

2005 Annual Report



SAN JUAN
CITIZENS
ALLIANCE

Mission

The San Juan Citizens Alliance’s mission is to promote stable communities that actively recognize and respect social and ecological diversity, increase genuine democracy, and foster social, economic, and environmental justice in the San Juan Basin.

Challenge Irresponsible Energy Development

We challenge industry and government to require environmentally responsible oil and gas development. With at least 15,000 new natural gas wells planned for the San Juan Basin over the next 20 years, we face immense challenges to make sure development protects our quality lifestyle of peace and quiet, clean air and clean water. We insist on the use of clean technology, strict reclamation, and fair rules that respect the rights of home-owners, ranchers, and residents.

Protect Spectacular Lands and Native Wildlife of the Wild San Juans

From Canyons of the Ancients National Monument to the ancient ponderosa pine forests of Hermosa Creek, the San Juan Basin offers prospects for a half-million acres of additional wilderness areas, and vast habitat to sustain wide-ranging species like lynx and wolf. SJCA advocates for wilderness protection and reintroduction of native wildlife.

Safeguard Free-Flowing Rivers & Clean Water

The San Juans give birth to remarkable rivers and streams, providing life-giving waters for farms and cities but also supporting recreation and aesthetic values. We challenge dams that might destroy our last free-flowing streams while striving for efficient use of water and promoting democracy in water policy.

Build a Safe and Hospitable Society

SJCA strives to create social, economic, and environmental justice for all residents of the San Juan Basin. Our Compañeros project campaigns to end racial profiling that often targets Latinos and other ethnic minorities, and to promote acceptance of diverse cultures.

Janine Fitzgerald, President
Bayfield, CO

Gwen Lachelt, Vice-
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Durango, CO

Paul Bendt, Treasurer
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Kris Dixon
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Mark Pearson
Executive Director

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Olivia Lopez
Compañeros Organizer

Chuck Wanner
Rivers Organizer

Dan Randolph
Oil and Gas Organizer

Amber Clark
Wild San Juans Organizer

Cynthia Bodine
New Mexico Chapter
Organizer

Susan Thomas
Dolores River Campaign
Coordinator

Regional Expansion

SJCA expanded its presence in 2005 by opening its first regional offices. We solidified our efforts in northwest New Mexico by launching our Aztec office to support the organizing work of our New Mexico chapter around the impacts of oil and gas development. We opened a second regional office in Cortez, Colorado as headquarters for our newly expanded Dolores River Campaign. Combined with our main office in Durango, we now have a wide-spread presence throughout the San Juan Basin.

Challenge Irresponsible Energy Development

Defend the HD Mountains from Coalbed Methane Development

Protecting the HD Mountains from gas well drilling has been one of the Alliance's longest running campaigns. We have fought to keep the roadless HD Mountains near Bayfield free of gas wells for almost 20 years. The San Juan National Forest analyzed industry's request for 297 new wells in the Draft Northern San Juan Basin Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) released in 2004. We mobilized unanimous opposition among local governments to the proposal for drilling wells in the roadless area and along the



Ancient ponderosa pine in HD Mountains

sensitive Fruitland formation outcrop, generating 70,000 individual public comments. During 2005, SJCA maintained our diverse HD Mountains coalition comprised of landowners, outfitters, backcountry horsemen, archeologists, and numerous others.

SJCA stopped the first two gas wells proposed for the HD Mountains when we filed a federal lawsuit in June, 2005. The San Juan National Forest had authorized the construction of roads and gas pads, despite the fact that the final Northern San Juan Basin EIS which analyzed the environmental consequences from drilling these wells was not scheduled for completion until 2006. As a result of our lawsuit, the Forest Service withdrew its authorization for the two wells and agreed to conduct a proper analysis.

