



SAN JUAN CITIZENS

2007 annual report

Organizing for the people and land of the San Juan Basin

2007 Featured Campaign: Tackling Global Warming in the Four Corners

Desert Rock Power Plant

A massive 1,500-megawatt coal-fired power plant proposed for a site near Shiprock, New Mexico galvanized San Juan Citizens Alliance's efforts to combat global warming at a local scale during 2007. The immediate cause of action during the year was a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) to analyze the environmental and social impacts associated with the proposed Desert Rock Energy Facility that includes the construction and operation of a coal-fired power plant, transmission lines, a water-supply system, access roads, expand surface coal mining, coal preparation facilities, and other associated facilities to be located on Navajo Nation land. Desert Rock is a so-called market power plant that has no firm customers yet contract to purchase the power. Its proponents, Sithe Global LLC and the Diné Power Authority, hope to build the plant and sell its power output to Phoenix, Tucson and Las Vegas.

The Draft EIS generated intense public controversy. SJCA's Farmington field organizer spearheaded public opposition at public hearings in July, and helped coordinate a coalition that generated 54,000 critical comments nationwide against Desert Rock. Desert Rock is advertised as a "clean coal project," yet would emit over 12.7 million tons per year of carbon dioxide, and would increase New Mexico's statewide CO₂ emissions by more than 25%. Public outrage stoked by SJCA helped persuade New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico to publicly come out against Desert Rock as proposed, while Congressman John Salazar of Colorado responded to the numerous communities in

southwest Colorado that passed resolutions against Desert Rock and spoke strongly against the project.

As second success in our campaign to stop Desert Rock was a coalition effort to prevent state legislation providing \$85 million in tax relief to Sithe Global to construct Desert Rock. We helped expose the true environmental costs of Desert Rock to New Mexico legislators who were being heavily pressured by Sithe and the Navajo Nation to consider only the tax implications to the state, and the tax breaks were defeated.

Not content to just be against Desert Rock, we were also pleased to support a positive agenda for alternatives to Desert Rock. Ecos Consulting prepared a report analyzing the Navajo Nation's potential to build renewable energy (wind and solar) projects that would provide power to local citizens, create more jobs than Desert Rock, and utilize emerging centralized and decentralized solar and wind technologies. We are working with Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment to distribute the results of this Alternative Energy and Economic Report to policy makers and affected communities.

Proponents of Desert Rock originally presumed the project would be quickly approved, allowing for scheduled construction in 2005. Three years



Existing San Juan Generating Station. Desert Rock is proposed several miles south.

later, Desert Rock remains a highly contentious project that relies on the acquisition of numerous permits (none of which have yet to be attained) that may now be more difficult to get given the evolving regulatory, scientific and legal framework concerning climate change and global warming.

Reforming Tri-State

SJCA worked throughout 2007 on a bottom-up effort to reform the extreme coal-orientation of Tri-State Generating, the wholesale electric supplier for 44 rural electric cooperatives including two in southwest Colorado. We mobilized the public, business, and local governments to advocate for stronger commitments to energy efficiency and renewable energy, and worked to recruit renewable energy advocates to run for election to the governing boards.

Protecting the Wild San Juans

Defending the HD Mountains

The Forest Service released its long-awaited Record of Decision for drilling in the HD Mountains in April. The roadless HD Mountains provide a low elevation, critical wildlife migration corridor and harbor some of the last standing old-growth ponderosa pine forests in the San Juan Mountains. The agency's decision represents a substantial improvement over industry's proposed development scheme, and is thus a victory for years of public organizing. In response to public outcry, the Record of Decision significantly reduced development inside the roadless area to 27 new wells (reduced from 57) and 11 miles of new roads (reduced from 38). The decision also keeps the heart of the roadless area (Ignacio Creek) off limits to coalbed methane drilling. The change reduces the impact to the roadless area from 13,000 acres down to 5,000 acres (out of 27,000 acres the USFS considers roadless). However, we are still aggressively fighting final approvals of these remaining 27 wells proposed in the roadless area through litigation filed in January, 2008 that challenges the adequacy of the EIS.

