

# THE TIME IS



# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Together, we are expanding our efforts, sharpening our focus, and implementing policy changes that protect our communities and wild places.



Thirty-five years ago, a conversation between friends sparked an ambitious idea — providing tools and legal support to help people protect the environment. From those humble roots, Western Resource Advocates (WRA) has grown into a powerful voice for conservation across the Interior West.

Over 10 years ago, shortly after I joined WRA, we witnessed a turning point for global climate action: the adoption of the Paris Agreement. Its goal to limit climate warming requires coordinated efforts, global commitments, and innovative policy solutions. And I'm proud WRA rose to the challenge. We stayed true to our core principles while exponentially expanding our efforts, sharpening our focus, and implementing policy changes that protect communities and wild places.

**Our focus on state-level action is key to our success.**

By bringing scientific, policy, and legal expertise to the places where decisions are made, we ensure

Above: Flowers bloom near the Flatirons in Boulder, Colorado.

state and local decision makers understand the urgency and practicality of forward-thinking environmental policy.

This year, as the U.S. withdraws from the Paris Agreement, our commitment to effective state action has never been more important. More intense drought, wildfires, and extreme weather continue to underscore the urgency of our work. But I remain hopeful because our talented team and our strategic plan, *For Home, For Nature*, confront these threats with determination, resources, and a clear vision to avert the worst impacts of climate change. Throughout my time with WRA, we've evolved to meet growing challenges, and three transformative moments remind me how far we've come.

**We renewed our commitment to land protection** by rebuilding our lands team, expanding efforts to prevent biodiversity loss, safeguard natural landscapes from development, and secure critical conservation funding. This work unites diverse partners around policies that preserve the West's unique landscapes and habitats.

**We created and invested in a tangible, data-driven plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions**, an initiative we call the Climate Fix. Our bold goal to reduce carbon pollution attracted significant support from individuals and foundations alike, demonstrating that when you have an ambitious goal and clear strategy, momentum builds quickly. WRA supporters have demonstrated their eagerness to back a plan that tackles big problems and realizes real results.

**We diversified our funding streams** and continue building internal capacity across all WRA programs to deliver results more effectively. While a single multiyear grant once felt monumental, we now have many long-term supporters investing in our critical work to fight climate change and its impacts. Each new staff member and supporter broadens our collective reach and amplifies our impact, helping us craft stronger plans and develop solutions that benefit people and nature alike.

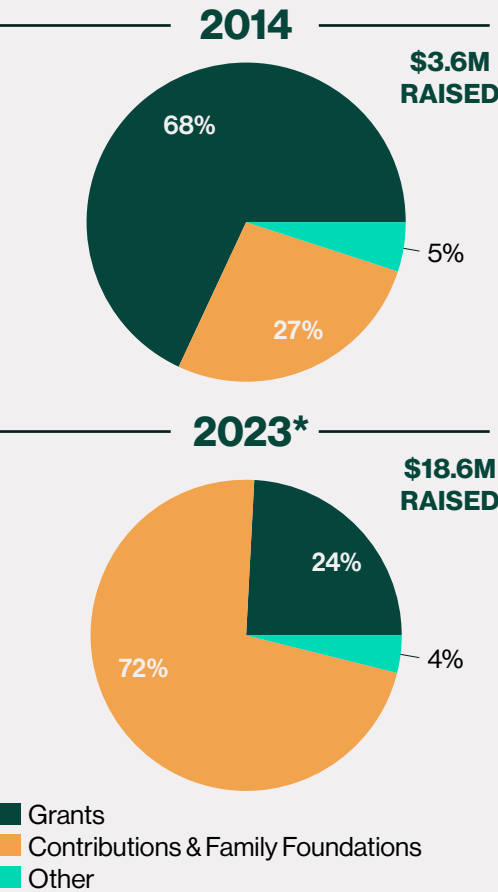
In this report you'll see how each success — from securing historic conservation financing to advancing comprehensive climate legislation — moves us closer to our *For Home, For Nature* goals. It's a testament to what happens when communities, advocates, and experts come together with a shared commitment to protecting the West we love. And it's just the beginning.

**With your support, WRA will continue to evolve, adapt, and strive for the ambitious changes that are necessary to safeguard our home — now and for generations to come.**

JON GOLDIN-DUBOIS | PRESIDENT

## A Decade of Growth

Diversified funding enhances our resilience while providing financial stability and flexibility to power our mission.



\*View the most recent audited financials on our website.



