



Policy Actions by CLUB 20 Board of Directors

Fall Meeting September 11, 2009

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NEW
AG-09-21
Acreage Subject to Subdivision Regulations

WHEREAS Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS 30-28-103) authorizes counties to regulate land uses through zoning, to appoint a planning commission, and to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan for the physical development of their jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS since 1972, counties have been required to adopt subdivision regulations (CRS 30-28-133), specifically excluded from the definition of subdivision within counties is any division of land resulting in parcels of 35 acres or more, and

WHEREAS the local government Land Use Control Enabling Act (CRS 29-20-101) grants counties and municipalities broad authority to plan for and regulate the use of land in nine specific subject areas and responsibilities. Moreover, CRS 24-65.1-101 allows local governments to identify, designate and regulate 21 “areas and activities of state interest”, and

WHEREAS large tract landowners can use the 35-acre exemption to sell a small piece of their property to raise cash for their ranch or farm’s operational needs eliminating the likelihood of going out of business and selling the entire ranch or farm for development, and

WHEREAS the 35-acre property right has become the equity basis for ranch and farm land valuation in the state and allows the landowner to borrow against that value in order to sustain their family ranch or farm, and

WHEREAS the 35-acre property right is integral in allowing conservation easements to be implemented, based on removal and compensation for the development value of the land, on more than 1.5 million acres of land in Colorado;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 opposes any effort to increase beyond 35-acres the acreage threshold that is granted under Colorado law for exemption from subdivision regulations.

Adopted September 11, 2009

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NEW
TR-09-21
Aviation User Fees

WHEREAS some have suggested that a user-fee-based system of revenue collections be implemented to enhance aviation revenues, but collecting such fees would require a new accounting bureaucracy with a much higher cost to collect the fees, and

WHEREAS implementing user fees would remove critical congressional oversight, direction, and management of FAA resources that are key to an efficient national air transportation system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 opposes the creation of user fees for any segment of the aviation community.

Adopted September 11, 2009

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NEW
BA-09-21
Business / Labor Relations

WHEREAS the quality of life in Colorado is largely determined by the viability of our economy and our ability to remain competitive with other states and nations, and

WHEREAS it is important to strike an appropriate balance between business and labor interests so as to protect the rights of workers while ensuring the economic competitiveness of business, and

WHEREAS Colorado enacted the Labor Peace Act in 1943 which provides a balanced approach to labor relations by requiring extra deliberation and majority support before union shops can be created. Before workers can be compelled to financially support a union, a majority of affected workers who cast votes must vote affirmatively (via secret ballot) to empower a union to represent them in employer negotiations, and then a majority of ALL employees (voting via secret ballot) must then approve any compulsory financial support for that union from employees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- CLUB 20 supports the balance of protections for both business and labor embodied within the Colorado Labor-Peace Act which includes:
 - the right of workers to cast votes via secret ballot,
 - the requirement of support from a majority of all employees (not just those voting), and
 - the right of workers to organize.
- CLUB 20 opposes any federal or state action which would change elements of that Act such that would be adverse to business.

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NEW
NR-09-21
Carbon Tax Legislation

WHEREAS proposed federal “Carbon Tax” legislation (including “Cap and Trade”) would impose devastating economic costs on the population of Western Colorado and the United States; and

WHEREAS Western Colorado has large deposits of the cleanest coal in the nation and abundant supplies of clean natural gas and uranium that provide millions of Americans with reliable affordable electricity; and

WHEREAS proposed legislation could eliminate carbon-based fuels as a source of affordable electricity for businesses and consumers and

WHEREAS legislation could send American jobs to countries with little or no greenhouse gas emissions restrictions; and

WHEREAS proposed legislation threatens to eliminate nearly 67,000 high-wage jobs (in the mining sector alone) by 2020; and

WHEREAS proposed legislation would increase electricity prices by as much as 113% percent, saddling American businesses and families with higher energy bills; and

WHEREAS proposed legislation threatens to drive up costs for consumer goods and services, which would lower household disposable income by as much as \$1,800 per year; and

WHEREAS proposed legislation ignores the need for increased development of all of our energy resources to meet the growing demand of our country; and

WHEREAS proposed legislation would drastically limit local governments from making critical decisions that affect the standard of living of their constituents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- CLUB 20 supports solutions to climate change which
 - Result in increasing our nation's independence from foreign energy sources,
 - Promote the equitable development of all sources of energy on the Western Slope,
 - Promote the competitiveness of the United States of America on the world economic stage,
 - Protect the interests of agriculture, industry, free enterprise, and ultimately the consumer,
 - Encourage local investment and result in a net increase in domestic jobs.

- CLUB 20 opposes the adoption of climate change policies which would increase costs for U.S. consumers until other nations adopt emissions standards similar to the U.S. in order to create a level playing field with a shared and equal commitment to reducing greenhouse gases.

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NEW
HC-09-21
Government-Run Public Health Insurance Plan

WHEREAS CLUB 20 supports health care reform efforts to expand access, improve quality and create a more efficient health care delivery system, and

WHEREAS the current system has not adequately controlled costs, and

WHEREAS a government-run public insurance plan has been proposed, and

WHEREAS controlling costs of health care is essential and competition must be an important component in controlling costs, and

WHEREAS cost-shifting – discounting costs for one group and increasing costs for another – usually results in increased health care costs for those who can least afford it and those with the fewest health care alternatives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 opposes all proposals for a government-run public health insurance plan that would:

- under-compensate providers,
- increase cost-shifting
- unfairly compete with or reduce competitiveness within the private sector, fail to include prevention, wellness and individual responsibility
- fail to decrease the overall cost or inefficiency of the health care system.

