over 18 years and worked with diverse teams during her time managing the Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch. After a year in Switzerland, she came back to Colorado to work with the Western Slope Latino Community - first with the local School District, then as a medical Interpreter for over 7 years. Her work has expanded to include community interpreting, translation, voice-over, and consulting. Liz has been an Board Member of Young Latino Philanthropists, is an adjunct professor at Colorado Mountain College, and is volunteering with Voces Unidas de las Montañas in their vaccine clinics. Liz is training to become a bilingual Public Information Officer for the Forest Service and BLM. She finds inspiration, rest, and relaxation through camping and recreating on our public lands.

# Introducing the Colorado Wildlands Project

The Colorado Wildlands Project wields policy, legal, political, organizing and communications expertise to protect and defend BLM wildlands on the Colorado Plateau.

Wilderness Workshop is excited to announce a new initiative to protect wild public lands: the Colorado Wildlands Project!

The Wildlands Project will protect public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in western Colorado. Colorado's 8.3 million acres of BLM-administered public lands make up one-third of the federal public lands in our state, yet only 8% of these lands are permanently protected, dramatically less than other public lands types in the state. In addition to BLM public lands being underrepresented in the conservation system, these lands are critical for climate adaptation and ecosystem resilience.

The diverse lands the Wildlands Project will focus on include the stunning redrock of the Dolores River, the rolling sagebrush steppe of the Dinosaur region, and the colorful cliffs and maroon sandstone formations nestled below the Flat Tops in the Colorado River Valley. These lands are Nuu-ahga-tuu-pu (Ute) ancestral lands.

The Wildlands Project hit the ground running in early 2021 to advance legislative and administrative protections for western Colorado's BLM public lands. We're advocating for our congressional delegation to prioritize conservation of BLM wildlands in legislative efforts and stakeholder outreach, and we're collaborating with our partners to urge the Biden-Harris administration to reinstate Wilderness Study Area designation as an administrative protection tool for the BLM. We're also cultivating a productive conversation about BLM land conservation on the western slope.

We have an all-star team lined up to work with us on this new initiative. We're happy to announce that we've hired **Scott Braden** as the director of the Wildlands Project! Scott has over twenty years' experience in public lands advocacy and education in the Intermountain West, including working as a wilderness advocate at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and Conservation Colorado and

several seasons with the Colorado Outward Bound School.

We're also grateful to have conservation photographer Jon Mullen as a partner on our project, who has already been busy developing an incredible photo gallery for the Colorado Wildlands Project. And, we're fortunate to have dedicated support from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), who brings a wealth of expertise and an impressive track record protecting BLM wildlands.

To learn more about the Colorado Wildlands Project, visit [www.cowildlands.org](http://www.cowildlands.org); you can also follow the Wildlands Project on Twitter and Instagram as @CO\_wildlands.



Scott Braden,  
Director of the  
Wildlands Project

Below: Nearly 2,000 feet tall, the Palisade near Gateway, CO, is one of many stunning redrock formations on land managed by the BLM. Photo by Jon Mullen.

COLORADO  
WILDLANDS  
PROJECT





## In Brief

As of printing, here's the latest on some of our ongoing projects:

**Aspen Management Plan** - In February, the White River National Forest released a proposed Aspen Management Plan that would authorize cutting and burning of 375,000 acres of aspen habitat, forest-wide, for decades to come. Our team analyzed the project and determined it does not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires site-specific analysis and opportunities for public comment on specific locations and timelines for forest management activities.

We also made clear that the Forest Service must analyze impacts to our climate from projects like this - a priority for the Biden-Harris administration. Furthermore, it's not clear at all and the Forest Service has not demonstrated, that the science shows that this type of management will make our aspen forests more resilient in the face of climate change.

As a result, we've asked the Forest Service to shelve this project. We rallied our members to submit over 275 comments in opposition, highlighting the concerns outlined above along with the proposed construction of new roads, the potentially significant impacts to the

many caves and karst resources within the project area, and effects on roadless areas and wildlife such as lynx.

**Buck Berlaimont** - Following an Objection Resolution Meeting on the Final EIS in January where community members and Wilderness Workshop again raised wildlife habitat concerns, Forest Service staff were directed to undertake additional analysis and address specific concerns before a final decision is made. While it's unclear when we'll know the fate of this deeply unpopular proposal to build a paved road across critical wildlife habitat for 19 new mansions on 680 acres in the middle of the White River National Forest, we remain committed to working with the community to stop this misguided project.

**Legal Settlement** - We've been busy in court protecting our public lands and climate from rampant oil and gas development. In April, we joined a diverse coalition of nonprofits to intervene in defense of the Biden-Harris administration's pause on federal oil and gas leasing pending the Department of Interior's comprehensive review of the program (see "New Administration, New Opportunities" piece). With this action, the coalition is seeking to defend the leasing pause



*Under the Trump administration, the BLM prioritized fossil fuel production on public lands.*

against two lawsuits filed by the state of Wyoming and the Western Energy Alliance. The pause is a legal and necessary first step to a long-overdue review of the federal oil and gas leasing and permitting program.

And earlier this year the federal courts resolved our legal challenges to the BLM's plans for oil and gas leasing in the Grand Junction field office, clearing the way for the BLM to redo land management plans covering 2 million acres of public lands in western Colorado. The BLM's plans had prioritized fossil fuel production over all other values on our public lands, and now the agency will go back to the drawing board to consider more balanced management. The new plans will be developed with public participation, and we'll be asking for your help!

## Looking for Summer Events?

You might have noticed this issue of *Wild Works* is coming a bit earlier than normal—we had so much exciting news for you and are adjusting the timing of *Wild Works* a bit in 2021! Don't worry: you'll get a special mailing (heads-up, it's perfect to hang on the fridge) when we announce our summer hikes, advocacy happy hours, restoration and stewardship series, and a few surprise events.

