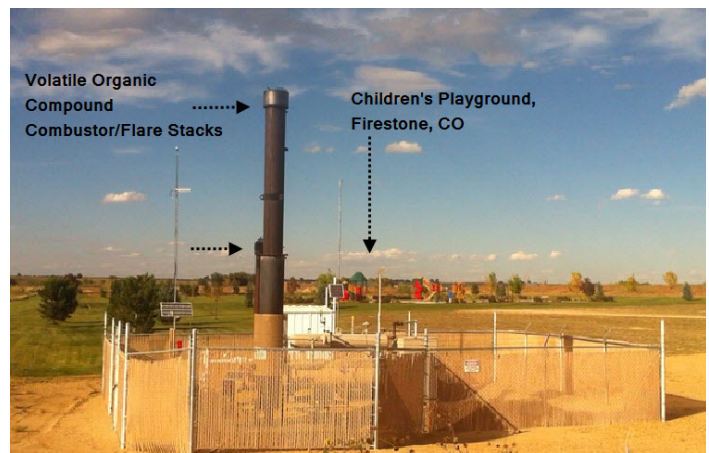


FRACK ATTACK ACROSS COLORADO'S FRONT RANGE!

Northern Colorado, home base to Colorado Clean Water Action in Fort Collins, is in the midst of the biggest fracking boom in the United States. Weld County, just east of Fort Collins, has more active oil and gas wells than any county in the U.S, with nearly 18,000 wells. As a geologic formation called the “Niobrara Shale” is drilled for oil and gas, 10,000 to 20,000 more wells could be added. The Niobrara is a deep shale rock layer that requires hydraulic fracking to get out the oil and gas. As is the case with shale gas fracking across the U.S., the issue is extremely controversial in northern Colorado. Recently, cities and counties up and down the Front Range have been dealing with the consequences of drilling and fracking.

Clean Water Action has serious concerns about drilling and fracking across the Front Range. Impacts include:

- Air pollution from drilling activities
- Noise and light impacts during the drilling phase
- Private property encroachment due to “split estate” legal issues (different ownership of land and the minerals or gas underneath it) and due to the closeness of wells to homes, school, and subdivisions.
- Water quality impacts such as:
 - Fracking chemicals — some of which are carcinogenic and left in the ground
 - Fracking chemicals — some are disposed of on the surface in evaporation pits



- Fracking and water disposal in nearby streams and municipal wastewater treatment plants
- Water quantity: Fracking requires massive amounts of water, and Colorado is a dry state.
- Landscape damage and wildlife habitat impacts due to road building, the proliferation of drill pads, and intensive use of heavy trucks.

Colorado’s Governor, John Hickenlooper, has jumped into the controversy and is on record saying that he doesn’t believe fracking poses a threat to Colorado’s water. At the same time, however, he is proposing to require frackers to disclose the contents of their fracking fluids. Gov. Hickenlooper is also on record in the *New York Times* saying Colorado should “drill the living daylight” out of natural gas to help fuel Colorado’s economy.

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*From the Colorado
Program Director*

Gary Wockner

The pleas for help have been emotional. Not a week goes by when our office is not contacted by a northern Colorado homeowner worried about drilling and fracking on or near their property. Wells are being drilled within feet of homes, schools, and shopping malls. Residents are up in arms.

With limited resources, Clean Water Action is attempting to help address these threats. We work in unison with other environmental groups around the state through lobbying and public outreach. The impacts of drilling and fracking that are overwhelming citizens are also overwhelming Colorado's environmental groups.

One significant issue that is just getting attention has to do with the flow of money in heavily drilled areas. For example, Weld County has more wells than any other county in the U.S., yet Weld County has very high poverty, unemployment, and home foreclosure rates, and continual problems with crumbling infrastructure. And so an honest question is: Where does all the oil and gas money go in Weld County? Does it actually help the economy? Or does it siphon money away from local people and governments by liquidating natural resources, sending that money to multinational oil and gas corporations' coffers? At the very same time oil and gas companies are posting record profits, Weld County citizens appear to be more impoverished. But, pro-drilling politicians — many of whom, like U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner (CO-4), receive campaign contributions from oil and gas companies — keep saying that the oil and gas industry is good for Colorado's economy. Is it really?