Challenge Irresponsible Energy Development

Secure Improved Surface Owner Protection from Gas Drilling

SJCA continued extensive participation in the Colorado campaign to reform oil and gas practices, and to secure improved surface owner protections. SJCA secured resolutions supporting Rep. Curry's landowner protection bill from the town of Bayfield and La Plata County during the 2005 legislative session. Unfortunately, Rep. Curry's bill failed on a 6-5 committee vote in April, 2005.

Obtain Strong Rules to Protect Property Owners

Through over a year of effort by SJCA and the Oil and Gas Accountability Project, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission in December adopted the strongest state-wide rules for noise from oil and gas operations in the nation. The Commission agreed with the SJCA/OGAP proposal for a 45 dbA level for rural/residential/agricultural areas despite opposition from the Colorado Oil and Gas Association and industry representatives, as well as the Commission staff. SJCA and OGAP worked with landowners throughout Colorado on this effort.

Coalbed methane (CBM) drilling expanded into Archuleta County during 2005, with proposals for wells along the eastern edge of the HD Mountains. SJCA organizers worked with landowners to successfully encourage Archuleta County commissioners to adopt oil and gas regulations modeled on La Plata County's regulations, and to deny a request by Petrox for a gas compressor station.

Gas companies led by giant BP America applied to double the density of CBM wells across much of La Plata County in 2005. SJCA spearheaded public concern about this proposal by mailing to almost 1,500 affected residents and organizing a public meeting attended by 70 concerned residents. La Plata County and BP eventually signed a memorandum that requires BP to directionally drill from existing gas pads and to electrify its wellhead engines (to reduce noise).

Challenge Irresponsible Energy Development

New Mexico Chapter

SJCA hired a new organizer housed at our regional office in Aztec to ramp up organizing efforts in northwest New Mexico. We tabled at community events including Aztec Fiesta Days and during the weeklong San Juan County Fair. SJCA gathered an extensive list of spokespeople from a wide range of diverse interests including ranchers, farmers, indigenous leaders, Hispanics, local governments and elected officials, and retired industry employees.



Fiesta Days Parade, Aztec

Our primary focus remained the enactment of a surface owner protection bill. After a close call at passing a strong bill in 2005, SJCA members organized a petition campaign that garnered over 1,000 signatures aimed at urging Governor Richardson to support strong surface owner legislation.

Desert Rock Power Plant

SJCA geared up to oppose a massive 1,500-megawatt coal burning power plant proposed near Shiprock, New Mexico. SJCA worked closely with local Navajo opponents, called Dooda Desert Rock, and cosponsored a rally for clean air in Shiprock in June. Over 300 people attended during the day, and the multi-ethnic rally received widespread media coverage across the region.

Protect the Wild San Juans

Citizens Plan for the Wild San Juans

In 1999, SJCA created a Citizens Plan for the Wild San Juans that sets forth our goals for management of the 2-million-acre San Juan National Forest. Our focus in 2005 was participation in the Forest plan revision process, with a particular emphasis on protecting roadless areas. We met repeatedly with San Juan National Forest planning staff to coordinate the agency's revised roadless inventory with our own citizen inventory. After numerous iterations, we persuaded the Forest Service to adopt new roadless inventory boundaries that agree 95% with our roadless area boundaries. We were particularly successful in expanding the boundaries of San Miguel, Stoner Mesa, and Fish Creek roadless areas.

SJCA participated extensively in the Friends of Wolf Creek opposition to the massive Village at Wolf Creek development. We spearheaded opposition in Durango, and created a local chapter located on the Fort Lewis College campus. We sponsored a local fundraiser attended by over 200 students, and we met repeatedly with Army Corps of Engineers staff to push for more scrutiny of wetlands impacts from the development.



Ice Lake, San Miguel Roadless Area

Protect the Wild San Juans

Protect Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM) is the flagship archeological monument within the BLM's newly created Nation



Woods Canyon Ruin, CANM

al Landscape Conservation System. Because of BLM's delays in completing the draft management plan, we focused our efforts on monitoring ongoing activities in the Monument, including two new oil wells. The wells were a consequence of the 2002 North Mail Trail Seismic Project, which we litigated. One well was fortunately a dry hole, but the second struck oil. We worked closely with BLM to ensure that stringent reclamation requirements are enforced for both wells.