Another great way to stay up to date is through our mid-week emails—they always have the latest on our upcoming events, advocacy actions, programmatic updates, and even a "what we're reading" section.



It's easy to join our email list - just go to [www.wildernessworkshop.org](http://www.wildernessworkshop.org), scroll down to the bottom of the webpage and you'll see

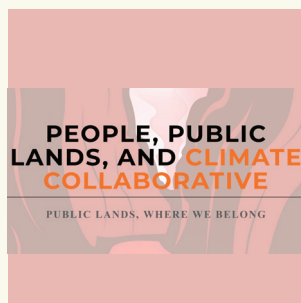
a banner that says "Receive Email Updates from Wilderness Workshop — Sign up Here".

# Coalitions & Collaboration

Wilderness Workshop is always looking for opportunities to raise the profile and leverage the impact of our work and collaboration and partnership are critical strategies in our efforts to protect public lands! On any given day you'll find us in meetings with the Forest Service and BLM and other non-profits about stewardship projects on public lands, inviting local speakers for Latino Advocacy Week, or recruiting state and national partners to bring added expertise and capacity to our priority work.

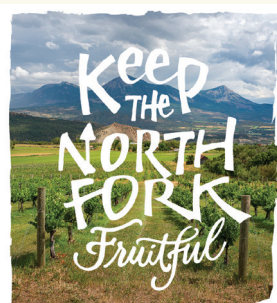
Our participation in a variety of coalitions informs and benefits our work and in many instances WW staff take on leadership roles within these groups, serving as conveners or connectors – the phrase “You know who you should talk with...” is common in many of our meetings! While you might be familiar with our leadership in coalitions to protect the Thompson Divide Coalition or pass the CORE Act, below we've highlighted some of the other coalitions we're part of, what they're working on, and how they help us achieve our mission.

These are just a few – we're part of many other groups, both formal and informal, about legislative proposals, potential litigation, restoration efforts, wildlife habitat, and so much more. Our members often participate in some of these same coalitions and help identify opportunities for collaboration – don't hesitate to reach out if you want to bring a group to our attention!



**People, Public Lands, and Climate Collaborative**

The Collaborative, formally launched in February 2021, is an informal network of US organizations who believe in the importance of a climate plan for public lands. It's goal is to ensure public lands are part of a just and equitable climate change mitigation and adaptation solution. We were proud to join with the Collaborative in their first call to action – calling on the Senate to confirm Deb Haaland as Secretary of the Interior (see page 2).



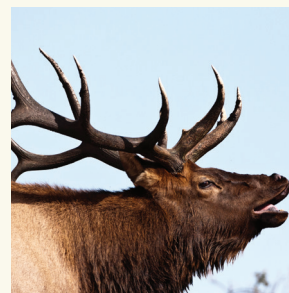
**Keep the North Fork Fruitful**

Historically, the North Fork Valley has been a coal mining and agricultural region closely tied to the boom-and-bust cycles of the coal industry. In recent years, it has successfully diversified with agro-tourism, renewable energy, outdoor recreation, and other local businesses. A broad range of people are working to develop community-driven solutions that embrace sustainable economic opportunities, foster a just transition away from extractive industries, and protect the natural environment.



**Next 100 Coalition, Colorado Chapter**

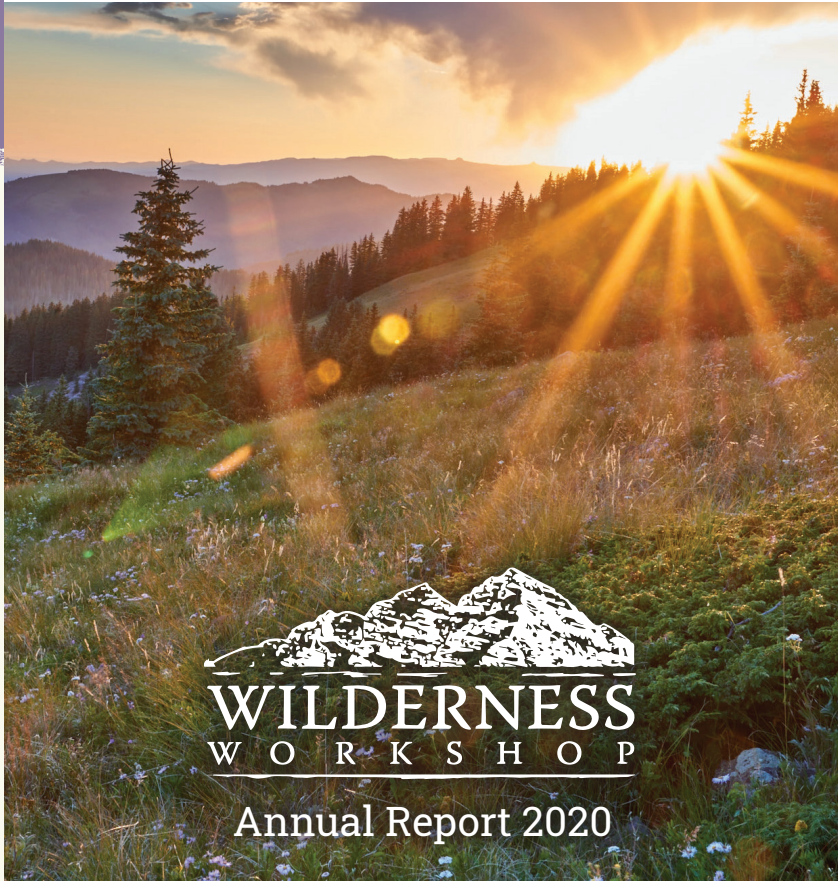
Our Defiende Nuestra Tierra program is a member of the Next 100 Coalition, which is committed to the establishment of a just and inclusive parks and public lands system. The Coalition believes an inclusive approach to public lands over the next 100 years must be driven by three principles: reflect the faces of our country, respect all cultures, and actively engage all people. Next 100 Colorado is working on a Statewide Outdoor Equity Policy, among other projects.