# Sustained 80% of Colorado's wildlife

by passing a state-level clean water act that restores critical safeguards for wetlands

# Eliminated the \$29M cap

on sports betting revenues, guaranteeing extra funding goes to the Colorado Water Conservation Board by supporting Proposition JJ

Transformed how Coloradans heat homes and businesses through Xcel Energy's Clean Heat Plan

# Held oil and gas accountable in Colorado through a new production fee that will protect lands and create new state parks

Joined forces with six other conservation groups across Colorado River Basin states to protect the river and ecosystems that sustain the West

# Saved Nevada families over \$300 per year on their energy bills by preventing a proposed rate increase

# Over 780

stream miles were protected across the West in 2024

# \$300M

investment secured in recurring annual funding to protect New Mexico's land and water through the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund

# 25 legislative bills

were passed to protect the environment, economy, and people in New Mexico, Nevada, and Colorado

A YEAR IN REVIEW



*The sun rises over the White Sands  
National Park in New Mexico.*



# WHY LAND CONSERVATION STARTS WITH FUNDING



In 2022, the Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak Fire burned over 340,000 acres in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, showing just how vulnerable New Mexico's lands have become. This disastrous blaze — the largest in the state's history — devastated forests, watersheds, and wildlife habitat.

Climate change is intensifying droughts and wildfires, and new development is chipping away at wild spaces across the West. But until recently, state agencies in New Mexico relied on sporadic or one-time appropriations to protect natural landscapes and cultural heritage sites. Gaps in funding, sometimes lasting years, caused the state to miss out on federal grants that required matching funds.

In 2023, after years of advocacy and coalition building championed by WRA, New Mexico established the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, its first permanent and dedicated source of conservation funding. This \$100 million investment was a critical first step, but WRA knew it fell short of providing the long-term resources needed to meet growing and complex conservation needs across the state.

In 2024, New Mexico expanded its commitment with a historic \$300 million investment to the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund.

The funding will support broad conservation efforts in all 33 counties and Tribal communities across the state, providing a lifeline for land and water conservation, and outdoor equity initiatives.

*Water flows through the Rio Chama River Valley in New Mexico.*

**WRA built a diverse coalition of organizations that worked closely with the governor's office and state agencies to develop the legislation.**

The Legacy Fund strengthens programs that protect New Mexico's natural and cultural resources. This includes efforts to conserve land and water, restore forests and watersheds, improve outdoor recreation opportunities, support agriculture and working lands, preserve historic sites, and protect wildlife. Additionally, the fund will boost New Mexico's growing \$3.2 billion outdoor industry by creating jobs, expanding access to outdoor recreation, and supporting rural and agricultural communities. The funding also opens the door for state agencies to apply for federal grants, with every \$1 from the Legacy Fund potentially attracting \$3 to \$4 in additional funding.

Later this year, the Legacy Fund will begin distributing \$12.5 million annually to existing state conservation programs, supporting initiatives like forest health, outdoor recreation infrastructure, and water conservation. These investments will protect the people, wildlife, economy, and cultural heritage of New Mexico.



**WE MUST  
SECURE  
FUNDING TO  
PROTECT  
WHAT'S LEFT  
BEFORE IT'S  
TOO LATE.**



When it comes to conservation funding mechanisms like the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, New Mexico's northern neighbor faces a strikingly different reality.

**Nearly one-third of Colorado's lands have already been altered by human development and only 10% of its lands are permanently protected.**

Research conducted by The Nature Conservancy shows that 51% — 33.9 million acres — of Colorado's highly valuable land base is still intact — natural areas that are essential to wildlife and biodiversity in a changing climate. Of these remaining highly valuable lands, 8.75 million acres — approximately 13% of the state — are both under threat by new development and completely unprotected.

WRA knows one of the most effective ways to fight climate change and safeguard wildlife and biodiversity is to enact policies and secure funding that protect high-value, at-risk lands from development like oil and gas production and urban sprawl. Without sufficient policies and funding sources, Colorado's natural spaces will continue to rapidly shrink.

The negative impacts of oil and gas development include greenhouse gas emissions, pollutants that cause poor air quality, and the destruction and disturbance of natural areas and wildlife. Colorado incurs significant costs addressing these adverse and long-lasting impacts. Holding oil and gas companies financially accountable for the damage they cause reinforces the principle that those who are responsible for the harm to the environment should also fund its restoration.

**33.9M acres of Colorado's highly valuable land base are still intact.**

WRA was the driving force behind drafting and advocating for legislation that created a fee on oil and gas production in the state in 2024. The bill will take effect in the summer of 2025 and is expected to generate as much as \$50 million annually for Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

This revenue will allow the state to partially remediate the environmental harm caused by oil and gas production by making landmark investments in conservation. Funds will be used to create new state parks and wildlife areas, slow biodiversity loss and improve ecosystem resilience, improve wildlife connectivity and migration corridors, and restore lands to compensate for those lost to oil and gas development.

Across the West, land conservation depends on funding. New Mexico's Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund is a forward-thinking investment that

will help ensure that irreplaceable land and water resources are protected. This landmark win shows what's possible when strategic advocacy, political will, and diverse coalitions come together to prioritize natural and cultural treasures. By holding oil and gas companies accountable, Colorado took a critical step toward securing lasting conservation funding, but its land remains exposed to development and the impacts of climate change.

