

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

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EPA set to make new standards for ozone air pollution

This summer, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed to strengthen the nation's health standard for ozone (smog) by lowering allowable pollution concentrations. At the same time, the EPA, who is charged through the Clean Air Act to establish a federal health standard that will protect public health with an adequate margin of safety, is currently taking comments from the public on where they should set the new standards. Polluters are telling EPA to keep the standards where they are now—at levels we know are not safe for healthy adults, much less for children, the elderly or people with lung disease. Expert scientists tell us that the best evidence shows we

need a much tighter standard. Environmental Defense is working in conjunction with the American Lung Association and other environmental organizations to encourage the EPA to adopt a federal health standard that is consistent with the recommendations of EPA's own unanimous science advisors and the American Lung Association. This decision will have consequences for millions of Americans and for years to come. A final EPA decision is required by March 12, 2008.

Farm Bill focus shifts to Senate

The House passed a Farm Bill in July that would increase conservation spending by \$4.5 billion over five years and introduce many improvements to conservation programs. Our broad alliance helped transform the debate from potentially cutting conservation dollars to adding new money to preserve clean water and wildlife habitat. Yet the House failed to deliver on major subsidy reforms after House leadership pulled out all the stops to defeat an amendment from Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) to reform the Farm Bill on the House floor. The debate is far from over, and our focus has now shifted to the Senate, which is working on the Farm Bill this Fall.

Recovery credits trading: Making wildlife habitat profitable for landowners

Recent efforts by Environmental Defense and others have shown that regulatory and financial incentives through Safe Harbor and Farm Bill programs encourage private landowners to join wildlife recovery efforts. Ecologist Ted Toombs is building off this momentum by creating a market-based recovery credits system for the Utah prairie dog (UPD) that is similar to a successful program in Texas for the golden-cheeked warbler. A stakeholder team created this credit trading system in 2006 to meet Fort Hood's need to mitigate potential habitat loss from Army activities



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and to advance the federally endangered warbler's recovery. The Army now purchases habitat credits from area landowners who improve and manage habitat on their land and then uses those credits as it proceeds with its activities. The endangered warbler benefits from increased management activities that address its specific habitat needs. The credit system for the UPD will likewise give landowners the ability to turn habitat they restore into an economic asset, while the species benefits from improved habitat.

U.S. and Mexico set to talk about restoration of the Colorado River Delta

In the wake of eight years of drought, with prospects of shortages looming in the Lower Colorado River basin, the U.S. and Mexico have agreed to discuss a broad range of Colorado River management issues including restoration of the delta, as well as improvements in water management and shortage allocation. In a joint statement, the two countries stressed the importance of "cooperative, innovative and holistic measures...to ensure...the river meets environmental, agricultural, and urban demands of both nations." This announcement was made in response to an alternative bi-national dialogue Environmental Defense has convened that brings together key state water managers from the Lower Basin states in the U.S. and from Mexico. We are optimistic that this non-federal dialogue will allow water managers to devise realistic solutions to address the Colorado River Delta's environmental flow needs, improve water supply to both nations, and that these solutions will be adopted by federal decision makers in both countries.

Welcome Kevin Lynch!

Please join us in welcoming Kevin Lynch to our Rocky Mountain Office! We are delighted that Kevin has joined the team of staff here dedicated to climate security, clean energy and air quality. His addition will enable us to strengthen and sharpen our work on these compelling issues at a pivotal time.

Kevin recently completed his legal studies at the New York University School of Law, where he was one of the top academic graduates while demonstrating extraordinary commitment to environmental law and policy. Kevin was the Editor-in-Chief of the Environmental Law Journal, served on the Governing Board of the National Association of Environmental Law Societies, worked to clean up pollution from power plants at the U.S. Department of Justice's Environmental Enforcement Section, and worked at the New York Office of the Attorney General. Kevin received his undergraduate degree from Rice University in Texas where he graduated magna cum laude in Biology.



Whitney Self joins staff

Whitney Self joined the Rocky Mountain office in July as the new Major Gifts Officer. Whitney has spent much of her career fundraising in Colorado for environmental non-profits including most recently for the Access Fund and prior to that, Colorado Conservation Voters. She is looking forward to using her expertise to secure critical funding that will support the important air, water, land and climate programs currently affecting the Rocky Mountain West. Whitney left the South for Colorado seven years ago to fuel her passion for skiing and rock climbing. "It is hard to imagine that future generations could possibly be denied the same benefits I enjoy when I am hiking or climbing. It is quite

the incentive to do my job!" Whitney received her undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia where she graduated with a dual degree in Political Science and Environmental Ethics.