



WESTERN RESOURCE ADVOCATES

Celebrating 25 years of conservation in the West



2014
Annual Report



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From the President



2014 was a big year for Western Resource Advocates. We celebrated 25 years of conservation in the West, teamed up with our conservation partners, elected officials, and supporters to safeguard healthy rivers, advance clean power, protect the public from the impacts of oil and gas development, and champion cleaner air. In 2014, I also became the new president of the organization, and our board and staff set a new strategic course to expand on our work for years to come.

Looking back at the amazing work that Western Resource Advocates did over the past 25 years is inspiring. From the rugged peaks of the Rocky Mountains to the Great Salt Lake, from the treasured rivers of the desert Southwest to the expansive prairie and forest wildlands, we protect what is special about the West. If you've ever rafted the Colorado River, hiked in Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, spotted windmills or an array of solar panels out of the corner of your eye, watched a sage-grouse dance, or even sipped a glass of water, you've experienced our work first hand. The many challenges and successes that WRA has experienced over the years is a powerful statement about how our vision for the future of this spectacular region can be realized. We value the magnificent landscapes, flowing rivers, and clean air that are part of what makes the West such an awe-inspiring place. Plus, we know the importance of protecting these natural legacies for future generations.

And now, to protect the quality of life and what we love about the West, we need to be on the forefront of a powerful transformation—a transformation in how we power our homes and our cars, how we manage our water, and how we protect the natural legacy: the majestic Rockies, pristine wildlands, deserts, and powerful canyon cathedrals that make up our true American birthright.

To help drive this transformation, we have an exciting vision for the place we call home. We will work to advance clean power in the West to help prevent catastrophic climate change, improve air quality, and to protect public health. We will ensure that Western rivers and lakes are vibrant parts of our communities and that they can support robust economies and provide a variety of recreational opportunities. And we will safeguard iconic landscapes and wildlife corridors and work to regulate development and restrict industry to appropriate areas so that the West continues to be a great place to live and visit.

The Western Resource Advocates of the next 25 years must marry the traditional work of our policy expertise and technical capacity in economics, engineering, ecology, and law together with new strategies that ensure we protect the West's land, air, and water. All of us at Western Resource Advocates know that we can't do this alone, and we are grateful to our broader family of supporters who make our work possible. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jon Goldin-Dubois". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jon Goldin-Dubois
President



Advancing

Clean Power

Our Energy Program advocates for increased use of the West's natural bounty of renewable energy resources and for improved energy efficiency to reduce the environmental impacts of electricity production. Climate change, caused by greenhouse gas pollution from the production and burning of fossil fuels, will take a particularly hard toll on the mountain and desert West. The consequences of climate change are already visible: increased risk and longer duration of drought and wildfires, reduced snowpack and river flows, and extinction of vulnerable wildlife species. By transitioning the Interior West to clean power, we help prevent catastrophic climate change, improve air quality, and protect public health.



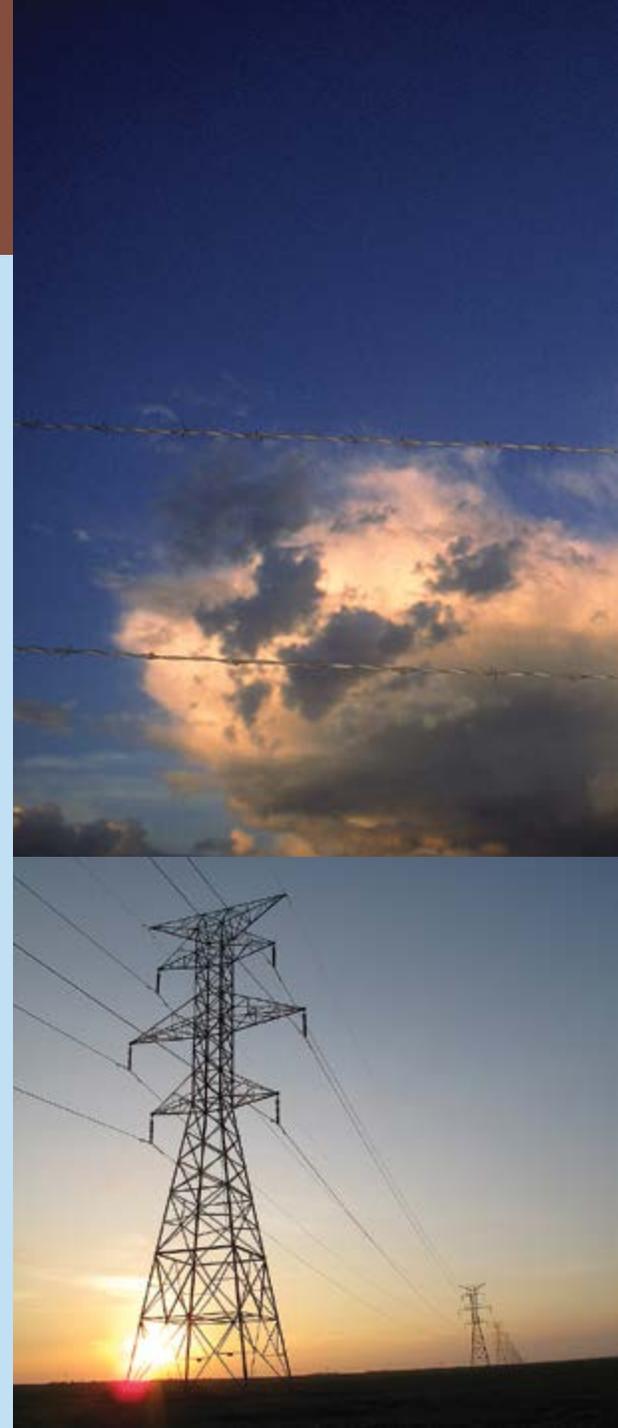
Far Left: Salida Colorado
Collegiate Peaks Windmill
Left: Claret Cup Cactus, Utah

Promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency and increased investment in renewable energy sources are the economically and environmentally preferable ways to meet electricity demand. In addition to state-based efforts to increase the use of renewable energy and efficiency by utilities, WRA engages in innovative partnerships with Western energy providers to encourage adoption of effective and economically viable greenhouse gas reduction strategies. These strategies will lead to clean energy economies and improved health and air quality for the West.