**The solution is clear: secure conservation funding before it's too late.**

*A herd of pronghorn migrate through New Mexico.*

**Only 10%**

**of Colorado's lands are permanently protected from development like oil and gas.**



We know what's at stake, and we're not stopping with these recent achievements. WRA is committed to protecting the landscapes and wildlife habitat that define the West. Together, with state decision makers, local leaders, and supporters like you, we can ensure a future where these natural spaces endure for generations to come.





A view of Denver, Colorado, from  
the foothills.



# WRA IS DRIVING **CLEAN** **HEATING** FOR OUR **HOMES** AND **BUSINESSES**



*It's important to us to lower our carbon footprint while contributing to our region's climate goals. We're very happy with our recent switch to electric heat pumps for both our home's space and water heating — and proud to support WRA because they're making climate-friendly solutions like these more accessible to everyone.*

**Cristy Godwin and Bob Walker**

Denver, Colorado | WRA supporters since 2020



When global forces pushed gas prices sky-high in the winter of 2022-2023, many Coloradans saw their heating bills double and triple overnight. That season showed how exposed we are when relying on methane gas for space and water heating: prices can fluctuate unpredictably, homes and businesses feel the strain, and greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels continue to threaten our climate. Thankfully Colorado was already planning for a cleaner, more affordable way forward.

Recognizing buildings as a top contributor to climate warming emissions, WRA helped pass a pivotal 2021 law requiring Colorado’s gas utilities to file comprehensive Clean Heat Plans. These plans must include measurable activities to cut emissions directly linked to gas use in buildings. Over the ensuing years, WRA engaged in rulemaking with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission and Air Pollution Control Division to implement the legislation in a robust and enforceable manner that would drive deep, cost-effective emission reductions.

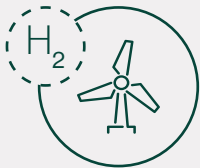
When Xcel Energy, the state’s largest utility, submitted its inaugural Clean Heat Plan in August 2023, it proposed continued reliance on a variety of measures: energy efficiency, electrification, recovered methane, and green hydrogen, as well as investments in ineligible resources like certified gas and carbon offsets, which, at WRA’s urging, the Commission rejected.

WRA and our partners responded with detailed expert testimony. We made it clear that real pollution reductions will only come from reducing the combustion of fossil fuels in homes and businesses.

Our modeling showed that switching to electric heat pumps — especially as Colorado’s power grid continues adding wind and solar — could deliver as much as 80% of the needed emissions cuts. We also demonstrated that unpredictable gas prices make electrification and efficiency far more appealing for consumers, and that these strategies bring important air quality and public health benefits.

SWITCHING TO  
ELECTRIC HEAT  
PUMPS COULD  
DELIVER AS  
MUCH AS 80%  
OF THE NEEDED  
EMISSIONS  
CUTS.

Energy Terminology



**Green hydrogen** is made by splitting water and oxygen with electricity from renewable sources, such as solar or wind power.



**Certified natural gas** is reviewed by a third party that claims certain sources of fuel are produced in a way that is less harmful to the environment than standard gas production.



**Recovered methane** is gas captured from sources like landfills, wastewater treatment, or livestock waste that is later used as a fuel source.

*The Clean Heat legislation doesn’t let utilities invest in unproven measures like certified natural gas. WRA opposed the use of these methods because their effectiveness is unclear, and it would have diverted funding away from established clean energy measures.*



Roughly **two out of three** buildings in the Interior West still use fossil gas for cooking, heating water, or space heating, making rapid electrification both critical for the state’s climate strategy and an opportunity to protect residents from the volatile gas market.

After considering our testimony, analyses, and legal arguments, the Commission approved Xcel Energy’s revised landmark Clean Heat Plan in June 2024. The utility is now authorized to invest up to \$440 million to shrink customers’ reliance on fossil fuels.

The primary measures to meet these goals include promoting electric heat pumps and ramping up energy efficiency through building weatherization and smart upgrades. The Commission limited investment in uncertain technologies like hydrogen, deeming it too expensive, and restricted the utility to spending just \$10 million on recovered methane.

By focusing more heavily on proven strategies, the state expects this plan to prevent over 860,000 tons of climate pollution annually by 2027 — the equivalent of taking 160,000 cars off the road for an entire year.

Throughout the proceedings, WRA advocated for a Clean Heat Plan that prioritized low-income households by ensuring a portion of the program funds would go directly to rebates and support for home upgrades. State regulators agreed, designating at least \$88 million of the funding for low-income communities, a move that helps ensure those who can least afford heating costs aren’t left behind. The Commission also supported on-bill financing — an approach WRA endorsed — that lets customers pay for energy-efficient appliances and weatherization gradually through their monthly utility bill, rather than facing large, upfront costs.