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NEW
EN-09-21
Hydraulic Fracturing, Supporting Exemption from the Safe Drinking Water Act

WHEREAS the practice of hydraulic fracturing is an important technology for the efficient development of natural gas reserves in much of Western Colorado's tight sands and Southern Colorado's coalbed geology and is necessary to make unconventional wells economically viable; and

WHEREAS thirteen (13) of the twenty-two (22) counties in CLUB 20 have natural gas production and the combined production of those 13 counties accounted for 75% of Colorado's natural gas production in 2008, producing enough natural gas to heat 12 million homes; and

WHEREAS it is important to appropriately regulate the practice of hydraulic fracturing so as to ensure protection of groundwater supplies, and

WHEREAS Congress has assigned to the individual states the responsibility for regulating the practice of hydraulic fracturing, and the states have subsequently adopted comprehensive laws and regulations to protect the nation's drinking water sources, and

WHEREAS the State of Colorado effectively regulates oil and gas exploration and production through the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) and the COGCC recently approved stricter oil and gas regulations which included regulations that require natural gas operators to disclose the chemicals used during the drilling, completion and hydraulic fracturing processes; and

WHEREAS the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was never intended to grant to the federal government authority to regulate oil and gas drilling and production operations, and therefore Congress specifically exempting the practice of hydraulic fracturing from the scope of the SDWA, and

WHEREAS hydraulic fracturing has been used more than one million times over the last sixty (60) years without a single documented case of drinking water contamination, and

WHEREAS the U.S. EPA, under both the Clinton and Bush Administrations, has determined that hydraulic fracturing does not pose a threat to groundwater, and the current Energy Czar and past EPA Administrator stated in 1995 *"There is no evidence that the hydraulic fracturing at issue has resulted in any contamination or endangerment of underground sources of drinking water (USDW). Repeated testing, conducted between May 1989 and March 1993 ... failed to show any chemicals that would indicate the presence of fracturing fluids."* and

WHEREAS proposals to remove the current exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the SWDA will result in:

- additional federal oversight, which will, in turn, result in increased cost to industry (which will be passed along to consumers in the form of increased costs of energy), and
- reduced competitiveness of the domestic natural gas industry, which will encourage an increasing reliance on foreign energy supplies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports maintaining the ability of individual states to regulate the practice of hydraulic fracturing for the development of oil & gas resources and similarly supports the current exemption for hydraulic fracturing under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Adopted September 11, 2009

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NEW
TO-09-21
Tourism Promotion Funding

WHEREAS tourism is a major component of Colorado's economy, and is one of the largest and most rapidly growing segments of many local economies, and

WHEREAS visitors to Colorado in 2007 spent more than \$10.9 billion on goods and services, including retail sales, lodging, dining, recreation and transportation, supporting 143,000 direct jobs for residents of Colorado with an annual payroll in excess of \$4 billion dollars, and generated \$763 million in state and local tax receipts, and

WHEREAS between the years 1993-1999, the time period when Colorado spent no money on tourism promotion, Colorado lost 30% of national tourism market share representing a loss of \$2 billion in annual direct spending, and

WHEREAS the tourism and travel industries are vital to the general welfare, economic well-being, and employment opportunities of the state, its communities and citizens, and that the continued health and expansion of these industries requires a long-term and continuing investment by the state in a single promotional entity for the planning, promotion, and development of Colorado as a travel and tourist destination;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CLUB 20 urges the General Assembly to continue supporting a dedicated funding source for the Colorado Tourism Office at a level that provides resources to continue an effective and competitive national tourism marketing program, including, but not limited to, Welcome Centers, highway maps, the Colorado information telephone number, the Colorado Vacation Guide and the Colorado Web Site. (This is the language from existing policy #01-3-TO-4, "Funding for the Colorado Tourism Office" and policy #01-3-TO-3, "Funding for Colorado Tourism Information Services".

Adopted September 11, 2009

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AMEND
NR-02-12
Bear Populations, Management of

WHEREAS from March 1 through September 1 of any calendar year, it is unlawful for any person to kill a black bear by any means including, but not limited to, firearm or bow and arrow; and

WHEREAS drought and scarce food in higher elevations have led bears along streams into towns where they have found abundant food provided, intentionally or carelessly, by people; and

WHEREAS this limitation on black bear hunting, environmental factors and an increase in the human population expanding into bear habitat ,and the bears expanding into human habitat, has led to an increase in conflicts between bears and humans; and

WHEREAS bear problems began unusually early in 2001 and bear-human conflicts became much more frequent and more severe; and

WHEREAS a number of bears have had to be destroyed by the Division of Wildlife and wildlife officers have spent an exorbitant amount of time dealing with bear-human conflicts;

WHEREAS any effort by the DOW to do a scientific study of bear numbers would not mitigate current damage and would be inconclusive and expensive

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

- CLUB 20 supports legislative efforts that would authorize the Division of Wildlife to issue the necessary number of black bear hunting permits to allow for appropriate biological management of the species, including the reinstatement of the spring bear hunting season , and
- CLUB 20 urges the Division of Wildlife to aggressively manage black bear populations to the full extent of their authority to balance a biologically sustainable population with protection of human safety and property rights.

