

Chapter Annual Meeting June 16

You are urged to attend the Colorado Chapter Annual Meeting at the American Mountaineering Center, 10th & Washington Street in Golden on Saturday, June 16th, 1:00 to 4:00 PM. You are also invited to the Chapter Board meeting will be held in the morning starting at 10:00. Please join us and meet your fellow Colorado REP members.

Current Issues

Browns Canyon Wilderness

Republican Congressman Joel Hefley's Browns Canyon Wilderness Bill was stalled at the last minute by a letter of opposition from the National Rifle Association which objected to the closing of 4 miles of a jeep route. A single local NRA member who wanted to ride his ATV in the area requested the opposition letter. The bill was killed in late December by the conservation community when the NRA demanded a 400-ft. wide easement for the 4-mile jeep trail.

Republican Doug Lamborn, who won Hefley's Congressional seat, had expressed opposition to the bill during the election campaign. Chapter VP Dick Scar joined 3 other state conservationists in giving a presentation on the value of Wilderness to Joe Rall, Lamborn's Field Representative, in Colorado Springs on Jan. 29th. Congressman Lamborn has since scheduled separate meetings with local supporters and opponents of a Browns Canyon Wilderness in Salida on April 4th.

Our REP Chapter will continue to educate Congressman Lamborn on the value of Wilderness and why it is a critical environmental and economic resource for our state.

The Proposed Village at Wolf Creek

The U.S. Forest Service on Feb. 20, 1986, denied a request from Texas Billionaire Red McCombs to swap 1631 acres of degraded grazing lands for 420 acres on Wolf Creek Pass saying that "it was not in the public interest". Two weeks later the Forest Service reversed itself and made an unusual exchange creating a 300-acre private inholding within Rio Grande National Forest and within the permit boundary for Wolf Creek Ski Area. McCombs plans to develop 2200 homes containing 10,000 residents and 500,000 square feet of commercial space in a location near 10,000 ft. elevation that gets an average of 400 inches of snow annually.

This ill-conceived proposal is currently embroiled in lawsuits between McCombs, the ski area and environmental groups. Mineral County, where the development would be located, supports the proposal because of possible tax income but several other adjacent counties stand to experience many negative impacts. Our chapter has expressed opposition to the proposal and asked USDA Inspector General Phyllis Hong to check for USFS improprieties with the Environmental Impact Statement. We will continue to monitor this issue.

For more information on the activities of the Colorado Chapter, go to [Colorado](#) under [State Pages](#) at www.REP.org.

If you have friends who should be members of the Colorado Chapter of REP, send us their contact information and we'll get some REP information to them.