One major disappointment in the decision is the approval of 40 wells along the Fruitland Formation outcrop in Archuleta County; similar wells in La Plata County will be prohibited. Drilling along the outcrop in La Plata County led to hazardous levels of methane gas in numerous homes north of Bayfield in the early 1990s, and resulted in demolition of at least four homes.

Protect Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

The Bureau of Land Management in October released the long-awaited management plan for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument that encompasses the richest archeological district in America. As many as 30,000 archeological sites, including dozens of spectacular standing ruins, grace the canyons and mesas across 165,000 acres west of Cortez.



Pre-Puebloan Ruin in Canyons of the Ancients.



The HD Mountains Roadless Area.

BLM's plan responded to our public organizing and emphasizes the protection of cultural resources on a landscape scale by focusing not only on individual cultural resource sites, but also on how the sites relate to one another. Proposed oil and gas development locations on existing leases would be evaluated to determine whether placement of developments involving no direct impacts to communities and sites is possible, based upon the distribution and density of prehistoric communities. No new oil and gas leases would be issued. The plan also increased protection for lands with wilderness character around Cross Canyon, and restricts public motorized travel on fully one-half of the existing roads and vehicle routes in the Monument to improve cultural resource protection.

We secured one long-sought victory when 4,000 acres of existing leases finally expired in CANM's southwest corner. With the demise of the leases, the Proclamation and new draft management plan should preclude any reissuance of oil and gas leases in this portion of the Monument.

Protect Dolores River Basin and San Juan National Forest Roadless Areas

BLM and San Juan National Forest issued draft management plans in late 2007 setting the future direction for 2.3-million acres and several key roadless areas with oil and gas potential. The plans precludes new leasing without protective No Surface Occupancy stipulations on all of the roadless areas on the San Juan NF and the Dolores River corridor, and specifically places entirely off-limits to leasing most of the Hermosa Roadless Area, the largest unprotected roadless area in Colorado at 148,000 acres.

Defend Chaco Canyon

SJCA's Farmington organizer worked hard and scored a quick win on two wells proposed for state lands on the boundary of Chaco Canyon National Historic Park in March, 2007. In response to organized opposition initiated by SJCA and other groups, the New Mexico state land commissioner pulled the plug on the wells. He told the company he would exchange their leases for other state lands elsewhere in New Mexico.

Safeguarding Rivers and Clean Water

San Juan Wild Rivers Protection

During 2007, San Juan Citizens Alliance launched an effort to engage water developers, state water regulators, conservationists and the San Juan National Forest in discussions about at least six potential Wild and Scenic Rivers in the San Juan Mountains.

The San Juans give rise to many outstandingly remarkable rivers and streams. The Animas River, for example, is one of the longest free-flowing rivers in the Colorado River basin and receives extensive recreational visitation by rafters, kayakers, fishermen, and passengers of the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. The Rivers Protection Group provides a mechanism for discussing the natural and water resource values of individual rivers and finding consensus management direction.

In addition to the Animas, other focus rivers include: 1) the Hermosa watershed, where the Forest Service proposes wild and scenic river suitability for 62 miles of streams renowned for habitat for threatened native Colorado River cutthroat trout; 2) 54 miles of the Los Pinos River and its tributaries within the Weminuche Wilderness; 3) 50 miles of the Piedra mainstem and tributaries that includes the dramatic whitewater runs through the First and Second Boxes; 4) the San Juan River's West Fork and East Fork, arising near

Building a Safe and Hospitable Society

During 2007, SJCA continued its program to outreach to the Latino community in southwest Colorado. We focused on implementing community relations commissions in both Durango and Cortez to create forums for public discussion about potential discrimination of disadvantaged groups. We also worked closely with statewide coalitions to create a more powerful and focused voice on issues of particular concerns to Latinos, including environmental and social justice issues.

Wolf Creek Pass; 5) Vallecito Creek, which forms one of Colorado's longest wilderness watersheds.

