



**2020**

**ANNUAL**

**REPORT**

**SAN JUAN  
CITIZENS  
ALLIANCE**

Photo: Rob Ziegler



# DEAR SUPPORTERS,

The past year offered twin challenges of dealing with a global pandemic and the frenzied last push of the most anti-conservation presidential administration in generations.

We weathered the Covid-19 storm in a strong financial position at year's end, thanks to the generosity of our committed supporters. Our staff and board dealt with the strange new reality of countless Zoom calls, and working remotely for most of the year, as did everyone. On the bright side, we learned new methods and opportunities for connecting with our friends and supporters as a result.

We saw extraordinary advances in 2020, particularly around energy, lands protection, and wildlife issues. In New Mexico, the transition from coal to renewables inexorably continued. More than 1,000 megawatts of new solar plants were approved for replacement of Public Service Company of New Mexico's (PNM) San Juan Generating Station, and Arizona Public Service company announced a commitment

for up to \$144 million in community transition support once Four Corners Power Plant and others retire.

In November, Colorado voters approved the return of wolves, more than 70 years after the last wolf was exterminated from the wilds of the state. Anticipating this outcome, we launched a new wildlife program during the year and will actively participate in the hard work of planning for a successful reintroduction.

Though we didn't quite make it over the finish line for lands bills bringing permanent protection to 200,000 acres across our region, and over 1 million acres statewide, the momentum accelerated for successful action in 2021.

None of this would be possible without your support and confidence. We look forward with great anticipation to a brighter future across the San Juan Basin in the coming year.

**In gratitude,**



*Mark Pearson*

**Mark Pearson**  
Executive Director

*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

Photo: John Felder



### Wilderness Bills Pass US House

2020 saw tremendous legislative progress for new wilderness areas, with both the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act and the Colorado Wilderness Act passing the US House of Representatives.

The CORE Act protects 400,000 acres statewide, including 30,000 acres of wilderness in the San Juans, plus another 30,000 acres of other protected areas, such as the area surrounding Ice Lake basin. The Colorado Wilderness Act protects 36 areas covering 660,000 acres. About 150,000 acres in the bill are located in Southwest Colorado and include areas like Canyons of Ancients, the Dolores River basin, and both Handies and Redcloud Peaks.

Conservation advocates anticipate momentum carrying over into 2021 with either prompt action on these remaining legislative priorities, or the opportunity to pursue new prospects.



### Outstanding Waters Designation

An Outstanding Waters designation is a special protection on pristine waterways to ensure water quality is not degraded. For the San Juan Basin, which contains the Animas, the rulemaking hearing to designate Outstanding Waters protection is scheduled for the summer of 2022.

To prepare for this hearing, SJCA began to identify Outstanding Water candidate streams, collect critical water quality data, document natural resource values, and gather community support for protecting high-quality water. Our initial list of potential candidate streams includes Animas River tributaries like Boulder Creek, Bear Creek, Cascade Creek, Lime Creek, and Grasshopper Creek.

As climate uncertainty increases and streams with exceptional quality become rarer, it will be ever more important to protect the high-quality water that still exists.



# SOLAR PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD



Photo: Carlan Tapp



## 100% REPLACEMENT POWER

As the Four Corners rapidly moves towards the end of coal and many of the coal complexes near their closure dates, SJCA is hard at work advocating for a just and equitable transition from reliance on coal-fired power plants to renewable resources.

We have long advocated for 100% onsite renewable replacement power for coal plants, and are beginning to see those efforts come to fruition. Now, there is the possibility for a remarkable shift to investment in renewable energy and economic diversification for the Four Corners region.

One major investment, the Four Corners Solar Center, comprises several solar projects amounting to approximately 1,400 MW of solar photovoltaic and battery storage facility proposed by Photosol. The

projects are located adjacent to two soon-to-retire coal plants, San Juan Generating Station and Four Corners Power Plant.

A key aspect of these solar projects is their replacement of lost property taxes from closure of the coal plant. The power output from the projects will also far exceed the megawatts lost when the existing coal plants close and ensure that northwestern New Mexico will help meet the state's goal for utilities to produce energy from 100% carbon-free sources by 2045.

