

KEN SALAZAR  
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
FINANCE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

WASHINGTON, DC:  
702 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:  
2300 15TH STREET  
SUITE 450  
DENVER, CO 80202  
(303) 455-7600

<http://www.salazar.senate.gov>

January 14, 2008

Dear Colorado Leader,

As your United States Senator, I work hard every day for Colorado's land, water and people. As Attorney General and as United States Senator, I have met and listened to the people in each of Colorado's 64 counties many times. I understand the opportunities and challenges of each part of our State. To better serve the people of Colorado, I grouped the counties into ten regions that share similar geographic, economic and community characteristics. This document sets forth goals for each region, such as:

- Supporting a strong agricultural economy,
- Protecting the regions' land and water,
- Promoting renewable energy,
- Fighting for community development and our fair share of federal dollars,
- Making health care affordable, and
- Helping law enforcement create safe, secure communities.

Each regional plan sets forth specific priorities in that region that will fulfill these goals and that will enhance the quality of life for residents of that region.

These plans guide my work as Colorado's United States Senator. I invite your comments on these plans so that I can better serve you. I also invite your involvement in priorities that are important to your home area. Together, we will continue to make Colorado a great place now and for future generations.

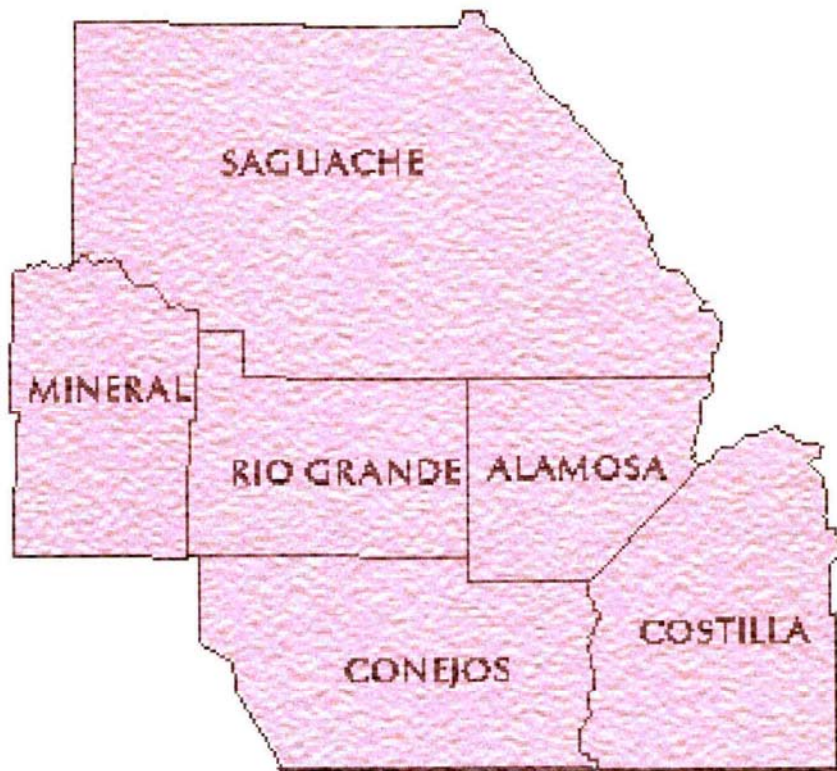
Sincerely,



Ken Salazar  
United States Senator



# San Luis Valley Region



**San Luis Valley Region**  
Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache  
Counties

**I. Support a Strong Agricultural Economy in the San Luis Valley**

- Champion family farmers and ranchers through the creation of a 2007 Farm Bill with strong programs for rural development, renewable energy, conservation, nutrition, livestock and family farm and ranch support;
- Enhance specialty crops for the San Luis Valley, including new markets for potatoes;
- Protect Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in the San Luis Valley from closure;
- Create permanent agriculture disaster program, and fight for agricultural disaster declarations if the circumstances warrant.

**II. Fight for Land and Water in the San Luis Valley**

- Support the Closed Basin Project;
- Protect Colorado's Rio Grande Compact entitlement;
- Help with Rio Grande restoration efforts;
- Help with the Alamosa River restoration effort;
- Advocate for Summitville clean up;
- Promote and protect the Valley's three National Wildlife Preserves: Alamosa, Monte Vista, and Russell Lakes.
- Monitor the land use and permitting process regarding development of the Village at Wolf Creek;
- Monitor oil and gas drilling in the Baca National Wildlife Refuge and the San Luis Hills to ensure a balance between energy production and environmental protection;
- Monitor strategic plan revisions by the U.S. Forest Service, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, the Division of Wildlife, and the Ecosystems Council that impact public lands.

### **III. Promote the San Luis Valley as a Tourism, Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Center**

- Support and promote the Great Sand Dunes National Park, including necessary improvements to the Park;
- Pass the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Bill and work on projects that promote the culture and history of the San Luis Valley;
- Work to stabilize the historic railroads in the San Luis Valley, such as the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad.

### **IV. Push for a Renewable Energy Economy in the San Luis Valley**

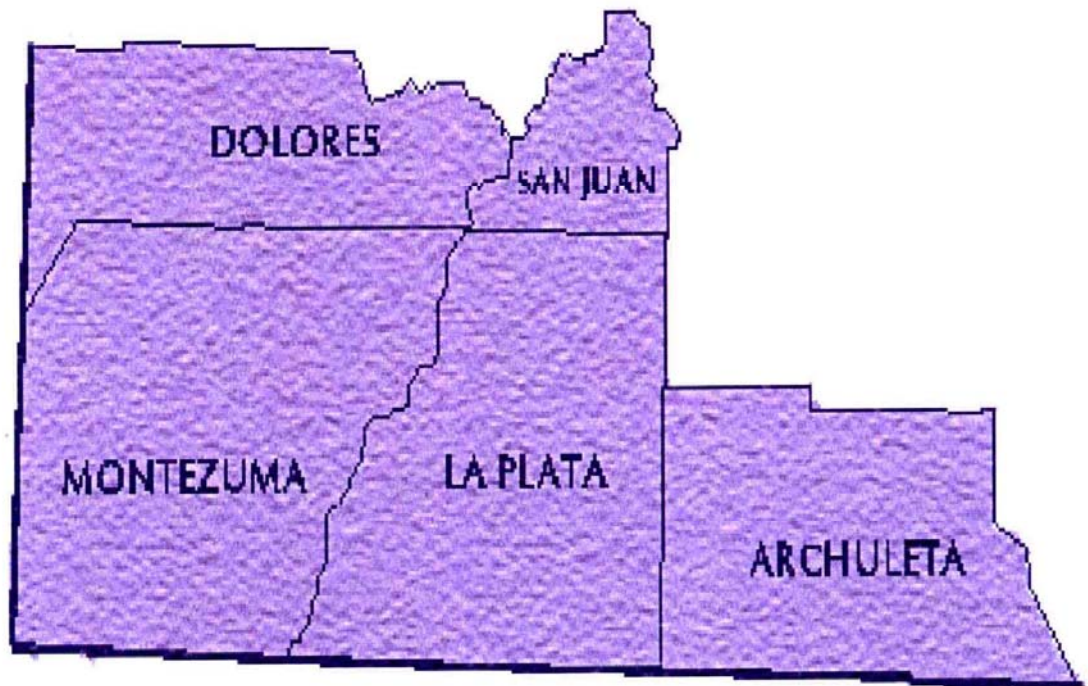
- Help attract a solar electricity generating facility to the Valley;
- Support biomass fuel projects, including
  - Costilla County biodiesel demonstration project,
  - Alta Fuels biodiesel;
- Support the development of a wind energy project;
- Work on increasing transmission lines for transporting renewable generated electricity.