**Eagle County Wildlife Roundtable**

The Roundtable was formed in response to a precipitous drop in several populations of wildlife in the Eagle Valley and to “identify a shared vision and realistic actions to protect regional wildlife.” We're engaging as part of our efforts to advocate for wildlife friendly policies and action on federal lands and view the Roundtable as a great example of a community recognizing the impacts of development and recreation on wildlife and the need for collaborative actions.





## A Year Like No Other

Thank you for reading Wilderness Workshop's 2020 Annual Report—our first ever! Amidst all the work at hand to protect public lands we thought it important to take a moment to celebrate our achievements over the past year, thank our wonderful members and donors, and look towards the future.

It's tough to talk about 2020 without mentioning the far-reaching impacts of the pandemic, which had our staff working from home, modifying our events to ensure social distancing, and spending waaay too much time on Zoom. We're very grateful for the many front-line organizations who have been responding to the pandemic and our hearts go out to all who were, and continue to be, impacted by COVID. As we reflect on all the accomplishments at Wilderness Workshop in 2020 - despite the pandemic and uphill battles with the prior administration - both of us are tremendously proud of our staff and grateful to all who support the organization.

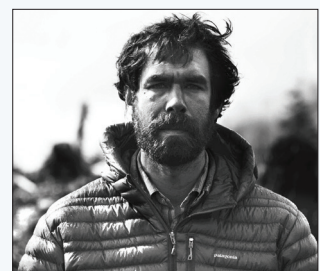
As you'll see in the report, we won important legal fights and fought back against ecologically damaging developments across western Colorado. Our Defiende Nuestra Tierra program grew exponentially. Our staff and volunteers led hikes into threatened landscapes and facilitated restoration projects. We advanced legislation and ran our first voter engagement campaign. Despite the cancelation of our largest fundraiser, donors remained engaged and informed. We conceived of and launched the Colorado Wildlands Project. Several new staff members joined the team. And so much more!

During the final year of the Trump administration, with their 'energy dominance' policy in full force we held the line and stopped new oil and gas leases in our neck of the woods. Wilderness Workshop played an outsized role in state and national coalitions to protect the public's right to have a say on how our public lands are managed. Efforts to undo the damage from the past four years are already underway, but it will take a lot of work and won't happen overnight.

Thank you for supporting us during this incredibly challenging year and being part of our community. If 2020 was about holding the line, 2021 is about taking advantage of new opportunities. Wilderness Workshop is stepping up to with energy and optimism. We look forward to engaging and informing you about the successes we achieve in 2021.

Sincerely,

Allyn Harvey, Board President &  
Will Roush, Executive Director





# Advocacy in Action

Our work includes so many different facets of protecting public lands - this past year included new and ongoing legal work, modified community outreach programs, and the creation of brand-new initiatives. Some of this past year's highlights include:

**West Elk Coal Mine** - In June 2020, Mountain Coal Company defied a court order and illegally bulldozed a nearly mile-long road and two large drilling pads in the midst of the spectacular Sunset Roadless Area near Paonia. Wilderness Workshop joined inspectors with the State of Colorado to survey the damage done, and it was astounding to see first-hand this egregious trespass on our public lands. Thankfully, in October, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals blocked further construction in the Sunset Roadless Area while our legal challenge to the coal mine expansion moves forward. It was an important victory, but the fight is far from over.

**Naturalist Nights** - This longrunning weekly winter speaker series - a collaboration with the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies and Roaring Fork Audubon - wrapped up just before the pandemic began. With topics ranging from feral horses to the vulnerability of mountain rivers to climate change, this series had something for everyone. New in 2020 was our first bilingual (English and Spanish) presentation, "Border Wall Impacts on Wildlife, Wilderness, and Communities: A View from Both Sides."

**CORE Act** - A critical piece of our long-term efforts to protect the Thompson Divide became part of the larger CORE (Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy) Act in 2019. 2020 saw the CORE Act again pass the US House, but it stalled in the Senate, despite a hearing there and Senator Michael Bennett's best efforts. In the current Congress, passing the CORE Act will be a priority for the long-standing champions we've cultivated in Rep. Joe Neugse and Senator Michael Bennett, as well as newly-elected Senator John Hickenlooper.

**30x30** - Protecting nature is a critical piece of addressing the twin biodiversity and climate change crisis, and 2020 saw the emergence of a plan known as the Global Deal for Nature and an ambitious new goal: protecting 30% of lands and waters by 2030, commonly referred to as 30x30. Staff contributed to the "Colorado Pathways to 30x30" report and began planning new land and water protections campaigns across Western Colorado that will take off in 2021.

**Colorado Wildlands Project** - We're maneuvering quickly to leverage political momentum for public land conservation with the creation of the Colorado Wildlands Project! The Colorado Wildlands Project is dedicated to the conservation, climate resilience and equitable management of our public lands, and focuses on protecting wildlands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in western Colorado. The Colorado Wildlands Project is powered with coordinated support



Will Sardinsky



Melanie Finan

This page, clockwise from upper left: Governor Jared Polis speaking in support of the CORE Act. Community members at a summer 2020 event. Signage at a "Buck Berlaimont" rally in Eagle County. The illegally bulldozed road in the Sunset Roadless Area. One of the many stunning landscapes the Colorado Wildlands Project seeks to protect.

Following page, left to right: Workshop staff showcasing "Vote Public Lands" materials. Defiende Nuestra Tierra launched "Snow Days," a new bilingual winter event series. Activists calling to #ProtectNEPA and act on climate.



Scott Braden



Juli Sivka



Alicia Zerangue



from Wilderness Workshop and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

**Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan** - In September, we sued the BLM over their land use plan for the Uncompahgre region. It would open vast areas of western Colorado, including the fruitful North Fork Valley, to oil and gas drilling while failing to protect wilderness quality public lands, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources. The plan is the result of political interference by the Trump administration and ignored years of collaboration and local public input in order to prioritize giveaways to the oil and gas industry.