**While this marks a critical win for WRA — and for Colorado — it also signals a much broader opportunity. If a major utility can pivot away from decades of fossil gas use without undercutting reliability or affordability, other states across the Interior West and beyond will take note.**

Over the next several years, WRA and policymakers will be watching to see how quickly Coloradans adopt heat pumps, how effectively low-income households tap into rebates, and whether the construction and HVAC industries ramp up a new workforce skilled in installing and maintaining electric heating systems.

In the meantime, WRA will continue pushing for robust implementation and accountability across the state. We will monitor Xcel’s progress to ensure its Clean Heat Plan delivers on its promises — both in reducing emissions and providing real consumer benefits — and we

will remain actively involved in utility rate cases, infrastructure proposals, and future rulemaking to ensure we continue to make progress in the transition away from methane gas.

Our work in Colorado shows that building electrification and strategic energy efficiency can deliver reliable, affordable heat while slashing climate pollution. WRA is using this same research

and model to advance building decarbonization policy in other states across our region.

Your support allows WRA to develop innovative policy solutions like clean heat, and helps utilities across the region embrace electrification and efficiency. That means a cleaner, healthier future not just for Coloradans, but for families and businesses across the West.



A person adjusts a smart thermostat.





Derrick Kosea is a member of the Navajo Nation, an engineering student, and a landscape photographer living in the Four Corners region of New Mexico. He enjoys sharing his perspective through the lens with others. This work is titled *Bisti Badlands: View of the Milky Way*.

Instagram: @d\_kosea\_kaptures; koseakaptures.com

1989

Land and Water Fund of the Rockies was founded, and later became Western Resource Advocates in 2003.

3

Assisted in creating the first conservation pool that designates how much water to release when the Rio Grande's water levels are dangerously low. (2002)

6



Persuaded federal government to withdraw oil and gas leases in Utah's Manti-La Sal National Forest, providing crucial habitat and water resources. (2006)

8

Protected over 140,000 acres in Utah's Uinta National Forest from oil and gas leasing and development. The vast undeveloped area provides wildlife habitat, fisheries, and drinking water. (2011)

1

Helped stop Public Service of New Mexico from building a 50-mile transmission line over the Jemez mountains in 1996 that threatened endangered species, unique landscapes, and Indigenous religious sites.



4

Helped prevent a 400,000 acre-feet water diversion from Great Salt Lake, Utah Lake, and Jordan River watersheds. (2005)

7

Crafted an innovative water rights formula that safeguards important habitat in Colorado's Dominguez Canyon Wilderness area by assuring water flows through the sandstone canyons. (2008)

9

Convinced Utah to require water monitoring and comply with federal air quality regulations as a condition for PR Springs Mine to proceed processing tar sands. (2015)

10

Helped secure Lake Mead water levels by gaining support from Arizona stakeholders for options that avoid shortages and will cut usage by 1.2 million acre-feet. (2016)

2

Secured a 650% increase in Utah's annual funding for PacifiCorp's new energy efficiency programs. (2001)

5

Won precedent-setting case blocking water cuts for the Gunnison National Park's Black Canyon, prohibiting federal agencies from withdrawing water at resource-drying levels. (2006)



11

An executive order signed by Colorado's governor set limits on greenhouse gas emissions, both statewide (26% by 2025) and for power plants (35% by 2030). (2017)

0%

13

Xcel Energy becomes the first major utility in the Interior West committed to becoming carbon-free by 2050. (2018)

14



Assisted in crafting Nevada's Ballot Question 6 that was approved by voters. It requires NV Energy's system to be 50% renewable by 2030. (2018)

16



WRA was instrumental in developing and passing 2019 legislation that boosts Nevada's Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50% by 2030, with a goal of producing electricity from zero-carbon emission resources by 2050. (2019)

12

NV Energy retired its Reid Gardner 4 coal plant. WRA and partners advocated for the closure and acquisition of the Techren Solar Project. (2017)

15



Worked to pass the 2019 Climate Action Plan, which placed Colorado among the top states fighting climate change.

17

Helped Nevada develop legislation to create one of the most conservation-oriented state offices of outdoor recreation in the country. (2019)

18

Aided in passing New Mexico's nation-leading Energy Transition Act that required utilities to produce 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050 to boost renewable energy and help diversify the economy in Four Corners. (2019)





# 35 MILESTONES FOR 35 YEARS OF CLIMATE ACTION.

WRA has grown into a powerful voice for conservation across the Interior West. For 35 years, WRA has worked with decision makers, partners, and supporters to fight climate change in the West. If our history has taught us anything, it's that now is always the time to act boldly, with urgency and determination. These 35 milestones reflect key achievements that continue to shape our work and drive us forward.

