



Restoring the Colorado River Delta

In March, Environmental Defense and scientist Jennifer Pitt hosted two professionals from South Africa's Working for Water and Working for Wetlands programs for a visit to the Colorado River delta. Guy Preston and Mbali Goge run programs that employ around 40,000 individuals in on-the-ground restoration activities; their expertise is in linking labor and environmental initiatives. We hope to use their ideas as we create a restoration program in the limitrophe reach of the Colorado River delta in Southwestern Arizona and Northwestern Mexico. Benefits of a

restored limitrophe should include increased native flora and fauna, flood protection, border security, and local economic benefits as a result of new jobs created and increased ecotourism opportunities.

Mercury Emission Standards Tighten

Colorado recently adopted a program to slash mercury from coal-fired power plants. The new standards were hammered out in extensive negotiations involving Environmental Defense, local government officials, state regulators and power companies. The coal plants must remove 80% of their mercury by 2012-2014 and 90% by 2018. The limits apply to individual plants, and disallow trading of this potent neurotoxin. The negotiations were reported on in the *Rocky Mountain News*, *The Denver Post*, and an [in-depth interview](#) on Colorado Public Radio's *Colorado Matters* with Environmental Defense attorney Vickie Patton and the lead attorney for the power companies.

Safe Harbor for At Risk Species

Ecologist Ted Toombs is using safe harbor agreements to encourage private landowners and local partners in Utah and Arizona to manage and restore habitat for the threatened Utah prairie dog and endangered southwestern willow flycatcher. Safe harbor agreements, pioneered by Environmental Defense a decade ago, offer a strong incentive to private landowners to conserve endangered species. These agreements must be approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and assure landowners who voluntarily agree to manage their lands to benefit listed species that their proactive stewardship will not result in future regulatory obligations in excess of those existing at the time they enter into the agreement. Increased private landowner participation will help put these species on the road to recovery.



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Stopping Coal Plant Pollution in the Four Corners

The Four Corners is renowned for its inspiring but imperiled vistas. Sithe Global is seeking approvals to build a massive coal plant on the Navajo Nation reservation in northern New Mexico. Pollution from the plant would add haze, increase mercury, and discharge over 10 million tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide each year. Sithe suffered a recent setback when its proposed \$85 million tax break went unapproved by the New Mexico legislature. The tax legislation was opposed by Navajo families, envi-

ronmentalists and faith organizations. Environmental Defense will continue to partner with this coalition in challenging Sithe's request for federal construction approvals. Read the *Independent's* coverage of the Desert Rock Energy Project and watch *Making a Stand at Desert Rock*.

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FedEx Hybrids Come to Colorado

Our regional director, Dan Grossman, shared a podium with U.S. Senator Ken Salazar and FedEx Express Vice President for Global Vehicles John Formisano to celebrate the introduction of four hybrid-electric delivery trucks to be used by FedEx Express in the Denver area. The four trucks are part of the partnership between FedEx Express and Environmental Defense dating back to 2000. FedEx Express now operates 93 hybrid-electric delivery vehicles and is looking to expand its greener fleet. Look for the vehicles with the Environmental Defense logo on them in your neighborhood this summer!

Farm and Ranch Conservation Pushed

Our staff in Washington and here in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office have been lobbying Congress hard to bolster the conservation, nutrition and renewable energy programs in the next Farm Bill. Environmental Defense has been collaborating closely with farmers and ranchers throughout the country to ensure that federal Farm Bill dollars are used to reward good stewardship of the land. In March, Dan Grossman led a delegation of western ranchers to talk with members of Congress about the imperative of conservation in American agriculture policy. Sincere thanks to the western members of Congress, including Colorado's Rep. John Salazar, Rep. Mark Udall, Rep. Ed Perlmutter and Rep. Diana DeGette, who agreed to cosponsor marker bills that stress the importance of conservation programs.

Welcome Martha Roberts!

Martha Roberts joined the Rocky Mountain office in September of 2006 as a Lokey Fellow working with Ted Toombs. The Lokey Fellowship provides a yearlong research position with Environmental Defense to one Stanford graduate student every year. Martha received her Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Stanford, where she focused on environmental economics. She has worked on agricultural issues in areas as diverse as Wisconsin, California, Vietnam and the Philippines. Her work this year focuses on assessing and improving incentives for conservation on rangelands. She has also spent time researching the costs and benefits of biofuels such as corn-based ethanol.



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The Endangered Utah Prairie Dog Needs a Helping Hand

Your donation can help release a \$20,000 challenge grant offered by the Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation to support our endangered species work. Are you up for the challenge? The Utah prairie dog is the smallest North American prairie dog—and the rarest in the U.S. It forages on grasses, flowers and seeds in the sagebrush steppes of the Beehive State, where it builds its "towns." But it wasn't always a welcome neighbor, and its population has declined severely. With only 5,000 Utah prairie dogs left, it needs a helping hand. Environmental Defense works with landowners to improve the prairie dog's habitat, using conservation incentives programs and creative new tools. Your support can help save these amazing creatures. Thanks to our friends at Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation for the challenge grant.



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