Adopted March 8, 2002

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AMEND
WA-00-12
Bypass Flows and the Forest Planning Process

WHEREAS CLUB 20 has consistently opposed the Forest Service practice of requiring bypass flows in exchange for permits, as an unconstitutional taking of private property (water rights) without compensation, and

WHEREAS CLUB 20 supports the Colorado “in-stream flow rights” as a valid method for the Forest Service to enhance the natural values of streams and rivers within the new Forest Management Plans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 opposes Forest Service efforts to mandate bypass flow requirements within the National Forest Management Plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports and encourages the U.S. Forest Service use existing Colorado Water Law’s “In-stream Flow Program” as a means to protect forest streams.

Adopted March 3, 2000

Amended September 11, 2009-09-12

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AMEND
WA-03-21
Colorado 64 Water Principles

WHEREAS CLUB 20 leaders recently participated with sister organizations – ACTION 22 and PROGRESSIVE 15 – and several Denver Metro entities (including the Denver Water Board, Denver Chamber of Commerce, and Metro Mayors Caucus) in the development of a historic set of “Water Principles” to frame future discussions concerning the management of Colorado’s water resources, and

WHEREAS these Colorado 64 Water Principles are consistent with existing CLUB 20 policies, and

WHEREAS in recognition of the inherent merits of these Principles and the broad statewide support for them, the Colorado Legislature in 2003 overwhelmingly passed a resolution in support of the Colorado 64 Water Principles;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 restates its support of the Colorado 64 Water Principles as recorded herein:

1. All Colorado water users must share in solving Colorado’s water resource problems.
2. The State of Colorado should provide assistance, when requested, for local water supply planning and assist in the implementation of consensus-based water resource solutions that respect local authorities, private property and water rights.
3. During the process of planning to meet future needs, water suppliers and utilities should give preference to development of economically viable local water sources and demand management as they consider other options, including development of new water transfers.
4. Additional water storage should be pursued through the improvement and rehabilitation of existing structures and the development of new structures. These activities should be accomplished with local consensus.
5. The right of water rights owners to market their water rights must be protected.
 - a. Colorado must fully explore flexible, market-based approaches to water supply management, including interruptible water contracts, water banking, in-state water leasing and groundwater recharge management.
 - b. Those seeking to transfer agricultural water to another use should consider leasing or other temporary arrangements for transfer of water, rather than relying exclusively on the purchase of water rights. Leasing or other such temporary arrangements could allow for reversion of the water to agricultural purposes under certain conditions.
 - c. In the event that agricultural water is transferred, the transaction must adequately address the need for maintaining the existing tax base, protecting the remaining water rights in the area, and maintaining the proper stewardship of the land including revegetation and weed control.
6. Appropriate recognition should be given to preservation of flows necessary to support recreational, hydroelectric and environmental needs concurrent with development of water for beneficial consumptive uses.

7. Adverse economic, environmental, and social impacts of future water projects and water transfers should be minimized; unavoidable adverse impacts must be reasonably mitigated; all communities involved should commit themselves to identifying and implementing reasonable mitigation measures as an integral part of future water projects or transfers.
8. Future water supply solutions must benefit both the area of origin and the area of use.
9. Water conservation measures that do not injure other water rights should be aggressively pursued.
10. There must be an ongoing, concerted effort to educate all Coloradans on the importance of water, and the need to conserve, manage, and plan for the needs of this and future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLUB 20 believes that all water projects supported by the Colorado Water Conservation Board or the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority should conform to the intent of these Principles;

AND BE IT DIRECTED that CLUB 20 staff forward a copy of this resolution to the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority.

Adopted September 5, 2003
Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
TR-02-12
Colorado Aviation Fuel Tax Funding

WHEREAS annually, significant state fuel tax funds are reimbursed to Colorado Airports as Entitlement Refunds to publicly-owned, publicly-accessible airports throughout the state, and

WHEREAS disbursements are made based on the formula of \$.04 per gallon on aviation gasoline and jet fuel and 65% of the sales taxes collected on jet fuel used for commercial operations, and

WHEREAS moneys are reimbursed monthly and are based on reporting from the airports and verification by the Colorado Department of Revenue of taxes received into the Aviation Fund, and

WHEREAS CLUB 20 believes that the current distribution formulas for the aviation fuel tax are fair to rural Colorado and the Western Slope;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20:

- Supports the current aviation fuel tax (4 cents/gallon and 65% of sales tax),
- Supports the distribution formula (in place as of 7/1/09) which provides funding for all airports and opposes any effort by the Colorado General Assembly to amend the current distribution formula in any way which would reduce funding for Western Slope airports, and
- Supports the discretionary grant program.

Adopted March 8, 2002

Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
WA-93-11
County 1041 Powers, Water Projects

WHEREAS "1041" Land use control powers exercised by counties provide the most affective means for county governments to guarantee proposed water projects are in the best interests of their citizens, and

WHEREAS such "1041" powers are a source of constant disagreement with potential water diverters, and

WHEREAS periodic legislative proposals would limit these powers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 shall continue to oppose any attempt to limit the "1041" powers of counties with respect to proposed water projects.