**Berlaimont** - Our work to stop construction of a new paved road through critical wildlife habitat proposed by the developer of Berlaimont Estates (a proposed development 2,000 feet above the town of Eagle) continued throughout 2020. Though in-person gatherings

were limited, we rallied community members who signed petitions, submitted comments, and galvanized elected officials at the local, state, and national level in opposition. The US Forest Service issued a final EIS and draft decision in September 2020; Wilderness Workshop and others have filed an objection to this decision, and we anticipate a final decision in mid 2021.

**I Heart Public Lands** - Advocacy and accountability have been strategies in our work for years; in 2020, we added “voter engagement” to that list. Hopefully you saw our “I Heart Public lands” and “Vote Public Lands” materials over the summer and into the fall. Whether you were submitting comments to a federal agency, learning more about the local issues on the ballot, or talking with your friends and family about public lands, thank you! Colorado voter turnout reached record levels in 2020 and we’re already planning for the future!



**Defiende Nuestra Tierra (Defend our Land)** - Our Defiende Nuestra Tierra program, which focuses on engaging the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valley Latinx communities in public lands and environmental justice issues, continued to grow and evolve in 2020. In addition to adding Beatriz Soto joining us full time and new partnerships, highlights included:

- Launching “Snow Days,” a bilingual (English and Spanish) winter event series, focused on breaking down barriers to winter outdoor activities; Snow Days included our first snowshoe drive and compliments Defiende’s robust summer programming.
- As part of expanded advocacy efforts, Defiende organized 50 multigenerational Latinx people for Latino/a Advocacy Day at the state capital, meet with state representatives and advocated for environmental justice and land conservation. Defiende also led Western Colorado’s participation in a virtual national Latino Conservation Week in July 2020.
- New and expanded communications with the launch of a quarterly Defiende Newsletter, selected bilingual advocacy alerts, continued growth of the Defiende Facebook page, and stories in both local and national media outlets.



Sierra Jeter



Beatriz Soto



Alicia Zeringue

# Our Donors

Thank you to our generous community of supporters, business sponsors, and partners! Donors listed gave to Wilderness Workshop in the 2020 calendar year.

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To join the Maroon Bells Circle, make a planned gift, or with any other questions, please contact Philanthropy Director Emily Kay, [emily@wildernessworkshop.org](mailto:emily@wildernessworkshop.org).



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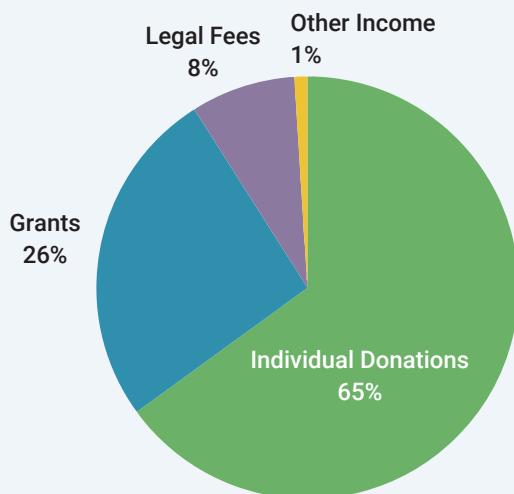
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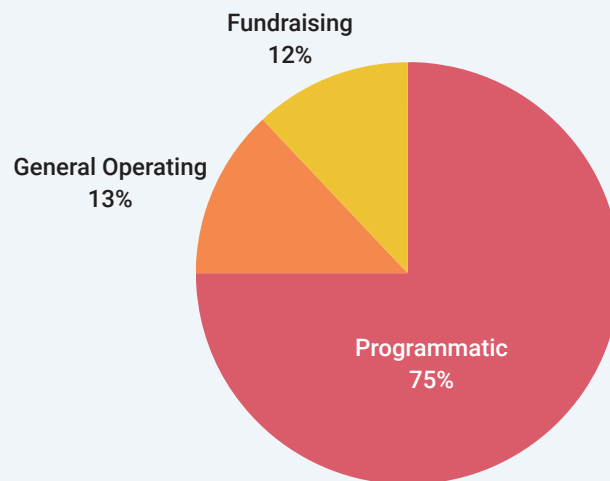
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[wildernessworkshop.org/join](http://wildernessworkshop.org/join).

## 2020 Income



## 2020 Expenses





## Board Member Spotlight Mary Dominick-Coomer



*Mary has been a long-time friend to Wilderness Workshop and a dedicated Board Member since 2004. You're certain to have seen Mary and her husband Sven at our events or out on the trails!*

### What sparked your interest in Wilderness Workshop?

My father taught my sisters and me Sunday school using Nature as a place of solace and where one could find the "great spirit." Consequently, Nature has always been a part of my life to honor and protect. After I moved to Aspen, Connie Harvey, one of the three "Maroon Belles" suggested I might be interested in the Workshop. I was because I knew that it not only protected wilderness and public lands but was proactive and invested in stewarding wildlands for the future.

### What is the most rewarding part of your role as a Board member?

Bringing me in contact with others who have a passion for being actively involved in protecting our land and nature as a whole; I find it very rewarding to be directly bringing the message and our goals to others. Fundraising with a purpose is one of my assets and I am fortunate to be acquainted with many of the longtime residents of the area.

### Looking ahead, what are you most excited for?

I am excited to see our staff grow in size and professional talents, bringing with them new and creative ideas. One of my projects which has widened our attraction to a diverse group has been the Artist in Wilderness program, which I look forward to resuming after the pandemic. I am thrilled to see the Workshop grow in partnership with other environment and climate-focused organizations.

### How does Wilderness Workshop make a difference in our community?

By attracting new members of many different backgrounds and ages; it is important to pass on the interests we carry to future generations. We must engage youth and energetic participation to ensure that our public lands, their biodiversity, and our climate are to be protected. The landscape and its character are what make our community unique, and the reason so many of us have a connection to these special places.

