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Next General meeting will be Dec. 10, 6:30 PM at the University Park Holiday Inn.

Presidents Beat

Greg Sheets gave us three years of his time as President of this Chapter. He leaves a successful Chapter and a strong record of accomplishment. Both Greg, and Bill Barton, our retiring Secretary have earned and deserve our appreciation for their service. Fortunately Ken Eis and Doc Sheets remain as officers to help the new guys. And we have a strong Board to help steer the ship.

After the elections, Lee Evans, and Greg Evans our new Secretary told a great tale of fishing the Yellowstone lakes. This was just one of the great programs that are available to the members. More of us should take advantage of these programs. They are the second Wednesday of each month at the University Park Holiday Inn.

In the next couple years, we can anticipate the initial phases of a number of water projects. There will be new dams enhancements to existing water storage facilities and conservation initiatives. All of these have the potential to either enhance or negatively affect coldwater fisheries. All of us should become informed about these projects, and offer our assistance to water planners to insure the protection of our fisheries. If you want to become more active in determining the Chapter's response to these water initiatives or if you wish to define and participate in the Chapter's projects, come to the Board meetings and add your input.

Christmas Party

Save Saturday December 20 for the Chapter Christmas Party. The party starts at 6 PM at the County Cork, Just west of College Avenue and the railroad tracks on Drake Road in Fort Collins.

Bring your significant other and \$5 per person to help defray the costs of the hors d'oeuvres table. Each attendee gets one free ticket for the rod raffle. Bring a fun gift for the White Elephant gift exchange, if you wish to participate. Bring a few flies for the fly tree, and participate in that raffle as well. The winner gets all the flies.

Last years party was great fun. We would like to see you there. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Membership

National Trout Unlimited is running a membership promotion. Usually the membership dues go to NTU and they send some money to CTU. However, for the next year, all membership dues from new members go to the chapter. So, if we get a new member to sign up and designate our Chapter, we get the \$35 dues. They can sign up using the handout at local fly shops, or they can go on line to www.tu.org. Our chapter ID# is 010. So lets all go out and get new members.

Winter CTU Meeting

The winter meeting of Colorado Trout Unlimited will be held at Sylvandale Ranch on January 10. Meetings will begin at about 9AM. Lunch will be available, and the cost will be less than \$10 per person. The meetings should end by about 3PM. This is a great opportunity for members of our Chapter to attend a CTU meeting without having to travel to the West slope. If you plan to attend, please inform someone on the Board, so that we have a relatively good estimate of attendance.

TU News Colorados Controversial Referendum A Soundly Trowned.

Multi-billion dollar funding proposal for unnamed water projects defeated in every county

Despite being outspent by a 2-1 ratio by proponents of Referendum A, a ballot initiative that would have given the state authority to issue up to \$2 billion in bond debt to fund new supply water projects, a coalition opposed to the measure - which included scores of Trout Unlimited volunteers - successfully mobilized voters to reject the referendum by a 2-1 margin.

“This victory is a real testament to the power of the grassroots”, said Melinda Kassen, the director of Trout Unlimited's Colorado Water Project. “Volunteers devoted an enormous amount of energy to this campaign, and their work paid off.”

Although debate on the referendum prior to election day seemed to be polarized between residents along the water-rich Western Slope and those on the thirsty Front Range, a clear statewide majority voted the plan down.

Kassen attributed this development to the “broad, diverse and bipartisan coalition” which was built to oppose the referendum. It included not just the traditional environmental community, she said, but many suburban dwellers, farmers and others who at first glance would appear unlikely to join in the effort to defeat the measure. For example, the coalition ultimately grew to incorporate Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union, the League of Women's Voters, U.S. Representatives Scott McInnis and Mark Udall, Attorney General Ken Salazar, and former governors Dick Lamm, Roy Romer and John Vanderhoof.

“We're pleased that voters throughout the state recognized Referendum A for what it was: a blank check that offered no real solutions for Colorado's water needs,” said Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU) Executive Director David Nickum.

Colorado has suffered a multi-year drought which has forced the state to scrutinize its water-management priorities. But Referendum A clearly was not the answer, according to Kassen, who, along with other critics, pointed to its lack of a clear blueprint of what would be funded, potential to energize sprawl and other environmentally destructive projects, and likelihood that it would trigger a major shift in water

oversight responsibility from localities and irrigation districts to the state government. “The major problem with Referendum A was not that it might build dams,” Nickum said, “but that its supporters refused to say which dams it might build. That made it impossible for us to know whether it would go for smart water projects that provide water while protecting fish habitat, or destructive projects that inundate prime trout waters and drain the flows of great Colorado rivers.”

“Our members have worked on water resource issues for decades and they recognized that financing wasn't the issue. Referendum A wasn't going to make projects cheaper or easier to build and it certainly was no solution to the drought,” said CTU president Ken McClatchy. He continued, “With Referendum A defeated, we can now return our attention to real water supply solutions. We will work to promote a balanced water policy for Colorado, from improved water efficiency to reasonable new water supply projects.”

These efforts will be guided by a comprehensive scientific and public policy analysis released in early 2003, which was made possible in part by funding from Trout Unlimited. Entitled “What the Drought Means for the Future of Water Management in Colorado,” the study dissects the hydrologic run up to the drought, current estimates of its economic impact and water managers' responses. The report then examines the lessons learned for future water management in the state.