Adopted March 5, 1993

Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
EN-95-21
Department of Energy – Grand Junction Office

WHEREAS the Department of Energy's Grand Junction Office (DOE-GJO) employs a large number of people in Grand Junction, benefiting the local economy significantly, and

WHEREAS most of the Energy Department's hazardous waste cleanup work in this region is complete, however other opportunities exist to expand their operation in the area, and

WHEREAS despite the fact that most DOE work will eventually be complete, there remains environmental cleanup and restoration work throughout the country for the foreseeable future, and the expertise to do that work exists in Grand Junction, so that losing the facility and its capabilities would not only harm the local economy, but would also be unfair to American taxpayers who have invested hundreds of millions in this facility over the past 50 years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 continues to support the work of the Grand Junction Project Office (GJPO) and believes as the DOE mission there nears completion the facility should move toward privatization, rather than continue the steady reduction in its size and capabilities and encourages the DOE to look for other opportunities to utilize existing facilities and technical personnel.

Adopted September 8, 1995
Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
NR-02-14
Elk Population Management Efforts in Colorado

WHEREAS a good elk harvest is necessary to maintain balance in a fragile ecosystem, and

WHEREAS the number of non-resident hunters has drastically decreased in recent years, and

WHEREAS the Colorado Division of Wildlife continues to look for ways to improve the health and viability of elk populations in Colorado;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports Division of Wildlife efforts to effectively manage the elk population in Colorado in order to maintain a healthy ecosystem in balance with the other uses of the land.

Adopted March 8, 2002

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AMEND
NR-98-26
ESA Listing of Prairie Dogs

WHEREAS special interest groups have asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to add the prairie dog to the endangered species list, and

WHEREAS although there is significant doubt as to the scientific basis for such a listing, and the species is said to thrive in several western states, the federal agency has taken the matter under advisement and is considering such a listing, and

WHEREAS the debate over this issue has led to speculation that several sub-species of prairie dogs on the Western Slope may also be discussed and possibly listed, and

WHEREAS prairie dogs have long been a serious threat to the agriculture industry, and in some places can also pose a significant threat to public health and safety, and

WHEREAS adding this species to the endangered list could result in a massive economic upheaval in the agricultural industry, possibly contributing to the demise of many farms and ranches and the further loss of open space in Colorado;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports alternatives for recovery of prairie dogs before they are listed as endangered, including the Colorado Division of Wildlife compiling accurate data to demonstrate the abundance of the species.

Adopted September 25, 1998
Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
BA-92-11
Enterprise Zones

WHEREAS enterprise zones are vital to the economy of Western Colorado,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports continued use of Enterprise Zone tax credits to diversify local economies, promote job creation and expand the state's tax base.

Adopted February 14, 1992
Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
NR-97-14
EPA Air Quality Regulations

WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency occasionally receives requests from special interest groups to change air quality standards, and

WHEREAS federal land management plans now include an analysis of air quality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- CLUB 20 strongly opposes any plan by the Environmental Protection Agency to change clean air requirements before there has been a thorough analysis of the costs and benefits, the health risks and benefits, the impact on federal land management policies, and the effects on the economy of Western Colorado.
- CLUB 20 requests Congressional field hearings in the West on the effect on the economy of any new proposed air quality regulations.

Adopted March 7, 1997
September 11, 2009

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AMEND
NR-96-22
Fish: Sport Fish Stocking Policies

WHEREAS the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed in the past to eliminate the stocking of non-native fishes (save trout) as part of the program to recover endangered fish species, and

WHEREAS the Colorado Division of Wildlife has implemented policies which have the effect of severely limiting the stocking of trout species throughout Western Colorado, and

WHEREAS the sport fishing industry has been an important part of the custom, culture, and economy of Western Colorado for over a Century, and many communities are dependent on this industry and the tourism it generates during much of the year, and

WHEREAS elimination of non-native fish from Western Colorado and the reduction of trout stocking in Western Colorado waters would have a devastating impact on the economy of the region, costing millions of dollars and thousands of jobs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- CLUB 20 opposes efforts to completely eliminate non-native sport fish and efforts to reduce trout populations in the waters of Western Colorado, and to eliminate the stocking of such sport fish in this region.
- CLUB 20 supports efforts to require maintenance of the sport fishing industry as a goal of the endangered fish recovery program, similar to the requirement that allows continued development of Colorado's compact waters.
- CLUB 20 requests that all meetings related to the stocking of non-native fish in the Colorado River Basin should be held in the Basin, so affected communities, businesses, and individuals can participate.

Adopted September 6, 1996

Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
TR-01-14
Funding for Highway 82

WHEREAS Highway 82 from Glenwood Springs to Aspen is the only transportation corridor in the Roaring Fork Valley, and

WHEREAS efficient and safe transportation movement is of vital importance to the economic vitality of the entire Roaring Fork Valley, and

WHEREAS the timely completion of all of Highway 82 corridor improvements directly effects the day to day life of tens of thousands of commuters from Garfield, Eagle and Pitkin Counties, and

WHEREAS the last 3 miles of this 40 mile Highway corridor are not yet funded;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports the timely allocation of funds as they become available to complete the final section of the Highway 82 corridor from Buttermilk to Aspen in accordance with the Record of Decision finalized in 1998.