### **V. Fight for Community Development and Fair Share of Federal Dollars for the San Luis Valley**

- Support Highway 160 improvements;
- Keep Alamosa airport open;
- Fight for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding;
- Fight for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding;
- Work for adequate Medicare reimbursements to sole community hospitals, including San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa;
- Support federal funding for economic development projects recommended by TEAM SLV, which is composed of representatives of all six San Luis Valley counties;
- Support Adams State College and Trinidad State Junior College;
- Support the San Luis Valley Boys and Girls Clubs.



# Four Corners Region



## **Four Corners Regional Plan**

Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan Counties

### **I. Support a Strong Agricultural Economy for Southwest Colorado**

- Champion family farmers and ranchers through the creation of a 2007 Farm Bill with strong programs for rural development, renewable energy, conservation, nutrition, livestock and family farm and ranch support;
- Protect Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in Southwest Colorado from closure;
- Create a permanent agriculture disaster program and fight for agricultural disaster declarations if the circumstances warrant.

### **II. Fight For Land and Water in Southwest Colorado**

- Push for completion of the Animas-La Plata Water Project;
- Protect the Colorado River Compact;
- Monitor the process for wild & scenic designation of streams and rivers in the San Juan Forest;
- Help with the rehabilitation of Jackson Gulch Reservoir;
- Oversee the proposal for building Desert Rock Power Plant in New Mexico;
- Support legislation and programs that protect and reclaim abandoned mine areas of Ophir and Red Mountain Pass;
- Work to enact “Good Samaritan” mine clean-up legislation;
- Advocate for balanced energy and mineral development and land rights issues within the HD Mountains of Archuleta and La Plata Counties;
- Monitor the proposed Haviland-Glacier Club land exchange on the San Juan Forest.

### **III. Promote Southwest Colorado as a Center for Tourism, Hunting, Fishing, and Recreation**

- Promote southwest Colorado heritage tourism and its unique natural heritage by helping to enhance the following crown jewels:



- Mesa Verde National Park,
  - Canyon of the Ancients,
  - Chimney Rock,
  - Restored mine sites of San Juan County,
  - Native American treasures and attractions on the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Reservations.
- Monitor the revision of the San Juan National Forest and Bureau of Land Management plans;
  - Monitor access issues on public lands including Canyon of the Ancients and Wolf Creek ski area;
  - Help fund recreation facilities at Animas-La Plata's Lake Nighthorse and at McPhee Reservoir.

#### **IV. Push for a Renewable Energy Economy in Southwest Colorado**

- Promote the bio-diesel plant in Dolores County;
- Promote bio-mass facilities in Pagosa Springs and on the Ute Mountain Ute reservation;
- Explore potential geothermal projects.

#### **V. Fight for Community Development and Fair Share of Federal Dollars for Southwest Colorado**

- Push for the availability of in-state television stations to residents of Southwest Colorado counties;
- Push for access to the Internet and expansion of telecommunications capabilities throughout the region, including fiber-optics for San Juan County;
- Fight for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Funding;
- Fight for Community Development Block Grant Funding;
- Fight for federal funds for transportation, including:
  - US 160,
  - US 550,
  - US 491.
- Help secure funding for public transportation to and from hospitals and clinics, especially for seniors seeking health care;
- Support reliable and affordable air service, through federal funding, for essential service to Cortez and Durango;

- Support communication and intergovernmental cooperation initiated by local governments, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, or the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe on matters of common concern.

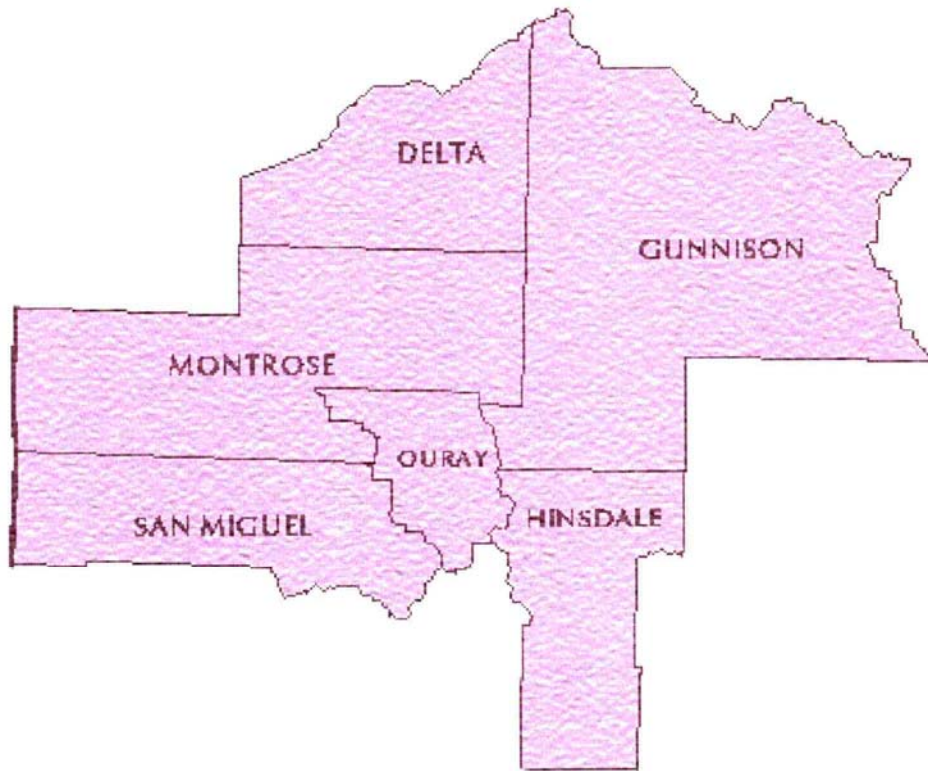
## **VI. Help Law Enforcement Create Safe, Secure Communities**

- Help to ensure Montezuma and Dolores counties sustain and strengthen their fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking;
- Support increased federal law enforcement and judicial presence in the Southwest;
- Support cooperation among all Southwest Colorado law enforcement agencies including federal, state, county, city and tribal agencies;
- Support efforts to establish interoperability of communication systems among public safety and first responder agencies in the region.

## **VII. Make Health Care Affordable**

- Continue to support efforts to provide affordable, accessible health care for rural families through Critical Access Hospitals and primary care clinics;
- Advocate for the funding of four current medical clinics to become certified Rural Health Clinics that would provide health care for the more than 14,700 people or one-third (1/3) of the population that is underserved in La Plata County;
- Explore other federal funding sources, such as a Federally Qualified Health Center, through a long-term planning process;
- Work for adequate Medicare reimbursements to sole community hospitals, including Mercy Medical Center in Durango and Southwest Memorial Hospital in Cortez.