19

WRA was integral in securing emission reduction commitments from Arizona utilities. Tucson Electric Power and Arizona Public Service committed to exit all coal by 2032, increase renewables, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. (2019)

20

Helped pass an Arizona law that assists individual water users voluntarily use less river water on their property through efficiency and conservation measures without facing the risk of losing water rights. (2021)

21

Secured an Arizona Corporation Commission order directing Arizona Public Service and Tucson Electric Power to file Transportation Electrification Plans. (2021)

22

Persuaded Colorado to become a national leader in fighting climate change by developing model legislation that addresses emissions from the building sector, which requires gas utilities to file Clean Heat Plans. (2021)

23

Advanced the Nevada Clean Energy Transition bill to drive investment in green technologies that help the state achieve its carbon reduction and clean energy goals. (2021)

24

Nevada becomes second Interior West state and 15<sup>th</sup> in U.S. to adopt a zero-emission vehicle standard. (2021)

25

WRA helped secure an executive order by New Mexico's governor to protect at least 30% of all lands by 2030. (2021)

26

Instrumental in protecting 1 million acres of watersheds in New Mexico through Outstanding National Resource Waters designations. (2022)

27

Secured conservation funding for the expansion of New Mexico's Marquez Wildlife Area, now the largest state wildlife area in the southwest. (2022)

28

The Colorado Air Quality Control Commission approved the Advanced Clean Trucks rule, establishing sales requirements for zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty trucks. (2023)

29

In Nevada, we worked to create and pass Assembly Bill 184, establishing the Nevada Clean Trucks and Buses Incentive Program. (2023)

30

The New Mexico Strategic Water Reserve was created through bipartisan support in 2005 as a publicly held pool of water rights, receiving a \$7.5 million budget appropriation in 2023.

31

Advocated for the first permanent and largest land conservation investment in New Mexico's state history — \$350 million for the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund. (2023)

32

New Mexico adopted Advanced Clean Cars II, Advanced Clean Trucks, and Heavy-Duty Low NOx standards. (2023)

33

Xcel Energy's Clean Heat Plan was approved by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. (2024)

34

Colorado voters pass the Renewable Energy Standard to become the first state to require utilities to transition to renewable energy sources. (2004)

35

Drafted legislation that created a fee on Colorado's oil and gas production, expected to generate up to \$50 million annually for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. (2024)

2025

Special thanks to our 2024 sponsors that help make our work possible: FirstBank Holding Co., Denver Water, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Torch Clean Energy, and SCARPA North America. Their generous support helps us fight climate change and its impacts. **Learn how your business can join them!**

1M  
ACRES  
PROTECTED

2025

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*A waterfall spills over a desert cliff in the  
Havasupai Indian Reservation.*

# SECURING THE **FUTURE** FOR A **HEALTHY** **COLORADO RIVER**



*Those involved in today's discussions must recognize the system's modern limitations and soften historical hardline positions to ensure that the river remains sustainable into the next century. And they must act now.*

**Tom Wilmoth**  
Nederland, Colorado | WRA supporter since 2023





A western ironweed bush blooms.

WRA has spent decades developing innovative policy solutions and advocating for the Colorado River and the communities, fish, and wildlife that depend on it. Today, we're at a critical moment in history. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is creating new guidelines for managing the river's dwindling water. Determined to find deployable solutions, WRA joined forces with six other conservation groups to draw on the latest science, computer modeling, and real-world insights to develop the Cooperative Conservation Alternative. This proposal offers a roadmap for protecting the river and all that depends on it.

The river is a living system with seasonal flows, fragile habitats, fish and wildlife that depend on adequate water — and real limits. That's why WRA isn't just addressing what's happening now, we're looking decades into the future.

This year, the stakes for the Colorado River couldn't be higher.

The current rules governing how water shortages are handled expire at the end of the year, forcing a reevaluation of how the river is managed. The Bureau of Reclamation is sifting through alternative proposals, including the Cooperative Conservation Alternative, with the intent to develop new guidelines that address water shortages, manage releases from the nation's two largest reservoirs, and build resilience to drought and climate change.

WRA is focused on a suite of strategies to protect river health, prioritize reservoir operations that anticipate drought conditions, and encourage innovative conservation methods. Our team of experts transformed years of research and findings into actionable policy recommendations that could stabilize the river for years to come.

### Protecting a Living River

The Colorado River is a living system with real limits. WRA is advocating for policies that protect the health of the river we all depend on.



Adopting **innovative water conservation measures** that allow saved water to be moved within the Colorado River Basin to benefit river health.



Protecting wildlife habitat by **timing reservoir releases** to maintain healthy river flows.



Getting ahead of water shortages by **considering factors like river flows and reservoir storage** when determining how much water we can use.

IT'S TIME TO  
WRITE THE  
COLORADO  
RIVER'S  
NEXT ACT —  
TOGETHER AND  
WITH HASTE.