Clean Water Action encourages residents to start asking harder questions about drilling and fracking in Colorado. Not only are drilling and fracking a threat to our property and to the public health, they may also be a threat — not a boon — to our economy. Liquidating natural resources, impoverishing citizens, destroying landscapes, and polluting water — that may well be the legacy of unrestrained oil and gas extraction in northern Colorado and beyond.

Gary Wockner

Colorado Director, Clean Water Action

ANNOUNCING THE CLEAN WATER CARD

Clean Water Action announces a new partnership with Capital One®.

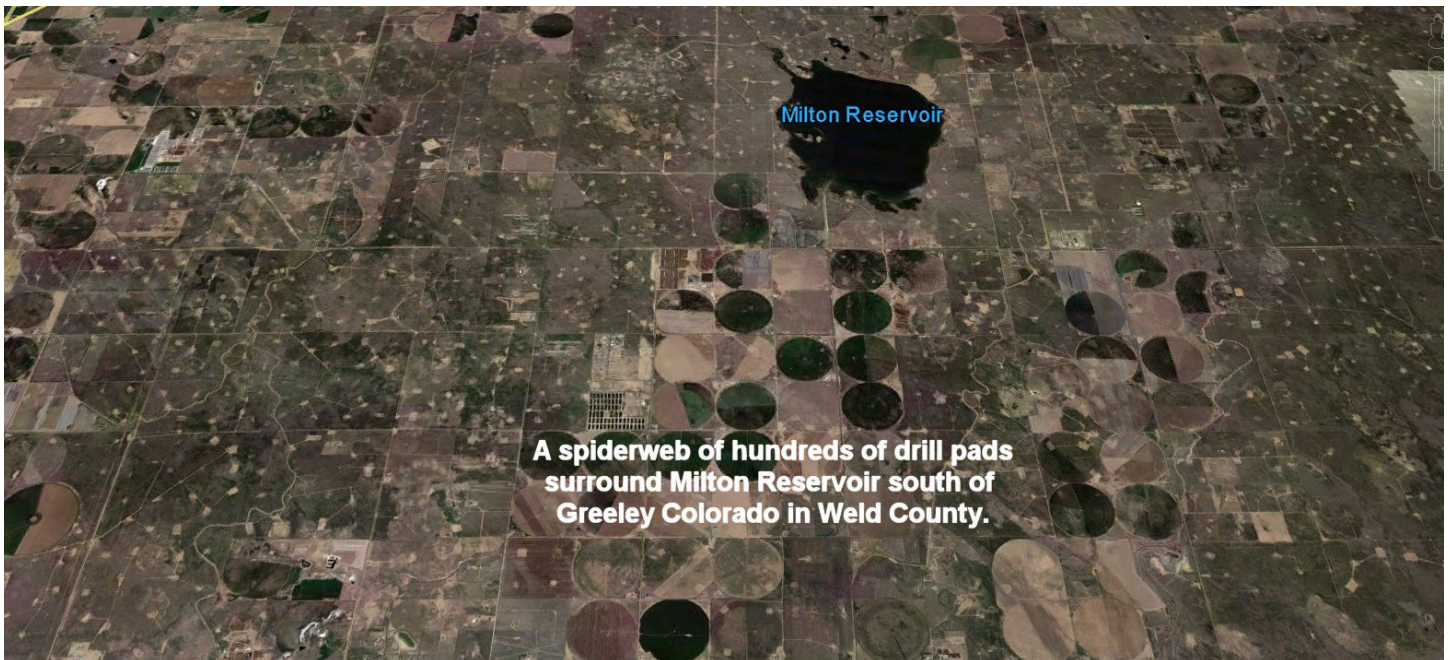
Through this partnership, Clean Water Action and NJEF members and supporters applying for the **Clean Water Action VISA® credit card**, will be able to select between three different credit options to fit individual needs. Purchases made with your Clean Water Action VISA card will help support our Clean Water Action movement.

You can select between three great card art designs, and choose the credit option that you feel best meets your needs while showing your support for Clean Water Action. Great rewards, low introductory interest rate, or build your own credit — you decide.

