



COLORADO WILD PUBLIC LANDS

PO BOX 1772, BASALT, CO 81621

coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com

coloradowildpubliclands.org

October 6, 2020

Dear Public Lands Protectors,

It's Time to Come Together for Our Public Lands

Fall is almost here and what a year 2020 has been so far! We have experienced a pandemic where our public lands have provided us refuge and recreation. At the same time, increasing numbers of visitors have created challenges for land managers. We are fighting unprecedented fires that burned tens of thousands of acres and threaten tens of thousands more. We consider access to our beautiful public lands to be our right as Americans, but will our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren be as fortunate? The only acceptable answer is **yes** but this can only be assured if we act now.

The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd. This is our chance to help determine the future, by voting for representatives who make critical decisions on policy and budget allocations directly affecting public lands. For example, Congress determines the amount of federal funding allocated to the U.S. Forest Service for maintenance and development of recreational amenities, fire prevention or fire-fighting. We are excited to enclose our "Public Lands Voter's Guide" to provide further information.

We at Colorado Wild Public Lands (COWPL) have banded together to work hard for the care of public lands, ensuring that they are managed in the best interest of the U.S. citizenry. We held several events over the past year helping community members to voice their opposition to proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Despite a valiant grassroots effort, the changes weakening NEPA have been implemented. Our next task is to understand how to most effectively work within the new rules. We supported the Great American Outdoors Act that was passed earlier this year and we continue to represent the public interest in land exchange proposals in Colorado, such as the Valle Seco Land Exchange near Pagosa Springs.

It is thanks to your membership and support we have been able to do this important work and we are entreating you now to help COWPL continue to protect public lands. To that end, please do some digging (not only in your garden but into your piggy banks) and help us keep public lands public, healthy and safe. Consider renewing your membership early this year, and/or recruiting someone new. Our annual donation levels are:

- Ed Abbey \$25 – Annual Membership
- Pinchot \$150 – Funds One Attorney Hour
- Roosevelt \$1,000 – Funds Public Events and Materials

Any way you can help us will be greatly appreciated. We must continue to be heard on these issues. You can donate via check made out to Colorado Wild Public Lands and send it to: P.O Box 1772, Basalt, CO 81621, or pay via PayPal on our website, <http://coloradowildpubliclands.org/donations.html>

Thank you in advance for sticking with us and happy trails this fall!

The Colorado Wild Public Lands Board of Directors:

Franz Froelicher, Jean Perry, Stefanie Davis, James Katzenberger, Anne Rickenbaugh & Hawk Greenway



VOTERS GUIDE TO PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2020



On (or before) Tuesday November 3, please **vote in the United States General Election. **Your vote is crucial!****

- Your vote will determine our next **President**, who will lead the United States for the next four years.
- Your vote will select **one of Colorado's** two **Senators** who serve in the 100-member Senate*.
- Your vote will determine your **Colorado District's Representative** in the United States House of Representatives*, Colorado has one representative for each of its seven Districts. 435 Members serve in the US House of Representatives.
- Your Congressional representatives are responsible for instituting policy, legislation and budget allocation for public lands management.
- Your vote will influence decisions at state and community levels.

*Members of Congress (the Senate and House of Representatives) represent the people of their district in the United States Congress by holding hearings, as well as developing and voting on legislation. All bills must pass Congress before they can go to the President to be signed into law

READ UP ON ISSUES AND CANDIDATES' POSITIONS IN ADVANCE

- See COWPL's Public Lands Guide, following, and COWPL's media at: coloradowildpubliclands.org, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram at coloradowildpubliclands.
- Look at candidates' websites, endorsements and articles by various organizations and newspapers.
- Look for the Ballot Information Booklet (or Blue Book) that is delivered to registered voters by mail.

For more voting information see: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/electionInfo.html>

INTRODUCTION

The following is a concise guide to the stance of candidates for Senate and for the House of Representatives regarding Colorado's public lands. The information below was gathered through phone interviews, candidates' websites, media and the League of Conservation voters. COWPL is a 501c3 organization and does not endorse any candidates.

SENATE CANDIDATES (COLORADO)

John Hickenlooper, Democrat.

Website: <https://hickenlooper.com>

Sources: <https://westernwire.net/hickenlooper-turns-to-outdoor-recreation-public-lands-in-primary-bid-as-he-sets-sights-on-gardner/>

- Opposes the sale of federal lands.
- Proposes to expand public access to federal lands, including expanding access to the outdoors "for communities of color and low-income Coloradans". Supports dedication of 3% LWCF annually to expanding public access.
- Wants to pass the Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy (CORE) Act if elected.
- *Endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters.*

Cory Gardner (Incumbent), Republican.