Early agreements doled out the river's water without considering the health of the environment, and without a plan to deal with inevitable and increasingly frequent shortages. Short-term deals to address the water crisis didn't hold up for long. Under the strain of a hotter, drier climate, even less water will be available in coming decades. We need to reduce water use by at least 25% across the basin to bring the river back into balance. Without bold, cohesive management strategies, the Colorado River risks continued reservoir declines, significant economic and community impacts, and ecological collapse.

The Colorado River is the lifeblood of the Interior West, supporting the daily lives of 35 million people, irrigating farms that feed the nation, and fueling a robust recreation economy. Its future depends on our ability to implement equitable and forward-thinking strategies to conserve water and keep the river healthy and flowing.

**Building upon years of research, rigorous data analysis, and policy expertise, WRA is a leader in rethinking how to manage the Colorado River — in a way that benefits both people and ecosystems.**

WRA is focused on three strategies for river management: protecting wildlife habitat, proactively managing reservoirs, and adopting innovative water savings programs.

First, the West depends on a healthy Colorado River. At WRA, we're advocating for policies that protect the ecosystems we, and other species, all rely on. This includes timing reservoir releases to maximize ecological benefits, including meeting recommended flows for endangered fish, which also has benefits for recreational boating.

Second, instead of waiting for the river's major reservoirs — Lake Mead and Lake Powell — to reach emergency levels, WRA proposes adjusting water deliveries based on the best available data like basin-wide reservoir storage and actual river flows. This proactive approach helps stabilize reservoir levels and limit drastic

last-minute cuts, while supporting habitat management for endangered fish and wildlife.

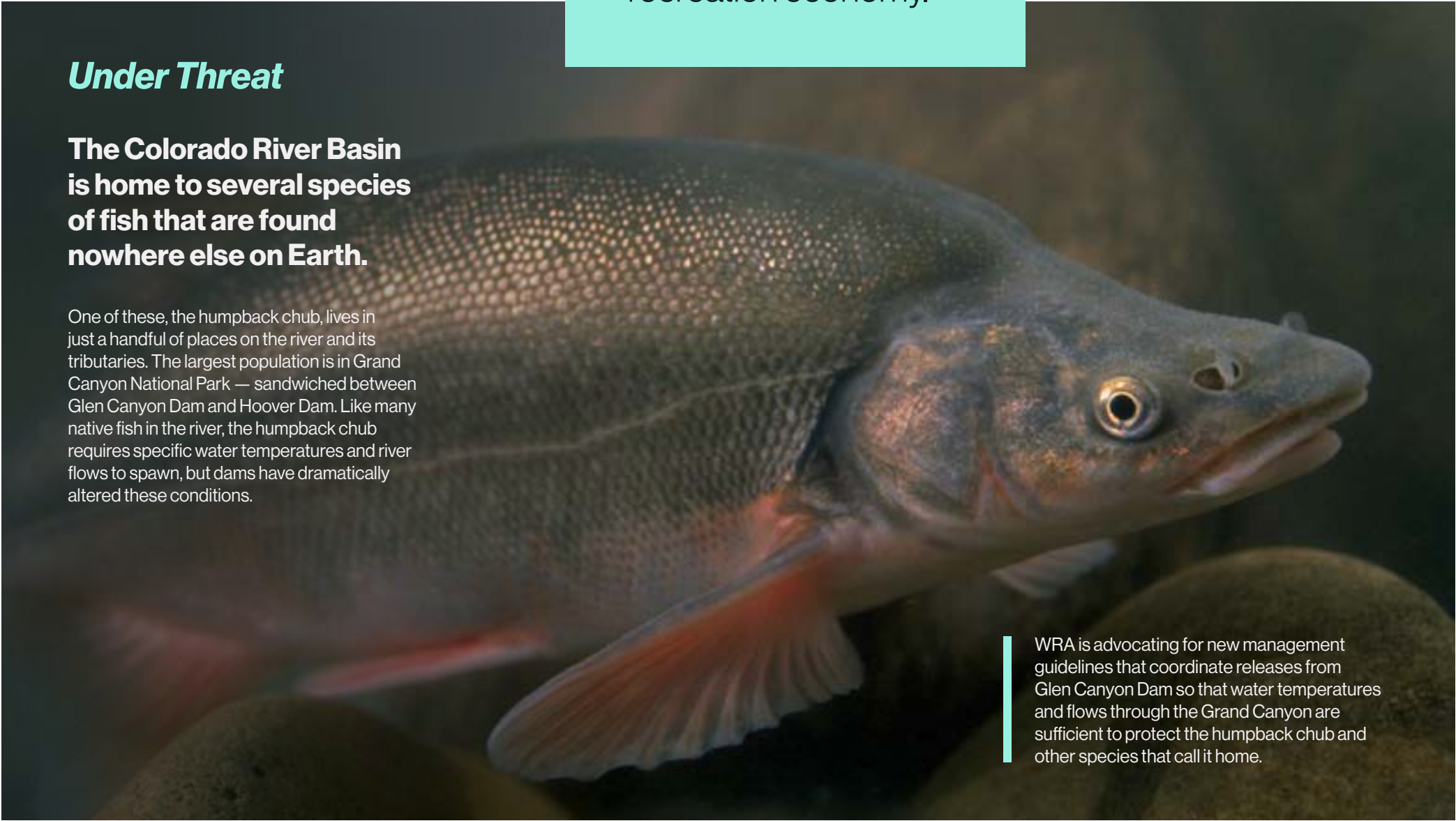
And finally, establishing a water savings account to set aside conserved water and allow it to be moved between the reservoirs could buffer reservoir levels against drought and help maintain healthy river flows throughout the West for endangered fish, for wildlife habitat, and to mimic historic flooding events that rebuild sandbars and beaches.