Members who apply and qualify for the Rewards card will earn 1.25 miles for every \$1 spent on purchases with the card.

This Clean Water Action VISA® card is the only credit card offered to support our cause. Apply today at www.cleanwatercard.org!





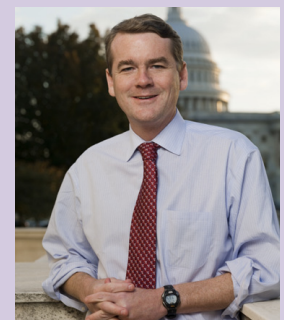
FRACK ATTACK! *Continued from page 1*

The Governor recently launched an effort to expand the use of natural gas in automobiles across the state. It is not yet completely clear what direction the Governor will lead Colorado on drilling and fracking. He appointed new members to the powerful Colorado Oil and Gas Commission who have not yet made substantive changes (for better or worse) to protect Colorado's environment and property from drilling and fracking. In addition, the Governor's proposed disclosure requirement for fracking fluids has a loophole which allows frackers to claim their chemicals are a "trade secret," rather than disclose the full name of the chemical.

Homeowners across the Front Range Colorado are grappling with the threat of drilling and fracking in different ways. As noted in recent *Denver Post* articles, some communities are regulating drilling and fracking more strongly than the State. Strong talk of moratoriums and outright bans of fracking is commonplace during public comment at City Council and County Commission meetings across the Front Range. In the Eastern U.S., a few communities have successfully banned fracking and have outlawed drilling within their municipal boundaries. Here in Colorado, both extent of the impacts and regulations to address the threat remain moving targets.

Clean Water Action offers a big "Thank You" to U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet

for supporting funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF provides money for recreational, trail-building, and parks and open space programs all across the U.S., including Colorado. It is supposed to be replenished from severance taxes on offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere. But each year, Congress grapples with how much of these tax revenues will actually be allocated for this purpose. Some anti-environmental members of Congress want end all LWCF funding. This year, Senator Bennet took the important step of co-sponsoring the bill which would provide more money for the Fund. His leadership and strong support for Colorado's environment are much appreciated.



LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The State Legislature in Colorado is in session from January through May. Environmental groups are once again planning to play a strong defensive role in 2012 because the State House of Representatives has been seized by anti-environmental zealots. Continued attacks against Colorado's clean energy policies and programs are likely, as well as efforts to try and drain even more water out of the state's rivers. Despite the need to play defense, environmental groups are planning to move forward some key legislation on energy, water, transportation, wildlife and air protection. As in 2011, the 2012 session looks to be a wild ride. Not only is the legislature split between pro- and anti-environmental forces, but 2012 is also an election year that will provide lots of thrills and spills as factions maneuver and position themselves for the November election.

Despite all the chaos, Colorado has some extraordinary environmental leaders in the legislature. State Reps. John Kefalas, Randy Fischer, Claire Levy, and Dicky Lee Hullinghorst all provide a strong voice for Colorado's environment. Clean Water Action applauds their work and wishes them even more success in the 2012 legislative session.



Rep. Randy Fischer



Rep. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst



Rep. Claire Levy



Rep. John Kefalas

HOW THEY VOTED: COLORADO'S NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

The U.S. House of Representatives is engaged in an all-out assault on the laws and regulations that have kept our water drinkable and our air breathable for decades. In addition to passing a bill that will gut the Clean Water Act, H.R. 2018, the House has also voted to make our air less breathable, with the passage this September of the TRAIN act. Representatives voted in October to reduce protection from emissions from cement plants and industrial boilers. Additional dirty water votes are expected.

Clean Water Action analyzed votes on 12 key bills. Scores for Colorado's Representatives and Senators are shown below. More information and details on individual votes are available on Clean Water Action's web site: <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/feature/did-your-representative-vote-protect-environment>

COLORADO		% PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTES	
<i>REPRESENTATIVES</i>		6 Coffman (R)]	0%
1 DeGette (D)	100%	7 Perlmutter (D)	100%
2 Polis (D)*	100%	<i>SENATORS:</i>	
3 Tipton (R)	0%	Michael Bennet (D)	100%
4 Gardner (R)	0%	Mark Udall (D)	100%
5 Lamborn (R)	0%		

*Asterisk denotes that the representative did not vote on all bills. Percentages are based on total of number of bills voted on.

