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MEMBER GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Dakota Resource Council

Stopped legislation that would have stripped counties and townships from enacting factory farm zoning to fill gaps in state regulation, such as closure bonding, inadequate construction standards, and soil and water testing.

Gained passage of two bills in the state legislature to improve oil and gas law by increasing minimum setbacks for oil wells, requiring 20-day notice to all owners of occupied dwellings within one-fourth mile prior to drilling, and improving oil and gas bonding.

DRC's affiliate, the Grand Forks County Citizens Coalition, won a seven-year battle to prevent the City of Grand Forks from siting a regional landfill in a Turtle River Township field prone to flooding.

Dakota Rural Action

Stopped most legislative attempts to limit citizens from participating in direct democracy through initiatives and referendums.

Produced a popular statewide directory of local food producers to increase consumption of local foods and support local producers.

Sponsored a free biofuels field day in October 2007 in Watertown, South Dakota. DRA hosted a seminar, titled "Biodiesel: Powering the Future." The field day received wide media attention.

Idaho Rural Council

Worked with neighboring farmers to stop an industrial-size heifer replacement facility from locating in eastern Jerome County, near the Minidoka Internment National Monument where Japanese-Americans were interned during World War II.

Distributed nearly 1,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs at the Elmore County Fair in July to promote individual action to use energy efficiently.

Campaigned to raise awareness among the public and public officials about public health concerns from dairy-waste lagoon spray fields and to regulate disposal of some dairy-waste lagoon water through pressurized irrigation systems.

Northern Plains Resource Council

Won a ruling forbidding out-of-state marketing of coalbed methane waste water and ending any water right associated with methane development when the development itself ends, and intervened in a successful court defense of Montana water quality standards.

Advanced public dialogue about biodiesel through a solid first run at state legislation, convinced Montana's largest city to adopt a biodiesel pilot project, and sponsored educational events on biodiesel.

Assisted members of its affiliate groups with issues ranging from mine reclamation, to promoting local food producers, to promoting biodiesel use, to advancing "greening" campaigns in local communities.

Oregon Rural Action

Uncovered racial and personal bias within the Malheur County Food Stamp Program and organized a response that led to staff reassignments and revamped policies and procedures to better assist people in need.

Supported and testified for a bill to set up a Renewable Energy Standard of 25% renewable electric energy sources by 2025 in Oregon. The state now has the most comprehensive standard in the nation.

Created a food literacy education curriculum for first graders in La Grande public schools. Members teach classes monthly about on eating healthier foods, local foods, and food production.

Power River Basin Resource Council

Helped push reform of Wyoming's eminent domain law through the legislature. The reform gives landowners more say in planning projects on their property, more opportunity to compare other offers for condemned land, and more reclamation and restoration protections.

Won a decision by the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council to protect streams from being reclassified to lower levels for discharge dumping of coalbed methane waters, which is now being challenged by industry and the Department of Environmental Quality.

Organized residents to form the Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens and challenge soil and groundwater contamination from gas development and a new affiliate in Alladin next to South Dakota to work on protecting their ground water from contamination by in-situ uranium mining.

Western Colorado Congress

Joined with its local community group, Grand Valley Citizens Alliance, and other environmental groups to pass two major oil and gas reforms. The reforms call for developing rules to protect public health from oil and gas development and broaden the mission of the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission to include more focus on responsible and balanced oil and gas development as well as expand the number and expertise areas of commission members.

Built support for the proposed Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA) to win the support of local county commissioners and assurances from congressional representatives that a bill establishing the NCA will be introduced early in 2008.

Western Colorado Congress of Mesa County members participated in developing strong regulations to protect the Grand Junction and Palisade municipal watersheds from energy development.



2007 Annual Report

Year in review

In 2007, WORC continued to be a leader in efforts to redirect the national energy policy, reform livestock markets, and challenge the introduction of genetically modified crops. We launched the Voter Participation Project and arranged for and worked with grassroots leaders to testify before Congress. Our seven member groups received 267 days worth of training and assistance for their organizations and campaigns.

WORC changes national energy policy

Grassroots letters, calls, and testimony by WORC and allies combined with Congressional leadership to redirect the U.S. national energy policy. The country now has new corporate automobile fuel economy (CAFE) standards to increase fuel economy and an expansion of a national, sustainable biofuels production to encourage development of the industry and spark rural economic opportunities. The United States also has a new Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) that will not only significantly increase production of renewable biofuels, but will also ensure that those biofuels are produced sustainably, without converting ecosystems or polluting the environment.

We made progress in Congress on protecting split estate landowners, water resources, and taxpayers from harmful impacts of booming oil and gas production, but these protections were dropped from the final energy bill. Grassroots pressure also prevented incentives for coal-to-liquid fuels from becoming part of the energy bill.



Home on the Range - One of the greenest buildings in the country



Home on the Range, WORC and Northern Plains Resource Council's office building has been awarded LEED® Platinum by the U.S. Green Building Council, its highest rating. Only 45 other buildings in the world are platinum certified. LEED is a system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, energy efficient, high performing buildings. Since we moved into the energy efficient building, our rooftop solar panels have generated 37 percent of our electricity and saved production of almost 11 tons of carbon dioxide.

- ❑ The building uses just 21% of the energy and 41% of the water of a same size building built to code.
- ❑ The building emits 20 tons of carbon dioxide a year as opposed to 170 tons from a conventional building.
- ❑ Total energy costs are about 20% of a conventional building.
- ❑ Our ENERGY STAR rating is in the 100th percentile for efficiency.