# HIGHWAY 50 WEST REGION



## **Highway 50 West Region**

Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel  
Counties

### **I. Support a Strong Agricultural Economy in the Highway 50 West Region**

- Champion family farmers and ranchers through the creation of a 2007 Farm Bill with strong programs for rural development, renewable energy, conservation, nutrition, livestock, and family farm and ranch support;
- Enhance specialty crops programs for the Highway 50 West Region;
- Protect Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in the Highway 50 West Region from closure;
- Create permanent agriculture disaster program and fight for agricultural disaster declarations if the circumstances warrant.

### **II. Fight for Land and Water in the Highway 50 Region**

- Protect water supplies of the Gunnison River basin;
- Monitor and protect Colorado's water entitlement under the Colorado River Compact;
- Continue to monitor the legal process seeking to establish a long-term management plan for use of waters from the Gunnison River in the Black Canyon National Park;
- Continue efforts to create the Dominguez Escalante National Conservation Area;
- Monitor the re-write of U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management resource management and travel plans;
- Fight for resources and policies to mitigate bark beetle infestation;
- Monitor emerging issue of Sudden Aspen Decline (SAD) within the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) and San Juan National Forests;
- Work with the Telluride community to preserve the Valley Floor;
- Work to enact "Good Samaritan" mine clean-up legislation;
- Seek Land and Water Conservation Funds for Ophir land acquisition;
- Work with Gunnison County and Crested Butte Community to monitor the impacts of potential molybdenum mine at Mt. Emmons;

- Work with agricultural community to foster cooperation between ranchers and farmers, federal, state, and local agencies in the management of threatened and endangered species (Gunnison Sage Grouse);
- Protect ranches in Gunnison, Delta, and Montrose area by supporting initiatives like the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation program.

### **III. Push for a Renewable Energy Economy in the Highway 50 West Region**

- Support renewable energy and efficiency projects in the region, including:
  - Woody biomass in Delta,
  - Hydro electric for already existing reservoirs.
- Support Delta-Montrose Electric Association's (DMEA) efforts to provide more renewable energy to their customers;
- Plan a Western Slope Renewable Energy Summit with DMEA;
- Work with DMEA to promote the use of geothermal heat pump technology through consumer tax incentives.

### **IV. Fight for Community Development and Fair Share of Federal Dollars for the Highway 50 West Region**

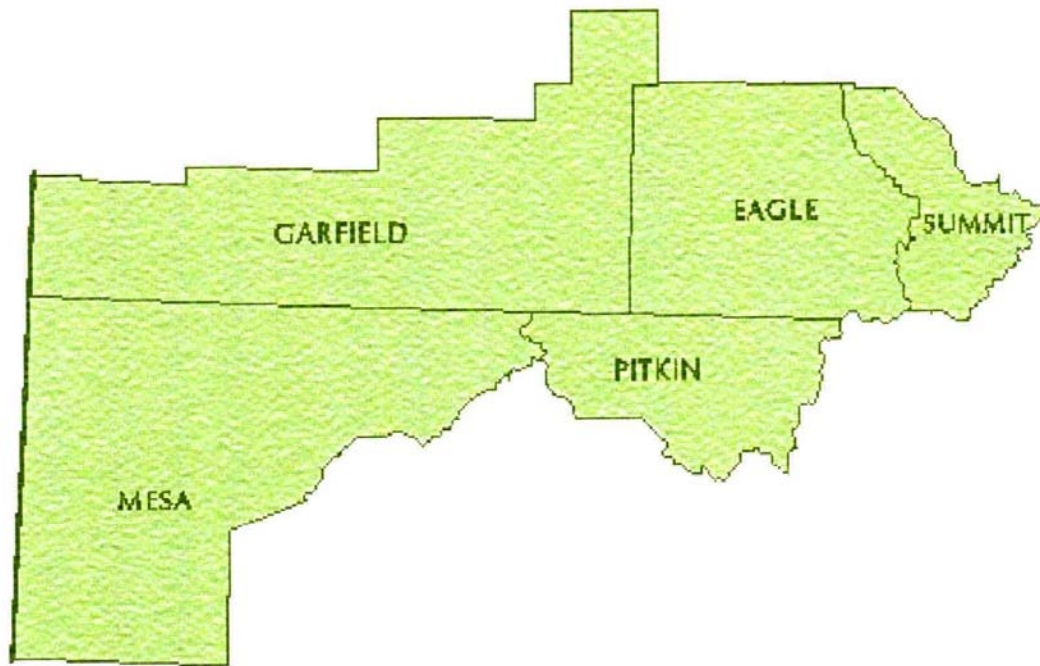
- Secure Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding;
- Fight for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding;
- Support developing a miner training program in Delta County;
- Fight for Transportation funding, including:
  - Maintenance and expansion of US 50,
  - Essential Air Service designations and funding in Gunnison, Montrose and Telluride.

### **V. Make Health Care Affordable**

- Fight for federal assistance to community hospitals in Montrose, Gunnison and Delta Counties;
- Work for adequate Medicare reimbursements to sole community hospitals, including Montrose Memorial Hospital.



# I-70 WEST REGION



## **I-70 West Region**

Eagle, Garfield, Mesa, Summit, and Pitkin Counties

### **I. Support a Strong Agricultural Economy for the I-70 West Region**

- Champion family farmers and ranchers through the creation of a 2007 Farm Bill with strong programs for rural development, renewable energy, conservation, nutrition, livestock and family farm and ranch support;
- Protect Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in the I-70 West Region from closure.
- Create permanent agriculture disaster program and fight for agricultural disaster declarations if the circumstances warrant.

### **II. Fight for Land and Water on the Western Slope**

- Protect Western Slope water supply, use and development, by supporting appropriate basin of origin protections and the Colorado River Compact;
- Provide oversight of federal agencies to ensure balanced, responsible approaches to oil, gas, and oil shale and mineral development;
- Work to protect the Roan Plateau for hunting and recreation and minimize impact of gas development on wildlife resources;
- Continue efforts to create the Dominguez Escalante National Conservation Area;
- Support the City of Grand Junction and the Town of Palisade in their efforts to protect their watersheds from negative impacts caused by oil and gas drilling;
- Push for resources and policies to mitigate the impacts of bark beetle infestation and Sudden Aspen Decline (SAD);
- Closely monitor the re-write of U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management resource management and travel plans;
- Support funding for eradication of noxious weeds, such as Tamarisk.



### **III. Push for a Renewable Energy Economy in the I-70 West Region**

- Support the ski industry's efforts to implement "green" projects;
- Promote renewable energy projects in the region, such as:
  - Delta-Montrose Electric Association renewable energy and geothermal leadership projects,
  - Woody biomass projects in Summit County,
  - Holy Cross Electric's efforts to produce and purchase more renewable energy from local sources,
  - Efforts of local governments, communities and small businesses to build small hydro/woody biomass/geothermal/solar projects;
  - Efforts of local governments and communities to retrofit existing buildings to make them as energy efficient as possible.

