



**2018**

**ANNUAL**

**REPORT**

**SAN JUAN  
CITIZENS  
ALLIANCE**

photo: Matt Payne





# DEAR SUPPORTERS,

As 2018 came to a close, we marked significant accomplishments in several long-running conservation campaigns.

We shifted our climate change campaigns from the national to local level, tackling the climate impact of our local rural electric cooperative. We led a grassroots campaign securing a progressive majority on the board of the La Plata Electric Association, which is now aggressively investigating options to move away from their coal-dominated electric supplier, Tri-State.

Protection for 60,000 acres of wildlands across the San Juans, including Ice Lake Basin, gained momentum and came closer than ever to fruition. The U.S. Senate held hearings on the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act, but

the bill failed to make it over the finish line.

Our Animas Riverkeeper played a critical role in creating a formal citizens advisory group to oversee and engage with the EPA during clean up at the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site and to ensure local voices are heard as sources of the Gold King Mine spill are addressed.

Our successes were spurred in part by increased support from members. We exceeded our financial goals, allowing us to expand our presence in New Mexico with additional staff in Farmington and Santa Fe. Ultimately, we owe our organizational prowess to a robust and loyal membership rooted in the Four Corners.



*Mark Pearson*

**Mark Pearson**  
Executive Director

**In gratitude,**

*Barb West*

**Barb West**  
Board President



San Juan Citizens Alliance advocates for **clean air**, **pure water**, and **healthy lands** – the foundations of resilient communities, ecosystems and economies in the San Juan Basin.



# MOVING LPEA FORWARD



## MOVING LPEA FORWARD

### HISTORY

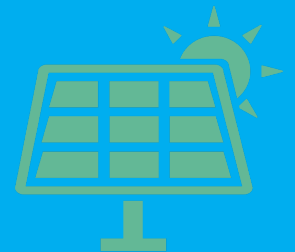
When La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) was incorporated back in 1939, it was at the forefront of the rural electricity industry, enhancing lives and propelling progress throughout the region. Air pollution, climate change, and mercury poisoning the water were not yet concerns. Customers simply wanted a guarantee of affordable, reliable power. It made sense to sign decades-long leases to secure 95% of our electricity. That system worked great for generations. Today, it doesn't.

## TRANSITION

- ☒ Elect forward-thinking Directors to the board
- ☒ Improve transparency and opportunities for public engagement
- ☒ Educate the community about the cooperative and its impacts
- ☒ Evaluate opportunities to buy power on the wholesale market
- ☒ Evaluate the contract with Tri-State
- ☐ Select and pursue a new path forward to best serve members and the environment in this new energy economy

### THE FUTURE

- **Locally-generated renewable energy**
- **More local energy jobs**
- **Tens of millions of dollars stay and recirculate in the local economy**
- **More affordable and stable energy prices**
- **Cleaner air and less carbon pollution**