RESULTS:

- ✓ Western Resource Advocates helped design a new “recycled energy” program in Colorado that reclaims waste heat from businesses like bakeries and steel mills to produce electricity with zero additional emissions. Our advocacy quadrupled the proposed program size to 20 megawatts (MW), which is enough to power about 16,000 homes, and improved the financial incentives for participants.
- ✓ Western Resource Advocates successfully defended against utility proposals to cut energy efficiency goals in Colorado by 37% through 2020. The Public Utilities Commission maintained strong energy efficiency goals, approving annual efficiency budgets up to \$84.3 million.



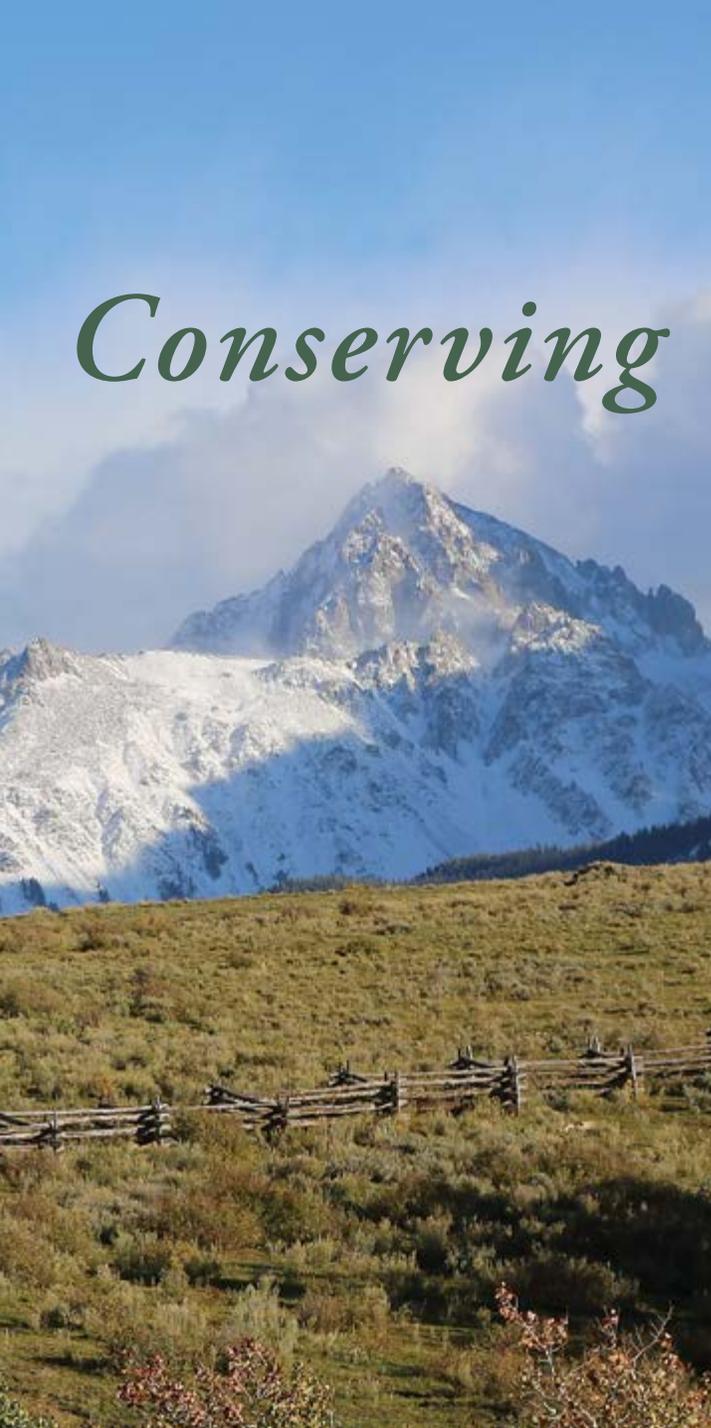
Making the Shift Away From Coal to Clean Power

Western Resource Advocates is leading efforts to convince utilities and regulators to move to clean, alternative energy sources. We provide analysis to states and utility companies that show the environmental, health, and economic benefits of shifting from coal to cleaner forms of energy. Our work hastens the transition to renewable resources and leads to early retirements of existing coal plants and withdrawals of new coal plant proposals throughout the West.

RESULTS:

- ✓ In June 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its Clean Power Plan to encourage states to reduce their impacts on climate change and move towards more renewable and clean energy sources. WRA has developed a credit-based state compliance mechanism that will allow states to achieve significant, cost-effective, carbon pollution reductions in a manner that is easily administered. Western Resource Advocates analyzed and shared widely with energy leaders throughout the region how key Western states have already taken early action to address carbon pollution and are well positioned to meet EPA's Clean Power Plan standards. Our analysis demonstrates how, with a few additional carbon reductions, key Western states can readily achieve the new standards.





Conserving Western Lands

The stunning landscapes of the West are legendary, cherished by residents and visitors alike. But past environmental damage and current impacts of poorly planned energy developments are degrading lands, contributing to the decline in populations of many wildlife species, and damaging air and water. The commercial development of oil and gas, combined with the threat of oil shale and tar sands extraction, further imperils land, water, wildlife, and communities. Climate change is a growing threat we must curb.

We advocate for sound stewardship in the face of forces that view our public lands solely as a commercial resource. At WRA, we are committed to safeguarding the ecological integrity of our treasured public lands and wildlife for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

Defending Western Lands and Communities from Oil and Gas Development

RESULTS:

- ✓ Western Resource Advocates and our partners reached a legal settlement with the U.S. Forest Service that will better protect wildlife, recreation, and air and water quality from any future oil and gas development on the Fishlake and Dixie national forests in Utah. The agreement prohibits development in roadless areas and improves safeguards for sensitive plants, wildlife, and the headwaters that supply clean water to local communities.
- ✓ The Bureau of Land Management and other parties announced a settlement to protect the Roan Plateau in Colorado. Western Resource Advocates and a number of partners have worked since 2006 to safeguard the Roan from oil and gas development. The visually stunning Roan Plateau rises 3,000 feet above the Colorado River Valley and is one of the most biologically diverse places in Western Colorado. We represented many environmental groups before the BLM in agency proceedings and litigated the case before the federal district court in Denver.
- ✓ Western Resource Advocates President Jon Goldin-Dubois was selected by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper to serve on his 21-member Oil and Gas Task Force. We sought solutions to resolve conflicts between industry and communities and to provide environmental and public health protections. Unfortunately, while a handful of modest recommendations were adopted addressing health studies and regulatory staffing, industry representatives blocked measures that would give residents and local governments the tools they need to manage oil and gas development. WRA continues to advocate in other venues to achieve needed reforms.