## Donor Spotlight John McBride



*You may know John and his wife Laurie from their decades of work to build community and protect the environment in the Roaring Fork Valley or as charming hosts at our annual benefit, Wild Feast.*

### Why is protecting public lands important?

Oh my gosh, because the land is so special. The land deserves it and the wildlife deserves it. We're incredibly blessed here.

### What's compelling about the work of Wilderness Workshop?

What's impressive to me is how caring you are as an organization – whether it's for our region's wilderness areas, the opens spaces, or the animals that inhabit them. You do an honor to those places and I really do hold you in high esteem and have for a very long time.

### What would you say to potential donors?

I'd encourage them to give because Wilderness Workshop is more important now than ever before. It's so important to protect these local places, for the people and the wildlife, and for future generations. Outside interests and money are destroying magnificent places and our community. I can't say it enough: the role this organization plays really is more important than ever before.

### Why is giving to Wilderness Workshop a priority to you?

For me, it's really a love of nature- I've grown up and spend a lot of time in nature and appreciate it in so many ways – whether it's in Vermont, in the countryside of Illinois, or eventually when I made my home in the Roaring Fork Valley. I spent my early years in Vail, then was hired to work at Snowmass, and have built my life here - protecting public lands has been a priority every step of the way. Wilderness Workshop and I think alike.



# Communities at the Heart of Climate Action

*"Communities at the Heart of Climate Action" is a new collaboration between Defiende Nuestra Tierra, The Wilderness Society, and others to share stories of individuals who are going above and beyond to tackle the Climate Crisis.*

*We're proud to share this piece, which features local leader Alex Sánchez of Basalt! Below is an excerpt – you can read the full piece online at [www.wildernessworkshop.org/defiende](http://www.wildernessworkshop.org/defiende)*

**Climate change led Alex Sánchez to the U.S. as a child. Now he dedicates his days to building the Latino community's power and quality of life.**

In Colorado, he became keenly aware of climate change and pollution around him. He noticed that communities of color were disproportionately burdened by the fossil fuel industry's unchecked

pollution and the resulting climate change impacts—including hotter days and smoke from nearby forest fires.

*"On the Western slope in Colorado, it's no secret where the pollution, bad water, and negative effects of industry ends up," he says. "It's next to communities that happen to be low income, that happen to be working families, that happen to be people of color."*

Looking to improve Latinos' quality of life, Sánchez became the first of his family to graduate from high school and obtained two college degrees. He eventually co-founded the organization Voces Unidas de las Montañas, a Latino-led and Latino-serving advocacy organization that ensures the community's voices are heard at all levels of government on issues including environment, health and immigration.

*En Español*

## Comunidades en el Corazón de la Acción Climática

*"Comunidades en el corazón de la acción climática" es una colaboración entre Defiende Nuestra Tierra y The Wilderness Society para compartir historias de personas que van más allá, con la finalidad de abordar la crisis climática. ¡Estamos orgullosos de presentar a nuestro líder local Alex Sánchez de Basalt!. A continuación, le mostramos una muestra de el artículo completo; lea el artículo completo en línea en [www.wildernessworkshop.org/defiende](http://www.wildernessworkshop.org/defiende)*

**El cambio climático contribuyó a la migración de Alex Sánchez a los Estados Unidos cuando aún era un niño. Ahora dedica sus días en construir poder y abogar por la calidad de vida de la comunidad latina.**

Viviendo ya en Colorado, Alex, se volvió muy consciente en cuanto al tema del cambio climático y la contaminación que rodeaba su comunidad. Notó que ciertas comunidades, sobretodo las de color estaban desproporcionadamente sobrecargadas por la contaminación descontrolada de la industria de los combustibles fósiles y a su vez a los impactos del cambio climático como efecto secundario de estas industrias, que incluyen días más calurosos de lo normal y el aire insalubre debido al humo de los incendios forestales cercanos.

"En el lado Oeste de Colorado, no es ningún secreto, que dónde terminan las contaminaciones, el agua en malas condiciones y los efectos negativos de esta misma, resulta ser donde terminan los límites de la

industria", y cita. "Está en el lado de las comunidades que resultan ser de bajos ingresos, que resultan ser familias trabajadoras, que resultan ser personas de color".

Con el objetivo de mejorar la calidad de vida de los latinos, Sánchez se convirtió en el primer miembro de su familia en graduarse de la preparatoria y obtener dos títulos universitarios. Con el tiempo, fundó y actualmente dirige a la organización de Voces Unidas de las Montañas, una organización de doogacia dirigida por latinos que se asegura de que las voces de la comunidad sean escuchadas en todos los niveles de gobierno sobre temas que incluyen el medio ambiente, la salud y la inmigración.

"IT WILL TAKE ALL OF US  
WORKING TOGETHER TO  
ENSURE THAT ALL OF OUR  
PUBLIC LANDS ARE ACCESSIBLE  
AND EQUITABLE FOR ALL OF US  
IN OUR COMMUNITY."





## Propuesta de Ley CORE

A finales de febrero del 2021, la propuesta de Ley CORE (Recreación al aire libre y economía de Colorado, CORE por sus siglas en inglés), que protegerá las Divisiones del Thompson y Continental, que es defendida por el representante Joe Neguse, fue aprobada por la Cámara de Representantes ¡Por tercera vez! Ahora está nuevamente en el Senado, donde los senadores a favor de la conservación Bennet y Hickenlooper están trabajando para avanzar esta propuesta. El Senado no es conocido por su rapidez, pero somos optimistas sobre las posibilidades del proyecto de ley en el 117º Congreso.