Adopted March 2, 2001

Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
NR-92-24
Great Outdoors Colorado, Support for

WHEREAS the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) program was created in 1992 to utilize lottery funds to enhance Colorado's wildlife, parks, rivers, trails, open spaces, and

WHEREAS GOCO receives 50% of lottery proceeds up to \$35 million (in 1992 dollars) and, through 2008, GOCO had awarded \$550 million for over 2700 projects to benefit the citizens of Colorado, and

WHEREAS such recreational facilities and open space are a major benefit to the residents of Western Colorado, and an enormous contributor to the tourism economies of these communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports the work of Great Outdoors Colorado to enhance the state's wildlife, parks, rivers, trails and open spaces and similarly supports the continued dedication of lottery funds to that end.

Adopted September 18, 1992

Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
HC-05-21
Health Care Principles

1. All Coloradans must work together to help solve Colorado's health care challenges. Consumers must assume greater responsibility for, and knowledge of, their health and health care choices.
2. Colorado State Government should enact policies, procedures and laws which assist the business and health care communities in identifying and implementing solutions.
3. Health insurance should be made more available and affordable, in order to minimize the number of uninsured.
4. Government should fully fund its healthcare obligations (Medicare, Medicaid, CoverColorado) in order to prevent shifting the costs of its programs to local communities.
5. Preventative programs and disease management programs that will result in lower costs and a more efficient health care system in the long run should be encouraged and funded.
6. Because Coloradans should have meaningful choices in health care, health plans should be encouraged to remain in, or return to, rural Colorado markets.
7. Coloradans should understand the full implications and consequences (both intended and unintended) of requirements and restrictions mandated by government such as adverse selection, guarantee-issue policies, and mandated benefits.
8. Alternative dispute resolution processes should be encouraged to ensure appropriate redress for citizens without promoting the practice of defensive medicine which adds unnecessary costs to the health care system.
9. Both the general public and community leaders must have access to good health care data in order to be able to clearly identify their community's unique health care challenges, understand the options available to them, and make informed decisions to arrive at sustainable and equitable health care solutions.
10. Optimize patient-care throughout Colorado by enabling health care practioners to provide care and service to the extent they are trained.

Adopted September 9, 2005
Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
AG-98-22
Labor, Migrant Farm Labor Access

WHEREAS the shortage of agricultural labor continues to plague Western Slope agricultural producers, despite recent efforts to importing legal workers, and

WHEREAS the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service's (USCIS) existing programs (H2a and H2b) do not solve the problem, because the programs are too cumbersome, expensive, and time consuming, and

WHEREAS the current federal program cannot supply workers needed for harvest of the Western Slope crops, which are a crucial part of the agriculture industry of the region, and

WHEREAS national H2B visa quotas inherently favor the winter seasonal employers and the agriculture industries within southern-belt states because they have earlier growing seasons and therefore these quotas are often exhausted by the time the growing season and associated migrant labor demand occurs in other states like Colorado, and

WHEREAS the CLUB 20 Board has identified as a high priority for the Western Slope solving the shortage of farm labor that is a central issue facing Western Slope agriculture industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20:

- Calls upon Congress to create a supervised and accountable guest worker program under which laborers can come to the United States legally while working in agriculture and related fields.
- Supports efforts to enforce immigration laws and ensure domestic security while not unreasonably restricting access to migrant labor pools by those industries dependent upon such labor.
- Insists that states have equal access to nationally-defined migrant labor quotas.
- Supports streamlining of the current process for preliminary H2A certification.
- Supports removing the portability of H2A visas – such as is the case with H2B visas – to disallow employees to transition to different employment without employer consent.
- Supports restoring the H2b visa quota from 65,000 to the earlier 190,000 to address the inherent inequity which currently exists between state access to such permits.
- Supports fair & decent treatment of guest workers.

Adopted September 25, 1998
Amended September 10, 2004
Amended April 3, 2009
Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
NR-02-22
Lynx Reintroduction with Experimental Non-essential Designation

WHEREAS the lynx was listed as a Colorado Endangered Species by the Wildlife Commission in 1975, and

WHEREAS the Fish and Wildlife Service delayed the listing of the lynx because other species had higher priorities, and

WHEREAS several conservation organizations and private individuals sued the Service for the delay and the Service agreed in a settlement of that lawsuit that they would proceed with a proposal to list the lynx in the contiguous 48 states as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, and

WHEREAS if the lynx reintroduction effort is successful in Colorado, the Colorado Wildlife Commission would remove it from the state's endangered species list and ask the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to exempt Colorado from the federal list as well, and

WHEREAS the habitat for the lynx is public land that provides many uses for the people of the state of Colorado, and

WHEREAS the 2002 Colorado House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution requesting the U.S. Fish & Wildlife designate the lynx as experimental non-essential in order to allow for the limited take of the species necessary to protect private property;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports the reintroduction of the lynx as long as the introduced animals are designated and managed as "experimental non-essential" so as to protect the other multiple uses of the state's public lands.

Adopted September 6, 2002
Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
TR-01-23
Transportation Resource Allocation Formula

WHEREAS the Metropolitan Planning Organizations have completed their next 20 year planning cycle, and Transportation Planning Regions have begun their 20-year planning cycle, and there does not exist enough funding to cover all needed transportation projects within the state, and

WHEREAS the current resource allocation formula for other regional priorities is 45% vehicle miles traveled; 40% lane miles and 15% truck miles traveled, and

WHEREAS there may be some proposals for the allocation of funds that would skew the distribution formulas in favor of the urban areas, and

WHEREAS CLUB 20 believes that any changes to the current resources allocation formula are not in the best interest of Western Colorado;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports the current resource allocation formula for other regional priorities and opposes any effort to alter the current balanced formulas for the distribution of transportation funds.