Website: <https://www.corygardnerforsenate.com/issues/>

Sources: <https://www.cpr.org/2020/06/17/cory-gardner-gets-a-win-with-great-american-outdoors-act-but-will-it-deliver-votes-in-november/> and <https://westernwire.net/hickenlooper-turns-to-outdoor-recreation-public-lands-in-primary-bid-as-he-sets-sights-on-gardner/>

- Spearheaded the recently passed Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), which permanently and fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses the national parks maintenance backlog.
- Voted to confirm both Ryan Zinke to be secretary of the interior and Scott Pruitt to be the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Senator Gardner did not support passage of the CORE Act and voted to repeal the stream protection rule.
- *League of Conservation Voters environmental voting scorecard lifetime rating: 11%*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CANDIDATES (COLORADO)

COLORADO'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Denver Metro

Diana DeGette (Incumbent) Democrat.

(303) 844-4988

Sources: https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/insights-rep-diana-degette-determined-to-be-in-the-wilderness/article_2aeb0b04-0f08-11ea-9ca8-7b929d106666.html

- Primary sponsor of *H.R. 1184: Every Kid Outdoors Act* (enacted)
- Introduced *Protecting America's Wilderness Act*, a combination of six separate land-protection bills to protect 600,000 acres in 32 areas across Colorado as wilderness. Nearly 1,000 miles of river would be added to the National Wild and Scenic River Systems.
- *League of Conservation Voters environmental voting scorecard lifetime rating: 96%*

Shane Bolling, Republican.

303.904.8367

Sources: <https://shane4co.com/>

First-time politician, there is currently no information available on Mr. Bolling's campaign website regarding his stances on issues related to public lands. COWPL was unable to reach him by phone.

Third party candidate(s): Kyle Furey (Libertarian) - Paul Fiorino (Unity) - Joseph Camp (Independent)

COLORADO'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Larimer, Grand, Boulder, Gilpin, Clear Creek, Jefferson, Summit and Vail counties

Over 50% of this district is designated public lands

Joe Neguse (Incumbent) Democrat.

(303) 335-1045 or (202) 225-2161; <https://www.joeneguseforcongress.com/>

- Believes in protecting the health of and access to public lands; he also supports expanding wilderness while considering the neighbors and recreational users of the land.

- Representative Neguse successfully sponsored the *Bolts Ditch Use and Access Act* and the *Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment (WEDGE) Act*, both of which impact public lands in Colorado's 2nd Congressional District.
- *Endorsed by League of Conservation Voters. Environmental scorecard: 97%*

Charles “Charlie” Winn, Republican.

(720) 441-4296

Sources: <https://www.winnforcolorado.com/>

<https://www.summitdaily.com/news/boulders-charlie-winn-wins-republican-nomination-for-2nd-congressional-district-to-face-joe-neguse-in-november/>

- Dr. Winn supports “sound conservation and stewardship” of the environment and local action on climate change.
- He supports national energy independence by using a wide range of energy resources.

Third party candidates: Thom Atkinson (Libertarian) - Mark Matyi (No party affiliation) - Gary Swing (Unity) - Alex Johnson (Independent)

COLORADO’S 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Jackson, Routt, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Garfield, Eagle, Pitkin, Lake, Mesa, Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Saguache, Custer, Pueblo, Huerfano, Costilla, Alamosa, Conejos, Rio Grande, Archuleta, Mineral, Hinsdale, San Juan, Dolores and Montezuma counties. See: <https://www.cpr.org/2020/08/24/the-race-is-on-colorados-3rd-district-candidates-stump-from-pickup-trucks-and-through-computer-screens/>

Diane Mitsch Bush, Democrat.

<https://dianeforcolorado.com/>

Sources: <https://durangoherald.com/articles/320440>

- Diane Mitsch Bush is committed to keeping public lands public and believes that public lands are an important economic driver in Colorado. The existence of public lands has created jobs and is the most important part of Colorado’s economy, from agriculture to tourism.
- If elected she has committed to fight efforts to privatize public lands.
- *Endorsed by League of Conservation Voters with a 100% lifetime score as of July 2020, and 2017 Legislator of the Year Award.*

Lauren Boebert, Republican.

970.620.8471; <https://laurenforcolorado.com/>

Sources: <https://durangoherald.com/articles/320440>

- Boebert advertises herself as “pro-energy,” and her husband works in oil and gas fields in Western Colorado, according to her campaign website.
- Boebert has expressed frustration with the federal government making decisions about things like land use in the West. She has said she will take advantage of the natural resources in the district, and fight those who try to regulate them.
- Via her website: Mrs. Boebert opposes the Green New Deal which she says will cost \$93 trillion, which could lead to bankruptcy for the U.S.