SJCA will continue to work for final approval of solar projects in the Four Corners region over the coming year and ensure that impacted communities in the Four Corners can reap the benefits of economic diversification and renewable energy investment.



**\$1  
billion**

Total investment in Four Corners communities from replacing San Juan Generating Station with 100% renewable energy

**\$600  
million**

Investment in the Central Consolidated School District, replacing San Juan County property taxes of \$3.5 million paid by San Juan Generating Station

**\$20  
million**

Assistance to impacted communities on sustainable economic projects like tourism, health care, education, agriculture, & renewable energy innovation.

**1000**

Construction jobs that will be created from the decision to replace San Juan Generating Station with 100% renewable power



# WOLVES INCOMING





## COLORADO'S REINTRODUCTION

SJCA kickstarted our new wildlife program in 2020, with a key focus on wolf restoration in Colorado. Throughout the summer and fall of 2020, SJCA worked on passage of Proposition 114, the ballot initiative to restore wolves to Colorado, by conducting opposition research and leading a public education campaign about wolves.

Now that the Proposition 114 has passed, we will be working closely with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and other local partners as they develop a comprehensive, transparent reintroduction plan for wolves.

CPW must release wolves and have

paws on the ground by 2023, and so they must move quickly in order to implement the will of the voters while also providing a transparent planning process. In order to establish a self-sustaining wolf population, it is crucial that the state ensures that everyone who is affected has their concerns heard and addressed.

SJCA will help represent Southwest Colorado and will remain heavily involved in this planning process over the coming two years. We will engage local and statewide agencies and organizations to ensure that wolf reintroduction is timely, transparent, and relies on the best available science.

### Top 5 Reasons to Restore Wolves to Colorado

**1.**

Wolves Perform Important Ecological Functions

**2.**

Colorado is the Missing Link for Genetic Resiliency

**3.**

The Public Wants Wolf Restoration

**4.**

Intentional Reintroduction Allows Management Flexibility

**5.**

It's the Right Thing to Do



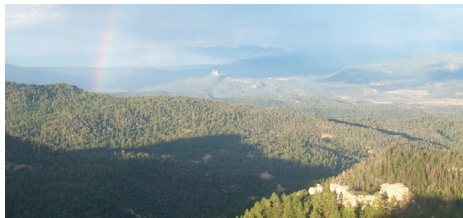


A photograph of a forest of tall, mature pine trees with thick trunks and dense green needles. The ground is covered in green grass and low-lying shrubs. In the lower right corner, a person wearing a red hat and a backpack is standing next to a black dog. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

# DEFENDING THE HD MOUNTAINS



## PUSH AGAINST INDUSTRIALIZATION



Scenes from the HD mountains. From top left: view of cultural sites, field of Ponderosa pines, semi truck on access road to wellsite, proposed site for the the El Toro Compressor Station, view of Chimney rock, natural gas infrastructure, gas wellpad, the HDs after a rainstorm.

Protecting and defending the HD Mountains has been a primary interest for San Juan Citizens Alliance for decades. From old growth Ponderosas to abundant bear populations that forage and frolic in grassy meadows, the HDs are home to a variety of species across a wide range of lower-elevation life zones.

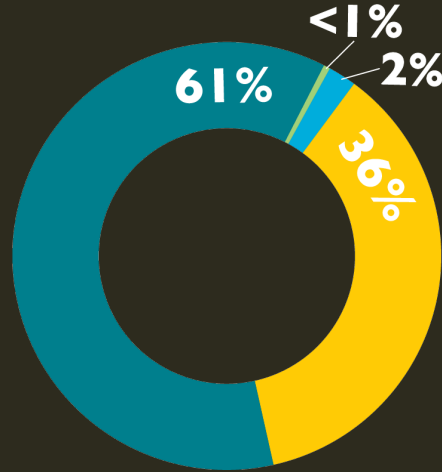
Unfortunately, they are also the target for fossil fuel extraction interests. Though the HDs are already studded with a few dozen natural gas wellsites, a swath of unnecessary new developments were proposed this year. These projects ranged from new pipelines to a full gas compression site. Some of these proposals are even inside the HD Mountains Roadless Area, a designation which is supposed to protect this area (and its wild inhabitants) from future development. All told, 2020 saw about 25 miles of dual pipelines, a dozen wellheads, and additional well access roads either recently approved or in the planning pipeline in the HD Mountains.