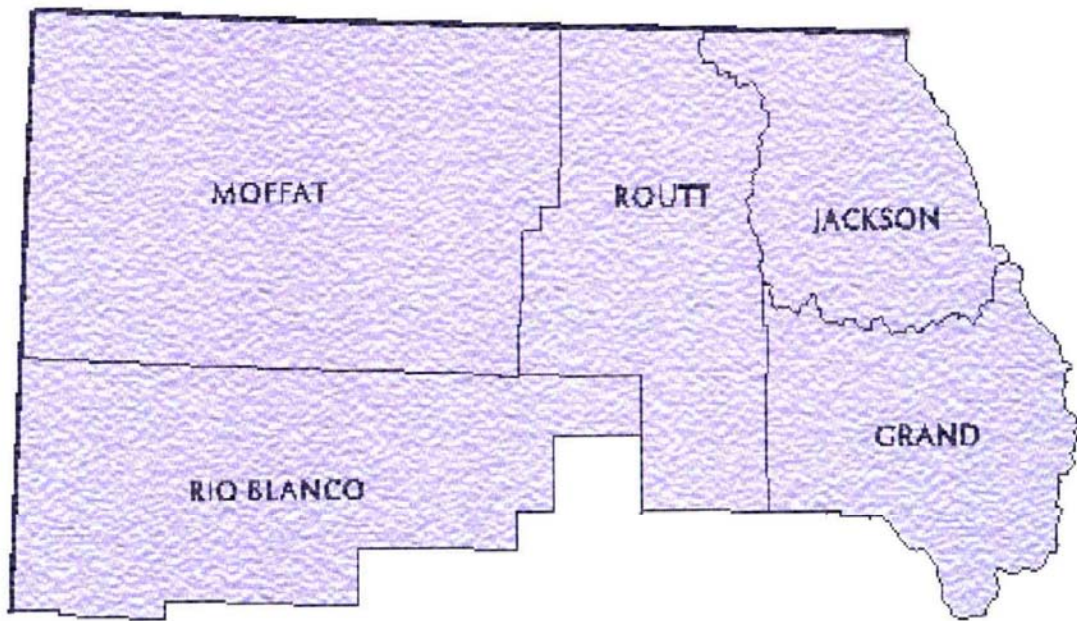
### **IV. Fight for Community Development and Fair Share of Federal Dollars for the I-70 West Region**

- Fight for Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding;
- Support funding of Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs);
- Fight for Transportation funding:
  - Work closely with local and state officials and community leaders on I-70 Corridor options;
  - Push for federal funding of transportation projects, such as:
    - US Highway 50,
    - Colorado 13 connecting to I-70,
    - Highway 40,
    - Colorado 9 from Frisco to Breckenridge.
  - Monitor and support the needs of transit projects throughout the region;
  - Support federal funding for Eagle County Airport, Walker Field and Aspen airports.
- Redirect surplus monies in Anvil Points clean-up fund back to counties and communities directly impacted by energy development in that resource area;
- Change the Administration's formula for splitting federal mineral leasing revenues back to a 50-50 split between the federal government and the states;
- Actively support local efforts to create business opportunities for local companies in the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project (UMTRA);
- Oppose relocation of DOE offices from Grand Junction.

## **V. Make Health Care Affordable**

- Fight for rural veterans' health care, including support of the Grand Junction VA hospital;
- Work for adequate Medicare reimbursements to sole community hospitals, including St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center in Grand Junction and Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs.

# NORTHWEST REGION



## **Northwest Region**

Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties

### **I. Support a Strong Agricultural Economy in Northwest Colorado**

- Champion family farmers and ranchers through the creation of a 2007 Farm Bill with strong programs for rural development, renewable energy, conservation, nutrition, livestock and family support;
- Protect Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in Northwest Colorado from closure.

### **II. Fight to Protect Land and Water in Northwest Colorado**

- Protect Western Slope water supply, use, and development by:
  - Supporting appropriate basin of origin protections,
  - Protecting the Colorado River Compact,
  - Monitoring Yampa River proposed diversions to the Front Range,
  - Monitoring endangered fish recovery in Yampa River.
- Closely monitor the federal process used to develop long range management plans on federal lands including:
  - White River Forest Management Plan,
  - Little Snake Resource Management Plan,
  - Development of Vermillion Basin.
- Provide oversight of federal agencies to ensure balanced, responsible approaches to oil shale development;
- Promote renewable energy projects for the region, including:
  - Efforts by private individuals to develop biofuels industry in rural Northwest Colorado,
  - Woody biomass projects in Jackson and Grand County.
- Monitor Brown's Park Refuge and Arapaho Wildlife Refuge land issues;
- Continue to develop resources and policies to mitigate impacts of bark beetle infestation.

### **III. Fight for Community Development and Fair Share of Federal Dollars for Northwest Colorado**

- Fight for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding;
- Support Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding;

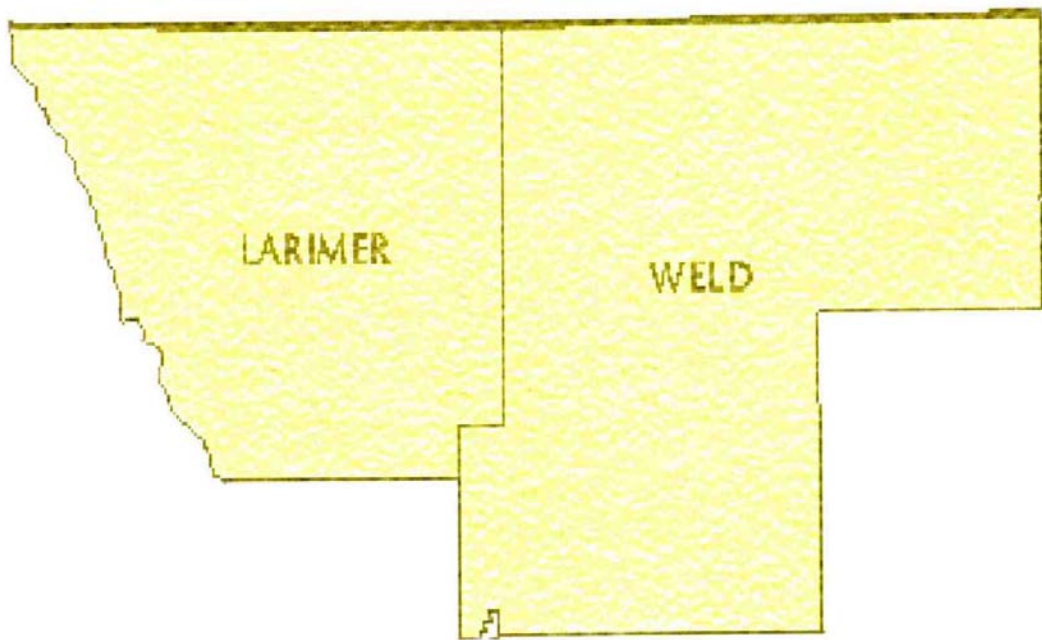
- Fight for Transportation Funding:
  - US 40,
  - Colorado 13 (between I-70 and I-80),
  - Essential Air Service designation and funding for Yampa Valley Regional airport.
- Support efforts to fund Senior Center in Walden.