Stopping Oil Shale and Tar Sands Development

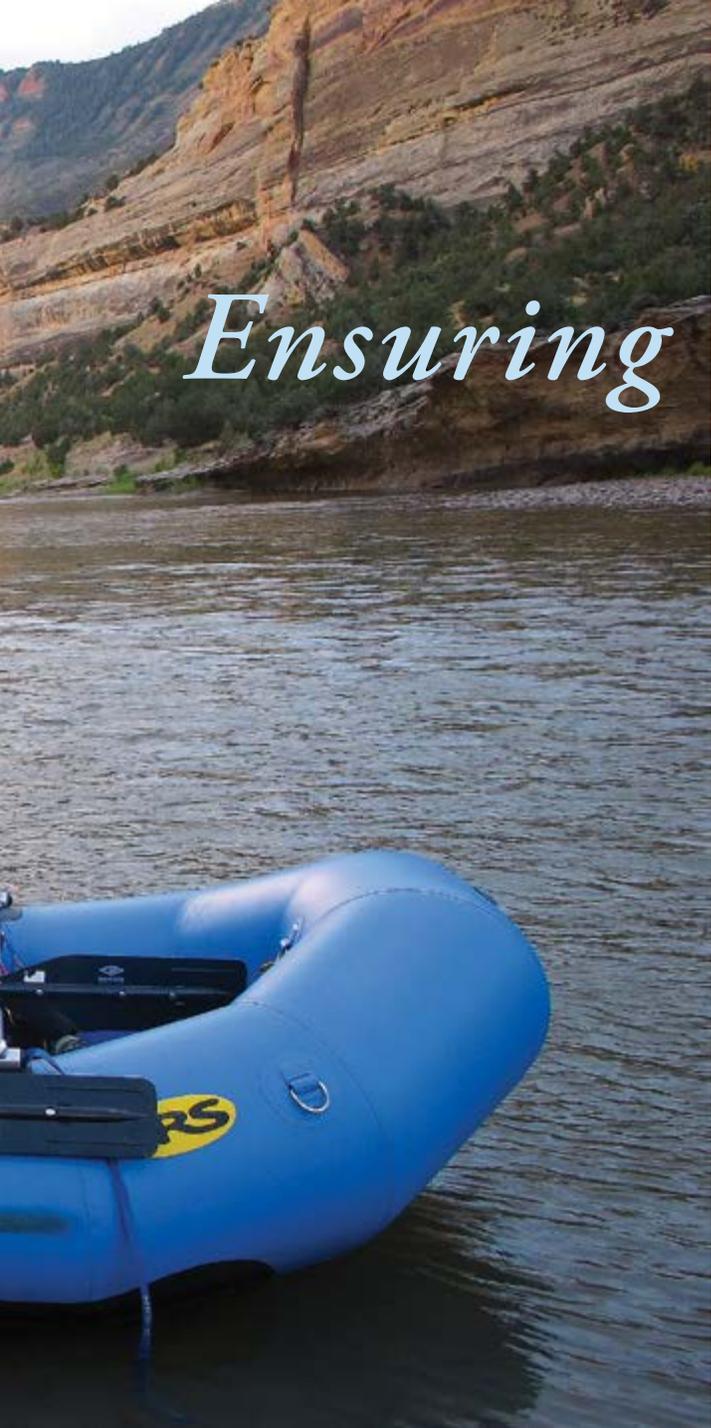
Oil shale and tar sands development would irrevocably alter the West by depleting water resources, exacerbating climate change, polluting the air, and scarring lands and natural habitats. The development and use of these fuels would have a carbon footprint 25–75% greater than that of conventional fuels. We are guarding against a resurgence of interest in commercial oil shale and tar sands development—interest that continues despite a lack of proven extraction technologies. Western Resource Advocates is guiding the debate by insisting on adequate environmental protections and building a consensus that development decisions must be based on sound science.

RESULTS:

- ✓ Western Resource Advocates convinced the Utah Division of Water Quality and Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to limit their authorization of expansive oil shale development in Utah. Originally, oil shale companies had sought approval to construct and operate 226 giant encasements, called “capsules,” to cook oil shale at extremely high temperatures to generate crude oil. Each giant capsule would be the size of a football stadium. Western Resource Advocates successfully blocked extensive development and convinced Utah to allow companies to construct only a single prototype capsule for now.







Ensuring Healthy Rivers

Water, or more often the lack thereof, is a defining feature of the landscape, history, and culture of the West. Rivers and lakes in the Intermountain West are already stressed due to increasing population demands, drought, and climate change. Water scarcity makes intelligent use of this essential resource critical to a sustainable future. Western Resource Advocates advances smarter water management. We work with towns, cities, and state agencies to implement smart water programs and to find ways to protect and improve local waters. Today's imperative is to have the West embrace smarter management of limited water supplies to support ecological, recreational, agricultural, and municipal needs.

Left: Yampa River, Laddie Park
Right: Pussy Willow





Protecting the West's Rivers

It is vital to protect the ecological health of Western rivers and lakes so they remain vibrant parts of our communities, support robust economies, and provide a variety of recreational opportunities.

RESULTS:

- ✓ Western Resource Advocates led a team of conservation groups in shaping the first draft of Colorado's Water Plan. We advocated for the plan to emphasize healthy rivers, increased water conservation, and efficient agricultural water use.
- ✓ Western Resource Advocates was the lead conservation group that helped win approval of the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project, a plan to use additional storage space at an existing reservoir to meet growing water demands along the South Platte River in central Colorado. The project is an alternative to importing water from other river basins at great expense and environmental cost.
- ✓ In southeastern Arizona, Western Resource Advocates' research on residential well water use resulted in a program that led to replacing several hundred inefficient toilets—saving over 8 million gallons of water. This effort increases flows in the San Pedro River, one of the last major, free-flowing, undammed rivers, one that provides essential habitat for a huge diversity of birdlife.

Defending Utah's Great Salt Lake

Western Resource Advocates is part of a strong coalition committed to preserving Utah's Great Salt Lake ecosystem. Our goal is to protect the lake for the enjoyment of its many visitors, including the millions of migratory birds that depend on it for survival.