Third party candidates: John Keil (Libertarian) - Christopher Hawkins Critter Milton (Unity) - Robert Moser (Independent)

COLORADO'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Limon, Yuma, La Junta, Las Animas, Weld, Washington, Sedgwick, Phillips, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Baca, Crowley, Otero, Bent, Prowers, Kiowa, Logan, Morgan, Arapahoe & Adams counties

Isaac "Ike" McCorkle, Democrat.

(760) 805-5505; <https://ike4co.com/>

Sources: COWPL interview by phone and website above

- He supports restoring the public lands protections that the current administration has weakened and removed.
- Mr. McCorkle supports green energy systems and a nationwide carbon sequestration effort.
- Mr. McCorkle does not support the sale of public land.
- He advocates for sweeping legislation to combat climate change.

Ken Buck (Incumbent) Republican.

202-695-6449; <http://www.buckforcolorado.com/>

Sources: <https://www.denverpost.com/2016/10/13/fact-check-ken-bucks-climate-change-agenda-statement/>

- Congressman Buck co-sponsored legislation in the House of Representatives to approve a drought contingency plan to safeguard the water supply of the Colorado River.
- Congressman Buck voted against the Great American Outdoors Act.
- *League of Conservation Voters environmental voting scorecard lifetime rating: 3%*

Third party candidates: Bruce Griffith (Libertarian) - Laura Ireland (Unity)

COLORADO'S 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Park, Chaffee, Teller, Fremont and El Paso counties

Jillian Freeland, Democrat.

719-400-9468; <https://jillianfreeland.com/>

Sources: COWPL phone interview and website above

- Ms. Freeland supports increasing protections for public lands.
- She opposes efforts to privatize public lands. Ms. Freeland believes the recent NEPA rollback was a dangerous move, "those regulations exist to protect our air, water and land." She opposes this administration's rollback of NEPA.
- She opposes the recent relocation of the BLM from Washington, D.C. to Grand Junction.

Doug Lamborn (Incumbent) Republican.

(202) 225-4422 or (719) 520-0055; <https://www.lambornforcongress.org/>

<https://lamborn.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-lamborns-statement-regarding-passage-s-47>

- Voted against passage of the CORE Act.
- Under *Energy & Environment* Mr. Lamborn's campaign website says "I support a free-market, all-of-the-above approach to harness our vast natural resources and keep prices low for American families." He supports using all energy sources to keep the cost of energy down.
- *League of Conservation Voters environmental voting scorecard lifetime rating: 3%*

Third party candidates: Doug Lunde (Libertarian) - Rebecca Keltie (Unity)

COLORADO'S 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Aurora, Centennial, Littleton, Brighton and Henderson

Jason Crow (Incumbent) Democrat.

(720)251-2858; <https://jasoncrowforcongress.com/>

Sources: <https://twitter.com/RepJasonCrow/status/1286348307464441859>

- Representative Crow is a cosponsor of the Great American Outdoors Act.
- Rep. Crow opposes the privatization of public lands. He is, "fighting to ensure that our public lands are not sold off to the highest bidder or destroyed by irresponsible drilling and mining"
- Rep. Crow per an LCV press release stated, "Every Coloradan has an obligation to preserve our state's incredible natural environment for the next generation".
- *Endorsed by League of Conservation Voters. Environmental scorecard: 97%*

Steve House, Republican.

(970) 389-7206; <https://houseforcolorado.com/>

Sources: <https://www.denverpost.com/2019/09/03/steve-house-jason-crow-colorado-6th/>

- Mr. House supports an all-of-the-above energy policy and keeping the nation at the forefront of energy research and development.

Third party candidates: Norm Olson (Libertarian) - Jaimie Kulikowski (Unity)

COLORADO'S 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Golden, Lakewood, Arvada, Thornton and Westminster

Ed Perlmutter (Incumbent) Democrat.

303.274.7944 or 202.225.2645; <https://perlmutterforcolorado.com/>

Sources: <https://perlmutter.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=5053>

- He supported the Great Americans Outdoors Act and funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).
- He supports energy efficiency and energy independence, as well as decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels to reduce the threat of climate change.
- *League of Conservation Voters environmental voting scorecard lifetime rating: 87%*

Casper Stockham, Republican.

720.257.9461; <https://casperforcolorado.com/>

- Mr. Stockham's campaign webpage does not provide information regarding Mr. Stockham's stance on public lands or the environment and COWPL has been unable to reach him via phone.

Third party candidates: Ken Biles (Libertarian) - David Olszta (Unity) - Anthony Malgieri (Independent)

See also: <https://www.lcv.org/>. This work was made possible in part by a Colorado Academy Grant.



Contact: coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com
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