The study suggests a set of strategies and principles, respectively called “Smart Supply” and “Smart Storage,” and examines several water supply projects that are now under consideration in this light.

The report concludes that there is a more flexible, more environmentally sustainable and less costly approach to future water management in Colorado than a return to the past policy of relying on large new dams and transbasin diversions. It outlines compelling reasons to avoid this old-fashioned response, and suggests a clear, common-sense approach finely tailored to the needs of today's Colorado.

The full text of the report is available at www.tu.org

STATEMENT OF TROUT UNLIMITED CALLING ON THE SENATE TO FIX OR ELIMINATE ENERGY BILL PROVISIONS HARMFUL TO FISH AND WILDLIFE.

Washington, D.C. - The sweeping Energy Bill, approved by the U.S. House of Representatives

yesterday and scheduled for consideration by the Senate today, contains provisions harmful to fish and wildlife conservation efforts across the nation. Specifically, Trout Unlimited opposes provisions in the "Oil and Gas" and "Hydropower" sections because of their adverse effects on trout and salmon habitat, and to the interests of fish and wildlife conservationists. We call on the Senate to eliminate or fix these provisions prior to final passage.

The bill contains numerous oil and gas leasing provisions that could diminish conservation measures on public lands for water resources, wildlife and fish habitat, and scenic landscapes. One provision would exempt the construction of facilities, pipelines, roads and other infrastructure necessary to develop oil and gas resources on public lands from the Clean Water Act. Another implies that energy development takes precedence over the other multiple uses of public lands by requiring the documentation of any actions that have a "significant adverse effect on the supply of domestic energy resources from Federal public lands."

Also, the bill establishes new procedures that give hydropower dam owners preferential treatment over all other river stakeholders by allowing them to develop alternatives to the conditions prescribed by federal resource agencies, and to second-guess resource agencies' decisions through a new "trial-type" hearing process. The most disturbing aspect of these new procedures is that they both are available only to dam owners.

Furthermore, at the 11th hour and without hearings or debate, an amendment was added to the bill which would provide funding "to permit energy generation and development," including hydroelectric dams, "notwithstanding any other provision of law." This provision presumably would override the Federal Power Act, Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act, among others. We are alarmed that such a sweeping provision affecting the rivers of Alaska could be placed into this bill with no discussion or debate.

The ill-conceived effects of these provisions result in elevating energy development on public lands to a dominant use over fish and wildlife, and disenfranchising river stakeholders - fisheries conservationists, Tribes and others - from key hydropower decisions.

Energy development does not have to damage fish and wildlife and their habitat on public land, nor does it need to disenfranchise fisheries conservationists from

key hydropower decision-making processes. Public lands and wild rivers are home to some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities in the nation.

TU has worked successfully with hydropower operators and private landowners on energy development and land management projects from California to Maine to strike a good balance between developing resources and conserving them. The bill considered by the Senate today undermines balanced resource conservation.

As evidenced by the last-minute insertion of the Alaska hydropower provisions, the bill can be modified even at this late date. We urge the Senate to take a moment for fish and wildlife today, and to fix or eliminate the harmful provisions in the bill.

Contact:
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Upcoming Programs

The schedule of Programs is pretty well set for the rest of the year. Here is a brief synopsis:

January 14 – Don Davis of Great Western Fly fishing Company in Loveland will present a new fishing program. Look for more details next month.

February 18 – Note the change in date. We are a week late because of a conflict at the Holiday Inn. The program will be fly tying and rod building. We will have a number of the best fly tyers in the area participating. In addition there will be a swap meet. Bring your extra equipment. You may swap with another member or perhaps you may convince the other guy to sell you that rod or reel that you always wanted.

March 10 – Our Program will be given by Gene Decker. Look for details in upcoming newsletters.

April 14 – Joe Butler will be back with a new program. It is called "Big Trout on Flies". Joe's past programs have been well received.

May 12 – Ralph and Ken and other members will present wild tales of fishing in Wyoming or Montana or Colorado or someplace. Keep tuned for the news.

Calendar of Events

General Meetings: Dec 10, Jan 14
, Feb 18, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12
Board Meetings: Dec 16, Jan 20,
Feb 17, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18

General meetings are always at the University Park Holiday Inn at 6:30 PM the second Wednesday of the month.

Board Meetings are held at the county Cork at 7:00 PM on Tuesday following the general meeting. The board meeting is open to all members.

If you have any suggestions for the next newsletter, please contact Chris Morton

Rocky Mountain Flycasters Board of Directors

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If you wish to get this newsletter more than twice a year and support your chapter please mail a check for \$15 to Ken Eis, 1006 Hinsdale Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80526 to cover the cost of postage and printing. If you want the newsletter free of charge via email send your request to cadabase-newsletter@yahoo.com.

Change of Address and Membership – Please send change of address to TU directly. All mailing labels come from from TU's contractor and are not locally generated. The address is Trout Unlimited, Membership Department, 1500 Wilson Blvd, Suite 310, Arlington, VA 22209-2310 or phone 1-800-834-2419. If you are joining TU, renewing etc please include our local chapter number 010 in your correspondence and check so we get credit at National for your membership. Thanks.

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