**WRA is advocating for key elements of these strategies to be included in the new guidelines because they have the power to transform the future of the Colorado River.**

The Colorado River is the lifeline of the Interior West, supporting the daily lives of 35 million people, irrigating farms that feed the nation, and fueling a robust recreation economy.

This is a rare opportunity to guide a thoughtful, data-driven approach that looks beyond the immediate crises and sets the river on a path of resilience for decades to come. The Colorado River deserves a future shaped by cooperation, innovation, and stewardship — a future WRA is working tirelessly to achieve.

Without decisive action today, the river that defines the West faces an uncertain fate. Your support allows WRA to continue the research, policy development, and advocacy needed to protect it — ensuring a sustainable future for the river and the communities that depend on it.



*Under Threat*

**The Colorado River Basin is home to several species of fish that are found nowhere else on Earth.**

One of these, the humpback chub, lives in just a handful of places on the river and its tributaries. The largest population is in Grand Canyon National Park — sandwiched between Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam. Like many native fish in the river, the humpback chub requires specific water temperatures and river flows to spawn, but dams have dramatically altered these conditions.

WRA is advocating for new management guidelines that coordinate releases from Glen Canyon Dam so that water temperatures and flows through the Grand Canyon are sufficient to protect the humpback chub and other species that call it home.



Hikers climb over boulders at  
Haiyaha Lake, Colorado.



# PARTNERS IN PROGRESS: **HOW WRA SUPPORTERS ADVANCE** OUR STRATEGIC VISION





WRA set bold targets to reduce climate emissions, protect our vital rivers, and safeguard Western lands in our strategic plan, *For Home, For Nature*. With a substantial goal to raise \$50 million by the end of 2025, we're working to enact the policies and actions necessary to secure a sustainable future for the West.

But this vision can only become reality with the unwavering support of donors who share our commitment to the environment, economy, and people of the West.

*Above: The sunset reflects on Watson Lake in Prescott, Arizona.*

For nearly two decades, the Benson Family Foundation has been a dedicated partner in this work. Bob and Cynthia Benson established their foundation to include their children Kiersa and Erik in their philanthropy and give them a firsthand understanding of charitable giving. Over time, it was Kiersa and Erik who recognized the urgency of environmental challenges that are directly shaping the future for generations to come, and they encouraged the family to support organizations that address these pressing issues.

Today, the Benson family appreciates WRA's responsible, thoughtful, and results-driven approach. After learning about the strategic plan, they recognized the need for a larger commitment and made their first multiyear pledge to support WRA's expanding efforts.

"WRA was willing to go all in with a focused three-year strategy," Bob said. "They made the case for why these years are so significant to getting ahead of the curve on climate change, and that commitment resonated with us."

**YOUR SUPPORT  
MEANS MORE  
WRA EXPERTS  
ON THE GROUND  
CREATING  
CLIMATE  
SOLUTIONS  
ACROSS THE  
WEST.**



The Benson Family Foundation increased their support as their confidence grew in WRA’s ability to drive meaningful, lasting change.

This early investment set an example for other supporters and provided crucial momentum. It allowed us to make key hires, build capacity, and scale efforts in critical areas. “While the Foundation may not be able to sustain this level of giving indefinitely, the stakes are too high for us to sit back,” Bob added.

With the generous support of donors like the Benson family, WRA has raised \$36 million toward our \$50 million goal. These funds power important work to create a future where vibrant Western communities run on clean energy, rivers thrive, and the distinct landscapes of the West are protected, healthy, and accessible. The wins highlighted in this report are just a snapshot of the broader progress we’re making.

Increased donor support means more WRA experts are on the ground developing and scaling winning solutions across the West.

As climate impacts accelerate, we rely on sustained and increased giving, as well as finding new supporters to help WRA continue building on the progress we’ve made. Our strategic plan is not just a set of ambitious targets — it’s a call to action, built on proven strategies that we are pursuing with urgency and focus.