Encourage Native Predator Recovery of Lynx and Wolf

We maintained our advocacy for lynx and wolf in the San Juan Mountains during 2005. The lynx recovery program continued its success, with more than 100 kittens now born in the wild.

We participated in the Colorado Division of Wildlife Wolf Management Working Group. Based on the group's recommendation, in May, 2005 the Colorado Wildlife Commission adopted the state's first management plan for wolves that accomplishes two major goals: no statewide numerical limits on wolf populations and no geographic restrictions on wolves.

Safeguard Rivers and Clean Water

Dolores River Campaign

SJCA hired a full-time campaign coordinator in September and established a new satellite office in Cortez. Deep winter snowpacks in 2005 resulted in the first recreational boating season on the Dolores since 2000. The spill from McPhee Reservoir hit 4,000 cubic feet per second, which pleased whitewater boaters and provided a benchmark for the technical flow studies underway by the Dolores River Dialogue. According to BLM, the Dolores experienced the heaviest recreational use in its history in 2005, providing strong evidence for the financial and recreational benefit of a flowing river.



Slickrock Canyon, Dolores River

SJCA launched the Dolores River Dialogue in 2004 to discuss increased downstream flows below McPhee Dam to benefit fish, recreation, and the natural environment. Folks at the table include agricultural water users, counties, state and federal agencies, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, The Nature Conservancy, and the Colorado Water Trust, along with a coalition of 24 conservation groups. The Dolores Dialogue has attracted \$100,000 in cash and in-kind services to perform scientific studies to help guide decision-making. The Dialogue's Core Science team took advantage of the 2005 runoff and initiated research on hydrology, geomorphology, exotic species, coldwater and warm water fisheries below McPhee Dam.

Safeguard Rivers and Clean Water

Animas River Nutrients Working Group
In 2002, a group of concerned scientists and agency staff met to discuss the summer's algal blooms in the Animas River. As a result of our sampling with River Watch and the Division of Wildlife, we were invited to join in the discussion. After a year, SJCA staff were coordinating the effort and organized a basin-wide water quality sampling program. The state water quality agencies from New Mexico and Colorado, both Ute Tribes, Durango, Farmington, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Animas River Stakeholders, San Juan Watershed Group, BUGS Consulting and SJCA participated in the effort. The Southwest Water Conservation District, the Bureau of Reclamation, Durango and Farmington contributed funding. We are now in the process of building a basin wide stakeholder group to create a watershed plan.

We made great progress attacking gravel mining in the Animas River north of Durango. With an effort spearheaded by SJCA volunteer members who questioned the practices employed in mining operations, we eliminated permits for 3 of 4 existing gravel mines, and the fourth has yet to reapply.



The Animas River through Durango.

Safeguard Rivers and Clean Water

Stormwater Runoff for Oil and Gas Development

In March, 2005 SJCA participated with other western Colorado groups in a rule making hearing by the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission that resulted in the requirement that the oil and gas industry comply with Storm Water Discharge regulations. Until March, the industry was exempt from permit requirements. These regulations were imposed despite an exemption granted by the EPA and continue to remain in force despite the Energy Act of 2005 exemption of the oil and gas industry from any compliance with the Clean Water Act or the Safe Drinking Water Act. SJCA worked with a broad coalition to gather evidence and assist local governments throughout western Colorado to support and maintain the current regulations requiring compliance with Storm Water Discharge regulations.

Compañeros

Organizing Latino Activists

Compañeros pursued development of a Latino and immigrant political power base in 2005. We increased outreach through our political page in ElValle newspaper, the KDUR show Radio Latina, and a new planned community access television show on Latino issues, La Voz y La Imagen. The show is a bilingual television show that highlights the contributions of the immigrant and Latino community to the national, state, and local communities. This show will be staffed and created by volunteers of the immigrant and Latino community.