## Secretaría del Interior, Deb Haaland

La directora del Secretaría del Interior, Deb Haaland, de Nuevo México, fue recientemente nombrada por el presidente Biden. Ella es la primera nativa americana en servir en este importante puesto directivo, esto es tan histórico como emocionante. Haaland ha sido una fuerte aliada de las tierras públicas, como miembro del Comité de Recursos Naturales de la Cámara de Representantes, apoyando al proyecto 30x30, siendo defensora de la equidad dentro de las políticas climáticas, de conservación y la acción contra el cambio climático. Esperamos trabajar con la secretaria Haaland y las agencias del DOI para unir esfuerzos y restaurar la participación en el proceso público, mientras protegemos las tierras públicas de todos los estadounidenses.

## Nueva Administración, Nuevas Oportunidades

En su discurso inaugural, el presidente Biden dijo: "El grito de ayuda proviene del planeta mismo".

En la edición de invierno del 2020 de *Wild Works*, en nuestro artículo "Actualización de las elecciones" se describieron algunos de los cambios que esperábamos en función de las elecciones del 2020. Y nos complace informarle que nuestras predicciones iniciales con respecto al fin de la agenda de "dominio de la energía", en apoyo a la iniciativa 30x30 (conservando el 30% de las tierras y aguas de nuestra nación para 2030) y una nueva era en la Oficina de Administración de Tierras (BLM por sus siglas en inglés) estaban en lo correcto! A medida que nos acercamos al centésimo día a cargo del presidente Biden, nuestro entusiasmo sigue creciendo por las oportunidades que vemos con la nueva administración y el Congreso.

En su discurso inaugural, el presidente Biden dijo: "El grito de ayuda proviene del planeta mismo". Esta acertada evaluación lo llevó a emitir rápidamente una "Orden Ejecutiva (EO por sus siglas en inglés) para abordar la crisis climática, tanto al interior del país, como en el extranjero". Además de las políticas que piden a casi todas las agencias y departamentos del gobierno federal que pongan la crisis climática como prioridad, la Orden Ejecutiva pide el fin de los subsidios a los combustibles fósiles, así como la creación de un Cuerpo Civil para el Clima y se compromete a apoyar para la iniciativa 30x30.

Para nuestro trabajo aquí en Wilderness Workshop es de crítica importancia, la orden ejecutiva que ordenó al Departamento del Interior, de que se detengan todos los nuevos permisos de arrendamiento en tierras

públicas para la extracción de petróleo y gas, mientras el Departamento lleva a cabo una revisión y reconsideración integral del programa federal de petróleo y gas. A través de esta revisión, el Departamento del Interior considerará los impactos del arrendamiento y desarrollo de extracción de petróleo y gas en nuestro clima y otros recursos en tierras públicas.

Hemos estado instando al gobierno federal a modernizar su programa de arrendamiento de territorio público para la extracción de hidrocarburos durante años, y nos pusimos en acción de inmediato para brindar recomendaciones formales al Departamento del Interior para garantizar que la revisión incluya una evaluación integral de los problemas que han plagado el programa federal de extracción de gas y petróleo durante décadas y que a su vez promueve soluciones inteligentes. Los elementos clave de nuestras recomendaciones para la reforma del petróleo y el gas incluyen:

- Proteger los territorios intactos o las tierras silvestres, el hábitat de la vida silvestre, la recreación al aire libre y otros valores importantes de las tierras públicas sobre la extracción de petróleo y gas; cerrando la posibilidad de arrendamiento en estas áreas.
- Alinear las decisiones de permisos de extracción de hidrocarburos y arrendamiento del territorio público con los objetivos climáticos nacionales y globales, evaluar los impactos acumulativos del actual programa federal de extracción de petróleo y gas en base al cambio climático.



- Gestionar una rápida disminución de la producción de combustibles fósiles en tierras públicas, que sea equitativa, sostenible, y que revitalice las economías rurales.
- Cerrar las lagunas legales que permiten a la industria extractiva del petróleo y el gas la especulación en nuestras tierras públicas y mantener arrendamientos indefinidamente sin supervisión pública.
- Garantizar oportunidades de participación pública en todas las decisiones que afecten la gestión del petróleo y el gas en nuestras tierras públicas.

Si bien aún es temprano y tendremos mucho más para compartir en los próximos meses, incluidas las formas en las que puedes participar en nuestras diferentes campañas, estamos orgullosos de usar nuestra propia línea de productos "Yo amo mi madre tierra" que debutó en la última edición de *Wild Works*. ¿Quieres comprar algunos de los tuyos? Envíanos un correo electrónico a [beverly@wildernessworkshop.org](mailto:beverly@wildernessworkshop.org)

[wildernessworkshop.org](http://wildernessworkshop.org) o pasa por nuestra oficina en el Third Street Center de Carbondale.

En otra disposición clave, la Orden Ejecutiva deja en claro que la justicia ambiental es una prioridad importante, comprometiendo a la administración Biden-Harris a "asegurar la justicia ambiental y estimular las oportunidades económicas para las comunidades desfavorecidas que históricamente han sido marginadas y sobrecargadas por la contaminación y la subinversión". Para lograr esto, la Orden Ejecutiva establece dos Consejos de Justicia Ambiental de la Casa Blanca y ordena a todas las agencias federales que hagan el logro de la justicia ambiental parte de su misión.

Nos queda mucho trabajo por delante y tendremos que responsabilizar a la administración Biden-Harris de esta visión inspiradora establecida en la Orden Ejecutiva. Sin embargo, tenemos razones para ser optimistas: en abril, la directora de la Secretaría del Interior, Deb Haaland, emitió una orden que

implementa partes de la Orden Ejecutiva en el Departamento del Interior. La Orden de la Secretaría estableció una Fuerza de Trabajo sobre el Clima para implementar la revisión y reconsideración del programa federal de permisos para la extracción de petróleo y gas, identificando estrategias claves para reducir la contaminación climática y fomentar la revitalización económica de las comunidades que dependen de extracciones energéticas. La Orden de la Secretaría también instruye a las agencias para restaurar la integridad del proceso de la NEPA (La Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental por sus siglas en inglés) de tres formas importantes: analizando el impacto al cambio climático; involucrar a las comunidades indígenas y afectadas por la injusticia ambiental; y eliminar la aplicación rebajada de NEPA que utilizaba la administración de Trump.