**Shift towards distributed utility-scale renewable power generation**





photo: Matt Payne

# SAVING THE SAN JUANS

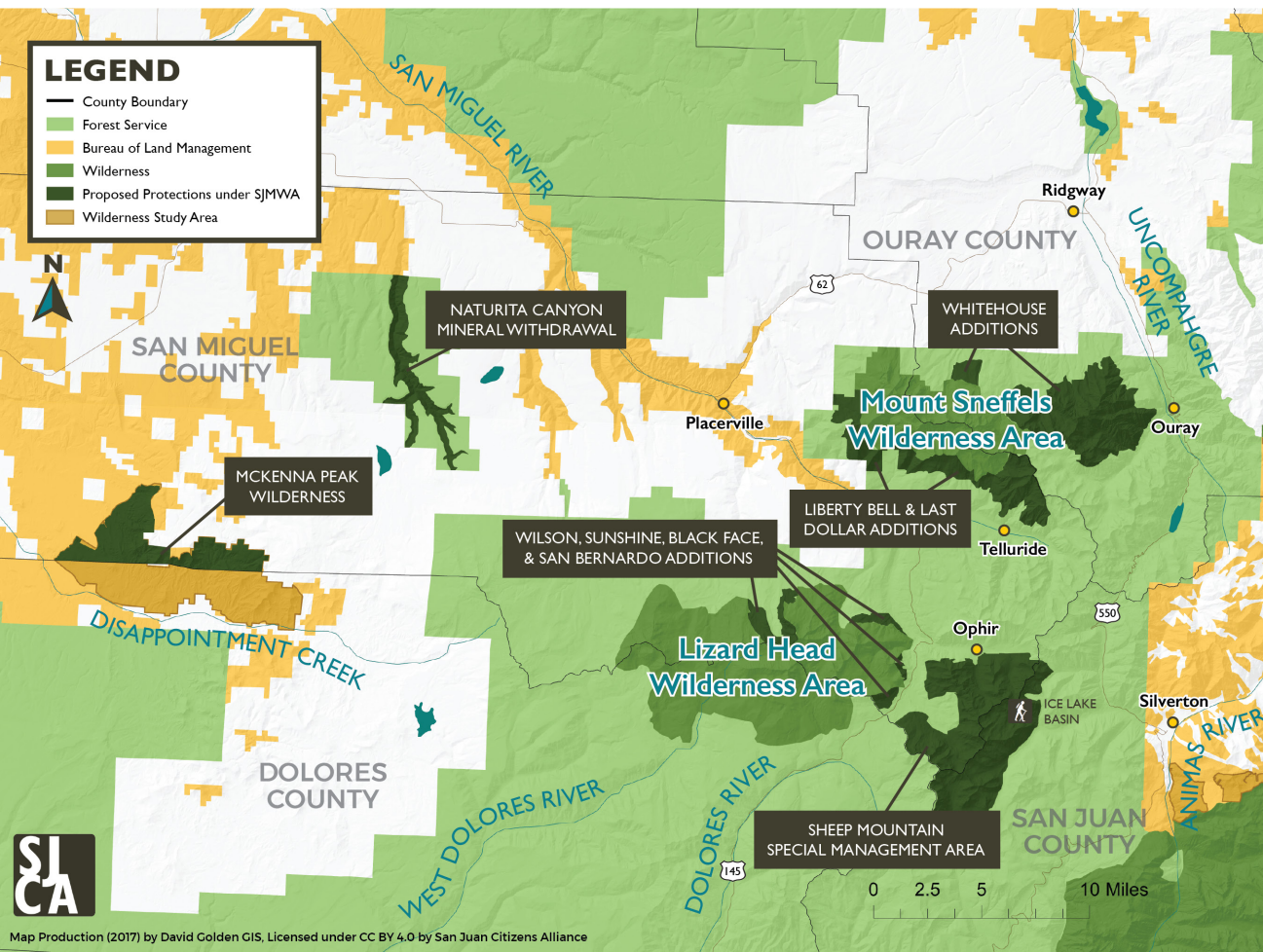


## PROTECTING 60,000 ACRES IN THE SAN JUANS

The San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act is a culmination of a decade-long grassroots effort to ensure adequate protections for the watersheds and landscapes for which Colorado is known and loved. The bill aims to protect nearly 60,000 acres of the most spectacular landscapes in the San Juans. About half of the acreage would expand or create wilderness for well-known vistas, like Mount Sneffels Range and Lizard Head, while the other half would ensure management protections from mining, roads, and oil and gas development for Ice Lake Basin and Hope Lake.

After more than ten years of work with dozens of stakeholders and elected officials hashing out compromises the bill is nearly universally supported. After many stalls in Congress, the bill now faces its best chance of passage.