RESULTS:

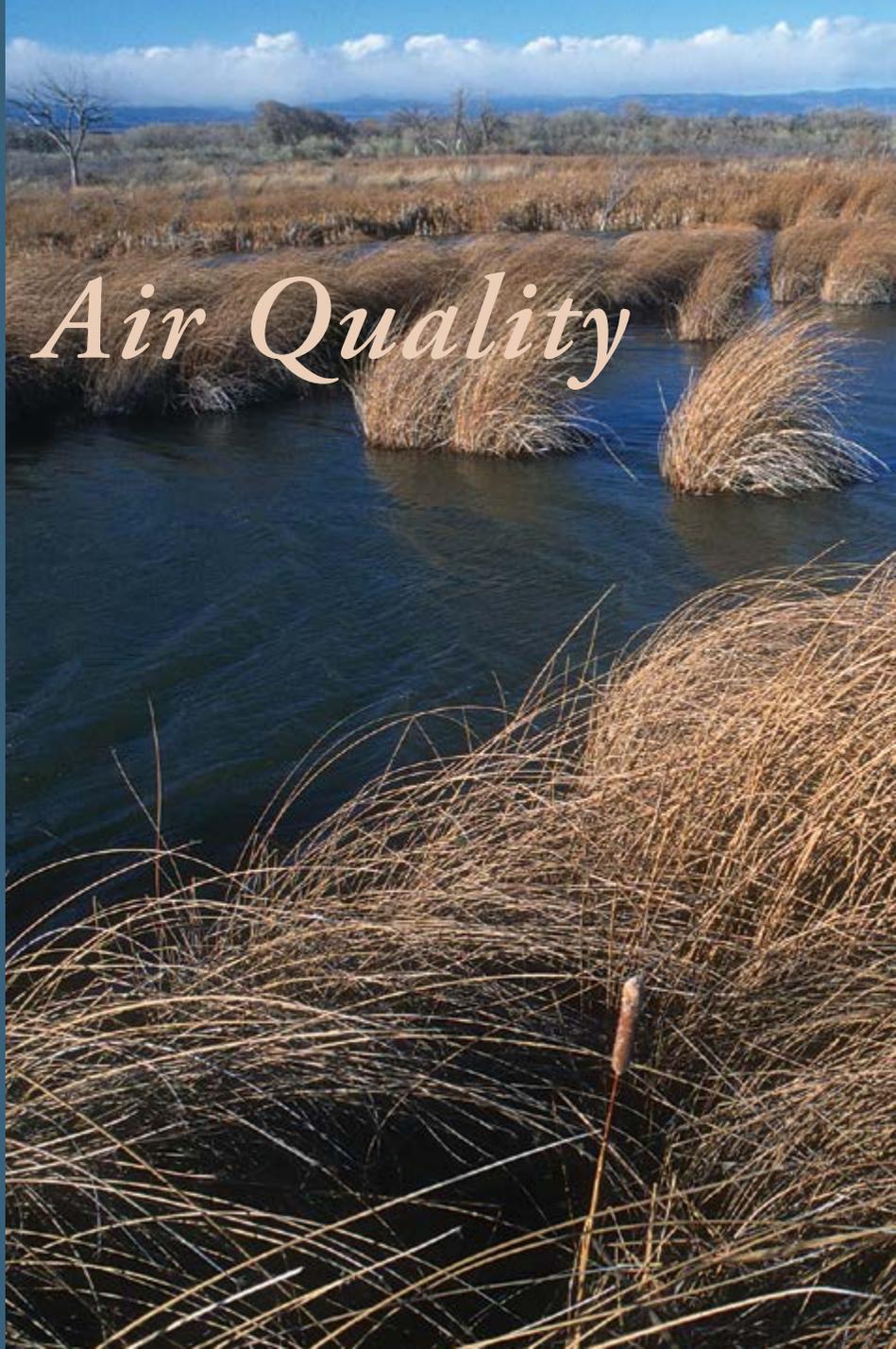
- ✓ Western Resource Advocates teamed up with local landowners to protect rivers in Western Colorado from the threat of oil shale development by the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District. Our success—after a multi-year court dispute over the district's gigantic proposed water diversion—scaled down the water project to meet local needs rather than create a huge new oil shale industry that would harm our region's rivers, climate, and the environment.
 - ✓ Western Resource Advocates won a concession from oil company Chevron, which conceded that its plans for oil shale development in the West would require huge quantities of water. This acknowledgment—from the industry itself—refutes years of claims that oil shale development would use little water.
- ✓ Western Resource Advocates helped design and advocated for an alternative to a proposed highway that would damage Great Salt Lake wetlands and bird habitat. The Utah Department of Transportation determined that an alternative—which avoids all wetlands—was a viable option that it will consider.
 - ✓ In coordination with the Division of Water Quality, Western Resource Advocates is influencing the design and management of a dynamic bridge system in the causeway that separates the north and south arms of Great Salt Lake. The interchange of significant water is necessary to keep the north arm from becoming too salty—and therefore devoid of life—and the south arm from becoming too fresh to support brine shrimp and flies, the main diet of millions of resident and migratory birds.



Trout Dinner, Wind River Mountains, Wyoming

Improving Air Quality

Anyone living along Utah's Wasatch Front has first-hand experience with the extent of the air pollution problem, particularly the wintertime inversions that settle on the Salt Lake Valley for days or weeks. These inversions cause alarmingly high concentrations of the air pollutant PM_{2.5} that exceed federal health standards and contribute to health problems, such as asthma, decreased lung function, heart attacks, birth defects, and premature death. Air pollution along the Wasatch Front is particularly dangerous for pregnant women, children, and the elderly. Western Resource Advocates is representing the voice of health care professionals in a state-wide process to meet air-quality standards to regain healthy communities in Northern Utah.





Improving Air Quality in Utah

Residents of Utah's Salt Lake City and Wasatch Front suffer from having some of the poorest air quality in the nation. Partnering with Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, Western Resource Advocates is working to improve air quality and help the region comply with the national air quality standards to protect public health.

