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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND
finding the ways that work

Rocky Mountain Update

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A brief review of what's happening with our air, water, land and climate

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Bountiful Conservation Links Consumers with Goods from Conserved Lands

Colorado loses an estimated 100,000 acres of agricultural land each year to expanding development. When landowners place a conservation easement on their property, they not only preserve the land for themselves and their families, but all Coloradoans benefit from protected agricultural land, open space and wildlife habitat.



EDF Rocky Mountain ecologist Ted Toombs and graphic designer Ann Karpinski recently teamed up to produce our first Colorado Conservation Directory, *Bountiful Conservation*. The Directory lists producers who have taken the extra step to place conservation easements on their lands. Many consumers are conservation-minded but are unaware whether the products they purchase come from protected land or not.

Bountiful Conservation gives consumers that knowledge. Everybody wins in this scenario: Coloradoans get more protected lands, consumers get a great product or service knowing they supported a conserva-

tion-minded producer, and the producers sell more of their goods/services.

EDF is unique in its approach of using markets to achieve environmental gains. *Bountiful Conservation* is another example of how we use markets to promote environmental stewardship. You can view the Directory in its entirety at: www.edf.org/documents/9451_BountifulConservation.pdf or visit www.bountifulconservation.com to request a print copy of the Directory.

Protecting Colorado River Wetland

La Cienega de Santa Clara, the largest remaining wetland in the Colorado River Delta in Mexico and home to 70% of the world's remaining population of the endangered Yuma clapper rail (pictured at right), is threatened by the proposed operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant in Arizona. Water supply agencies in Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Phoenix are working with the federal government to test the long-dormant plant, but operations will eliminate a significant portion of the wetland's water supply and moreover will degrade the quality of the remaining supply. EDF is working with agencies in both the United States and Mexico, as well as with a private water trust, to secure a dedicated water supply during the test period to ensure protection of the wetlands.



USFWS

Improving Air Quality in National Parks

The West's national parks inspire millions of visitors from around the world. Too often, however, air pollution impairs the view of majestic landforms and sweeping vistas. Our staff is working with

allies at Earthjustice and the National Parks Conservation Association to enforce the law and protect clean air in our national parks. We took legal action when states across the West failed to submit required measures to cut pollution from high-emitting industrial facilities and to ensure new industrial sources do not degrade air quality. As a result of our legal action, EPA has called for the deficient states to submit the overdue clean air plans. If the states delay action, EPA must prepare a federal clean air plan. Working together, we can secure cleaner air in the West's national parks from the Grand Canyon to the Rocky Mountains.



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Challenging Coal Plants

New EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson recently agreed to review the Bush Administration's refusal to address greenhouse gas emissions from new coal plants, resolving litigation by Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund and allies over the Bush Administration policy. Nearly two years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that EPA's refusal to address global warming pollution under the Clean Air Act was unlawful. But EPA forestalled implementation of the Court's holding, until now. By moving forward, the new head of EPA is carrying out the nation's clean air laws to address global warming pollution today.

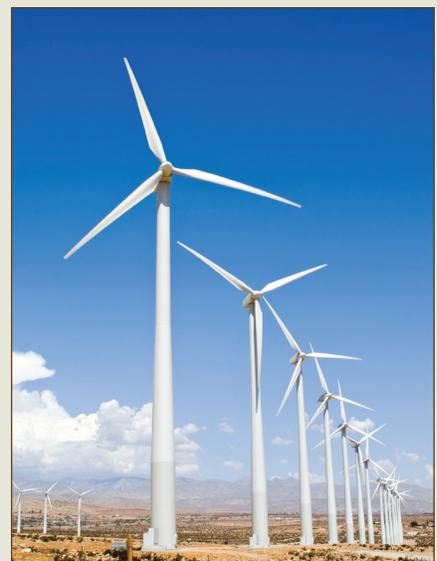
While Congress must enact comprehensive climate legislation to achieve the scope of greenhouse gas reductions compelled by science, EPA action today under existing law is crucial to prevent carbon "lock in" from high-emitting conventional coal plants. In the West, EPA action means that new coal plants in Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and elsewhere will have to get serious about addressing global warming pollution. And it means that climate-friendly solutions will be deployed to power a clean energy economic revitalization.

Clean Energy Pioneers

The winds of change are blowing across the American West bringing climate-friendly solutions and economic hope to rural communities. We are teaming up with the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union to spread the news about the people and communities in the rural West that are pioneering clean energy solutions.

The new public education campaign will spotlight West-erners such as Lane Bradley, a student at Mesalands Community College's North American Wind Research and Training Center in Tucumcari, New Mexico. A job in wind energy is guaranteed for students, like Lane, who complete the training program. "This is the wave of the future. I want to get in on the ground floor. This is an environmental issue, but it's also a good employment opportunity," Bradley said.

To learn more about the West's Clean Energy Pioneers, visit our new website at www.cleanenergypioneers.org.



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