TAKE ACTION: Call or write your Congressperson and let them know how you feel about their votes. Urge them to let EPA do its job and tell them to protect us, not polluters! Go to http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2155/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=8217#action

SAVING THE COLORADO RIVER

Clean Water Fund and Clean Water Action are helping to organize and lead a new coalition of companies and foundations working to protect the Colorado River from the source to the sea. The “Save the Colorado River” campaign — www.savethecolorado.org — is led by New Belgium Brewing of Fort Collins, CO. The coalition also includes the companies Patagonia, Clif Bar, Teva and National Geographic; foundation partners include Kenney Brothers Foundation, Environment Foundation, and Environment Now. Gary Wockner, Clean Water Fund’s Colorado Program Director serves as the “Campaign Coordinator.”



Photo courtesy New Belgium Brewing

The coalition’s current campaign supports a petition to restore streamflows to the Colorado River Delta. For more than a decade, 5 trillion gallons of water have been drained out of the Colorado River, leaving the Delta bone dry where it used to meet the Gulf of California. Both the United States and Mexico have taken their full allotment of water, with none left for the river.

That could change in the next few months, however, as the U.S. and Mexico move forward on a “Bi-National Agreement” to restore a small amount of water to the Delta. The petition, launched on Change.org, allows the public — you! — to offer support to U.S. officials to negotiate an agreement that helps restore river flows. The petition is here: <https://www.change.org/petitions/restore-the-colorado-river-delta>

[You can sign it yourself, share it and post it on Facebook. Please help Clean Water Fund and Clean Water Action help Save the Colorado River!](#)



Photo courtesy PeteMcBride.com



FLAMING GORGE PIPELINE UPDATE: This proposal would divert massive amounts of water from Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Southwest Wyoming, and pipe and pump that water 500 miles across Wyoming and down to the Front Range of Colorado for “future population growth.” So far, Colorado has funded a small “task force” to study the Pipeline, and a northern Colorado businessman recently filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to build it. Clean Water Fund and Clean Water Action oppose the Pipeline and encourage the organizations’ members and supporters to oppose it as well. The Pipeline would be exorbitantly expensive and would irrevocably damage the Green and Colorado Rivers. Its construction could also preclude the serious focus on increasing water conservation, improving growth management and building cooperative relationships with farmers that is really needed — all of which would deliver more water at far lower cost to taxpayers and the environment.

Turn this:
CLEAN WATER
into this:
CLEAN WATER

When it comes to year-end giving, you already know that Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund are smart choices to receive your financial support. Your gifts can have a huge positive impact, helping to protect water and health, now and for the future.

Here are four tips for how you can make the positive impact from your year-end giving even greater.

YEAR-END GIVING TIPS

1. Matching Gifts. Many employers will match donations made to **Clean Water Fund** dollar for dollar or sometimes even 2:1 or 3:1. That could allow your \$100 donation to have a \$200 or \$300 impact for our water.

2. Giving at Work. You can support Clean Water through your company's payroll deduction program. Federal employees can designate Clean Water Fund to receive their gifts through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #10636). Contact us for help adding Clean Water Fund as a workplace giving option, or establishing a payroll deduction program in your workplace.

3. Retirement Resource Opportunity. 2011 is the last year for special retiree-only giving incentives created by the federal government. Until December 31, 2011, anyone 70^{1/2} or older can donate up to \$100,000 tax free to nonprofits like Clean Water Fund from their Individual Retirement Accounts (traditional or Roth IRAs). Mandatory IRA distributions are otherwise subject to income tax, but not if they're given directly to charities in 2011. Call Clean Water Fund for details, (202) 330-2379.

4. Give the Gift of Clean Water. You can designate your online donation(s) as gifts in honor or memory of a special person or occasion. Visit the "Donate" buttons on the [Clean Water Action](#) or [Clean Water Fund](#) web sites to learn how.

Questions? Contact us by e-mail, development@cleanwater.org or phone (202) 330-2379.



Colorado Currents

WINTER UPDATE 2011

Clean Water Action is a national citizens' organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, creation of environmentally-safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work.

Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life.

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