#### **IV. Make Health Care Affordable**

- Push for Veterans Health Care Clinic in Northwest Colorado;
- Help ensure that rural Colorado has adequate access to mental health medical services;
- Work for adequate Medicare reimbursements to sole community hospitals, including Pioneers Hospital in Meeker, Yampa Valley Medical Center in Steamboat Springs, and the Memorial Hospital in Craig;
- Help the American Legion create a Veterans Rehabilitation Center in Craig.



# NORTH CENTRAL REGION



## **North Central Region**

### **Larimer and Weld Counties**

#### **I. Support a Strong Agricultural Economy in the North Central Region**

- Champion family farmers and ranchers through the creation of a 2007 Farm Bill with strong programs for rural development, renewable energy, conservation, nutrition, livestock and family farm and ranch support;
- Protect Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in Larimer and Weld Counties from closure;
- Create permanent agriculture disaster program and fight for agricultural disaster declarations if the circumstances warrant.

#### **II. Fight for Land and Water in Northern Colorado**

- Create a national wilderness area at Rocky Mountain National Park;
- Continue support for the Cache la Poudre Heritage Area;
- Support environmentally sound efforts to meet the water needs of agriculture and a burgeoning population in Northern Colorado;
- Monitor proposed development of uranium mine in Weld County.

#### **III. Help Make Northern Colorado a Hub for Renewable Energy**

- Support energy development collaboration between Colorado State University, the University of Colorado, the Colorado School of Mines, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory;
- Support the establishment of ethanol plants in northern Colorado, such as:
  - Windsor ethanol plant, and
  - Evans ethanol plant.
- Support the development of wind energy in northern Colorado, such as
  - CSU's wind farm at Maxwell Ranch,
  - Cedar Creek Wind Project near Grover, in Weld County.
- Help recruit and promote renewable energy businesses, such as Vestas wind blade facility.



#### **IV. Fight for Community Development and Fair Share of Federal Dollars for North Central Colorado**

- Fight for Transportation Funding:
  - For I-25 interchange improvements in high-traffic areas, and for transit options for travel within and between northern communities;
  - To support expansion of transit options along College Avenue in Fort Collins and additional vans to take commuters from Loveland and Fort Collins to Denver.
- Help communities define a regional approach to transportation and transit needs;
- Support for Front Range Commuter Rail;
- Fight for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding;
- Secure Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

#### **V. Help Realize Vision for Educational Excellence in Northern Colorado**

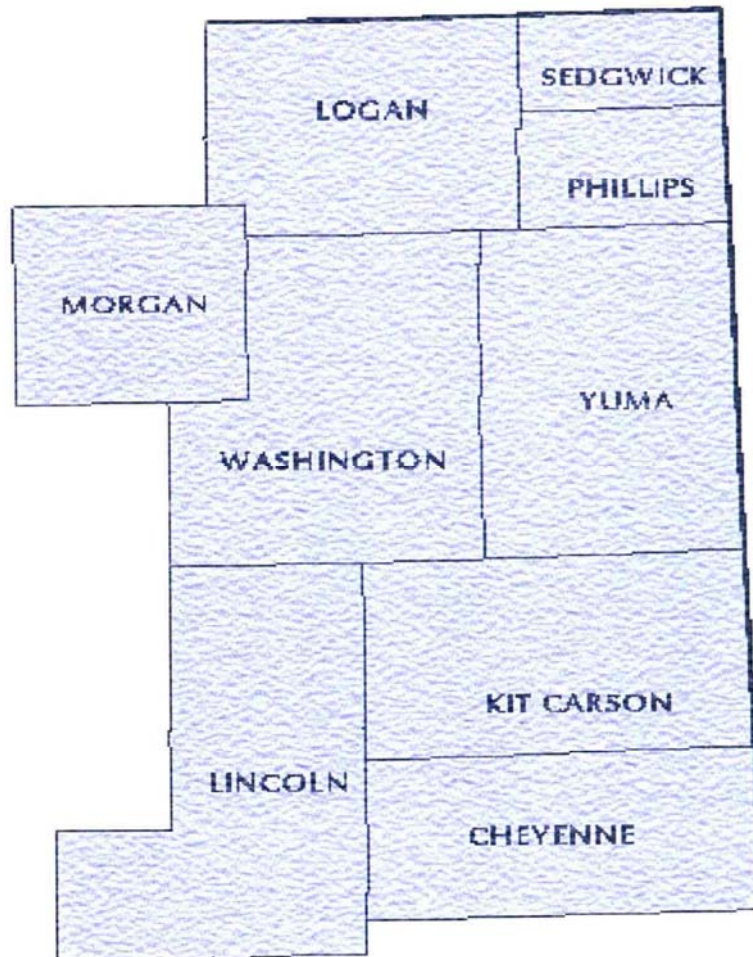
- Support continued funding and highlighting of the unique expertise and quality programs at:
  - Colorado State University,
  - University of Northern Colorado,
  - Front Range Community College, and
  - Aims Community College.
- Assist school districts and BOCES with distance learning funding through USDA Rural Development.

#### **VI. Make Health Care Affordable**

- Work to expand telemedicine efforts and programs, including assisting Banner Health/Northern Colorado Medical Center with plans to expand applications within the region and eastern Colorado.



# HIGH PLAINS REGION



## **High Plains Region**

Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma Counties

### **I. Support a Strong Agricultural Economy in the High Plains Region**

- Champion family farmers and ranchers through the creation of a 2007 Farm Bill with strong programs for rural development, renewable energy, conservation, nutrition, livestock and family farm and ranch support;
- Protect Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in the High Plains Region from closure;
- Support the mission and programs of the USDA Akron Research Station;
- Create permanent agriculture disaster program, and fight for agricultural disaster declarations if the circumstances warrant.

### **II. Fight to Protect the Water of the Northern High Plains**

- Help farmers affected by well closures along the South Platte River;
- Help farmers affected by Republican River Water Compact issues;
- Help communities like Eckley with projects to provide clean water supplies;
- Continue to work for legislation regarding the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program to protect water rights and maintain habitat for threatened and endangered species along the Platte River.

### **III. Fight for Community Development and Fair Share of Federal Dollars for the High Plains**

- Fight for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding;
- Push for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding;
- Fight for federal funding of transportation projects, including:
  - Increased Rural Highway Funds for Colorado,
  - I-76 Improvements,
  - The Heartland Expressway Route,
  - Ports to Plains.
- Work for passage of Rural Broadband Legislation, and look for other opportunities to expand rural telecommunications capabilities.