To protect this biodiverse landscape from new natural gas and other development projects, SJCA mobilized our member base to send comments in to the US Forest Service. We also sent in our own organizational comments opposing the new developments. We are continuously elevating the HD Mountains in the public sphere to highlight the importance of this range as an irreplaceable natural, cultural, and recreational resource for our area. Moving forward, SJCA will keep leading the charge and muster our efforts, resources and capacity to hold back the push for unnecessary natural gas development in the HDs as much as possible.



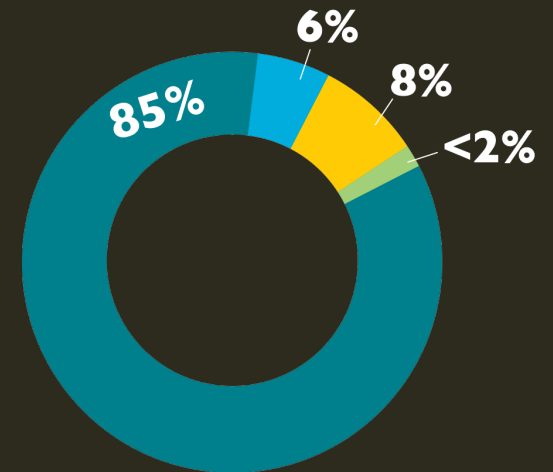
# 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

## REVENUE



GRANTS	\$369,000
MEMBERSHIP/CONTRIBUTIONS	\$220,000
EVENTS	\$13,000
OTHER	\$3,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$605,000</b>

## EXPENSES



PROGRAMS	\$437,000
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	\$42,000
FUNDRAISING	\$29,000
EVENTS	\$9,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$545,000</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

(IN THOUSANDS)

### ASSETS

<b>Current assets:</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	388
Donations receivable	6
<b>Non-current assets:</b>	
Equipment and deposit	1

**TOTAL ASSETS 395**

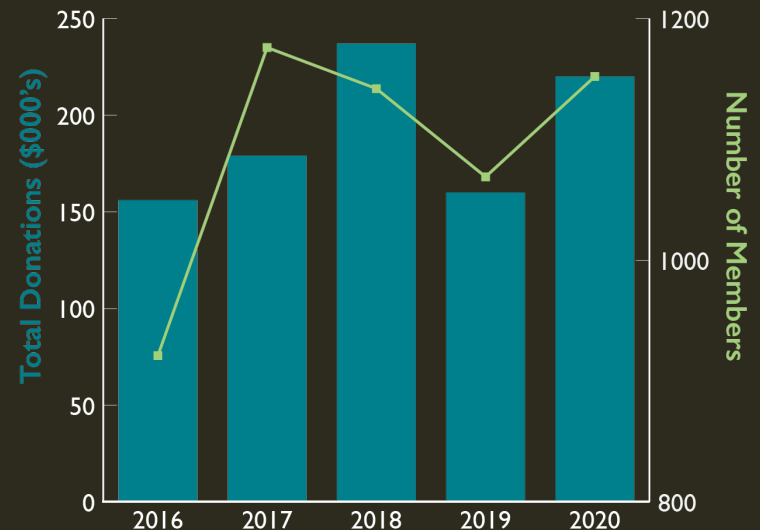
### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

<b>Current liabilities:</b>	
Fiscal Sponsorship	13
Accrued PTO	16
Accounts Payable	1
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>17</b>

<b>Net assets:</b>	
Temporarily restricted	98
Unrestricted	280
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>378</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: 395**

## MEMBERSHIP & REVENUE GROWTH







## 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

Jimbo Buickerood, *Lands & Forest Protection  
 Program Manager*  
 Mike Eisenfeld, *Energy & Climate Program Manager*  
 Susan Etter, *Finance & Administration Manager*  
 Marcel Gaztambide, *Animas Riverkeeper*  
 Mark Pearson, *Executive Director*  
 Katie Pellicore, *Communications Manager & Colorado  
 Energy Organizer*  
 Gary Skiba, *Wildlife Program Manager*

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

**sanjuancitizens.org**

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