**We're leading a grassroots campaign to get the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act supported by the entire Colorado delegation and signed into law to secure permanent protections for these spectacular landscapes.**



Lizard Head Additions  
**3,350 acres**

Photo: Jason Hatfield



McKenna Peak Wilderness  
**8,600 acres**



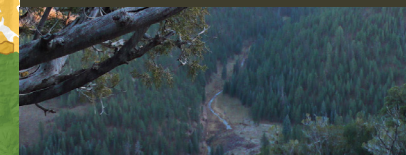
Mount Sneffels Additions  
**20,438 acres**

Photo: Jack Brauer



Sheep Mountain Management Area  
**21,620 acres**

Photo: Jason Hatfield



Naturita Canyon Mineral Withdrawal  
**6,000 acres**

Photo: Sheep Mountain Alliance

**San Juan Mountains, Colorado**



# RE-ENVISIONING THE ANIMAS





## REFORMING COLORADO MINING LAW

Colorado is home to 23,000 inactive mine sites impacting more than 1,600 miles of rivers and streams. The 2015 Gold King Mine spill and perpetually polluted headwaters of the Animas exemplify the impacts of outdated mining laws to water quality and public health.

Mining practices have drastically improved over the last century, making it possible to avoid mistakes that lead to disasters like the Gold King spill and many before it. We worked to bolster support for the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act to safeguard water quality during hard-rock mining operations. The bill didn't pass, but we're optimistic it will gain more support in 2019.

### THE BILL:

- Includes water quality protection in the calculation of bonds required when issuing new permits.
- Ensures mining operators develop a plan for water quality treatment, including an end date.
- Prohibits self-bonding, aligning our laws with the majority of states and federal agencies.



## RE-ENVISIONING THE ANIMAS



### BONITA PEAK CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP

As the Bonita Peak Superfund process moves forward, it's critical our communities be informed and engaged. That's why, in collaboration with our partners, we're creating a Community Advisory Group, or CAG, for the Bonita Peak site! The Bonita Peak CAG will be a citizen-driven public forum that will serve as a long-term nexus between watershed communities and agencies in charge of investigations, clean up, and environmental and human health goals.



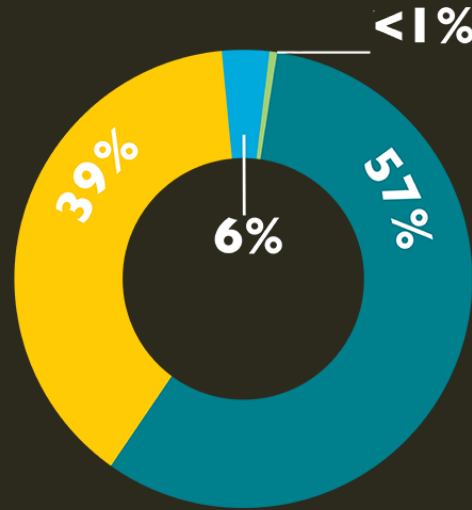
### RECREATION

As the Animas Riverkeeper, we're working hard to ensure the Animas River is clean and safe for recreation and encouraging Aztec and Farmington, NM to embrace and grow river recreation as a regional economic driver.



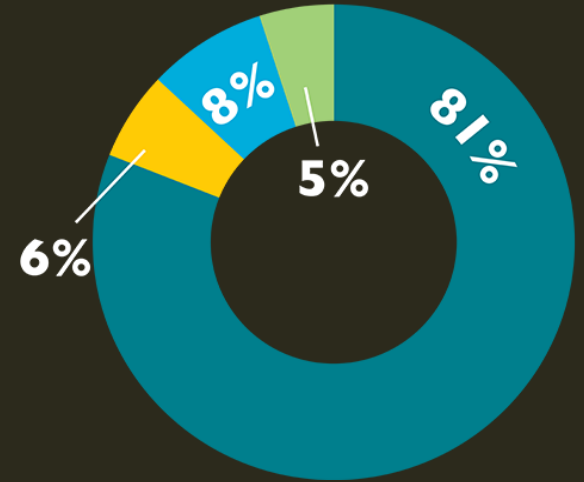
# 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