RESULTS

- ✓ Located north of Salt Lake City, the Holly Refinery is a crude oil refinery and a contributor to air pollution in Salt Lake and Davis counties. Western Resource Advocates' efforts led the Holly Refinery to invest \$5 million in pollution controls at the plant to reduce air pollution by 172 tons per year. Western Resource Advocates has since challenged the refinery's air quality permit in order to attain even greater air pollution reductions at the plant.
- ✓ Due to the health and environmental threats caused by air pollution, the State of Utah was required by federal law to come up with a plan to reduce emissions and end dangerous winter inversions. Western Resource Advocates worked to ensure that this plan required stronger pollution controls, including more robust pollution control equipment, and a faster timeline to clean up Utah's air. Western Resource Advocates continues to work to ensure Utah meets national health based standards as quickly as possible.
- ✓ One kind of air pollution that can harm our health comes from "fugitive emissions" — particles suspended in the air that don't come from smoke stacks but come from other industrial emissions. This type of pollution is particularly a problem for the Wasatch Front. Western Resource Advocates championed new Utah rules that now require industries to reduce fugitive dust emissions by hundreds of tons each year.

2014

Donors



Sheepdog Trials

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Harvest Corn



2014

Donors

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Aveda Earth Month Partners

Thank you to the Aveda Corporation, international distributor of plant-derived beauty products, and more than 100 Aveda salons, experience centers, and institutes that work tirelessly each Earth Month to raise funds for, and awareness of, Western Resource Advocates' work to protect the West's water!



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		Ninety-Fifth Street Salon & Spa	Sanctuary Day Spa at the Gateway	Zinke Knoebel
			Satya Salon	

Donor Profile

Elaine Walsh Carney



How did you get introduced to or become involved with Western Resource Advocates?

Board members AJ Grant and Chelsea Congdon Brundige had been telling me about WRA's great work for a long time. A few years ago, they traveled to Jackson to ask me to join them on the board of directors. I was honored to be asked to join the board, and I was inspired by their leadership.

Why do you support Western Resource Advocates?

Resource conservation is one of my long-time passions. Western Resource Advocates' mission is grounded in integrity and hard work in defense of the air, water, and land of the West. Our staff and scientists are some of the best in the business. Western Resource Advocates is a great philanthropic investment because we make wise and steady choices to benefit resource conservation. Our staff members are thought and policy leaders in the field.

Why is conservation important to you?

There is nothing more fundamental to life than the land, air, and water on which we depend to survive. My interest goes beyond the basics—I feel that we live in an incredible part of the world, and we need to balance our everyday needs with conserving our resources.

Where are you from? What brought you to Wyoming?

I grew up outside of Portland, Maine, and went to college at St. Lawrence University because I loved the North Country and the Adirondack Park. When I graduated, I moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to ski for a few years and to become a NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) instructor. I taught wilderness and adult education courses in Alaska and Wyoming. That was over 20 years ago!

What do you enjoy most about the West or what is your favorite place in the West?

There is a generosity of spirit in the people of the West. And, thankfully, many of us are fiercely loyal and passionate about protecting Western landscapes. My favorite place is my home, Jackson Hole, Wyoming. I truly believe that the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem landscape defines the American West.

What would you like people to know about WRA?

WRA is developing science-based, implementable, and replicable solutions to some of the most time-sensitive resource conservation issues in the West.

Do you have a quote that inspires you?

“We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.” — Wallace Stegner

Donor Profile

Eli Feldman



How did you get introduced to or become involved with Western Resource Advocates?

I was hired as a water intern for Western Resource Advocates in the fall of 2001. Within months, the drought of 2002 had taken hold of the state, and I found myself testifying before the special session of the Colorado legislature on water conservation measures.

Why do you support Western Resource Advocates?

Western Resource Advocates has talented staff that deploy a balanced approach to environmental issues in the region. Its policy and educational components are well reinforced by a strong legal backbone.

Why is conservation important to you?

We are capable of impairing the ecological functions of our land, air, and water to an extent that will threaten the survival of our own species and others. It will require a sustained conservation effort to avoid that result.

Where are you from? What brought you to Colorado?

I am from Setauket, New York. I initially came to Colorado to fish, ski, and play in the mountains. I stayed for a hundred other reasons.

What do you enjoy most about the West or what is your favorite place in the West?

In addition to the wild places that I love to experience, there is a culture of innovation and optimism that seems to have evolved from the toughness and resilience of the pioneers. There is a sense that nothing is impossible.

What would you like people to know about WRA?

I would like people to know that Western Resource Advocates is a force for positive change in our region.

Do you have a quote that inspires you?

“I don’t believe in magic. I believe in the sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, the wind talking. They’re measurements. They tell us how healthy things are. How healthy we are. Because we and they are the same. That’s what I believe in.” — Billy Frank, Jr.

Aspen Grove Circle

Western Resource Advocates thanks the following individuals and family foundations for their donations of \$1,000 or more.

Sue Anderson
Holly Counter Beaver
and Vincent Beaver
Bob and Cynthia Benson
Bruce N. Berger
Eric Blank and
Nancy Printz
Brett Family Foundation
Charla Brown and
Rob Burnett
Ruthie Brown
Chelsea Congdon Brundige
and James Brundige

Elaine and John Carney
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James Martin
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Stephen Pfeiffer
Martha Davis
Patrick and Lynn de Freitas
Eli Feldman and
Amanda Bridenhagen
Andy and Audrey Franklin
Naomi Franklin
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Six anonymous donors





Donor Profile

AJ Grant, Secretary, WRA Board of Directors

President
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How did you first become aware of WRA, and what led to your support?

Perhaps it all started with my profound love for the West. A photo of me at six years old in my cowboy boots says it all. The West and its sweeping grandeur and stories captivated this little kid from New York from the get-go. Thankfully, my parents, Eugene and Emily Grant, are avid outdoors people and introduced me to Colorado, with camping adventures and skiing early on in life. I looked westward ever since. No surprise I made my home here in Boulder 35 years ago. Not long afterwards, I looked for ways to preserve the magnificent West—and that eventually led me to my profession in communicating complex environmental issues to the public and creating my firm, Environmental Communication Associates. And that led me to engage with Western Resource Advocates.

As someone who understands the various ways that conservation groups accomplish real change, how does WRA stand out?

Western Resource Advocates has something special. First of all, it is the region's premier group focusing only on environmental and sustainability issues in the Interior Western states region. I've watched WRA grow over the years into one of the most widely respected and approachable organizations in the region. That's what I really think is unique about WRA...such a broad spectrum of people, including government, ranchers, industry, and environmentalists, all collaborate with WRA. Its expertise, key research, and policy work have been utilized by legislators and decision makers to develop policy and address key Western issues, including water, land use, energy development, transmission, and sustainability.

How does WRA reflect your values as a conservationist?