Top Right: A person runs on a trail in Utah.

Make a Commitment to Fight Climate Change

You can leave a legacy across the West by including Western Resource Advocates in your estate plans. Your commitment will protect the places you love for future generations and make you part of our 1989 Society — a dedicated community of climate champions.

You can also make long-term impact through multiyear gifts or monthly contributions. Your ongoing support gives WRA the stable resources needed to drive innovative policymaking and protect the West.

There’s no better time to act.

Reach out today to learn more about the best way to maximize your impact and join us in the fight against climate change.



For Home, For Nature Strategic Plan Progress

Thanks to our generous supporters, we’re making significant progress toward our \$50 million goal to protect the West’s future.



With the support of climate champions across the West, WRA will ensure the policies and solutions we put forward take hold in the face of growing climate challenges. It’s because of partners like the Benson Family Foundation that we have the resources, determination, and vision to make a difference.

The time is now.

Together, we can meet the growing challenges facing the West. Your support is essential to meeting the ambitious goals of our strategic plan. Join us in driving meaningful change — make your gift today and help us protect the future of the West.

Your support of WRA will



Drive powerful state action



Fund immediate, on-the-ground, and scalable solutions



Energize advocates and create the political will to act



Multiply into significant regional impact



Leverage critical federal investments



Foster inclusive engagement with diverse communities and advance equity

“We increased our giving to ensure WRA doesn’t lose momentum — the climate crisis can’t wait.”

Rachel and Ben  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
WRA supporters since 2021

Learn more about ways to give or view our most recent financial statements:





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**SECRETARY**  
Jamie Starr  
Park City, Utah

**TREASURER**  
Matthew Hunt  
Carbondale, Colorado

Carrie Doyle  
San Carlos, California

Matt Lappé  
Boulder, Colorado

Eric Laufer  
New York, New York

Reuben Munger  
Dedham, Massachusetts

Loretta Pineda  
Denver, Colorado

Portia Prescott  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Martha Records  
Denver, Colorado

Christopher Robinson  
Park City, Utah

Chas Robles  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Yadira Sanchez  
Redmond, Washington

Heather Tanana  
San Clemente, California

Pilar Thomas  
Tucson, Arizona

Felipe Vieyra  
Aurora, Colorado

Lee White  
Denver, Colorado

Our board is one of our chief assets, providing exemplary leadership to further the mission of our organization. Board members guide our work fighting climate change and its impacts in the West. They help govern the organization, raise support, and build our network of partners.



# SENIOR LEADERSHIP

**PRESIDENT**  
Jon Goldin-Dubois

**VP OF DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS**  
Theresa Bushman

**VP OF CAMPAIGNS & POLITICAL STRATEGY**  
Carrie Curtiss

**VP OF EQUITY & CULTURE**  
Kathryne Grove

**HEALTHY RIVERS DIRECTOR**  
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**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR**  
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Erin Overturf

**MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**  
Christie Silverstein

**VP OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**  
Rick Trilsch

**WESTERN LANDS DIRECTOR**  
Jeremy Vesbach

Our senior leadership is a team of experts with decades of experience working where decisions are made, sweating the details, creating evidence-based solutions, and holding decision makers accountable.





## Our Offices

### ARIZONA

340 East Palm Lane • Suite A140  
Phoenix • AZ 85004  
480.667.5625

### NEW MEXICO

141 East Palace Avenue • Suite 220  
Santa Fe • New Mexico 87501  
505.919.7579

### COLORADO | BOULDER

2260 Baseline Road • Suite 200  
Boulder • Colorado 80302  
303.444.1188

### NEVADA

550 West Musser • Suite G  
Carson City • Nevada 89703  
775.841.2400

### COLORADO | DENVER

1536 Wynkoop Street • Suite 300  
Denver • Colorado 80202  
303.444.1188

### UTAH

307 West 200 South • Suite 2000  
Salt Lake City • Utah 84101  
801.487.9911

## Resources Saved With This Project

**2 TONS** of fresh (green) wood,  
which is equivalent to more than  
11 trees.

**5,100 POUNDS** of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is  
equivalent to about one round-trip  
flight from Denver to Dublin.

**4.91 MBTUS**, which is enough  
energy to power almost six  
residential refrigerators for a full year.

**40 POUNDS** of solid waste.

**920 GALLONS** of water.

## Join Us

### EVERY WIN FOR THE WEST BEGINS WITH SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU.

Together, we can advance clean energy, and protect air, land, water, and wildlife — now and for years to come. To learn more about WRA or how you can advance our mission, please contact:

Elizabeth O'Connell, Associate Director of Donor Relations  
elizabeth@westernresources.org | 720.763.3743

**WesternResourceAdvocates.org**  
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