## REVENUE



GRANTS	\$347,000
MEMBERSHIP/CONTRIBUTIONS	\$237,000
EVENTS	\$27,000
OTHER	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$612,000</b>

## EXPENSE



PROGRAMS	\$407,000
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	\$38,000
FUNDRAISING	\$26,000
EVENTS	\$28,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$499,000</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

(IN THOUSANDS)

### ASSETS

#### Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	264
Donations receivable	8

#### Non-current assets:

Equipment and deposit	1
-----------------------	---

**TOTAL ASSETS 273**

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

#### Current liabilities:

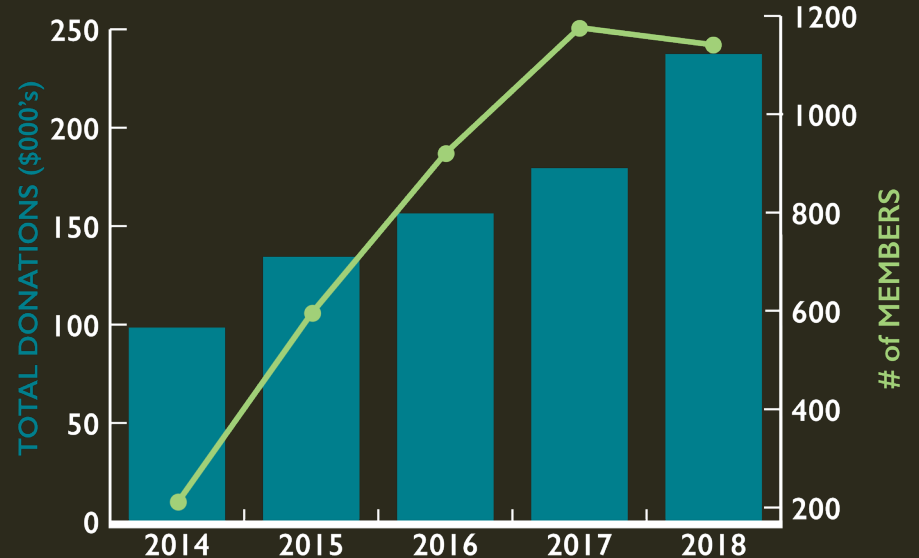
Fiscal Sponsorship	9
Accrued PTO	9
Accounts Payable	2
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>20</b>

#### Net assets:

Temporarily restricted	177
Unrestricted	76
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>253</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: 273**

## MEMBERSHIP & REVENUE GROWTH

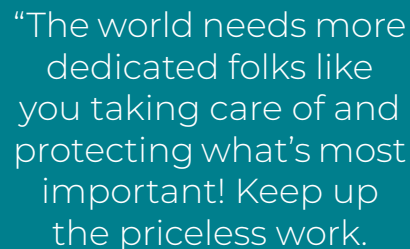


## – Julianne



"We're grateful for SJCA's work on the essential air, water, and land issues in our region and are proud to support the critical work you do."

– Anna



– Paula



## BOARD

Buz Bricca, *Vice President*  
Steve Ellison, *Treasurer*  
Maya Kane  
Steve Monroe  
Anna Peterson  
Robin Richard, *Secretary*  
Gary Skiba  
Diana Vernazza  
Barb West, *President*

## STAFF

Erika Brown, *Communications Manager*  
Jimbo Buickerood, *Lands & Forest Protection  
Program Manager*  
Mike Eisenfeld, *Energy & Climate Program Manager*  
Susan Etter, *Finance & Administration Manager*  
Marcel Gaztambide, *Animas Riverkeeper*  
Zach Pavlik, *San Juan Energy Campaign Organizer*  
Mark Pearson, *Executive Director*  
Katie Pellicore, *Energy and Climate Campaign Organizer*

Visit our website to learn more about our 20+ active campaigns.

**sanjuancitizens.org**

San Juan Citizens Alliance  
1309 East Third Ave, Suite 5  
PO Box 2461  
Durango, CO 81302  
970.259.3583

**info@sanjuancitizens.org**

