



2019

ANNUAL

REPORT

Photo: Bob Wick

**SAN JUAN
CITIZENS
ALLIANCE**



DEAR SUPPORTERS,

For decades, we've pursued ambitious goals for clean air and wildlands protection, and many of those efforts culminated to produce major gains in 2019.

We live amidst one of America's most intensive fossil fuel economies, riding booms and busts of coal, oil and natural gas. A coalition of environmental organizations and community advocates joined with New Mexico's largest utility to chart a new course free of coal-fired electricity, with safeguards to help transition into a new renewable energy economy.

This year we moved closer than ever to finally guaranteeing lasting protections for cherished landscapes, ranging from our most spectacular alpine basins at Ice Lake to the remarkable Dolores River desert canyonlands. Two

momentous lands bills advanced part way through Congress, and once passed will collectively add almost 200,000 acres of protections across our region, and over 1 million acres statewide.

We tackled an unrelenting assault by the Trump administration on our bedrock environmental laws, joining with allies to challenge rollbacks on clean air, clean water, toxic pollutants, and endangered species.

Our successes owe to the long and fruitful partnership with our members and supporters, who share our vision for a healthy, equitable, and inspiring community that embraces and celebrates the benefits of our natural heritage. Thank you for your support and confidence.



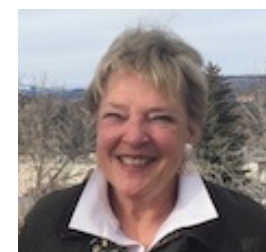
Mark Pearson

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.

Quick Hits



New Colorado Methane Rules

In December, Colorado adopted a strong suite of improved statewide methane protections that prioritize public health and the environment.

The new rules will reduce methane emissions from oil and gas activities and increase monitoring and well repair.



Big Tree Protections in Forest Management

The Forest Service has moved towards ever larger timber sales, including a 60,000-acre project west of Dolores in 2019.

We worked to obtain a true ponderosa pine forest restoration approach on about one-third of the project area, retaining trees bigger than 20 inches in diameter. We'll also see more rigorous scientific assessment where control areas are left untouched for comparison to various treatment approaches.



Courts of Last Resort

Alas, we have been forced into court to defend the rules that protect our health and environment. A few include:

- Methane rules at the state and federal levels
- Oil and gas leasing that ignores endangered species
- Protections of threatened species like lynx

LEAVING COAL BEHIND



Energy Transition Act Passes

Across the Southwest, coal plants are buckling under the pressure of high costs and new statewide carbon reduction goals. The rapid demise of coal means we need to turn our attention to economic diversification, workforce transition, and sustainable energy replacement resources so communities in northwest New Mexico are shielded from the harshest economic effects and can start working towards a cleaner, healthier energy future.

The 2019 New Mexico legislature passed the far-reaching Energy Transition Act. The Act gives Public Service Company of New Mexico an incentive to close the coal-fired San Juan Generating Station, and creates a robust Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires 50% renewable energy by 2030.

SJCA was able to ensure critical energy transition funding was included in the Energy Transition Act - \$30 million for clean-up and decommissioning and \$40 million for economic diversification for the Four Corners.

As regional coal plants move towards retirement we'll continue to monitor the implementation of the Energy Transition Act so that communities most impacted by coal closures aren't left behind.

What's Next?

We need to promote renewable replacement power in northwest New Mexico to clean up the air, provide jobs, and maintain needed tax base.

Photo: John Fielder

KEEPING IT WILD



WILDERNESS BILLS ADVANCE

After decades of hard work to achieve protections for our region's most spectacular mountains and desert wildlands, we finally saw significant gains in 2019. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act in November. The CORE Act includes legislative protections for 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 the 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.

Meanwhile, the Colorado Wilderness Act advanced through Congressional committees. It aims to apply wilderness designation to over 660,000 acres of the state's wildest desert mesas and canyons. Here in the southwestern part of the state, we've long advocated for a dozen areas like Cross Canyon and the Dolores River Canyon to be protected. Passage of the Colorado Wilderness Act would finally guarantee permanent protections covering more than 100,000 acres for those areas.

Now, we're leading grassroots campaigns to get these wilderness bills across the finish line and signed into law.



160,000

Acres in Southwest Colorado and the San Juan mountains up for permanent wilderness protection under the two bills.

1999

The first year the Colorado Wilderness Act was introduced to Congress.

63

Percent of Western Slope voters that support "dedicating additional, existing public lands as wilderness areas in Colorado."

4

Fourteeneers that would be protected as wilderness for the first time.

Photo: Jack Brauer

RAFTING FOR THE ANIMAS



RECREATION FOR CONSERVATION

In order to care deeply about something, to want to defend and protect it, you must first come to know it. The Animas River faces a myriad of challenges – acid mine drainage, climate impacts, and sewage runoff to name a few – and could use more advocates.

That's why, in addition to demanding effective cleanup and transparent, accountable water policy and management, we're also working to get more people on the river to experience it, know it, love it, and protect it.

While much of Durango has embraced the Animas for recreation, the segment through Aztec and Farmington, NM draws far fewer users.