Revenue

ITEM	AMOUNT
Membership Dues	16,613
Major Donations	19,000
Individual Contributions	11,738
Events	42,344
Interest/Dividends	2,416
Merchandise	110
Green Business Roundtable	7,762
Grants - foundations	331,168
Grants - corporate	15,000
TOTAL REVENUE	446,152



Exploring the old-growth ponderosa pine of the HD Mountains.

Expenses

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Salaries	246,051
Retirement	5,478
Health Insurance	11,818
FICA	22,063
Consultants and litigation	5,480
Dues, publications, subscriptions	586
Green Business Roundtable	9,511
Media	2,447
Meetings/events	36,334
Outreach	1,992
Postage	4,600
Printing	13,302
Travel	12,983
Subtotal	372,645
ADMINISTRATION	
Accounting	1,605
Advertising/media	409
Copies	1,332
Dues, publications, subs	552
Insurance	3,456
Merchandise	589
Office equipment & supplies	8,138
Rent	26,580
Telephone/internet	6,680
Training	2,736
Utilities	1,836
Subtotal	53,913
TOTAL EXPENSE	426,558

Donors

Foundation

Chinook Fund
Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Common Counsel Foundation
Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation
Educational Foundation of America
Environmental Support Center
General Service Foundation
Hewlett Foundation
Maki Foundation
McCune Foundation
New-Land Foundation
Ruth Brown Foundation
Sacharuna Foundation
Wolcott Family Foundation
Wyss Foundation

Corporate

Alpine Bank
Altria Group
Brainstorm Internet
Century 21
Coldwell Banker
First National Bank
Sahaira's Salon

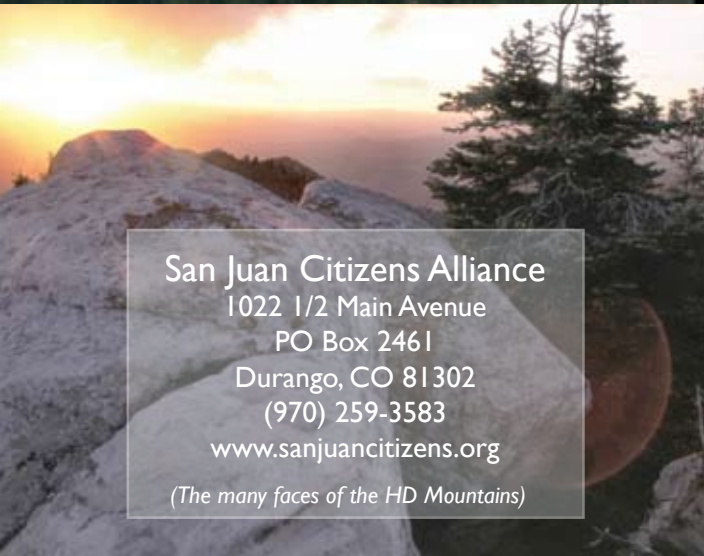


Durango Mayor Joe Colgan kicks off SJCA's Oktoberfest fundraiser.

Donors

Donations In-Kind

Abbey Theatre
Animas Trading
Bob's Johns
Boarding Haus
Carvers Brewery
Colorquest
Creative Conspiracy
Denton Signs
Durango Brewing Company
Durango Business Improvement District
Durango Party Rental
Eccher Architecture
Fahrenheit Coffee Roasters
Holiday Inn
Jarvis Suites
Klackers
Lightning Communications
The Durango Herald
The Durango Telegraph
The Palace Restaurant
The Point
The Rochester Hotel
The Summit
Sinnys
Spaah Shop
Ska Brewing Company
Steamworks Brewing Company
Sysco Foods
Waste Management



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(The many faces of the HD Mountains)