Adopted September 7, 2001

Amended September 7, 2003

Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
NR-98-23
Youth Hunting Program

WHEREAS CLUB 20 recognizes the value of the hunting and fishing tradition in Colorado, and the economic importance of these activities, and

WHEREAS the number of hunters, especially young hunters, is decreasing in Colorado and nationally, raising concerns about the future of hunting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports continuation of the Division of Wildlife's youth hunting program (including continuing less expensive licenses for youth) to introduce Colorado youth to the great tradition of hunting, in order to continue that tradition in future generations. The program should place particular emphasis on youth that would not, as part of their traditional family activities, have opportunities to hunt.

Adopted September 25, 1998

Amended September 11, 2009

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AMEND
AG-96-18
Taxes on Farmland, Inheritance and Estate

WHEREAS sustaining the agricultural economy of the West depends upon the ability of families to pass along the farm from one generation to the next, and

WHEREAS state inheritance and federal estate taxes make passing farms to the next generation very difficult, often impossible, and

WHEREAS there is a strong public interest in facilitating such inheritance, so long as the farm is to remain in agriculture;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports permanent elimination of agriculture estate taxes.

Adopted September 8, 2005
Amended September 8, 2006
Amended September 11, 2009

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RENEW
WA-95-11
Clean Water Act Re-Authorization

WHEREAS the Clean Water Act has been due for re-authorization by Congress for several years, and

WHEREAS Congressional inaction on this important issue has done nothing to resolve the growing conflicts over enforcement of the Act, especially of Section 404, and

WHEREAS recent regulatory interpretations have begun to classify as wetlands areas which are wet only a short time (15 days) each year, or wetlands which were man-made (sometimes the very people who made the wetlands are being punished for actions affecting those areas), and

WHEREAS the Western Slope has been significantly affected by the designation of wetlands under Section 404, resulting in serious economic impacts,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports re-authorization of the Clean Water Act with modifications to redefine wetlands under Section 404, to more closely reflect the original Congressional intent of protecting navigable waterways, and to strengthen the economic impact assessment of wetlands protection.

Adopted March 3, 1995

Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
WA-01-13
Colorado Water Conservation Board, Opposition to Reconfiguring

WHEREAS during the 2000 legislative session, a bill was proposed changing the composition of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and

WHEREAS similar legislation has been introduced in the 2001 legislative session, and

WHEREAS this legislation increases the number of members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board to include one member from each of the congressional districts, and

WHEREAS this reconfiguration increases Front Range membership, and

WHEREAS CLUB 20 continues to support the current make up of the board by river basin;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 opposes any reconfiguration of the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Adopted March 2, 2001

Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
WA-98-23
Denver Basin Aquifer

WHEREAS Senate Bill 74, adopted in 1996, authorized the State Engineer to conduct a thorough, peer-reviewed, scientific study to define the extent of underground water on the Front Range and the rate of its depletion, and

WHEREAS that study reported a 300 million acre-foot groundwater supply in the Denver Basin Aquifers, a 1000-year supply at the current levels of use, and

WHEREAS it is not yet clear what the long-term implications of this new information may be, but the study clearly raises questions about the wisdom of further depletions of Western Slope water by Front Range users,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports efforts to better manage and use the vast groundwater resources on the Front Range before any new transmountain diversions of Western Slope water are considered.

Adopted September 25, 1998
Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
TR-01-15
Denver International Airport Regional Commuter Facility

WHEREAS regional commercial air service between Western Colorado, Denver, and points beyond is of great economic significance to the business and tourism industries in Western Colorado, and

WHEREAS travel to and from Western Colorado and Denver is of economic benefit to Denver, and

WHEREAS regional commercial air service between Western Colorado and Denver is a viable alternative to surface transportation and facilitates the reduction of traffic congestion on Interstate 70 and other highways in Colorado, and

WHEREAS viable flight alternatives to Denver International Airport exist outside of the State and are available to Western Colorado travelers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 hereby supports the proposal to construct a new regional airline facility on Concourse `A' at Denver International Airport expressly conditioned upon the following:

1. Airline competition options are preserved by Denver International Airport to allow more than one commercial air carrier to provide regional airline service at Denver International Airport with either jets or turboprop aircraft.
2. Surface transportation between Concourse `A' and Concourses `B' and `C' is sufficient to accommodate the anticipated passenger traffic resulting from the proposed regional airline facility on Concourse `A'.
3. Denver International Airport works closely with the airlines to ensure that the costs of the proposed facility are spread equitably among the regional and major (main line) air carrier passengers who utilize Denver International Airport.