Aún es temprano y tendremos mucho más que compartir en los próximos meses, estén atentos a las reformas y a los apoyos de este progreso crítico para nuestro país.

## Caras Nuevas a Wilderness Workshop



¡Bienvenida a nuestra nueva miembro del comité directivo, **Elizabeth Velasco**! Liz es nacida en México y ha vivido en Colorado por más de 18 años, donde ha trabajado con diversos equipos durante su tiempo como administradora del Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch. Después de un año en Suiza, regresó a Colorado para trabajar con la comunidad latina oeste del estado, primero con el distrito escolar local y luego como intérprete médica durante más de 7 años. Su trabajo se ha expandido para incluir a la interpretación comunitaria, traducción, doblaje y consultoría. Liz también es miembro del comité directivo de Young Latino Philanthropists, es profesora en Colorado Mountain College y una de las líderes de Voces Unidas de las Montañas donde ha apoyado las clínicas de vacunas equitativas. Ella encuentra inspiración, descanso y relajación al acampar y recrearse en nuestras hermosas tierras públicas.



¡Una cálida bienvenida a **Beverly Patera**, nuestra nueva Gerente de Operaciones! Beverly trae consigo una sólida experiencia en finanzas y administración en sistemas, así como un amor innato por el aire libre. Con una licenciatura en administración de empresas y en marketing de la Universidad Estatal de Valdosta, Beverly dedicó un enfoque que suma a las operaciones de pequeñas empresas y ha aplicado esos principios a lo largo de su carrera administrando restaurantes, empresas familiares y organizaciones sin fines de lucro. Nacida y criada en South Lake Tahoe y residente de Carbondale desde 2013, Beverly disfruta sumergirse en los hermosos paisajes de nuestra área, ya sea a través de caminatas, esquí, ciclismo o rafting con su esposo y su hija pequeña.



## En Breve

*Casi por imprimirse, aquí está lo último sobre algunos de nuestros proyectos en curso:*

**Plan administrativo de Árboles Aspen** - En febrero, el Bosque Nacional Río Blanco publicó un Plan administrativo de Árboles Aspen, donde se propuso la tala y quema de 375,000 acres de hábitat de álamo temblón comúnmente conocido como Aspen, en todo el bosque, durante las próximas décadas. Nuestro equipo analizó el proyecto y determinó que no cumple con la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental (NEPA), que requiere un análisis específico del sitio y oportunidades para la conversación pública sobre las ubicaciones y plazos específicos para las actividades de manejo forestal. Le pedimos al Servicio Forestal que pausara este proyecto hasta que la ciencia climática muestre que este tipo de manejo de álamos hará que nuestros bosques sean más resistentes frente al cambio climático. En cuyo caso, esperaríamos un análisis ambiental integral y la oportunidad para la participación pública en las decisiones específicas de las ubicaciones para este proyecto.

Además, el Servicio Forestal debe analizar los impactos en nuestro clima en proyectos como este, que a su vez es una prioridad para la administración de Biden-Harris. Logramos convocar a nuestros miembros para que presentaran más de 275 comentarios en oposición, destacando las preocupaciones descritas anteriormente junto con la oposición de la propuesta de construir nuevas carreteras en estas áreas, donde estudios nos indican que existen impactos potenciales en las muchas cuevas características dentro del área del

proyecto donde es hábitat única para la vida silvestre, tal y como el Lince.

**Buck Berlaimont:** Después de una reunión de resolución de objeciones sobre la EIS; un proceso para determinar qué tan viable es un proyecto, al final de enero, donde los miembros de la comunidad y Wilderness Workshop nuevamente plantearon preocupaciones sobre el hábitat de la vida silvestre, se ordenó al personal del Servicio Forestal que realizará un análisis adicional y abordará nuestras inquietudes antes de tomar una decisión final. Con la nueva administración, no está claro cuándo sabremos el destino final de esta propuesta de construir una carretera pavimentada a través del hábitat vitalmente crítico para alojar 19 nuevas mansiones en 680 acres en medio del Bosque Nacional Río Blanco. Hasta la fecha la propuesta ha sido y continúa siendo profundamente impopular, seguimos comprometidos con la comunidad y trabajando para detener este proyecto.

**Actualizaciones legales:** hemos estado ocupados en los tribunales protegiendo nuestras tierras públicas y nuestro clima, del desarrollo desenfrenado de la extracción de petróleo y gas. En abril, nos unimos a una coalición de diversas organizaciones sin fines de lucro para intervenir en defensa de la pausa de la administración Biden-Harris sobre los arrendamientos federales de extracción de hidrocarburos en espera de la revisión integral del programa por parte del Departamento del Interior. Con esta acción, la coalición busca defender la pausa de arrendamiento contra dos demandas presentadas por

el estado de Wyoming y Western Energy Alliance. La pausa es un primer paso legal y necesario para una revisión largamente esperada del programa federal de concesión y arrendamiento del territorio público para la extracción de petróleo y gas.

A principios de este año, los tribunales federales resolvieron nuestros desafíos legales a los planes de BLM (Oficina de Administración del Territorio por sus siglas en inglés) acerca del arrendamiento del territorio para la extracción de petróleo y gas en la oficina de Grand Junction, despejando el camino para que el BLM re-analice los planes de administración de territorio local que cubren más de 2 millones de acres de tierras públicas en el oeste de Colorado. Anteriormente los planes del BLM habían priorizado la producción de combustibles fósiles sobre todos los demás valores en nuestras tierras públicas, y ahora la agencia volverá a la mesa de trabajo para considerar una gestión más equilibrada del territorio. Los nuevos planes se desarrollarán con la participación del público, ¡y le pediremos su ayuda!