C is a regional network
 en grassroots community
 ations that include 10,000
 ers and 45 local chapters.
 C helps its member groups
 d by providing training
 ordinating regional issue
 gns.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Dakota Resource Council

North Dakota

Dakota Rural Action

South Dakota

Idaho Rural Council

Idaho

Northern Plains Resource Council

Montana

Oregon Rural Action

Oregon

Powder River Basin Resource Council

Wyoming

Western Colorado Congress

Colorado

7 Board of Directors

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illie.....	Campaign Director
all.....	DC Office Director
ams.....	Director of Organizing
cDonald.....	Regional Organizer
akken.....	Regional Organizer
wling.....	Communications Director
owning.....	Political Director
on.....	Development Director
.....	Regional Technology Coordinator
chett.....	Comptroller
rch.....	Administrative Assistant



WORC marks 30th anniversary of stripmine law

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), WORC and the Natural Resources Defense Council released a report, *Undermined Promise—Reclamation and Enforcement of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act*, on August 3, 2007. The report reveals serious problems with land and water reclamation and inspection and enforcement of the law as well as with data collection and reporting.



Nick Golder, Northern Plains member, explains how stripmining disrupts the flow of underground aquifers at the news conference on August 3, 2007.

After releasing the report, we held a workshop on the report findings and coal mining. Featured presenters included Johanna Wald of NRDC, the primary author of the report; Northern Plains members Helen Waller, Ellen Pfister, Nick Golder, and Doug McRae; and Teri Blanton, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth member.

WORC wins 1st ban on genetically engineered seed

WORC, the Dakota Resource Council, the Center for Food Safety, and other allies gained the first-ever halt of planting of a commercial genetically modified crop in this country. On May 3, 2007, a federal judge stopped all further sales and planting of GM alfalfa seed. The judge also ordered the U.S. Department of Agriculture to more thoroughly assess the environmental impacts of the release of GM alfalfa, including the economic costs to conventional and organic alfalfa growers.

New programs increase participation of members

In 2007, WORC ramped up its Civic Engagement and Voter Participation programs to increase the number of members serving on appointed boards and commissions and in elected office. We understand that in order to create a truly just and sustainable society, our own members and leaders, who are accountable to their local communities, need to be at the table, helping make the decisions that affect our lives.

Our work in 2007 focused on assessing the political lay of the land in our region, hosting a regional political summit, recruiting candidates, and branching out our work to South Dakota with the South Dakota Rural Voters Project. All of this gears WORC up for an exciting and intense election year in 2008.



Daly Edmunds, of the National Wildlife Federation, participates in a role play during WORC's Principles of Community Organizing workshop in July.

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Engaging the grassroots to DC

WORC members testified before Congress in 2007. Three members testified at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing on the federal oil and gas program in April.

Peggy Utesch, Western Colorado Congress member, detailed the importance of the bonding and reclamation and inspection and enforcement programs.

Steve Adami, Powder River Basin Resource Council, testified about his lack of rights as a surface owner when negotiating with coalbed methane companies.

Roger Muggli, Northern Plains Resource Council, explained problems with mismanaged wastewater from coalbed methane development.

They all urged Congress to pass legislation to balance the interests of landowners and water with development of oil and gas in the West.

Western Colorado Congress member Kathleen Kelley urged the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources in April to wait for all the facts to come in before launching a commercial oil shale development.

On July 25, Ellen Pfister represented WORC at a hearing by House Natural Resources Committee on the 30th anniversary of SMCRA. Ellen told the committee that SMCRA does not control impacts of the surface effects of coal mining except at the mouth of the mine, did not anticipate the expansion of mountaintop removal in Appalachia, and that coal mining companies do not reclaim water resources because the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), the administering agency, has inadequately enforced the law.

In September, Dakota Rural Action member, Nick Nemec testified in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to urge continued federal jurisdiction of polluter pays laws and community right-to-know for large factory farms.

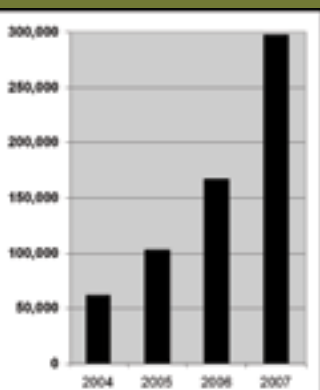
Why Fast Track expires without challenge

WORC worked closely with the trade staff of WORC's Congressional delegation in order to deepen their understanding of the impact of a faulty trade policy on our seven states. In March, WORC and its member groups signed a joint letter with national, state and local organizations to Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Reid urging to stop renewal of Fast Track. Fast Track expired on June 30 without challenge, as promoters capitulated and failed in their efforts to reauthorize it. Fast Track, also known as Trade Promotion Authority, gave the President and the U.S. Trade Representative full authority to negotiate trade agreements, but only allowed Congress a vote to pass or reject the agreement without amendment.



Peggy Utesch, Western Colorado Congress member, Steve Adami, Powder River Basin Resource Council member, and Roger Muggli, Northern Plains Resource Council member, testified at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing in April 2007.

Grants to WORC's Member Groups 2000-2007



Helping our member groups succeed

WORC provided training opportunities for 430 members and staff through 12 training events and one-on-one trainings and consultations. These trainings include five Leadership & Action WORCshops, WORC's new training series based on its Principles of Community Organizing.

Staff provided 2,135 hours (267 days) of training and assistance to leaders and staff of WORC's seven member groups on strategy and campaign development, media coordination and message development, staff hiring and board consultation, and technology troubleshooting and training. Fundraising efforts provided a record \$294,000 in campaign and program grants to the member groups.