#### **IV. Help Make the High Plains Region a Hub for Renewable Energy Revolution**

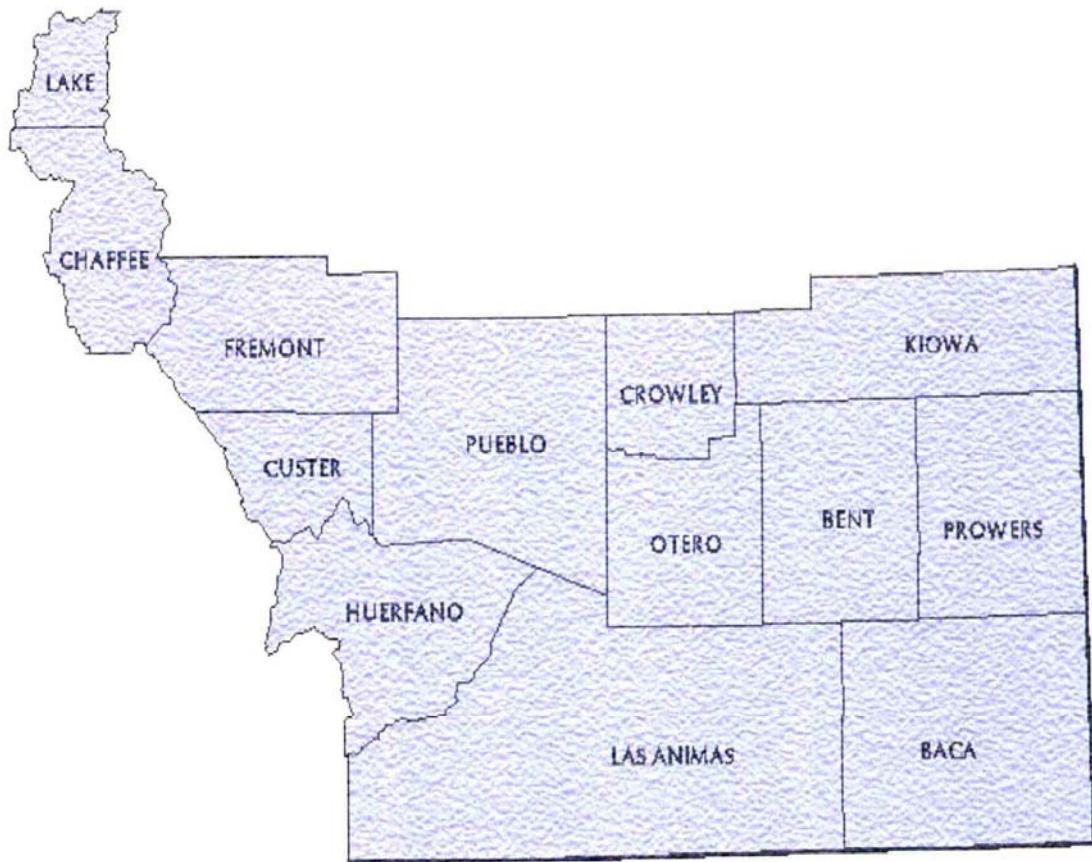
- Push for the development of alternative energy sources such as wind energy and biofuels, including ethanol and biodiesel, through support of the following projects:
  - Sterling Ethanol Plant,
  - Yuma Ethanol Plant,
  - High Plains ethanol plant in Morgan County,
  - Potential cellulosic research station in Kit Carson County,
  - Wind project north of Limon, Lincoln County,
  - Peetz Table Wind Energy project,
  - Ridge Crest Wind Partner project in Peetz,
  - Potential Haxtun ethanol project in Phillips County.

#### **V. Support Affordable Health Care for the High Plains Region**

- Work to ensure affordable health care, especially in rural areas, by fighting for Critical Access Hospitals in Yuma and Holyoke, programs targeted toward rural health care, and lower cost prescription drugs;
- Continue supporting Greeley Hospital/Banner Health's grant applications for telemedicine to expand these services in the Sterling hospital and other facilities on the eastern plains;
- Establish and continue to support Veterans Outreach Clinic in northeast Colorado.



# ARKANSAS RIVER REGION



## **Arkansas River Region**

Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Crowley, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Lake, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, and Pueblo Counties

### **I. Support a Strong Agricultural Economy in the Arkansas River Region**

- Champion family farmers and ranchers through the creation of a 2007 Farm Bill with strong programs for rural development, renewable energy, conservation, nutrition, livestock, and family farm and ranch support;
- Enhance specialty crops for the Arkansas River Region;
- Protect Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Bent County from closure;
- Create permanent agriculture disaster program, and fight for agricultural disaster declarations if the circumstances warrant.

### **II. Fight for Land and Water in the Arkansas River Region**

- Push for the construction of the Arkansas Valley Conduit to bring clean water supplies to communities downstream of Lake Pueblo;
- Address restoration of Fountain Creek with implementation of Fountain Creek Crown Jewel Plan and introduction and passage of Fountain Creek Study legislation;
- Introduce legislation to study storage options on Arkansas River and Fountain Creek;
- Work with Lake County to explore the feasibility of making Clear Creek Reservoir a recreational area modeled after Pueblo Reservoir and the possible expansion as a storage facility;
- Support development of Minnequa Lake;
- Monitor development of the water management plan to balance urban water needs and agricultural needs in the lower Arkansas Valley;
- Designate Brown's Canyon as a wilderness area;
- Work with Lake County, EPA, and the State of Colorado on California Gulch Superfund site and Asarco issues;
- Assist in the collaboration of the Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plants Plan organization to map and study Tamarisk Control along the Arkansas River and its tributaries and canals;
- Fight for resources and policies to mitigate the impact of bark beetle infestation;
- Monitor the clean up of the Cotter Mine in Fremont County;



- Monitor and work with the Bureau of Land Management on the Environmental Impact Study for the future “Over the River” project by Christo and Jeanne- Claude.

### **III. Promote Renewable Energy Projects for the Arkansas River Region**

- Wind farm development in Prowers, Bent or Baca counties;
- Biomass project in Lake County;
- Biofuel projects in Otero and Prowers Counties;
- Micro wind turbine projects in Chaffee County.

### **IV. Fight for Community Development and Fair Share of Federal Dollars for the Arkansas River Basin**

- Push for adequate funding levels and a definitive timetable to clean up the Pueblo Chemical Depot;
- Work with local stakeholders and Department of Defense to determine how the land at the Pueblo Chemical Depot will be used after chem-demil operations are complete;
- Support the Technology Test Center and their rail transport and homeland security missions through inclusion in the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium;
- Fight for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding;
- Fight for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding;
- Facilitate grants from Rural Development and Economic Development Administration, and work with local officials and community leaders to attract new businesses to the area;
- Fight for Transportation Funding for:
  - the expansion of US Highway 50,
  - the “Ports to Plains” project,
  - Bent’s Old Fort Access Road to link U.S. Highway 50 and State Highway 194,
  - Essential Air Service designations and funding in Lamar and Pueblo.
- Assist the South East Business, Retention, Expansion, Attraction project (SEBREA) in the designation of southeastern Colorado as a Foreign Trade Zone;
- Advocate for the Front Range Rail Project initiative;

- Push the Army to provide justification for any proposed expansion of the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site, and create a plan that protects private property rights and the agricultural heritage of the area;
- Work to secure Fort Carson investments in Pueblo and Fremont counties, including off-base housing for Fort Carson families through development of a southern entrance;
- Work to establish a national cemetery in Southern Colorado to honor the service of our Veterans;
- Make the Ludlow Massacre Site a National Landmark;
- Help secure funding for a Southeast Colorado National Heritage Area and study economic legislation creating Southeast Colorado (Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers Counties) as a National Heritage Area;
- Support the proposal for placing the National Heritage Site of Boggsville under the jurisdiction and maintenance of National Parks Bent's Old Fort.