**Es fácil unirse a nuestra lista de correo electrónico: simplemente vaya**

**a [www.wildernessworkshop.org](http://www.wildernessworkshop.org), desplácese hacia abajo hasta la parte inferior de la página web y verá un banner que dice "Reciba actualizaciones por correo electrónico de Wilderness Workshop - Regístrese aquí."**



# Coaliciones y Colaboraciones

¡Wilderness Workshop siempre está buscando oportunidades para elevar nuestro perfil y aprovechar el impacto del trabajo; que hacemos la colaboración y la asociación son piezas clave del esfuerzo que hacemos para proteger nuestras tierras públicas! En un día cualquiera nos encontrará en reuniones con el Servicio Forestal, La Oficina de Administración del Territorio y otras organizaciones sin fines de lucro sobre proyectos del manejo de nuestras tierras públicas, invitando a representantes locales a la Semana de Abogacía Latina o reclutando voces estatales y nacionales para aportar experiencia y capacidad adicional a nuestras prioridades locales.

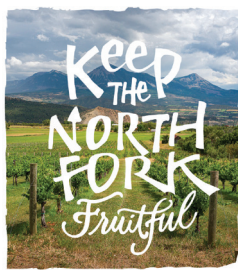
Nuestra participación en una variedad de coaliciones informa y beneficia nuestro trabajo y, en muchos casos, el personal de WW asume roles de liderazgo dentro de estos grupos, actuando como coordinadores o conectores. La frase "Sabe con quién debería hablar ..." es común en muchas de nuestras reuniones! Si bien es posible que esté familiarizado con nuestro liderazgo en coaliciones para proteger la División Thompson o aprobar la Ley CORE, a continuación hemos destacado algunas de las otras coaliciones de las que formamos parte, en qué están trabajando y cómo nos ayudan a lograr nuestra misión.

Estas son solo algunas: somos parte de muchos otros grupos, tanto formales como informales, sobre propuestas legislativas, posibles litigios, esfuerzos de restauración del hábitat de la vida silvestre y mucho más. Nuestros miembros a menudo participan en algunas de estas mismas coaliciones y ayudan a identificar oportunidades de colaboración. ¡No dude en comunicarse si desea llamar nuestra atención sobre un grupo!



## Colaborativo entre los pueblos, las tierras públicas y el cambio climático

"El Colaborativo", lanzado formalmente en febrero de 2021, es una red informal de organizaciones a lo largo del país que creen en la importancia de un plan climático para las tierras públicas. Su objetivo es garantizar que las tierras públicas sean parte de una solución justa y equitativa de mitigación y adaptación al cambio climático. Estamos orgullosos de unirnos a "El Colaborativo" en su primer llamado a la acción, pidiendo al Senado que confirme a Deb Haaland como Directora de la Secretaría del Interior.



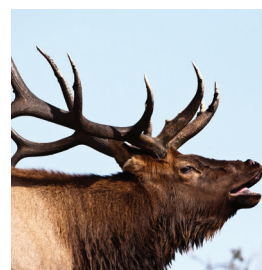
## Mantenga el North Fork fructífero

El valle de North Fork ha sido una región agrícola y minera de extracción de carbón, estrechamente vinculada a los ciclos de auge y caída de la industria del carbón. En los últimos años, se ha diversificado económicamente con éxito con el agroturismo, las energías renovables, la recreación al aire libre y otros negocios locales. Esta coalición comprende una amplia gama de personas que trabajan para desarrollar soluciones impulsadas por la comunidad que aprovechan las oportunidades económicas sostenibles, donde fomentan una transición justa, lejos de las industrias extractivas y que protegen el medio ambiente.



## Los siguientes 100, Capítulo de Colorado

Nuestro programa "Defiende Nuestra Tierra" es miembro de "Next 100 Coalition", que está comprometida con el establecimiento de un sistema de parques y tierras públicas justo e inclusivo. La Coalición cree que un enfoque inclusivo para la gestión y protección de las tierras públicas durante los próximos 100 años debe estar impulsado por tres principios: Reflejar los rostros de nuestro país, respetar todas las culturas e involucrar activamente a todas las personas. Next 100 Colorado está trabajando en una política estatal de equidad al aire libre, entre otros proyectos.



## Mesa Redonda de Vida Silvestre del Condado de Eagle

La Mesa Redonda se formó en respuesta a una caída abrupta de varias poblaciones de vida silvestre en la región del valle de Eagle y para "identificar una visión compartida y acciones realistas para proteger la vida silvestre regional". Participamos como parte de nuestros esfuerzos para abogar por políticas y acciones favorables a la vida silvestre en tierras públicas federales. La Mesa Redonda es un gran ejemplo de una comunidad que reconoce los impactos del desarrollo, la recreación en áreas protegidas para la vida silvestre y la necesidad de acciones colaborativas.



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## SAVE THE DATES



August 12, Thursday

### Wild Feast

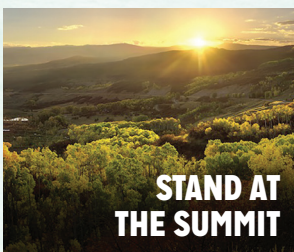
Our largest annual benefit. Delicious cuisine and libations in the Hotel Jerome Courtyard. Awards, amusing auction items, and a few surprises. Your best chance to see Executive Director Will Roush in a suit. To purchase tickets contact [Emily@wildernessworkshop.org](mailto:Emily@wildernessworkshop.org).



September 24, Friday

### Community Party

Celebrating YOU - our fabulous members and supporters! Sopris Park in Carbondale. Music and dancing for the adults, a bounce house for the kiddos. Beer, not-beer, and lots of food. "I Heart Public Lands" swag in abundance. Bring everyone you know.



September 30, Thursday

### Stand at the Summit

The Roaring Fork & North Fork Valleys, united for public lands. On top of McClure Pass. Local food and drink galore. Camping chairs & comfy blankets strongly encouraged. No tickets required, just advocacy and enthusiasm.