I place the highest value on maintaining the integrity of our Western habitats and wildlands, while being sensitive to the tough balance between nature, our region's growing population, and competing needs. WRA has the sophistication to navigate between these aspects and guide delicate decision making. I believe that the defining issues of our time will be water, or lack thereof, and climate change. My personal focus is on maintaining our public lands—all these issues are core to WRA's work.

What led to your decision to provide for WRA in your estate plans?

That's easy. I know that Western Resource Advocates is the one group that has the vision and capabilities to help create a future for the West that honors all that the Western region has represented to this country throughout history. It is a treasure. So, I have included WRA in my estate plans, which gives me peace of mind that a group of this caliber will be watching over the West in years to come...even if I am not around.

What would you say to someone who is considering giving their support to WRA?

I'd say, "I believe WRA to be one of the most effective organizations influencing the future of the Western region. Providing for WRA now in your estate plan and setting aside money for future use allows the organization to plan its operations while you get the benefit of being philanthropic and not having to commit significant cash resources at this moment. Leaving monies to an organization in your will is the perfect way to augment annual giving."

Donor Profile

Chris Wirth



How did you get introduced to or become involved with Western Resource Advocates?

In 1996, when I was a law student at the University of Colorado, I worked as a research assistant for David Getches, who co-founded the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, which then became Western Resource Advocates. That spring, Professor Getches wrote a long law review article on the Colorado River, and pulled lots of quotes and figures and facts from the recesses of his mind, then sent me over to Western Resource Advocates to search for the exact citations. So I would head across the street and beg the former executive director, Bruce Driver, and other staff to help me find, say, obscure Bureau of Land Management or Western Area Power Administration publications. Sometimes it was real “needle-in-the-haystack” type of stuff I had to find.

I became more actively involved with Western Resource Advocates as a board member for nine years. And I still serve on the board of another nonprofit foundation that actively supports the organization.

Why do you support Western Resource Advocates?

Western Resource Advocates is the most innovative and dynamic environmental advocacy group in the West. No one does better work.

Why is conservation important to you?

I’m a Colorado native who grew up camping and backpacking and fishing with my dad. He instilled a love of the outdoors and mountains, and I am a firm believer that we need to preserve this heritage for our children and the generations to come.

What do you enjoy most about the West or what is your favorite place in the West?

My favorite place is Crested Butte, where I have spent numerous summers since I was six years old and also where I got married. We still spend as much time as possible there with our own children and extended family.

What would you like people to know about WRA?

I would encourage people to check out Western Resource Advocates’ website, which illustrates the breadth of the organization across the Western states, not only in the Land, Water, and Energy programmatic umbrellas, but within the intersection of these areas as well. So when a fracking issue comes up that applies to all three of the program areas, Western Resource Advocates brings expertise in all of the areas, working together. So it’s not just breadth of work, but depth of expertise. It’s quite impressive.

Do you have a quote that inspires you?

“Progress might have been all right once, but it has gone on too long.” —Ogden Nash, 1959



25 Years of Conservation Successes in the West

Twenty-five years ago, the Exxon Valdez spill spewed 11 million gallons of oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound. In that same year, the Berlin Wall fell, the dismantling of the system of Apartheid began in South Africa, the first commercial Internet service provider began providing service, and the first text message was sent.

Lone Hawk Farm



1 9 9 7

- ▶ Our victory protects a **Montana tribe** from gold mine pollution.
- ▶ Our advocacy in Colorado spurs the **creation of Windsource**, one of the first voluntary green energy programs in the nation. Starting with this program, Xcel Energy learns how to bring wind onto its system, and, 10 years later, Windsource hits the milestone of 1 billion kWh of emissions-free energy sold to customers.

1 9 9 9

- ▶ We prevent a massive expansion of a ski area adjacent to **Yellowstone National Park**.

2 0 0 1

- ▶ We organize a coalition that secures designation for the **Sonoran Desert National Monument**.



Board member Patrick de Freitas
with Joshua and Betsy Epel



That same year, founder Kelley Green, supported by many others, including David Getches and Maggie Fox, had a vision—that a new regional organization could use the law and trained attorneys to protect the West’s land, air, and water. Kelley knew that the West is worth protecting, and so, in March of 1989, The Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, later to be renamed Western Resource Advocates, was born.

Since then, we have won scores of victories for the West’s wildlands, clean air, free-flowing rivers, and majestic waters. For example, Western Resource Advocates helped form and support the coalition that established Sonoran Desert National Monument. We also work with partners to protect the Great Salt Lake and the flows of nine major rivers. And in light of climate change, WRA has successfully advocated for the closure of coal-fired power plants, stopped construction of new coal power plants, and driven millions of dollars in investment for renewable energy. These are just a few of the many accomplishments WRA has secured in our Western states.

Our 25th anniversary celebration was held at Lone Hawk Farm outside of Boulder, Colorado, and provided a great opportunity to look back on our founding, mark what we have accomplished, and honor some of those that have played an important role our history.

Guests of honor included Connie Harvey, John Powers, and Jim Martin, amazing people who, along with our board, staff, and many supporters, have helped to make our successes possible.

Jon Goldin-Dubois spoke at the event, noting that Western Resource Advocates must be even more strategic and accomplish even more in the next 25 years. We will marry the traditional work of Western Resource Advocates’ policy expertise and technical capacity in economics, engineering, ecology, and law with cutting-edge strategy that will ensure that we truly protect the West’s land, air, and water.

2 0 0 5

- ▶ WRA drafts Amendment 37. Its passage as the **first state Renewable Energy Standard** created through a ballot initiative proves strong public support for renewable energy.

2 0 0 8

- ▶ With WRA’s help, Colorado adopts new environmentally **protective oil and gas drilling rules.**

2 0 0 9

- ▶ WRA takes **100,000 acres** in Western Colorado off the oil and gas auction block.
- ▶ WRA brokers a resolution securing water flow for the **Black Canyon of the Gunnison.**

Bob Randall and board member Bryan Morgan



Mark Harvey and Anita Schwartz

2010

- ▶ WRA largely drafted the Colorado Habitat Stewardship Act, which protects **355,000 acres of public lands** in northwest Colorado from the impacts of oil and gas development.
- ▶ The **Yampa River**, one of the West's last undammed rivers, will continue to flow freely. After WRA advocacy, Shell Corporation dropped its water rights application and decided not to use Yampa water for oil shale development. This is excellent news for the communities, farmers, and ranchers, rafters, fish, and wildlife, who all rely on the river.
- ▶ In Utah, **Bear River Bay**, one of the **Great Salt Lake's** most important areas for waterbirds, will be better protected now that WRA has convinced the Division of Water Quality to regulate the discharge of 4.5 million tons of mining waste into the bay.
- ▶ WRA helped secure passage of **four Colorado water conservation bills**. These bills improve plumbing codes, give homeowners more choice to install water-efficient fixtures and landscapes in new homes, expand funding for conservation programs, and help utilities track the effectiveness of conservation programs.
- ▶ WRA reached an innovative agreement with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, allowing public input into its resource planning process in Colorado. After public input, **Tri-State abandoned plans to build three new coal plants** and began investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Within four years, Tri-State has acquired 241 MW of wind, and its member co-ops built over 50 MW of small renewable energy projects.