Dolores River Dialogue

SJCA initiated the Dolores River Dialogue in 2004 where state and federal agencies, local water users, and conservationists are exploring options for increasing downstream water deliveries via reservoir re-operation or water acquisition, and for obtaining permanent landscape-scale protection of the river corridor from McPhee Dam to the Colorado state line. The Dialogue creates trust and working relationships between conservationists and the Dolores River Water Conservancy District and Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company, that collectively divert two-thirds of the river's annual volume out of its basin.



The Dolores River between Slickrock and Bedrock.

Challenging Irresponsible Energy Development

Colorado Oil and Gas Reform

The Colorado legislature completed its work and passed historic overhauls of the state's oil and gas regulations in May, 2007. SJCA worked as part of a broad-based statewide coalition to advocate for these overhauls. House Bill 1341 changes the composition of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to add the voices of agriculture, wildlife, and the environment for the first time,

and eliminates the historic dominance of the commission by the oil and gas industry. House Bill 1252 grants surface owners the same legal status as mineral owners, and levels the playing field for negotiations between surface owners and oil companies when it comes to surface access for drilling.

Stronger Air Pollution Standards

The San Juan National Forest and BLM San Juan and Farmington Field Offices adopted enhanced air pollution emission standards for wellhead engines and compressors in the Record of Decision for the Northern San Juan Basin EIS, finalized in July, 2007. This reduces wellhead emissions by over 80% for nitrogen oxides.

Colorado Stormwater Rules

SJCA and other West Slope groups spearheaded a coalition of regional governments and other allies to retain the state's strong new water-quality rules protecting waterways from sediment contamination by oil and gas development. We successfully defended the state's stormwater regulations before the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission against a concerted attack by the oil and gas industry.



Colorado faced record drilling in 2007.

SJCA Program Areas

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.

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 riparian values. We challenge dams that might destroy our last free-flowing streams while striving for efficient use and promoting democracy in water policy. On the Dolores River, we have engaged water users, government agencies, white-water enthusiasts, and conservationists in collaboration aimed at freeing more water for downstream flows.

Protect Spectacular Lands & 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. Our longest running campaign is the effort to keep the rugged HD Mountains near Bayfield free of gas wells.

Act Locally on Global Warming

We tackle head-on the largest contributors to global warming, new coal-fired power plants like Desert Rock and those proposed by Tri-State that would increase carbon dioxide emissions by millions of tons annually. We educate our members about individual choices to reduce global warming, and work to reform the institutions that make our energy future choices.

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.

The San Juan Citizens Alliance is a grassroots organization dedicated to social, economic and environmental justice. We organize San Juan Basin residents to protect our water and air, our public lands, our rural character, and our unique quality of life while embracing the diversity of our region's people, economy and ecology.

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Individual Supporters

SJCA owes its success to over 550 individual members who not only provide financial support, but also actively engage themselves in the hard work of moving forward our mission to protect and enhance the people, land, and resources of the San Juan Basin.

Revenue

ITEM	AMOUNT
Membership Dues	27,390
Major Donations	29,755
Individual Contributions	6,050
Business sponsors	6,200
Cartridge recycling	2,038
Brainstorm Giveback Program	4,345
Green Business Roundtable	9,752
Events	57,044
Interest/Dividends	5,501
Miscellaneous	180
Foundation grants	368,984
TOTAL REVENUE	535,059

Foundation Supporters

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Donnell Initiative Fund
Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation
Educational Foundation of America
Hewlett Foundation
Maki Foundation
McCune Foundation
National Council for La Raza
New-Land Foundation
Ruth Brown Foundation
Sacharuna Foundation
Wyss Foundation

Expenses

ITEM	AMOUNT
Salaries	331,509
Retirement	6,459
Health Insurance	35,349
FICA	17,802
Accounting	2,550
Advertising	4,547
Community Foundation Fund	2,500
Contractors and litigation	2,696
Copier maintenance contract	962
Dues and subscriptions	1,590
Fundraising events	35,034
Green Business Roundtable	12,604
Insurance	2,783
Office Supplies	11,548
Postage	2,293
Printing	9,200
Rent & Utilities	33,405
Technology	9,235
Telephone/internet	10,525
Training	867
Travel	16,904
TOTAL EXPENSE	552,729