Adopted March 2, 2001

Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
WA-99-23
Ditch Bill, Implementation of

WHEREAS many of Colorado's water supply facilities are located on, or transported across, federal lands, and

WHEREAS the Ditch Bill, a 1986 amendment to the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. Section 1761 (c)), provided agricultural water users with the option of accepting a permanent easement from the Forest Service for certain ditches, reservoirs or other facilities constructed on Forest Lands, and

WHEREAS the Ditch Bill applied to all structures in existence prior to the effective date of FLPMA, October 21, 1976 and was passed to give agricultural water users the opportunity to avoid a process that was increasingly seeking to attach on them burdensome terms, conditions and fees, and

WHEREAS many water users have expressed real concerns over the broad language included in the Ditch Bill easement form used by the Forest Service. These concerns take three primary forms:

- (1) the Forest Service may try to use Ditch Bill easements to impose bypass flow requirements;
- (2) the Forest Service may try to exercise a "veto" on routine operations and maintenance plans on existing facilities, and
- (3) the agency may impose NEPA, ESA or even CWA conditions on the operation and maintenance of facilities, and

WHEREAS other issues such as road closures, width of the easement or grant, operations and maintenance, multiple ownership's, or emergency repairs and modifications pose threats to water users around the State. Besides affecting property rights and state water law, there is a significant public safety issue with the maintenance of all ditches and reservoirs on Forest Service lands that could lead to property damage and even loss of lives, and

WHEREAS many State officials and water users are very frustrated at the level of respect and attention federal agencies pay to State laws, the doctrine of prior appropriation and the administration of Colorado's water rights, and

WHEREAS the legislative history of the Ditch Bill contains assurances that the Forest Service will not diminish the entitlements of rights-of-way holders under existing grants, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has committed to address these necessary changes to the Ditch Bill in its legislative history,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports the following changes be made in the implementation of the Ditch Bill:

All easements or grants that pre-date the creation of the National Forest and federal environmental laws should be grandfathered and not subject to Forest Service terms and conditions. And now is the time to secure commitments to address these issues from the Forest Service in clear and simple terms;

The Forest Service should include existing water supply facilities in the environmental baseline such that they are not subject to new requirements;

It is time to demand that the Forest Service once again consider water a primary purpose of the National Forests;

- Bypass flows and federal water rights are direct threats to property rights, Colorado law and the prior appropriation doctrine, and the Forest Service has a responsibility to recognize these rights of Colorado water users;
- The State of Colorado should seek clarification of these issues either in the Ditch Bill easements themselves, or through Congressional legislation, and should include regional/local needs and the sanctity of Colorado water rights;
- Failing clarification through Congressional action, the State of Colorado may want to consider litigation on behalf of Colorado's water users.

Adopted September 10, 1999

Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
WA-00-22
Glen Canyon Dam, Opposing Removal of

WHEREAS Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell have allowed the seven Colorado River Basin states to share and cooperatively plan for the beneficial use of the waters of the Colorado River for the citizens of the respective states, and

WHEREAS Lake Powell provides 40% of the water storage capability in the Colorado River system for the citizens of the seven states, and

WHEREAS Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell provide electricity for more than a million households in the Lower Basin states, and

WHEREAS more than three million people visit Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell annually and enjoy the lake's recreational amenities and the world-renowned trout fishery below the Glen Canyon Dam, and

WHEREAS Lake Powell is the upper basin's principal and primary insurance policy in the event of a Colorado River Compact call which is increasingly likely as growth and attendant water development occurs throughout the basin, and

WHEREAS the construction of Glen Canyon Dam has caused the emergence of a rich riparian habitat below the Dam through the Grand Canyon that did not previously exist, and

WHEREAS in addition to Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell, other integral elements of the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) on upstream tributaries include the Flaming Gorge Dam and Reservoir on the Green River and the Aspinall Unit on the Gunnison River, which provide significant benefits to the region.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 recognize and appreciate the water, power, recreation and environmental benefits resulting from the construction of Glen Canyon Dam and other components of the Colorado River Storage Project Act, and the ongoing benefits to the citizens of the region that result from the existence of the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLUB 20 opposes any effort to breach or remove the Glen Canyon Dam or any other component of the Colorado River Storage Project Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLUB 20 urges the members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation and other members of Congress to oppose any effort to breach Glen Canyon Dam or any other component of the Colorado River Storage Project Act.

Adopted 9-08-00
Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
TR-02-11
Gross Combination Vehicle Weights

WHEREAS increased gross combination vehicle weights are restricted on the Colorado state highway system; and

WHEREAS increased gross combination vehicle weights in Wyoming and Utah are not limited by the same restrictions; and

WHEREAS this difference in regulations gives a competitive advantage to those states; and

WHEREAS the General Assembly with the support of the Colorado Department of Transportation can change state law to allow increased gross combination vehicle weights on state highways; and

WHEREAS gross combination vehicle weight regulations are put into place for improved safety and highway maintenance purposes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 encourages the Colorado General Assembly with the support of the Colorado Department of Transportation to review Colorado's regulations as they relate to increased vehicle weight ratings and modify such regulations as necessary in order to make them compatible with corresponding regulations from Wyoming and Utah in order to eliminate any current competitive disadvantage which Colorado realizes.

Adopted March 8, 2002

Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
WA-02-11
Instream Flow Program

WHEREAS in 1973 the Colorado Legislature passed landmark legislation to protect Colorado's natural environment through a pioneer instream flow law; and

WHEREAS since the inception of Colorado's instream flow program, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has adjudicated instream flow rights on more than 8,000 miles of Colorado's streams and rivers and more than 475 rights to protect natural lake levels; and

WHEREAS the CWCB has the exclusive authority under Colorado law to appropriate water for instream flows, and it has a legislative mandate to balance environmental protections with potentially competing consumptive water uses; and

WHEREAS the current instream flow program allows the CWCB to file for new water rights appropriations for the minimum amount of water necessary to protect the environment to a reasonable degree; and

WHEREAS the current instream flow program allows the CWCB to accept senior absolute water rights for conversion to instream flow rights when and where such senior rights would better protect the natural environment or natural lake levels; and

WHEREAS the Colorado instream flow program has proven its ability to balance protection of Colorado's stream and lake environments with other agricultural, industrial and municipal water uses; and

WHEREAS the CWCB has a statutory obligation to protect both existing water users and the future ability to fully develop Colorado's full water entitlements if and when Coloradoans choose

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 opposes any legislative proposal or initiative effort intended to significantly change Colorado's landmark instream flow legislation and insists that any proposal or initiative should be pursued only following extensive discussion by all interested parties and only with a broad consensus regarding any modification to Colorado's pioneer instream flow program.