2011

- ▶ In Utah, WRA protected more than **140,000 acres in the Uinta National Forest** from oil and gas leasing and development. 90,000 of the acres are roadless areas providing crucial wildlife habitat, cold water fisheries, and drinking water to communities on the Wasatch Front.
- ▶ Through a close partnership with local land owners, WRA defended the **White River** by defeating a claim for 91 billion gallons of water storage for oil shale development.
- ▶ To improve Colorado's air quality and protect human health, WRA played a lead role in securing rules to **retire five Denver-area coal plants** as part of Colorado's Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act.
- ▶ WRA defended **New Mexico's precedent-setting climate change rules** and renewable energy standards from political opposition.



Jim Martin



John Powers, Jon Goldin-Dubois, and Connie Harvey

Marissa Jacobs and Nicole Theerasatiankul



Erin Overturf and
Amelia Nuding

2012

- ▶ To protect the **Green River**, WRA spearheaded a successful effort to get two federal agencies to reject the proposed Flaming Gorge pipeline. In lieu of moving 80 billion gallons over 500 miles, we laid out a blueprint for meeting Front Range Colorado water demands through 2050 with faster, less expensive, and less controversial alternatives.
- ▶ In the mountain town of Pagosa Springs, Colo., we implemented our Rushing Rivers Program, which uses water conservation savings to improve river flows. Pagosa residents can now see—directly on their water bill—how much their water use affects the **San Juan River**.
- ▶ WRA achieved Arizona Corporation Commission approval of Arizona Public Service Company's plan to **retire 560 MW of coal capacity** at Four Corners Units 1-3. Retirement of these units will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3 to 5 million metric tons per year.

2013 - 2014

- ▶ As a result of our advocacy, the Bureau of Land Management has improved its management of **core sage-grouse habitat in Wyoming**.
- ▶ WRA, in partnership with the State of Colorado, protected flows in southwestern Colorado's **San Miguel River** to benefit anglers, white-water boaters, fish, the environment, and the local economy.
- ▶ WRA's advocacy will **reduce pollution from Arizona's Navajo Generating Station**, one of the West's largest coal plants. WRA played a critical role in negotiating a landmark agreement between the federal government, Native American tribes, and environmental organizations.
- ▶ WRA steered a mining expansion proposed for Utah's **Great Salt Lake** away from Bear River and Ogden bays, where millions of migratory birds rest, feed, and breed. We also secured additional protections for Gunnison Island, a vitally important home for the American white pelican. We reduced the planned expansion by more than 30,000 acres and preserved 115 billion gallons of the lake's water.
- ▶ WRA helped secure 450 MW of new wind power to be provided by Xcel Energy, enough to provide **clean power to 180,000 homes**.

2014

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for their support during 2014.

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Western Resource Advocates in the News

Regional and national media is increasingly looking to Western Resource Advocates as a primary voice on land, air, and water issues in the West.

DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

May 6, 2014

Climate-change report could help Colorado prepare

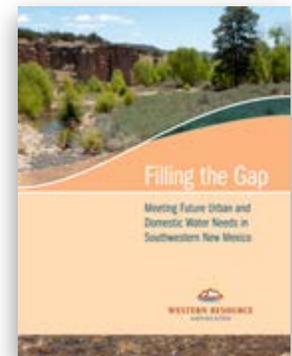
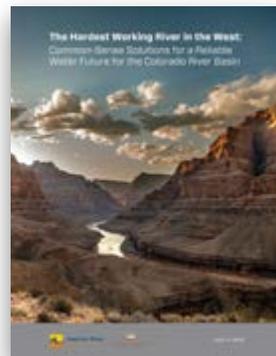
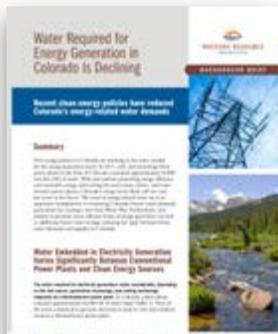
“Our world is already being significantly and rapidly altered by climate change including heat waves, drought and more frequent wildfires,” said Gary Graham, the Lands Program Director at Western Resource Advocates. “This assessment should help decision makers curb carbon pollution while attempting to prepare the nation’s critical ecosystems and infrastructure, like our electricity grid, for climate change driven impacts during the next several decades.”



July 17, 2014

Report on Colorado River Stresses Need for Conservation

“It’ll be important over the next few years for communities to continue to encourage water conservation,” said Bart Miller of Western Resource Advocates. “We can look to having landscapes that use more native vegetation, that are smaller in size. We can greatly decrease the amount of water that’s used outside, which is about half of the water use for most metropolitan areas. It’ll be important to replicate successful conservation and water-reuse programs in cities throughout the southwest.”



THE DENVER POST

June 2, 2014

Colorado ready for EPA rule to cut carbon dioxide pollution

“This state has been a leader in investing in clean energy and reducing carbon pollution for nearly a decade. Those efforts will position the state well to respond to the new carbon standards.”

—John Nielsen,
Energy Program Director

POWER

Business and Technology for the Global Generation Industry

July 29, 2014

EPA Rule Will Result in Closure of 750-MW Coal-Fired Unit

“This agreement provides a wonderful example of how thoughtful people can work through their differences and develop an outcome that reduces regional haze, provides clean energy economic development, and addresses climate change.”

—Steve Michel, chief counsel with
Western Resource Advocates



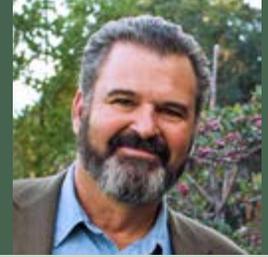
May 8, 2014

Enviros sue feds to stop drilling project in Utah national forest

“The Uinta Basin is already struggling to comply with basic health and environmental standards, yet the federal government is signing off on more fossil fuel development,” Joro Walker, a Western Resource Advocates attorney representing Guardians in the lawsuit, said in a statement. “This is head-in-the-sand decision-making at its worst and we intend to do everything in power to overturn it.”