Building on the success of an overnight group float we hosted in 2018, SJCA organized the first competitive raft race from Aztec to Farmington in the spring of 2019.

Our inaugural Riverfest Rally was held in conjunction with Farmington's Riverfest – an annual river festival that regularly draws tens of thousands of people to the Animas over Memorial Day Weekend. Six teams representing local governments, businesses, and nonprofits paddled and rowed their hearts out to the cheers of Riverfest spectators. It was a big success, so we're making it an annual event that will include even more teams in the future.



2019 Riverfest Rally Teams

Three Rivers Brewery – Farmington (1st place winner)

Jack's Plastic Welding – Aztec

River Reach Foundation – Farmington

McKinney-Vento NW New Mexico – Farmington

City of Aztec

San Juan County

To improve recreation on the Animas, we're also...



Creating an interactive recreation map to enhance river access in both Colorado and New Mexico

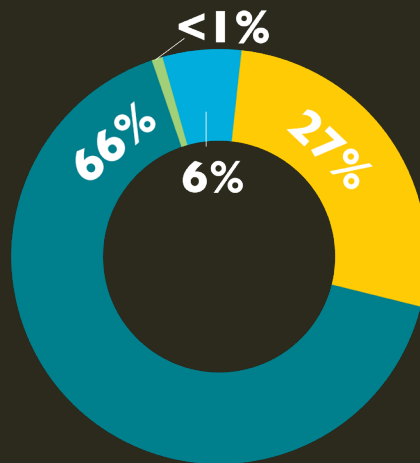


Working with the Bureau of Land Management on improving river-adjacent public land for camping and picnicking between Durango and Farmington.



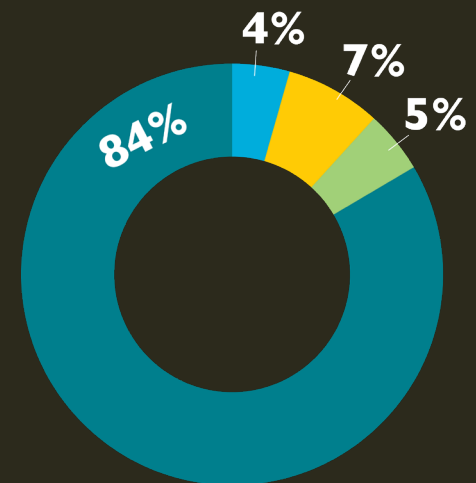
2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE



GRANTS	\$388,000
MEMBERSHIP/CONTRIBUTIONS	160,000
EVENTS	\$36,000
OTHER	\$5,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$589,000

EXPENSE



PROGRAMS	\$455,000
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	\$40,000
FUNDRAISING	\$24,000
EVENTS	\$26,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$545,000

BALANCE SHEET (IN THOUSANDS)

ASSETS

Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	257
Donations receivable	64
Non-current assets:	
Equipment and deposit	1

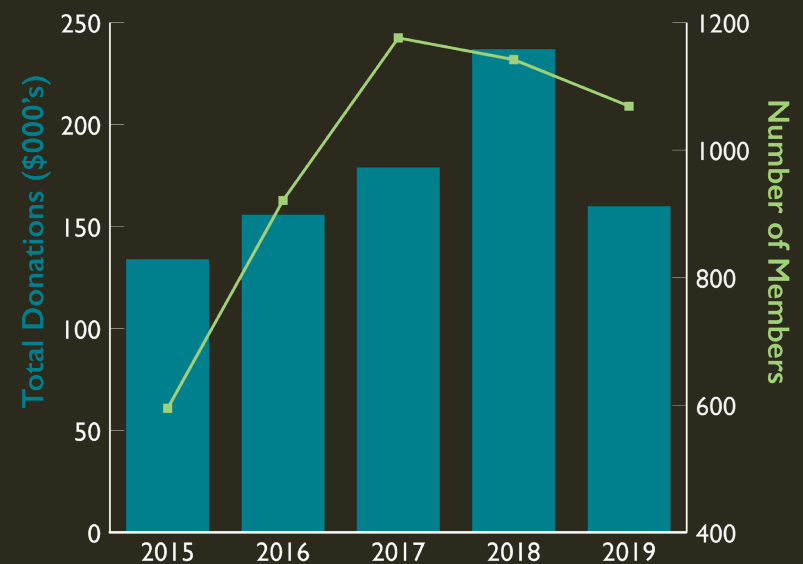
TOTAL ASSETS 322

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:	
Fiscal Sponsorship	13
Accrued PTO	9
Accounts Payable	3
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	25
Net assets:	
Temporarily restricted	147
Unrestricted	150
TOTAL NET ASSETS	297

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: 322

MEMBERSHIP & REVENUE GROWTH





“SJCA was a great help to me and guided me along my adventure with BP. Since those long ago days, SJCA has expanded their horizons and continues to do great things for our community.”

– 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



“The world needs more dedicated folks like you taking care of and protecting what’s most important! Keep up the priceless work.”

– Paula



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Mark Pearson, *Executive Director*
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Visit our website to learn more about our 20+ active campaigns.

sanjuancitizens.org

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Photo: Matt Payne



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