Adopted March 8, 2002

Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
WA-96-11
Interstate Compact

WHEREAS there has been much discussion in recent years about the future of water development in the West, and

WHEREAS several proposals have been controversial because of their potential impact on the Law of the River (real or perceived), and

WHEREAS there has been an increase in the level of public debate on the original concept and purposes of the Interstate Compacts, with some advocates suggesting that the concept of water as private property is outdated, and others suggesting that all water should be developed immediately in order to protect Colorado's entitled share from development by other states, and

WHEREAS such debates call into question the permanent understanding of the Compact, which has been that Colorado may develop its entitled share of water at its own pace,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 continues to support the Interstate Compacts as the best means for preserving a peaceful and orderly development and wise use of Colorado River water (and as the best means for ensuring Colorado's share of such water), and continues to oppose any measure which would weaken the Law of the River.

Adopted March 1, 1996
Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
TR-02-15
Port of Entry Mobile Scales

WHEREAS mobile ports of entry weigh stations may be operated at any appropriate location on any road or highway of this state by officers of the Ports of Entry Section, Motor Carrier Services Division, of the Department of Revenue, and

WHEREAS mobile ports of entry weigh stations do not constitute permanent ports of entry weigh stations, and

WHEREAS CLUB 20 believes the mobile scales are not as accurate as the permanent stations, and

WHEREAS it appears specific drivers are unfairly targeted during particular times of the year, and

WHEREAS these discrepancies are unfair to those who must transport goods on our state's highway system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 encourages the Motor Carrier Services Division of the Department of Revenue to review its policies and practices regarding the use of mobile ports of entry in order to ensure that all drivers are treated equitably in regards to the policing of over-the-road weight restrictions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for fairness and consistency that only those scales legal for trade should be used by the Division for compliance purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Motor Carrier Services Division of the Department of Revenue should consider establishing a process to evaluate its performance regarding stopped drivers so that they can use this information to improve its service to the state and to the industry.

Adopted March 8, 2002

Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
WA-01-23
Tamarisk Coalition

WHEREAS the Tamarisk is a deciduous shrub/small tree that was introduced to the western U.S. in the early nineteenth century from Central Asia and the Mediterranean for use as an ornamental, windbreaks, and for erosion control, and

WHEREAS the Tamarisk crowds out native stands of riparian and wetland vegetation, increases the salinity of surface soil rendering the soil inhospitable to other plants, and provides generally lower wildlife habitat value than native vegetation, and

WHEREAS the Tamarisk dries up springs, wetlands, and riparian areas by lowering surface water tables and widens floodplains by clogging stream channels, and

WHEREAS the Tamarisk uses significantly more water than Cottonwood or Willows, with a mature stand using up to an additional foot of water per year; and

WHEREAS the Tamarisk increases fire hazard and the intensity of fires that severely damage sensitive riparian vegetation, and

WHEREAS the Tamarisk is now believed to cover 1.5 million acres of land in the western U.S. and will likely spread to another million acres over the next ten years, and

WHEREAS the Tamarisk Coalition is an organization of agencies, organizations, and landowners working together to restore and maintain the native riparian habitats in Western Colorado affected by this species;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports the Tamarisk Coalition and recognizes the importance of coordinating efforts to begin the effort of restoring riparian lands affected by this species.

Adopted September 7, 2001

Renewed September 11, 2009

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RENEW
WA-01-12
Water Conservation, Support for Front Range Efforts

WHEREAS CLUB 20 already has several resolutions concerning transmountain diversion of West Slope waters and the economic, aesthetic and environmental impacts associated with such diversions, and

WHEREAS existing transmountain water diversions and Denver Basin Groundwater supplies are legally reusable to extinction, which would prevent or delay the need for additional transmountain diversions, and

WHEREAS the State of Colorado's Metro Area Water Supply Investigation (MWSI) and Senate Bill 96-74 reports concluded there is over 400,000 acre feet of legally reusable water available currently and in the reasonably foreseeable future to meet Front Range water demands, and

WHEREAS several Front Range transmountain diverters, including the Cities of Colorado Springs and Aurora and others, are currently reusing portions of their transmountain water supplies by exchange, and

WHEREAS the Cities of Denver and Westminster, the Town of Parker with the Rueter Hess Project, and others are presently investing in facilities that will increase water efficiencies through reuse;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 endorses the efforts by Front Range water entities to more efficiently and completely use the water supplies currently available to them, including recent investments and plans to more fully reuse existing transmountain water diversions and Denver Basin Groundwater supplies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLUB 20 advocates for complete and efficient use of existing water supplies by Front Range water interests before additional transmountain water diversions are considered.

Adopted March 2, 2001

Renewed September 11, 2009

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