Mark Harvey Featured Photographer



This year we are pleased to present the work of Mark Harvey. When I think of Mark, I think of big heart, big ideas, and big skies — his work reflects all of that and conveys a true love of the West. Mark is a multi-talented writer, photographer, and filmmaker. His writing and photography have been featured in many publications throughout the United States, and we are grateful that he shared his photography for this annual report.

Mark has been an advocate for environmental stewardship for many years. His first book, *The National Outdoor Leadership School's Wilderness Guide*, won the National Outdoor Book Award and offered sound, thorough advice for anyone venturing outdoors. His 2006 documentary, "A Land Out Of Time," focused sharply on the gas drilling boom across the Rocky Mountain West, won numerous awards, and was featured in over 20 film festivals. The film, which WRA had the opportunity to host in Boulder, sent a powerful message that we must defend the West and that "renewable energy and energy efficiency, supplemented by careful use of our remaining fossil fuels," are better solutions to meeting our growing energy demands.

Mark's activities reflect his values. He has served on various nonprofit boards including Ecoflight, High Country News, Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, The Maki Foundation, and the Public Counsel of the Rockies. A lifelong outdoorsman, Mark has traveled, hiked, climbed, and skied extensively throughout the United States and Latin America.

It is especially suitable that we feature Mark's work this year. The Harvey family was instrumental in launching Western Resource Advocates 25 years ago. We remain thankful for their ongoing, loyal involvement.

Mark is a good friend with an inquiring mind, a mischievous sense of humor, and a generous soul. He lives in Basalt, Colorado.

Anita Schwartz
Vice President of Development,
Marketing, and Program Administration



Floating Aspen Leaves

Where We Work

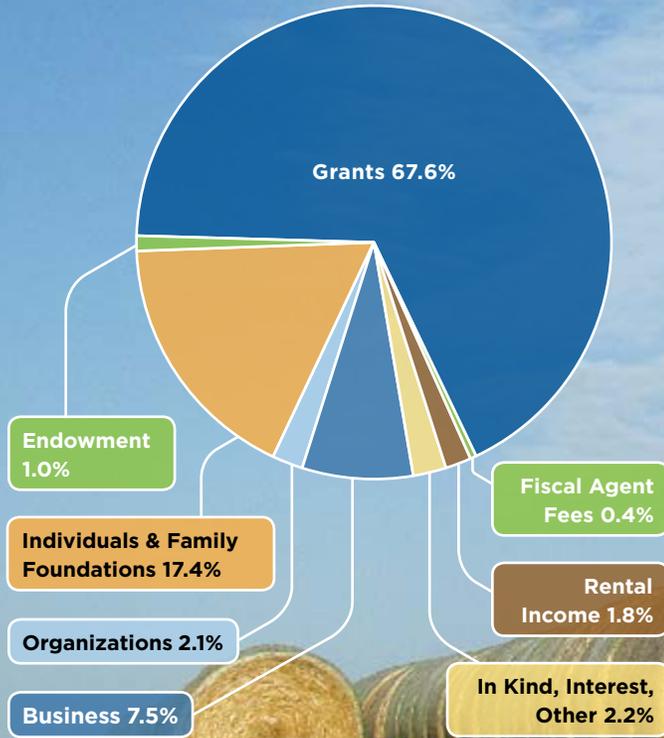
Western Resource Advocates works across the Interior West, with offices in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. Our headquarters are in Boulder, Colorado.



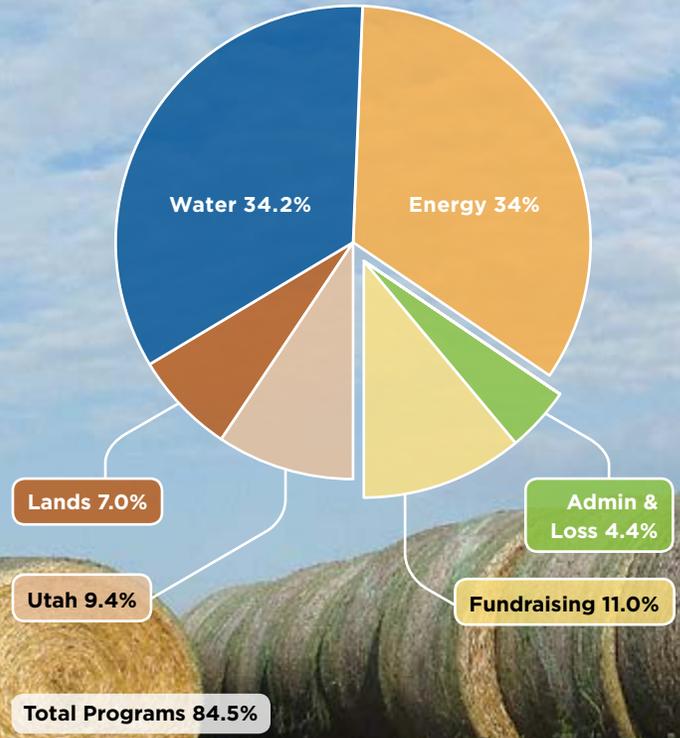
2014

Financial Summary

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Revenue	Grants	2,435,400
	Individuals and Family Foundations	629,566
	Endowment	37,225
	Organizations	75,580
	Attorney Fees	—
	Interest Income	40,107
	Other	18,604
	Government	—
	Business	272,302
	In-Kind	22,541
	Rental Income	63,598
	Fiscal Agent Fees	15,000

TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 3,609,923
----------------------	---------------------

Expenses	Expenses by Program	
	Energy	1,361,038
	Lands	281,661
	Water	1,376,338
	Utah	376,717
	Communications & Outreach*	—

Total Program Expenses	3,395,754
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	Fundraising	443,642
	Administration	178,325
	Loss	829

Total Nonprogram Expenses	622,796
----------------------------------	----------------

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 4,018,550
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	Change in Net Assets	(408,627)
	Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 6,099,737
	Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 5,691,110

The drop in net assets reflects \$1,168,225 in grant revenue received in 2014 but counted in 2013 when it was pledged.

*In 2014, the Communications program became interwoven with the Water, Energy, Utah, Lands, and Development programs, and expenses are now allocated proportionally within those programs.

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