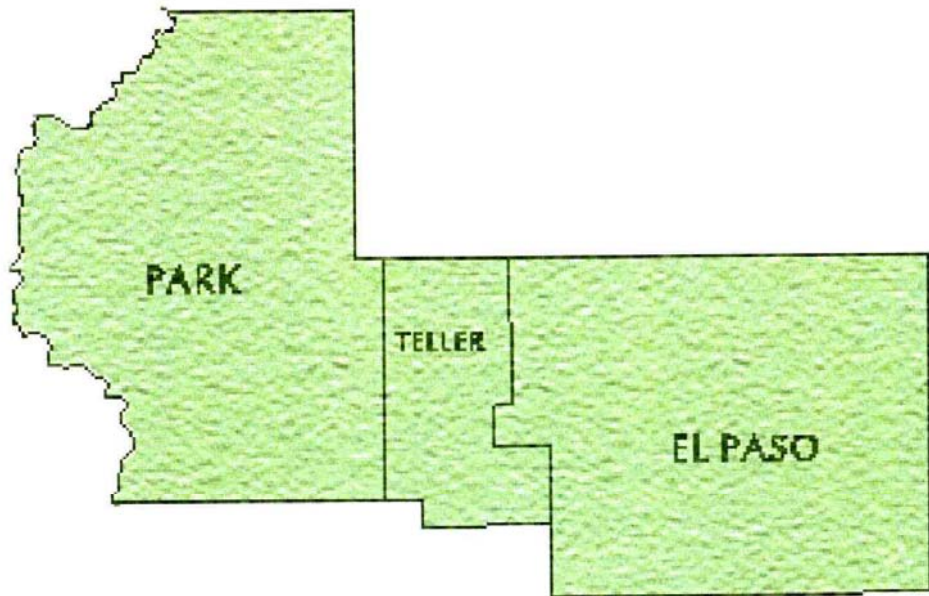
#### **V. Make Health Care Affordable**

- Help push for affordable, accessible health care for rural families, including veterans, through Critical Access Hospitals and primary care clinics;
- Support community and regional health care coalitions with their proposals to secure grants and other subsidies to meet health care facilities needs:
  - Collaborate with Arkansas Valley Family Practice in La Junta to become designated as a Rural Health Clinic,
  - Work with Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center in promoting a telemedicine program.

#### **VI. Work With Law Enforcement and Homeland Security to Keep Our Communities Safe**

- Ensure adequate resources to protect the employees and public at Florence Federal Correctional Complex, especially ADX and USP;
- Work for sufficient funding and increased preparedness of local, state and federal agencies to natural disasters or public health emergencies.

# PIKES PEAK REGION



## **Pikes Peak Region**

### **El Paso, Park, and Teller Counties**

#### **I. Strengthen our Nation's Defense by Supporting and Protecting Northern Command, Fort Carson, Peterson and Schriever Air Force Bases, Air Force Academy and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD)**

- Advocate for the stationing of an additional brigade at Fort Carson;
- Help protect Fort Carson, Peterson, and Schriever Air Force Bases from encroaching urban development and land uses;
- Advocate that the Air Force establish and place Cyber Command in the Pikes Peak Region;
- Work with Department of Defense to ensure the best status of NORAD's Cheyenne Mountain facility is determined after thoughtful review of economic, security, and operational implications;
- Push the Army to provide justification for any proposed expansion of the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site and create a plan that protects private property rights and the agricultural heritage of the area;
- Support federal funding to improve rail access at Fort Carson to facilitate rapid deployment (48 hrs) of an armored brigade with heavy artillery;
- Support federal funding to implement the Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group ("A/DACG").

#### **II. Support our Men and Women In Uniform and Their Families**

- Continue to support quality health care for our service members, including appropriate mental health care for returning soldiers;
- Continue to support the funding and mission of Warrior Transition Units;
- Ensure "Wounded Warriors" are given the assistance and resources needed to continue with their service in the military or their transition to civilian life;
- Support military families by ensuring access to quality health care and educational opportunities while stationed in Colorado and when the service member is deployed;
- Work with military families of wounded Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (OIF and OEF) veterans to assist them in caring for their families through occupational, financial, and mental health assistance.

### **III. Honor our Veterans**

- Work to establish a national cemetery in Southern Colorado to honor the service of our Veterans;
- Assist the VA in evaluating facilities and resources within the Pikes Peak Region;
- Ensure that Triwest has evaluated the resources and is developing support systems within the region to support the specialty care required to include:
  - mental health,
  - long term physical and occupation therapy,
  - services for veterans affected with traumatic brain injury, and
  - family adaptation programs.

### **IV. Help Resolve Water Supply, River Restoration and Environmental Challenges**

- Help lead the effort to turn Fountain Creek, located between Colorado Springs and Pueblo, into a healthy natural habitat and recreational amenity as envisioned in the Fountain Creek Crown Jewel project;
- Push for Fountain Creek flood control and storage facility/ies study;
- Foster Regional cooperation on studying the expansion of Pueblo and Turquoise Reservoirs;
- Help support and foster alternative energy partnerships, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and conservation opportunities in the Region through the creation of a grassroots Conservation Corps, “a million bulb” campaign, and other regional conservation partnerships;
- Push for resources and policies to mitigate the impact of bark beetle infestation in Park, El Paso, and Teller Counties.

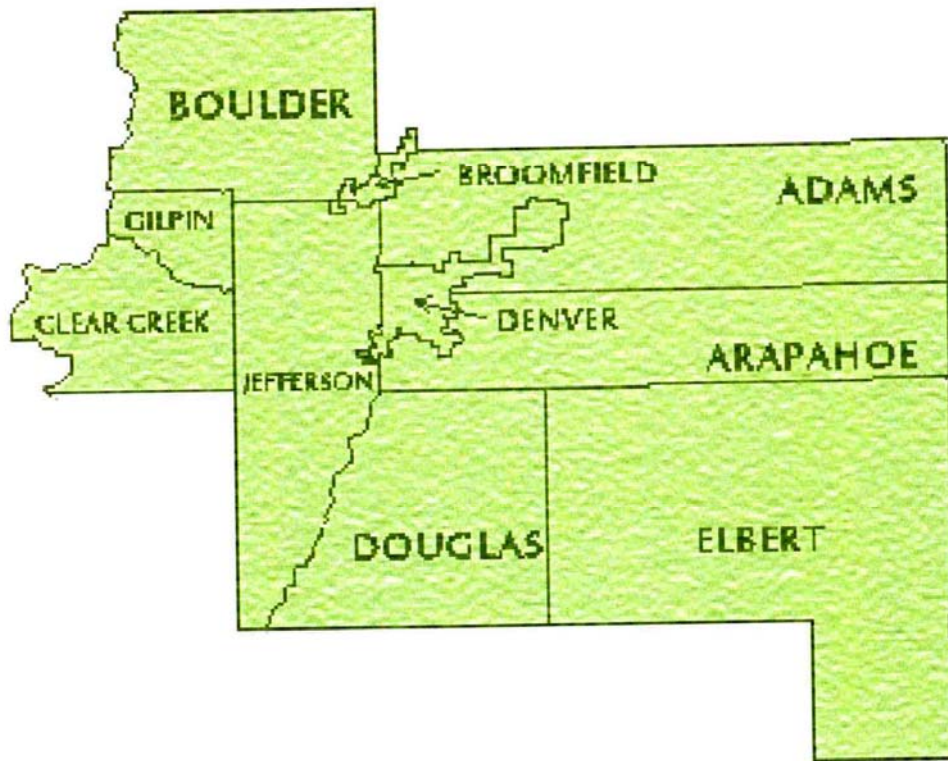
### **V. Push for a Renewable Energy Economy in the Pikes Peaks Region**

- Support the creation of a wind farm for the generation of electricity in El Paso County;
- Support Park County biomass projects.

