



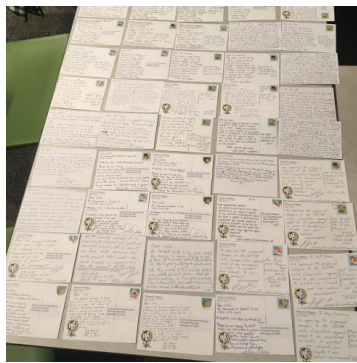
2021 Spring Happenings and 2020 in Review

Hello COWPL Members,

This past year brought many unexpected events, demanding adaptability and resilience. Through these challenging times, COWPL has been especially grateful for your continued support. THANK YOU!

2021 has started with the optimism of a vaccine to promote a healthier year, as well as an administration that is working to protect the natural environment and to address climate change.

Thanks to our grantors, your generosity and our members' many volunteer hours, we had notable successes in 2020. Here is a selection:



JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Outreach against proposed rollbacks.
- Events in Aspen and Basalt.
- Over 200 postcards written!
- COWPL drafted and submitted technical comments, and Jean Perry spoke at the Denver hearing.

APRIL, MAY, JUNE

Colorado Public Lands Day

- Bring the Outside In - Photo Contest.

Art Outdoors

- "After the Lake Christine Fire" walkabout and visioning with RFOV.
- Watercolors for Wildlands.



JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

Recreate Responsibly Campaign

- Many people sought the solace and recreation opportunities of our public lands during the pandemic.
- COWPL used local media for messaging such as "take only memories - leave only footprints".

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

Prepared Voters Guide to Public Lands

- Identified the public lands positions of Colorado's candidates for senate and congress.



Valle Seco Land Exchange

- Analyzed the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed land exchange near Pagosa Springs and submitted comments.
- Collaborated with San Juan Citizens Alliance on a field trip.
- Discussed concerns about public loss of river access, riparian areas, wildlife habitat and cultural resources, with Forest Service staff.

2020 Highlights by the Numbers!

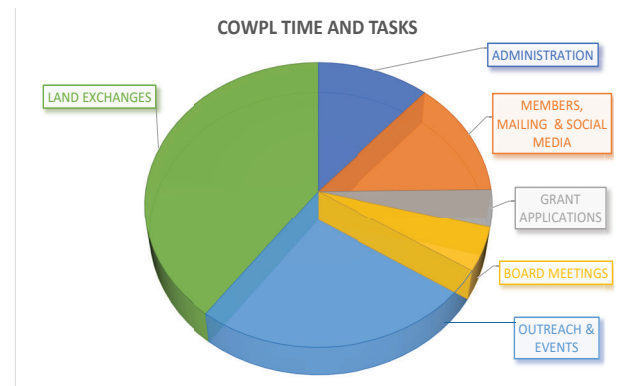
In 2020, we did most of our technical analysis work in-house, with many hours of volunteer time and staff assistance. We ended the year with funds in the bank to help us start a busy and exciting 2021.

REVENUE

Public Support/Contributions	\$24,150
Grants and Awards (Healthy Community Fund and Colorado Academy)	<u>\$13,350</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$37,500