## **VI. Fight for Community Development and Fair Share of Federal Dollars for the Pikes Peak Region**

- Work with the Colorado delegation, local elected officials, and the business community to ensure that the U.S. Olympic Committee headquarters remains in Colorado Springs;
- Support Park County National Heritage area;
- Fight for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding;
- Fight for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding;
- Fight for Transportation funding for:
  - Construction of Gate 19 for better access from the southern section of Fort Carson to Fountain and Pueblo,
  - Construction of Gate 20 for better access from the southern section of Fort Carson to Pueblo,
  - New interchange at Stewart Road and Powers Blvd that will significantly relieve congestion at the Peterson AFB West gate,
  - Powers Blvd from the Northgate Exit of I-25 to the South end of El Paso County as a limited access freeway,
  - Widening of I-25 to 6 lanes from Academy Blvd. to Monument;
  - Improvement of traffic flow on US 24 East and West,
  - Improvement of traffic flow on US 285 through sections of Park County,
  - Expanding Public Transit options for the region, including Front Range rail service and Ute pass bus service to Teller County.
- Support funding and programs that protect the Region's forests and Wildland/Urban interface from forest fires.

# **GREATER DENVER METRO REGION**



## **Greater Denver Metro Region**

Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver,  
Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, and Jefferson Counties

### **I. Help Make the Transportation and Transit Systems the Best for the People and Travelers of the Denver Metro Area**

- Help build FasTracks:
  - Complete the Southwest Corridor light rail and Santa Fe improvements,
  - Complete the Southeast Corridor light rail and I-25 improvements,
  - Complete the West corridor light rail,
  - Complete the Gold Line light rail,
  - Complete the Northwest Rail Corridor and Highway 36 Bus Rapid Transit improvements,
  - Complete the North Metro rail corridor,
  - Complete the East Corridor to DIA corridor and I-70 improvements,
  - Complete the I-225 corridor and I-225 improvements,
  - Help make Denver Union Station redevelopment a crown jewel of the FasTracks effort.
- Help fund highway construction projects on major Denver highway arterials and interchanges:
  - Interstate 25,
  - Interstate 70,
  - Interstate 225,
  - C-470,
  - Key interchanges such as:
    - I-70/Havana/Yosemite,
    - Quebec and 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue,
    - Parker and Arapahoe Road,
    - C-470 and Santa Fe,
    - Arapahoe Road and I-25,
    - 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue,
    - US 36 and Wadsworth Interchange,
    - US 36 business rapid transit corridor.
- Work closely with local and state officials and community leaders on I-70 corridor challenges, including impacts on Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties;
- Address challenges and opportunities at Denver International Airport:
  - Help provide funding for runway improvements,
  - Push for modernization of Federal Aviation Administration,
  - Address security issues and related passenger delays through Transportation Security Administration.



## **II. Help Establish Denver Metropolitan Area as a Center for High Quality Jobs Through Energy, Biotechnology, Space and Health Research**

- Support the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden in its work to find a clean energy future for America;
- Create and support a renewable energy collaboratory to deploy the best research and technology into the private sector from the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, the Colorado School of Mines, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory;
- Support redevelopment efforts at Fitzsimons and Stapleton to create a health care and biotechnology corridor;
- Support scientific research and deployment of same at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research;
- Support Colorado's space and aerospace industry;
- Protect the mission and capabilities at Buckley Air Force Base, including creating a buffer zone from encroachment.

## **III. Help Create Crown Jewels of Open Space and Restore Rivers and Help With Water Supply to the Denver Metropolitan area**

- Help implement the vision and projects for the Northeast Greenway Corridor, which include the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and its connections to the South Platte River, Sand Creek, Stapleton Redevelopment, Barr Lake, ranchlands in Adams County, and other preservation areas;
- Complete the clean-up of Rocky Flats and the completion of the nearly 6,000 acres of Wildlife Refuge which includes resolving mineral rights issues at Rocky Flats and examining how to protect lands beyond the fences at Rocky Flats, including the mountain backdrop;
- Promote the I-25 Douglas County Greenland Ranch and open space project as a national example of protecting open space and ranch land;
- Examine potential for southeast open space crown jewel relating to the lands of the Lowry Bombing Range;
- Examine potential for ranchland and open space project of significance to keep Denver Metro area and Fort Collins and Weld County from being melded together;
- Support water supply and river restoration projects, such as:

- Improvements along the 53 mile South Platte River Corridor,
- Boulder Reservoir water supply pipeline,
- South Boulder Creek floodplain project,
- Goose Creek restoration plan,
- Work with the regional water development such as the Northern Integrated Supply Project to provide additional storage capacity for urban use and preserve irrigated farmland.

#### **IV. Fight for Community Development and Fair Share of Federal Dollars for the Denver Metropolitan Area**

- Secure Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding;
- Fight for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding;
- Support efforts for effective wild land/urban interface fire mitigation;
- Push for funding to clean up abandoned mines in Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties;
- Support Mayor Hickenlooper's homelessness initiative and funds for Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care programs and Emergency Shelter funds;
- Protect federal funds that provide housing for vulnerable citizens, such as Section 8 and elderly housing vouchers;
- Continue to support funding increase for Social Security Administration staff to achieve timely disability appeal processing.

#### **V. Make Health Care Affordable and Accessible**

- Support creation of crown jewel for health care at Fitzsimons, including the construction of a new state of the art veterans hospital;
- Help support federal funding Denver Health and it's network of community health clinics;
- Fight for workers employed at Rocky Flats to receive compensation for health care costs associated with radiation exposure.

#### **VI. Help Meet Security and Law Enforcement Needs**

- Work for increased funding and support for our first responders, especially for anti-terrorism efforts and interoperable communication equipment;
- Work for sufficient funding for and increased preparedness by local, state, and federal agencies to natural disasters or public health emergencies

- and promote increased awareness by individuals to become prepared for emergencies;
- Continue to support safe schools initiatives and funding for safe schools preparedness.

## **VII. Help Realize Vision for Educational Excellence**

- Support continued funding and highlighting of the unique expertise and quality programs at:
  - University of Colorado at Boulder,
  - University of Colorado Denver- Anschutz Medical Campus and Downtown Campus,
  - Colorado School of Mines,
  - Metropolitan State College of Denver,
  - Arapahoe, Denver, Front Range and Red Rocks Community Colleges.