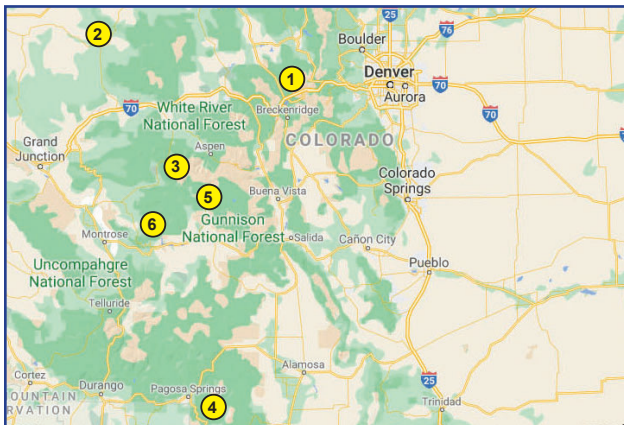
EXPENDITURES

Contract Services - Technical	\$6,150
Contract Services - Outreach	\$290
Staff –Admin, Operations & Outreach	\$17,226
Staff – Technical Work	\$5,177
Intern (Outreach, Projects)	\$1,103
Operations (print, mail, postage)	\$2,569
Business Expenses (incl insurance)	\$1,883
Travel (Valle Seco Project)	<u>\$52</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$34,450



Land Exchange Database Updates

COWPL is continuing to develop our land exchange database. Look for an update on our website at coloradowildpubliclands.org this summer. Here is an extract from a map that shows the locations of six land exchange proposals that COWPL has reviewed. They are:



1. Blue Valley.
2. Buffalo Horn.
3. Sutey-Two Shoes.
4. Valle Seco.
5. Bear Ranch.
6. Fossil Ridge

Spotlight on Cumulative Impacts

Per NEPA, understanding the cumulative impacts of previous and proposed actions is part of an environmental document for a land exchange. Cumulative impacts result when the various effects of multiple actions on resources are considered all together. Effects that COWPL has noted often occur in land exchanges include:

- Loss of good habitat for large game and hunting.
- Public loss of waterways, wetland and riparian habitat acreage.
- Loss of cultural resources.
- Loss of access to previously accessible public lands.

2021 UPCOMING EVENTS



March 8. Buffalo Horn Land Exchange Protest Due

On January 15, 2021, the day before a Biden administration moratorium on new decisions went into effect, BLM issued approval of this exchange per the modified Environmental Assessment. Protests to this decision must be submitted by March 8, 2021. COWPL intends to submit a written protest. Although the BLM Notice of Decision cites that the exchange accomplishes their objectives of consolidating lands and improving access to public lands, it does not address the inherent inadequacies regarding:

- Privatizing critical habitat for a local elk herd, thereby eliminating public access and lucrative outfitting permits.
 - Reducing the permitted grazing rights of several local family ranches.
 - Conveying sage grouse habitat, riparian habitat, paleontological resources and BLM designated "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics" into private ownership, without mitigation.
 - Removing Parcel F-5 from the BLM's preferred alternative based on local concerns, then including it in the final exchange.
 - Providing an appraisal process that seems to favor the land exchange, disregarding important aspects of the public lands valuation, and inflating the values of the private lands.
- The high standard of COWPL's has work impressed Hogan Lovells, a multi-national law firm, who is representing COWPL for this project.*



April 7. Next Board Meeting

Join the COWPL Board outside at our office at 23272 Two Rivers Road, Basalt or via Zoom at 5:30 pm on Wednesday April 7. RSVP to coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com

May 15. Colorado Public Lands Day

VIDEO CONTEST: Capture Your Public Lands!

Artistic – How do public lands inspire? People – How do public lands sustain? Extreme – How do public lands thrill?

Please submit your video of 30 seconds or less, taken in the last year on public lands, by May 15, to coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com

Enter for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate and have your work featured on COWPL's website. (Colorado Wild Public Lands retains the right to include all video submissions in future educational material.)



MAY 15. BIRDWATCHING TRIP AT BASALT MOUNTAIN

Meet our Audubon group leaders at 7:30 AM at the Basalt Mountain parking lot and be back by early afternoon on Saturday May 15. Walk 2-3 miles watching and listening for spring birds and learning more about our public lands. Covid protocols will be observed and group size is limited. For more information or to RSVP, email coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com

To all our members,

Please continue to keep your membership current, consider additional donations if possible, and share our work with friends.

We encourage and appreciate our volunteers - we'll match you with your preferred activity!

COWPL can receive donations from your Amazon Smile and City Market purchases. Please register online on their websites.

Thank you for your support!